



Contributions from:

**The Federal Public Defenders'
Office (DPU) of Brazil**

Inputs to the:

**Special Rapporteur on the rights
of persons with disabilities**

Reaching those left behind: The participation of persons with disabilities in monitoring and reviewing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in post-2030 discussions

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In order to contribute to the next report of the Special Rapporteur for the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, to be held in October 2024, addressing the topic “Reaching those left behind: The participation of persons with disabilities in monitoring and reviewing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in post-2030 discussions”, some considerations and information are presented by the Federal Public Defenders' Office (DPU) of Brazil.

Based on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on international human rights treaties, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 in 2015. It established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030, emphasizing universal respect for human rights.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) enshrines the obligation of State Parties to ensure the consultation and participation of persons with disabilities in all decision-making processes concerning them (Article 4.3) and in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention (Article 33.3). This initiative is intended to guarantee that persons with disabilities can effectively participate and be included in the discussions, design, and implementation of national plans and in the monitoring and global review of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with the implementation of the SDGs.

In this context, the Federal Public Defenders' Office, through its Working Group on Assistance to the Elderly and to Persons with Disabilities (GT PID), would like to present some considerations to the following questions addressed to organisations working on the rights of people with disabilities:

- 1. Please describe the obstacles faced in participating in the monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda at the international, regional, national and/or sub-national levels. Please share any good practices for participating in these processes and advocating for the integration of the rights of persons with disabilities.**

When listing the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs and the respective targets, the UN intended that, by the year 2030, the various inequalities suffered by persons with disabilities should be significantly or completely eliminated, factually and legally, in the international, national and regional scenarios.

In Brazil, persons with disabilities are a hyper-vulnerable group, or one with aggravated vulnerability. It is a notorious and incontrovertible fact that, in recent years, the search for recognition and implementation of the rights and guarantees assured to them by international treaties, by the Brazilian Constitution and by federal, district, state and municipal legislation have found greater social and governmental resonance. Nevertheless, it is still far from the ideal envisaged in these regulations.

As improvements, one can mention a greater organisation of civil society in social movements on behalf of persons with disabilities and rare diseases.

The creation of Observatories by public institutions and civil society organisations to monitor situations of vulnerability faced by persons with disabilities can also be considered a positive aspect.

At the domestic level, there has been more public hearings within the Legislative and Judicial Branches to address issues related to this vulnerable group. Within the Executive Branch, one can mention the existence of "Plataforma Brasil Participativo", a platform for social participation launched and maintained by the federal government and built so that the population can contribute to the creation and improvement of public policies. It has the purpose of promoting and improving social participation through the provision of modules for the dissemination of public consultations and hearings, research and the promotion of good practices.¹

However, the obstacles faced in participating in the monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda are still insurmountable by numerous vulnerable groups and social movements due to several factors. Among them, we can highlight: i) the lack of knowledge of mechanisms for participation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda; ii) the lack of financial structure and human resources, by social entities and organisations, for monitoring and participating in the Agenda; iii) individual actions that generate little engagement and repercussion in combating the situations listed in the SDGs, etc.

2. Please share any experiences or obstacles you encountered for participating or getting involved in the annual High-Level Political Forums, and in particular the 2023 SDG Summit and the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

Because of its meagre structure and reduced institutional budget, the Federal Public Defenders' Office faces financial and human resource difficulties in effectively participating and engaging in annual High-Level Political Forums, particularly in the 2023 SDG Summit and the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

¹ <https://www.gov.br/participamaisbrasil>

3. Please describe if you are currently aware of and involved in the process leading up to the Summit of the Future 2024 and its outcome documents, and the Social Summit in 2025. Identify your thematic priorities, if any, for engagement in these processes.

Within the means available to its structure, the Federal Public Defenders' Office works to defend the rights of persons with disabilities with a view to the 2030 Agenda and the following meetings – Summit of the Future and Social Summit, important milestones within the timeline of the 2030 Agenda.

It should be noted that the Federal Public Defenders' Office (DPU), when acting to promote human rights and defend individual and collective rights, has an intrinsic relationship with the commitments of the 2030 Agenda. Seeking to expand and make this relationship more efficient, the DPU entered into a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and together launched the Project "Capacity-building and innovation promoted in the DPU, in line with the 2030 Agenda". The results of the DPU's alignment with the SDGs can be accessed in the report "Federal Public Defenders' Office and the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA)".²

4. In light of the current global crises, including armed conflict, natural disasters and health crises, and the financial implications of these crises, do you think there has been an impact on the programmes to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in your country? How have your efforts to advocate for the implementation of the sustainable development goals for persons with disabilities been affected?

Undoubtedly, global crises, including armed conflict, natural disasters and health crises and their financial implications have had an impact on the programmes to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in Brazil.

At this moment, we can highlight the serious crisis faced by the population of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, due to the recent floods that continue to severely punish the most vulnerable groups, increasing social inequalities and reducing access to education, health, adequate food, housing, etc.

Of particular note in this regard is the severity of the greater vulnerability of children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities to being rescued and surviving in shelters. These greater challenges can be due to violence and to the specificities of these groups in terms of their need for hygiene supplies (pads and diapers), specialised food (to avoid malnutrition), access to medicines and

² <https://www.dpu.def.br/agenda-2030>

treatments for older persons, persons with disabilities and rare diseases (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychotherapeutic treatment, etc.).

Working Group on Assistance to the Elderly and to Persons with Disabilities
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