Input to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on Disability-Inclusive Development Cooperation

Austria

Light for the World, April 2020

# Q 1: Please describe how your country’s international cooperation efforts, including international development aid, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities; and how is funding tracked and reported.

The legal basis of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) is the Austrian Development Cooperation Act, which defines the mandate and objectives of ADC policy. It stipulates that ADC must “consider the needs of children and persons with disabilities in a meaningful way" in all measures.[[1]](#endnote-1)

The Austrian Independent Monitoring Committee on the CRPD provided an assessment of how this is implemented in practice in its report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018[[2]](#endnote-2), stating that:

* 1. the ADC had made some progress, for example by asking about accessibility and outreach to disadvantaged groups in application formats of the Austrian Development Agency[[3]](#endnote-3);
  2. the ADC is part of the EU-consortium project “Bridging the Gap II” which supports implementation of the CRPD in partner countries;
  3. effective mechanisms for systematic disability inclusion in ADC are missing and that disability is not a mandatory cross-sectional issue;
  4. that inclusion and the implementation of the twin-track approach are not measured systematically;
  5. that participation in the development of strategies and monitoring of implementation only happens sporadically;
  6. the National Action Plan on Disability 2012-2020 offered insufficient measures to actually ensure a twin-track-approach to development;
  7. Austrian Humanitarian Aid was not sufficiently inclusive of persons with disabilities and that there was no obligation to ensure inclusive and accessible structures.

Light for the World acknowledges that since 2018 additional steps have been taken by the ADC, including the application of the OECD DAC Marker on Disability on a voluntary basis and the re-establishment of the ADC working group on disability in December 2019.

Still, systematic inclusion of persons with disabilities in the state’s development cooperation is not a reality yet and there are frequent set-backs: most recently the public announcement of Austria’s contribution to the WHO COVID-19 response did not include any reference to the increased vulnerability of persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

Austria is currently evaluating its National Action Plan on Disability and developing a follow-up plan for the period of 2021 to 2030. The new plan will show how seriously the government is taking disability inclusion in development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Austria’s ODA (Official Development Assistance) statistics do not include information on the percentage of funds spent on inclusion. The latest published report shows the figures for 2018 but does not provide information on disability.

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) announced that it would apply the OECD DAC Marker on Disability as of 2019. The next report should therefore provide at least some data on inclusion, this however without any comparison to previous years.

# Q 2: Please describe how South-South and triangular cooperation support your country’s efforts to implement the rights of persons with disabilities, including by facilitating the exchange of innovative knowledge, skills and successful initiatives.

As a development partner to countries in the Global South and a member of the European Union, Austria currently engages in the EU’s flagship project “Bridging the Gap II”[[4]](#endnote-4). The project aims at strengthening capacities on CRPD implementation in selected countries and on thematic priorities as well as at mainstreaming disability in development cooperation. Participation in this project is a means for Austria to support and engage in South-South and triangular cooperation. Austria has taken the project lead in Ethiopia.

Another important platform for engagement would be the GLAD network[[5]](#endnote-5) of which Austria is not yet a member. The network would provide an excellent platform for exchange and learning on inclusive development.

Austria unfortunately did not engage in the first Global Disability Summit in the UK in 2018 which was hosted by the UK and Kenya. It would have been an important opportunity to exchange experiences and forge partnerships with governments and development actors for inclusion. Engaging in the next Summit, planned for 2021 by Norway, is therefore strongly recommended.

# Q 3: Please describe how your country coordinates, prioritizes and manages aid received from international cooperation in order to ensure that national development programmes are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Not applicable to Austria

# Q 4: Please explain whether the Sustainable Development Goals resulted in increased international development aid benefitting persons with disabilities in your country and how.

Neither Austria’s ODA nor its investment in disability-inclusive programmes increased due to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Austria did not take on more responsibility to support international development cooperation to ensure the implementation of the SDGs in partner countries. The only budgetary increase of ODA was seen in 2015 and after which was due to higher costs for asylum seekers which were allocated to Austria’s ODA although these costs did not, in fact, benefit partner countries.

# Q 5: Please describe to what extent and how are persons with disabilities and their organizations involved and consulted in decisions related to international cooperation in your country, and how they can access international cooperation funds and grants (including legal requirements, procedures and challenges).

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) created a working group on disability in development cooperation in 2011. The group, consisting of representatives of ministries, ADA, NGOs, academia and DPOs (actually only one DPO so far) has an advisory role and only meets in the capital Vienna. Due to limited personnel resources, the meetings were held only sporadically between 2017 and 2019.

In the ADC Country Offices in the partner countries, there are no regular meetings scheduled with national DPOs. Hence, Austria doesn’t offer a regular exchange or the opportunity for providing inputs in the partner countries.

Within the Bridging the Gap II project in Ethiopia some small sub-grants are provided to local DPOs, this practice so far is rather the exception.

# Q 6: Please provide any information and statistical data available on disability-inclusive international cooperation in your country, including information related to the challenges and limitations of the international aid system to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

As mentioned above, Austria has started applying the OECD DAC Marker on Disability as of 2019. For the time before that, official data on disability inclusion and disability mainstreaming in Austria’s ODA-relevant programmes is not available to the public.

1. Austrian Development Cooperation Act, BGBl 65/2003, § 1, paragraph 4 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.monitoringausschuss.at/download/berichte/MA_Geneva_Report_engl.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Projektabwicklung/Social_Standards_Assessment.docx>; <http://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/Handbuecher/Environmental_and_Social_Impact_Management/Manual_Environmental_and_Social_Impact_Management.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. <https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/about-the-project/> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Global Action on Disability <https://gladnetwork.net/network>

   Burkina Faso

   Light for the World, April 2020

   # General remarks

   1. The following answers draw from the experience of Light for the World in Burkina Faso.

   Light for the World supports development projects in Burkina Faso since 2005 and maintains a local office in the capital Ouagadougou.

   Light for the World works with and through local partner organisations (NGOs and Disabled People’s Organizations), local and federal government entities and UN agencies to strengthen inclusive health and education systems and support the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

   The responses are kept in French and are partly derived from the CRPD alternative report.

   # Questionnaire sur la coopération internationale inclusive en matière de handicap

   ## Q 1 : Veuillez décrire comment les efforts de coopération internationale de votre pays (y compris l’aide internationale au développement) sont inclusifs et accessibles aux personnes handicapées; et comment le financement est-il suivi et rapporté.

   N'est pas applicable

   ## Q 2 : Veuillez décrire comment la coopération Sud-Sud et la coopération triangulaire soutiennent les efforts de votre pays pour la mise en œuvre les droits des personnes handicapées, notamment en facilitant l’échange de connaissances, de compétences et de bonnes pratiques.

   Le Burkina Faso fait partie des pays focaux du projet « Bridging the Gap-II », financé par la Commission Européenne. Ce projet vise à renforcer les capacités des gouvernements, des organisations nationales de droits humains, et des organisations représentatives de personnes porteuses d’un handicap, ainsi qu’à mainstreamer le handicap dans la coopération internationale. Les activités organisées sous l’égide du projet « Bridging the Gap » sont également l’occasion de renforcer les échanges d’expériences, de connaissances, et de meilleures pratiques entre les différents pays partenaires, en ce compris les échanges Sud-Sud.

   De manière générale, le Burkina Faso est un pays favorable à la coopération internationale. La règlementation nationale est favorable à l’action des organisations internationales de développement et des ONG, facilitant ainsi les interventions des ONG internationales œuvrant dans le domaine du handicap.

   En vue de promouvoir le développement économique et social au Burkina Faso, les institutions des Nations Unies concentrent leurs actions sur des thèmes prioritaires, tels que l'éducation de base et la formation professionnelle, la santé, l’agriculture et l’élevage, etc. Les ONG actives dans le domaine du handicap appuient les actions du gouvernement burkinabè en mettant en œuvre des programmes de promotion et de protection des droits des personnes handicapées.

   Il est aussi important de souligner que des organisations de personnes handicapées bénéficient régulièrement d’appuis techniques et financiers d’ONG et d’associations étrangères, notamment dans divers domaines tels que l’éducation, la formation professionnelle, la santé, le sport, la culture, etc.

   Toutefois, il convient de regretter qu’en dehors des ONG intervenant dans le domaine du handicap, la plupart des autres ONG de développement prennent très peu en compte les dimensions du handicap dans leurs interventions.

   ## Q 3 : Veuillez décrire comment votre pays coordonne, établit les priorités et gère l’aide reçue de la coopération internationale afin de garantir que les programmes nationaux de développement soient inclusifs et accessibles aux personnes handicapées.

   N'est pas applicable

   ## Q 4 : Veuillez expliquer si les Objectifs de développement durable ont entraîné une augmentation de l’aide internationale au développement en faveur des personnes handicapées dans votre pays, et comment.

   Pour l’Aide Publique au Développement (APD) effectivement décaissé par les partenaires techniques et financiers sur la période 2016-2017, elle a été de 649,31 milliards de FCFA en 2016 et de 663,11 milliards de FCFA en 2017.

   Cette évolution de l’APD, quand bien insuffisante face aux besoins des ODD, est la résultante du renforcement du suivi de la mise en œuvre des conventions de financements et traduit la volonté des partenaires techniques et financiers à accompagner la mise en œuvre des ODD.

   Il est cependant difficile d’évaluer la proportion d’aide internationale au développement spécifiquement utilisée en faveur des personnes handicapées.

   ## Q 5 : Veuillez décrire dans quelle mesure et comment les personnes handicapées et leurs organisations sont impliquées et consultées dans les décisions relatives à la coopération internationale dans votre pays, et comment peuvent-elles accéder aux fonds et subventions de coopération internationale (y compris les exigences légales, les procédures et les défis)

   N'est pas applicable

   ## Q 6 : Veuillez fournir toutes les informations et données statistiques disponibles sur la coopération internationale inclusive en matière de handicap dans votre pays, y compris les informations relatives aux défis et aux limites du système d’aide international pour la promotion des droits des personnes handicapées.

   N'est pas applicable.

   **Ethiopia**

   Light for the World, April 2020

   **General remarks**

   1. The following answers draw from the experience of Light for the World in Ethiopia.

   Light for the World supports development programmes in Ethiopia since 1990, maintains a local office in the capital Addis Ababa since 2010 and cooperates with local partner organizations (NGOs and Disabled People’s Organizations), local and federal government entities as well as bilateral and multilateral development partners and UN agencies.

   Light for the World’s objective is to strengthen inclusive health and education systems and to support the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

   The responses were collected by our Ethiopian experts with feedback from DPO partners and the Light for the World Office in Addis Ababa.

   **Q 1: Please describe how your country’s international cooperation efforts, including international development aid, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities; and how is funding tracked and reported.**

   International aid in Ethiopia is mostly applied in two ways, either through bilateral and multilateral agreements with the Ethiopian Government or through NGOs officially registered to undertake development work. While the bilateral and multilateral agreements are coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and figures are hardly communicated to the public, there is even less transparency and lack of information on the aid received through NGOs.

   The Development Assistance Group (DAG) coordinated by UNDP consists of 30 bilateral and multilateral donors. It uses the Aid Management Platform to coordinate efforts and to ensure aid harmonization and effectiveness. However, public access to reports is difficult and a spot-check of a recent annual report did not reveal any information on disability or vulnerable groups. <https://www.undp.org/content/dagethiopia/en/home/oda-to-ethiopia.html>

   Some flagship programmes such as One WASH, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) or the General Education Quality Improvement Programme in Ethiopia II (GEQUIPE II) have direct references to disability inclusion. However, the majority of international aid and development programmes implemented in the country is not inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

   Most programmes designed to address communities or certain sub-communities such as youth, women, children and older people fail to include persons with disabilities among those communities. There is a tendency to refer them to DPOs for support, even if the services they require, for example financial services or SRH information, are clearly relevant to all community members.

   **Q 2: Please describe how South-South and triangular cooperation support your country’s efforts to implement the rights of persons with disabilities, including by facilitating the exchange of innovative knowledge, skills and successful initiatives.**

   South-South exchange and cooperation on disability inclusion is at a quite an early stage in Ethiopia. There have been some scattered initiatives by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to learn from experiences of Kenya and Uganda on now to set up the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and on CRPD monitoring. These exchanges were not institutionalised and seem to have been discontinued.

   Most South-South collaboration on disability inclusion is DPO-led, in particular by the African Disability Forum and its Ethiopian member organization.

   Light for the World together with other international NGOs facilitates peer learning among our programmes in Burkina Faso, Mozambique and South Sudan.

   On a regional level, Ethiopia as the seat of the African Union is a hub for many South-South events and institutions and also hosts the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Development frameworks like the African Union Development Architecture (AUDA) and Agenda 2063 of the African Union would offer an important entry point for disability inclusion, however, none of these frameworks clearly address the issue.

   The relatively new African Union Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities could be a great vehicle to promote cooperation and learning among African countries as well. So far, it has not been signed and ratified by the Ethiopian Government.

   The African Union Disability Institute plans to establish programmes and exchange platforms to strengthen cooperation which should improve the situation.

   **Q 3: Please describe how your country coordinates, prioritizes and manages aid received from international cooperation in order to ensure that national development programmes are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.**

   Aid and international cooperation in Ethiopia is mainly prioritized in accordance with the Growth and Transformation Plan, the roadmap to the country’s development. Another option for prioritization is through the sectoral development plans developed by the different ministries.

   In instances where disability is included in sector development plans, as is the case in the Education Sector Plan, it is relatively easy to ensure that resources go to inclusion. In contrast, the majority of the sector development plans and the Growth and Transformation Plan lack specific references to disability. There are also no mechanisms in place for the country to prioritize disability inclusion and track funds accordingly.

   Aid and international cooperation flows in Ethiopia are channelled by different government entities which makes it difficult to ensure coordination and prioritization in line with the CRPD and other commitments. The main responsible entity is the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, but some cooperation funds are either channelled through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the thematically responsible ministries.

   **Q 4: Please explain whether the Sustainable Development Goals resulted in increased international development aid benefitting persons with disabilities in your country and how.**

   In the past years, we witnessed a significant increase of organizations working on disability as well as an increase in the volume of investment in disability inclusion. This cannot only be traced back to the 2030 Agenda. It may be due to different factors including increased attention and understanding of donors as well as increasing awareness about the CRPD and the twin-track approach to inclusive development.

   Despite the increase in funds and programmes on disability, concrete data to measure how this investment benefits persons with disabilities and their families is still scarce.

   **Q 5: Please describe to what extent and how are persons with disabilities and their organizations involved and consulted in decisions related to international cooperation in your country, and how they can access international cooperation funds and grants (including legal requirements, procedures and challenges).**

   In Ethiopia, organizations of persons with disabilities at the national level are organized according to impairment types. They form a national umbrella, the Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FENAPD). At the grassroots level and in the regions, more and more cross-disability organizations are established. Both types of organizations are gradually building their participation in the development discourse, including in policy formulation and implementation.

   Accessing grants still remains very competitive and most of the DPOs fail to meet the requirements put up by donors. DPOs are usually mass-membership based with often low capacities of their secretariats. This makes it difficult to comply with donor requirements and as a result these DPOs tend to be only eligible as sub-recipients of aid through other NGOs instead of being full-fledged partners. This adversely affects their ability to influence broader development frameworks and mechanisms.

   When it comes to legal requirements, Ethiopia had a repressive CSO law from 2009 to 2018 which prohibited foreign funding to be used for work on disability rights. This significantly affected the disability rights work in the country and the major DPOs had to opt for relief and development work excluding rights in order to not lose funding and keep them operational. This also affected the services which DPOs were providing as doing development work without mentioning rights was difficult. DPOs in Ethiopia refrained from participation in the CRPD review process of the country in front of the UNCRPD committee due to this law.

   The situation has changed following overall reform in the country and a new CSO law has been put in place which abolishes all prior restrictions. The new CSO law 1113’2018 also obligates all CSOs working on human development to indicate in their reports to the regulating agency how they include marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities. This will hopefully result in clearer information on how many persons with disabilities are reached within development programmes by CSOs.

   The new law also gives two permanent seats in the governing board of the CSO regulating agency to persons with disabilities. This is one important step to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations as they thus become part of the decisions concerning CSOs in the country.

   **Q 6: Please provide any information and statistical data available on disability-inclusive international cooperation in your country, including information related to the challenges and limitations of the international aid system to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.**

   Statistics on disability-inclusive international cooperation is fairly non-existent in Ethiopia (see also response to Question 1). However, there are some encouraging initiatives by entities like DFID, USAID and UN agencies to put budgets, strategies and plans in place to set up such measures.

   The recently adopted OECD DAC Marker on Disability will hopefully also increase the availability of information on disability-inclusive aid programmes by bilateral donors.

   The EU flagship programme on disability-inclusive development, Bridging the Gap II is in part implemented in Ethiopia and will hopefully also provide new information on the degree of inclusion of persons with disabilities in development programmes.

   DPOs play a crucial role in providing information for the formulation of plans, for instance they might serve as links to clients and beneficiaries with disabilities within programme areas. Expert organizations like the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD) continuously conduct accessibility audits, provide disability inclusion trainings for staff of development partners and on-the-job support to help these partners to work on disability inclusion.

   Despite all these efforts and small initiatives, there is no coordinated way of collecting data on inclusive international cooperation. This in turn makes it difficult to have accurate and timely information ensuring that persons with disabilities benefit fully from any programme.

   It would be important to formalize all these approaches and ensure that this information is taken up by the National Statistics Office and development partners.

   European Union

   Light for the World, April 2020

   # General remarks

   Although the questionnaire predominantly addresses the country level, Light for the World would like to provide information on the European Union’s efforts on disability-inclusive development as well. The EU is among the most important providers of aid globally and it is a Party to the CRPD.

   Light for the World maintains an EU Liaison Office in Brussels, addressing the need to fully include persons with disabilities in EU development cooperation and humanitarian aid vis-à-vis European institutions.

   This input is based on several statements and reports by Light for the World and its networks, including the recent Bridging the Gap study “[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms. A preliminary study of calls for proposals in geographic and thematic instruments](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)”.

   # Q 1: Please describe how your country’s international cooperation efforts, including international development aid, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities; and how is funding tracked and reported.

   ## Policies, Strategies and Commitments

   The European Union has been a State Party to the CRPD since 2011, demonstrating a political and legal commitment to the implementation of the CRPD including in International Cooperation.

   The EU Disability Strategy (2010-2020) commits to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in all EU’s external actions.

   A new EU Consensus for Development was adopted in 2017, guiding EU Development policies in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It includes a specific paragraph on persons with disabilities, pointing out that “the EU and its Member States will continue to play a key role in ensuring that no-one is left behind, wherever people live and regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation and gender identity, migration status or other factors. This approach includes addressing the multiple discriminations faced by vulnerable people and marginalised groups”.

   The European Union is committed to ensuring a rights-based approach to development cooperation encompassing all human rights which is evidenced in the 2012 EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019. Both documents make specific reference to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and non-discrimination on the basis of disability. However, the Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan has not taken a cross-cutting approach to disability inclusion nor paid attention to accessibility measures. The Tool-Box on the Rights Based Approach, a working document to operationalize the EU human rights strategy, pays limited attention to the rights of persons with disabilities.

   A number of recent developments on EU policies, action plans and strategies are worth noting here as well:

   * 1. In June 2019, the EU adopted the Commission Staff Working Document “Implementation of the new European Consensus on Development – Addressing inequalities in partner countries” which includes references to persons with disabilities. These references, however, are mostly around the fact that disability-disaggregated data is lacking.
     2. In March 2020, the EU adopted its new EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 which includes references to the CRPD and to persons with disabilities. Its implementation will have to be closely monitored by the organizations of persons with disabilities and NGOs.
     3. In autumn 2020, the EU is due to adopt the next EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in External Relations 2021-2025. The current EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 pays attention to multiple discrimination and intersectional barriers and addressed disability as one of them. But it does not effectively and systematically address the rights of women and girls with disabilities in external action. Consultations on the next EU Gender Action Plan are ongoing.
     4. The EU committed to a new European Disability Strategy beyond 2020, after the evaluation of the current strategy (2010-2020) is completed. The new strategy should include an external dimension such as the role of the EU as a global actor and the CRPD obligations under Articles 11 and 32.
     5. In April 2020 the Council of the EU/Foreign Affairs Council announced a support package for partner countries as response to the COVID-19 crisis, with the following reference to people at risk: “The package will help the most vulnerable countries in particular in Africa, the EU’s neighbourhood, but also Asia and the Pacific, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean. It will focus on the people most at risk, including children, women, the elderly, and disabled people, as well as migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities.”

   ## Responsible Entities

   The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is responsible for designing European Union international cooperation and development policy and delivering aid.

   DG DEVCO coordinates with the EU External Action Service (EEAS) bringing together external relations and diplomacy with international development cooperation. The EU also operates 141 Delegations and Offices around the world which manage development and cooperation programmes while representing the EU in host countries.

   There is good experience in DG DEVCO on promoting the human rights based approach and gender equality as crosscutting themes, with guidelines and capacity tools in place. These experiences should be used to also build disability inclusive internal mechanisms, as there are similar challenges.

   A guidance note for staff on Disability Inclusive Development Cooperation was issued in 2012 to support staff at headquarter and in Delegations to better mainstream disability and support the implementation of the EU Disability Strategy and the CRPD. This guidance note, however, has limited weight among other human rights guidelines because it is neither a policy document nor an action plan. The updated version of 2017 was not made available to the public.

   DG DEVCO has only one disability focal person. That one person is supposed to promote disability inclusion across DEVCO’s international cooperation work, but has too little power to promote a systemic change across units, thematic and geographical desks, and delegations. The post is also separate from the position responsible for CRPD implementation.

   The European External Action Service (EEAS) division of the Human Rights Strategy has only one disability focal point as well.

   In EU Delegations in partner countries, while focal points on disability are supposed to be appointed, they are usually not specifically working on disability but rather part of a CSO or broader human rights portfolio. At headquarter level, focal points are appointed ad hoc when “needed for consultation of action documents or other initiatives”.

   In summary, more strategic leadership and increased internal resources within DEVCO are necessary to enhance and operationalize the policy commitments on disability inclusion. The investments made by the EU on ensuring that policy commitments are put in practice need to be strengthened.

   ## Monitoring of Funding

   The EU has committed to implement the OECD DAC “policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities”. The marker has already been included it in the EU’s reporting mechanism. Guidance on its use has been disseminated across the finance instruments, grants and budget support as well as other bilateral cooperation mechanisms. However, the use of the disability marker only became obligatory at the beginning of 2019 . The upcoming preliminary OECD DAC statistics for 2019 will hopefully give an indication of how the disability marker was applied across EU funding.

   # Q 2: Please describe how South-South and triangular cooperation support your country’s efforts to implement the rights of persons with disabilities, including by facilitating the exchange of innovative knowledge, skills and successful initiatives.

   This is not applicable to the EU but the EU engages in platforms and networks to strengthen disability-inclusive development:

   The European Commission is a member of the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network. Its role in this important donor network needs strengthening, as the EU could play a leading role bringing together the EU member states who are also members of the GLAD Network (and those who are not).

   # Q 3: Please describe how your country coordinates, prioritizes and manages aid received from international cooperation in order to ensure that national development programmes are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

   Not applicable.

   # Q 4: Please explain whether the Sustainable Development Goals resulted in increased international development aid benefitting persons with disabilities in your country and how.

   Not applicable.

   # Q 5: Please describe to what extent and how are persons with disabilities and their organizations involved and consulted in decisions related to international cooperation in your country, and how they can access international cooperation funds and grants (including legal requirements, procedures and challenges).

   DPOs in partner countries are not systematically invited to consultations by EU Delegations on programming related to EU development cooperation budgets.

   The EU is committed to address inequalities throughout its project cycle, but without explicitly mentioning disability.

   Access to funds and grants is difficult for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in partner countries, especially if their organizational capacities are not yet on par with the requirements of EU programme calls. In some occasions they become sub-grantees, as is the case within the Bridging the Gap II project.

   # Q 6: Please provide any information and statistical data available on disability-inclusive international cooperation in your country, including information related to the challenges and limitations of the international aid system to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

   The Working Party on Development Finance Statistics of the OECD approved the introduction of a voluntary policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in June 2018 with support of the EU. The marker was added to the Reporting Directives in November 2018. The EU has adopted the disability inclusion marker and already included it in its reporting mechanism, also disseminating guidance on its use across the finance instruments, grants, budget support and other bilateral cooperation mechanisms. The guidance is not publicly accessible.

   In 2018, the EU updated its results and indicators framework through a Commission Staff Working Document – Revised EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New European Consensus on Development. There is only one reference to disability: “All level 1 and 2 indicators will be sex disaggregated where appropriate. Depending on their availability and relevance, the Commission will aim to collect other relevant disaggregation data (e.g. age, income, disabilities, region etc..) depending on its feasibility. The methodology notes also provide further guidance on the most relevant disaggregation.”

   The obligation to collect data which is disaggregated by disability is weak across all sector guidance notes. The EU needs to improve its systematic collection of disaggregated and globally comparable data and use them for evidence-based policy-making. As a minimum standard, they should use and promote the use of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions, the Washington Group/UNICEF Child Functioning Model for data disaggregation for disability and the CRPD-SDG indicators developed under component I of the EU funded Bridging the Gap project.

   i <https://eudevdays.eu/sites/default/files/swd_inequalities_swd_2019_280.pdf>

   ii <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_492>

   iii Light for the World’s input to the consultation:  <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12240-EU-Action-Plan-of-Gender-equality-and-women-s-empowerment-in-external-relations-for-2021-2025/F510691>

   i Position paper on the new European Disability Strategy by the International Disability and Development Consortium <https://www.iddcconsortium.net/blog/librairie/iddc-position-paper-on-the-european-disability-strategy-2020-2030/>

   <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_604>

   vi <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/10102/2018/EN/SWD-2018-444-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

   vii [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/EUAndOHCHRProjectBridgingGapI.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/SDG-CRPDindicators.aspx) [↑](#endnote-ref-5)