WHAT LINKS DISABILITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

In the 2016 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the CRPD is one of nine core international human rights treaties and it includes 33 core articles covering all areas of life.

In February 2016, 161 out of 193 United Nations Member States or over 80% of countries have ratified the CRPD. Once a country ratifies this means that the country is legally bound to implement the 33 core articles and must report on their progress in writing to the United Nations on a periodic basis.

According to the 2017 World Report on Disability by the World Health Organisation/World Bank, there are an estimated 1 billion persons with disabilities worldwide. The same report states that 1 in 5 of the world’s poorest people have disabilities. Disability is both a cause and consequence of poverty, yet international policy-makers and stakeholders have not historically recognised or prioritised this issue within international development efforts.

After three years of intense intergovernmental negotiations United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. The 2030 Agenda has 17 goals for sustainable development and 169 targets. There are 11 explicit references to persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda, and disaggregation of data by disability is a core principle.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will influence the direction of global and national policies relating to sustainable development for at least 15 years. If the 2030 Agenda is going to be successful all of the 193 United Nations Member States must include persons with disabilities in their national plans for implementation and monitoring.

While the infographic aims at illustrating how the 17 goals of the SDGs and the core 33 articles of the CRPD are linked to each other, it is important to stress that both the SDGs and the CRPD must be implemented as a whole: this means that countries should not “cherry pick” single goals or articles, as all of them form part of a complex and interconnected equation.

The test of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be interpreted through the lens of the 2015 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the following way:

All references to “equal” must be understood in the context of equal opportunity and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities – people with different types of experiences and support requirements; persons with disabilities (CRPD article 5) and children with disabilities (CRPD article 6).

• All references to “access” or “inclusion” requirements; women with disabilities (art. 6)

• All references to “development and partnerships” are applicable.

• All references to “access” or “inclusion” requirements; women with disabilities (art. 6)

HOW DOES THE INFOGRAPHIC WORK?

The infographic aims at illustrating how the 17 goals of the SDGs and the core 33 articles of the CRPD are linked to each other, it is important to stress that both the SDGs and the CRPD must be implemented as a whole: this means that countries should not “cherry pick” single goals or articles, as all of them form part of a complex and interconnected equation.

GOAL 1: NO POVERTY: End poverty in all its forms everywhere. End extreme poverty for the 1 billion people who fall below the extreme poverty line, and end hunger and ensure food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Women with disabilities (art. 6)

GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Providing persons with disabilities with assistance to enable them to attain an adequate standard of living on an equal basis with others, in particular by ensuring access to basic and affordable essential services, including those for adequate food, including food security, protection from hunger and sustainable agriculture. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11.

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages. While all persons with disabilities have the right to adequate health care, the CRPD requires governments to take action to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination in the field of health. Women with disabilities (art. 21)

GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. While all persons with disabilities have the right to education and to participate in educational and cultural life, the CRPD requires governments to take action to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination in education. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11.

GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Women with disabilities (art. 6)

GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 20 apply.

GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 20 apply.

GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 20 apply.

GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES: Reduce inequality within and among countries. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.

GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.

GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.

GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.

GOAL 14: LIFE below WATER: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.

GOAL 15: LIFE on LAND: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.

GOAL 16: STRONG INSTITUTIONS: Strengthen the effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.

GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, ensuring the means of implementation and ambassability for the achievement of sustainable development, including strong cooperation amongst countries and international and national partnerships. Persons with disabilities (art. 21), as well as articles 6, 7, 10, 16 and 27 apply.