

Statement for the FFD Conference,
Addis Ababa, July 2015:

**Including women and girls with disabilities
in Financing For Development – Towards an all-inclusive and
effective Sustainable Development Goals**

Context

There are more than half a billion women and girls with disabilities worldwide.¹ The vast majority of them lives in developing countries.² Poverty, compounded by lack of access to resources and services, education and employment, expose women with and without disabilities to violence, neglect and abuse, which perpetuates their marginalization in society.³ Women with disabilities are even more likely to be affected by violence, exploitation and abuse than their peers without disabilities due to double discrimination⁴. Their situation is aggravated by the fact that existing gender based violence programming and policies, are often not disability inclusive, or lack resources to implement outreach services to the most isolated women with and without disabilities. While some data and surveys exist on the scope and extent of gender based violence affecting women and girls with disabilities⁵, the majority of national data sets and research on gender based violence do not disaggregate by sex *and* disability.⁶ This means that women with disabilities remain mostly invisible in global and national gender based violence programming, gender budgeting and policies. The vulnerability of women with disabilities, and that of marginalized groups in general, may be further heightened in situations of crisis or conflict where social, community or State mechanisms of protection are often weakened or destroyed.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), as well as CEDAW and the CRC, oblige States Parties to take positive measures to realize the rights of all women and girls, including those with disabilities and protect them from violence, abuse and exploitation. The Beijing Platform of Action (1995) also recognizes the obligations of States parties to address the rights of women, including those with disabilities. However, subsequent state reports on the Beijing Platform don't report adequately on the status of women and girls with disabilities and respective inclusiveness of programs to eliminate violence⁷. Multiple gaps exist. As part of efforts to address these gaps, women and men, with and without disabilities, and their respective organizations and governments in various

¹ World Bank, WHO 2011

² Ibid.

³ United Nations Population Fund. (2005). *Promoting Gender Equality*. UNFPA, New York.

⁴ The Lancet 2012; UN Women: Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls.

⁵ See for instance: COVAW/ KAIH Baseline survey on Sexual and gender based violence against persons with intellectual disabilities in Kenya. <http://covaw.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Covaw-report-new-final-interactive.pdf>

⁶ The Lancet 2015: Addressing violence against women: a call for action. Lancet 2015; 385: 1685-95 accessed at: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2814%2961830-4/fulltext>

⁷ Women Enabled, Disability and Law Program, Syracuse University, Handicap International: Where are the girls and women with disabilities: An analysis of the country reports submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women 59. 2015 available at: http://www.makingitwork-cprd.org/fileadmin/user/News/CSW_59_report_on_disability_inclusion_in_selected_Beijing_country_Report.pdf

countries⁸ are taking steps to end disability and gender based violence. The Making it Work Initiative⁹ selected and documented 11 of these first good and emerging practices in 10 countries during the last two years. All organizations were invited to the first Disability and Gender Forum in New York this year. Participants concluded that **this problem is global and effective responses are urgently needed by the international community to address the gaps experienced by women and girls with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, around the world.**

Recommendations

We ask **all States and bi- and multilateral development actors to take positive steps to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation framework thereof, inclusive of all by addressing, inter alia, the concerns of women and girls with disabilities, when debating the allocation of finance for Goal 5 on gender equality and fighting violence against women.** We thus call on all States to consider one of the most marginalized groups, and:

- 1) **To ensure that both financial and non-financial means of implementation for the SDGs are inclusive of, and accessible to, women and girls with disabilities, so as to accelerate gender equity for all.**
- 2) **To create a conducive, financial environment to ensure that the voices of all women and girls with disabilities, and their families and representative organizations, are reflected in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of national and global policies and programs to implement the SDGs.**
- 3) **To allocate financial means so that the “Data Revolution” for the monitoring of the SDGs is equipped for collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data on gender, age *and* disability, so as to support better gender and disability resource allocation, gender budgeting and policies for all.**
- 4) **To allocate enough private and public resources to break the vicious cycle of poverty and invisibility for women and girls with disabilities, by supporting equitable access to resources, health, education, and employment, and their meaningful participation in society.**

Submitted by: The Pacific Disability Forum, Profamilia Colombia with Fundamental Colombia, A SDOWN, Programa de Acción para la Igualdad e Inclusión Social, & University of Los Andes, Women with Disabilities Movement Costa Rica, Disability Rights International, Colectivo Chuhcan, Gender Unit, Social Development Ministry Uruguay, Ma’an Israel, Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped with Coalition of Violence against Women, DAWN Canada, Women Refugee Commission & International Rescue Committee, Advantage Africa and Kibwezi Disabled Persons’ Organization; Handicap International; International Center for Disability and Development, Women Enabled International, Syracuse University College of Law’s Disability Law and Policy Program, and the Technical Advisory Committee of the Making it Work Initiative.

⁸ See list of good practices, and Statement from the MIW initiative, June 2015: www.makingitwork-crp.org/international/advancing-equity-for-women-and-girls-with-disabilities/

⁹ Making It Work (MIW) is a methodology to document and promote good practices in line with the principles of the CRPD. The MIW 2013 – 2015 initiative focuses on the prevention, elimination and response to violence, abuse and exploitation against women and girls with disabilities.

For more information contact Fatma Wangare fatma@kaihid.org or Yetnebersh Nigussi etegeyet@yahoo.com participating in the FFD Conference, or Luisa Fenu at lfenu@handicap-international.org.