



Divergent Think Tank

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Chapeau

Language on “neurodiversity” and “neurodiverse persons” has not yet been agreed on by the Member States. The Pact for the Future provides a crucial once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to institutionalize these terms as agreed language, strengthening the Member States’ and UN’s approach to inclusivity and accessibility.

There are predisposed neurological factors that can play a significant role in determining the unique cognitive cerebration we all possess, in combination with lived experiences, identities and environments. Both divergent and convergent cognitive thought processes must be platformed in an inclusive, united, and appropriate way to fully engage in global governance dialogues. Recognizing this imperative reaffirms the need for explicit neuro-inclusive language to be included within all discussions and documents pertaining to "social inclusion", building upon the agreed language contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

It is imperative to ensure neurodiverse individuals and leaders, existing, emerging, and future, have access to equitable opportunities. This will enable us to feed into as well as center innovative and creative thinkings to reimagine and reinvigorate deliberative and decision-making processes.

It is in this regard that this submission focuses on the inclusion of language on “neurodiversity” and “neurodiverse persons” that we propose to see reflected in the Zero Draft.

- Reaffirms and stresses the need to further strengthen the implementation of the following existing international agreements, ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons, are centered:
 - UN Charter
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - 2030 Agenda
- Reaffirms further that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons, commits to promote their meaningful engagement, participation, and leadership in the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural spheres with equal opportunities, in developing and developed countries.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

- Emphasize the importance of centering people with disabilities, disability issues, and neurodiversity as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development.
- Commit to universal social protection for persons with disabilities and neurodiverse people, to ensure quality, accessible, and inclusive access to essential public services, quality education, healthcare, and decent work.
- Eliminate all barriers to the full, effective, and meaningful participation of people with disabilities in political and public spheres inter alia, education, health and sanitation facilities, transport, science, technology, and innovation, decent workplaces, and public spaces.
- Ensure all reforms of the International Financial Architecture are rights-based, people-centered, and disability-inclusive and responsive.
- Strengthen the meaningful engagement and inclusion of people with disabilities and neurodiverse persons, in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the international, regional, and country levels.
- Increase access to health services for all persons with disabilities and remove physical, attitudinal, social, structural, and financial barriers, provide quality standard of care and scale up efforts for their empowerment and inclusion, noting that persons with disabilities, representing 15% of the global population, continue to experience unmet health needs.

Chapter II. International peace and security

- Reaffirm, in the strongest terms possible, the full, effective, meaningful, and accelerated implementation of UN Security Council resolution S/RES/2475 (2019), which focused on the situation of persons with disabilities in situations of armed conflict. S/RES/2475 recognised the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on persons with disabilities and urged Member States to enable the meaningful participation and representation of persons with disabilities, including their representative organizations, in humanitarian action, conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction, and peacebuilding, and to consult with those with expertise working on disability mainstreaming.
- Ensure that all persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons have equitable, timely, inclusive, accessible, and continuous access to justice, remedy, and accountability measures, as well as to healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive rights services, during periods of war, conflict, instability, and humanitarian emergencies.
- Eliminate all forms of harassment, abuse, and violence, including sexual and gender-based, especially against women, children, and persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons, during peacetime as well as in situations of war, conflicts, instability, and humanitarian emergencies.

Chapter III. Science, technology, and innovation and digital cooperation

- Eliminate the disability-digital divide through emphasizing quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides, using an intersectional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, security, inclusivity, language, training, capacity-building, local content, and accessibility, including for persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons.
- Eliminate all prejudice, discrimination and obstacles that limit the access of persons with disabilities and neurodiverse people to science, technology, and innovation, including information and communications technologies, recognising that inaccessible and exclusionary digital systems and technological advancements risk leaving them further behind due to environmental, physical, attitudinal, and other barriers.
- Protect and promote the rights of all persons with disabilities and neurodiverse people, including by addressing all barriers that prevent or restrict their full, equal, and meaningful participation in the design, management, resourcing, and implementation of information and communications technology policies, ensuring their access to disability-inclusive and accessible digital information,

technology, literacy, and skills, in particular in relation to health, quality education, distance learning, productive employment and decent work, including remote work, rehabilitation, and other independent living support services and assistive technologies that enable persons with disabilities to maximize their well-being and realize their independence and autonomy.

- Ensure that persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons are closely consulted on policies and programmes, such that their priorities and rights are fully incorporated.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

- Ensure access to universal quality education that is disability inclusive and responsive, including affordable quality early childhood education and lifelong learning opportunities. Provide access to disability inclusive learning methods and learning experiences for all persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons, ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of learning materials, and eliminating all barriers and stigmas to the full enjoyment of their right to education.
- Strengthen the meaningful engagement, participation, and inclusion of young persons with disabilities and young neurodiverse persons in the development of measures and across decision-making processes, ensuring that their engagement is disability inclusive in all aspects of public, political, economic, cultural, and social life.
- Implement measures to promote and improve mental health, especially for young persons with disabilities and young neurodiverse persons, through the provision of disability inclusive and youth responsive, inter alia, suicide prevention, as well as treatment for people with mental disorders and other mental health conditions as well as neurological disorders, providing psychosocial support, promoting well-being, positive self-image, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, addressing social determinants and other health needs, and fully respecting their human rights.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance.

- Call for the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and Security Council, and their relevant subsidiary bodies, to review their working methods to significantly strengthen the engagement of persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons, in all their diversity, across all of their mandates and work.
- Pursuant to the commitment of Member States to further strengthen the United Nations work on persons with disabilities, we resolve to create an intergovernmental body on the status of persons with disabilities and neurodiverse persons.

The proposed body will be responsible for promoting and monitoring the universal implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reviewing and appraising progress achieved on the Convention, to promote the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities.

The proposed body shall have a catalytic in mainstreaming, integrating, and institutionalizing disability inclusive perspectives and make recommendations thereon. It should also promote effective coordination and the mainstreaming of disability inclusive approaches within and across the United Nations system.

We request the President of the General Assembly to conduct open, transparent, and inclusive negotiations, to be completed as soon as possible during the seventy ninth session, with the aim of establishing the mandate, modalities, functions, size, composition, membership, working methods and procedures of the proposed body.