



Behinderung und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit/Disability and Development Cooperation (bezev)

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Chapeau

As early as 2019, the Global Sustainable Development Report found that persons with disabilities are among the most disadvantaged groups and that a large proportion of them live in poverty and absolute poverty. This situation has not improved and the increase in global inequality in recent years has hit them particularly hard, as the results of the GSDR 2023 show. Persons with disabilities are among the vulnerable groups that are particularly hard hit by the effects of crises. An estimated 1.3 billion persons worldwide live with disabilities.

In order to fulfil the ambition of Leaving No One Behind, all efforts must be directed towards reaching them first, like all other disadvantaged groups, as was included in the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit in September 2023. “para 37: We commit to achieving sustainable development and shared prosperity for all by focusing our policies and actions of the poorest and most vulnerable. We will endeavour to identify those who are being left behind and reach those who are the furthest behind first. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants“.

This aspiration to leave no one behind should be reflected in the Pacts of the Future chapeau, analogous to the political declaration of the SDGs Summit, and emphasise the seriousness of truly reaching all people and not forgetting disadvantaged groups in particular.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Although persons with disabilities are only explicitly mentioned in some SDGs, inclusive implementation is necessary for all SDGs, as they belong to the "vulnerable groups" or are included if "all people" are to be reached.

Creating accessibility is a key measure for achieving their participation and involving them. Barriers in infrastructure (e.g. buildings), transport, services, etc., are relevant obstacles that prevent the participation of persons with disabilities. Accessibility should therefore be recognised as a core element of participation and inclusion and anchored accordingly. Where not already in place, accessibility should be enshrined in national legislation or programmes for the accessible design of structures, processes and services should be set up.

Financing for Development: Accessibility and Universal Design should become a core element in all funding programmes so that they do not contribute to persons with disabilities being left out and disadvantaged again.

Chapter II. International peace and security

The current crises have not only increased inequality between countries. They are also contributing to growing national inequalities, which are widening the gap between rich and poor and contributing to the rise of nationalist and populist movements. Nationalist political currents hinder multilateral cooperation. The basis for their growth should therefore be removed. One important measure is therefore to significantly strengthen and develop social security systems.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The GDSR 2023 also showed that people with disabilities are at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing the internet and therefore have less access to digital services. With the increasing digitalisation and development of artificial intelligence, barrier-free design and affordable access and use for people with disabilities are essential so that they can participate in these developments and are not further disadvantaged.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

If young people are to be involved in a meaningful way, their forms and formats of participation must be designed to be accessible and inclusive. Young people are diverse. This also includes disadvantaged groups, especially young people with disabilities.

Of particular importance is an inclusive implementation of SDG 4, which, with a broad understanding of inclusive education, enables all disadvantaged groups to receive high-quality and sustainable education. Due to the importance of education for the implementation of all SDGs (especially SDG 4.7), increased efforts should be made to implement the existing education programmes and initiatives.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

The UN is on the right track with the UNDIS. Nevertheless, implementation should be strengthened, particularly with regard to the implementation of the SDGs. Increased efforts should be made with regard to monitoring the SDGs in relation to persons with disabilities and the disaggregation of global indicators. To date, only a few indicators can be disaggregated by disability. This is not enough to measure progress in terms of the participation of persons with disabilities. There is an urgent need for action here.

In addition to strengthening monitoring, the participation of persons with disabilities should be strengthened at all relevant levels and in all areas so that they are involved in shaping policies and programmes and their voices are heard.