Submission to the call for inputs on the 2030 Agenda

European Network on Independent Living’s Contribution

14th June 2024

As the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL), we aim to influence global processes to better include the demands of the independent living movement, and to ensure implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and [the Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, including in emergencies.](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/legal-standards-and-guidelines/crpdc5-guidelines-deinstitutionalization-including)

As part of our advocacy, we have been engaging with United Nations processes such as the preparations of the Summit of the Future. However, we have found major barriers to engage, and even when we have been engaged, we perceive that results are limited.

# Barriers to attending global events

Global events, such as the High-Level Political Forum or the Summit of the Future, remain largely inaccessible to Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs), such as ENIL and our members.

Attendance in-person is necessary to have the opportunity to influence the outcome of the event. Costs of attending events in New York are high and often not covered by our running projects, therefore largely dependent on our own funding. Costs increase when you consider accessibility for disabled attendees, including covering expenses for the travelling, accommodation and salary of a personal assistant, accessible transportation, etc. Many donors do not consider costs for personal assistants in project applications. In the past, our representatives have also gotten their visas denied, which limits the participation of attendees that are not from the United States or Europe.

Even when we have the chance to attend, we observe that sessions are inaccessible, and that opportunities to intervene are very reduced. Often, they may reserve only one speaking slot for the major stakeholder group of persons with disabilities, which creates competition and does not allow for sufficient representation of disabled people, as a group that is diverse within itself.

# Limited participation in consultations

In general, we observe that participation in consultations is often tokenized, leading to few political changes while claiming that the consultations were inclusive, because they may have included some representative organisations. Mere participation is insufficient if it is not followed by any action.

We have made efforts to engage in the consultations towards the Pact for the Future, as we understand the impact this will have on the future work of the United Nations and in development cooperation at large. Even with short deadlines and limited capacity, we submitted our response to the first two open consultations. We did not see the results of the efforts by ENIL and other disability organisations, as there are only two references to disability inclusion in the text, which is insufficient to lead to significant actions. We have not been engaged since then in the consultations, as we are not involved in the major stakeholder group of persons with disabilities. We have tried to join the online discussions, but we were not given the floor.

Regarding the Declaration on Future Generations, we have found even fewer opportunities. We have a youth network we would have liked to engage in the process, but there have not been any consultations we are aware of. We received an invitation to join the stakeholder briefing only two hours before it took place. We fear that this Declaration will not sufficiently include the views of the youth independent living movement.

We believe the current process does not sufficiently engage disabled people, and the barriers to participate are too significant. We currently do not have capacity or resources to attend the events in person, and our efforts to influence the process will have to take place outside the established mechanisms, which is demanding in terms of capacity and resources. We hope the United Nations will learn from this experience and establish consultation mechanisms that are in accordance with the UNCRPD, and allow for meaningful online participation for those organizations that cannot attend events in the United Nations in person.

***About the European Network on Independent Living***

*The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) is a Europe-wide network of disabled people, with organizational and individual members throughout Europe, and beyond. ENIL is a forum for all disabled people, Independent Living organizations and their non-disabled allies on the issues of Independent Living. ENIL represents the disability movement for human rights and social inclusion based on solidarity, peer support, deinstitutionalization, democracy, self-representation, cross disability and self-determination.*

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