**Call for Inputs**

**Reaching the furthest left behind: The participation of persons with disabilities in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Post-2030 discussions**

Pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution 53/14, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities has begun the preparation of her thematic report to the 79th session of the General Assembly to be presented in October 2024. The report will look at the involvement and participation of persons with disabilities in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in current debates at the international level on this issue, and on the future of Sustainable Development or Post-2030 agenda.

**Rationale and objectives**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015 by Resolution 70/1 of the United National General Assembly. It established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be achieved by the year 2030. The agenda emphasizes the importance of universal respect for human rights and is grounded in the Charter of the United Nations and informed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties.

To follow up and track the progress made towards fulfilling the SDGs and their targets, the 2030 Agenda encourages States to ‘conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven’[[1]](#footnote-2), which can serve as the basis for presenting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Local and regional governments are increasingly engaging in such sub-national reviews of SDG implementation, called Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)[[2]](#footnote-3) which have no official status but can complement VNRs. VNRs are presented during the annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council by those countries that expressed their intention to do so.

Ensuring that persons with disabilities can effectively participate and be included in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, is also aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which enshrines the obligation upon State Parties to ensure the consultation and participation of persons with disabilities in all decision-making processes that concern them (Article 4.3) and in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention (Article 33.3) which is intrinsically linked to the implementation of the SDGs. Additionally, persons with disabilities are to benefit on an equal basis with others of international development efforts and cooperation, and thus, structural barriers shall be removed to enable persons with disabilities to participate in and benefit from international cooperation processes and outcomes.[[3]](#footnote-4)

The last HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly was the SDG Summit of 2023, in which a Political Declaration was adopted. Persons with disabilities were mentioned in the Declaration and States committed to ensuring that they actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts.[[4]](#footnote-5) In the Declaration, governments further committed to further strengthen the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2024 the Summit for the Future will take place, which will gather world leaders to forge a new international consensus on how to accelerate efforts to meet international commitments and respond to emerging challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda. It will result in two outcome documents, the Pact for the Future and the Declaration for Future Generations. So far, the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future has references to human rights and highlights the need to foster inclusive societies without marginalization or discrimination. However, language referring to disability rights, such as inclusive education, care and support systems, employment in the open market, as well as the need to follow-up and review progress in achieving the SDGs in a manner that includes persons with disabilities is currently not referred to, which represents a major step back.

In this thematic report, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities seeks to analyze, halfway through the deadline set to achieve the 2030 Agenda SDGs, how have persons with disabilities been included and able to participate in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and international levels. It will further look at the current processes taking place in the international arena, and in particular, the upcoming 2023 High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the 2024 Summit for the Future and the 2025Social Summit, to understand how and to what extent persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are being able to participate in these discussions, and their rights being mainstreamed in outcome documents and debates around accelerating progress to achieve the SDGs and on the post-2030 agenda.

Based on her analysis and conclusions, the Special Rapporteur will make recommendations to achieve better inclusion of persons with disabilities in follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, and making sure their rights are mainstreamed in international development documents being currently discussed or to come in the future.

**Key questions**

To inform her report, the Special Rapporteur would like to seek written inputs from all interested stakeholders and strongly encourages sharing concrete examples of good practices where available. She is particularly interested in the following areas:

For all stakeholders:

1. Please inform how persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are meaningfully consulted and their participation ensured during the follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda at the regional, national and sub-national levels.

Response; **The NPDA Nauru Peoples Disability Association a non-government organization shares an office with the government department of people living with disability. All office resources manpower and information are thoroughly shared with them**.

1. Is there a specific mechanism for follow-up and review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the country? **The department of people living with disability relies on DFAT and our mission in Geneva to share outcomes made in the UN and the Geneva mission**. How are persons with disabilities included in this mechanism? **A notice for a meeting is sent out to them via the department’s courier. Community outreach. Radio announcement. A data collection is kept by the department and it is through collection that we can reach out to them individually**
2. Please describe the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in gathering data and producing Voluntary National Reports or Voluntary Local Reviews. Please share good practices in this regard.
3. What steps are being taken to facilitate their participation? Are there any awareness-raising campaigns implemented to inform persons with disabilities of these processes?

**Response; Data collection and upkeep, via local radio, newsletter and direct contact for community meeting.**

1. Are there any platforms in place for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to contribute to the reporting process? **We rely on group meeting and solicit their responses through the meeting**. How are they accessible? **Nauru is a one island and every one of PWD are accessible**. Is there are reasonable accommodation fund in place to secure the participation of persons with disabilities? **Yes**
2. How are the views of persons with disabilities incorporated in these reports? **They are quoted in the report if they allow it.**
3. Is the data gathered for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development being disaggregated by disability? If so, how is it accessible for persons with disabilities? **None yet.**
4. Please provide information on whether capacity-building programmes are in place, including specific funding, to allow persons with disabilities to meaningfully engage and participate in the process of follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional, national and sub-national level. **None. Still in its infancy stage.**

For organizations of persons with disabilities, and organizations working on disability rights:

1. Please describe the barriers experienced in participating in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the international, regional, national and/or sub-national levels. Please share any good practices in participating in these processes and advocating for the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Response; There are multiple barriers facing a develop country when it comes to creating a environment to enhance people with disability rights. A couple of positive outcome came about in 2023. First the creation of the department of people with disability with its own budget in September 2020 and second the adoption of the “Inclusion of disability ACT 2023”, enacted in parliament in June 2023.**

1. Please share any experience or barriers encountered related to the participation or involvement in the annual High-Level Political Forums, and in particular the SDG Summit of 2023 and the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

**Response; High level engagement for PWD in Nauru between government of Australia and Government of Nauru has been lifted as high as climate change, however, the challenge is that the implementation of the dialogue has yet to materialize.**

1. Describe whether you are currently aware and engaging in the process leading to the Summit for the Future 2024 and its outcome documents and the Social Summit in 2025. Please identify your thematic priorities, if any, when engaging in these processes.

**Response; none whatsoever.**

1. In light of the global crises facing the world, including armed conflicts, natural disasters, and health crises, and the financial implications of these crises, do you find that this has impacted 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 people with disabilities been affected?

**Response; Our advocacy program reaches out to development partners, local leaders and the community. However, the implementation of help has been far and wide in between for the help to realize its potential impact.**

1. 2030 Agenda of 2015, UNGA Resolution 70/1, para. 79. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. UNSR on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, Thematic Report submitted to the General Assembly on 20 July 2020, A/75/186, para. 22. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, A/RES/78/1, 16 October 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)