

# Leave No One Behind and Persons with Disabilities

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## Question: From SDG 11 to LNOB



**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**



## Impairment (I)

Limited or total loss of functioning in parts of the body or organs of the body:

- Physical
- Sensorial
- Intellectual
- Mental Conditions

$$\text{Background: } I * B = D$$

## Barriers (B)

Aspects that intentionally or unintentionally exclude people with disabilities from full and equal participation in society:

- Physical,
- Legal
- Institutional
- Environmental
- Attitudinal



## Background: Relevance and Urgency

- Persons with disabilities = 15% of world population
  - More than half of them live in cities and towns that are not accessible to them
  - 6.25 billion people predicted to inhabit urban centres by 2050
- Nearly 1 billion urban dwellers with disabilities by 2050 and sustainability challenge for adequate infrastructure

## Challenge: Societal Exclusion

- Low accessibility, unemployment and lack of awareness of society and policy makers deny persons with disabilities the opportunity to be active urban citizens.
  - Support services, if available at all, are too often segregated, medicalised and tear apart families.
- Obstacles for persons with disabilities to function effectively as members of society

## Challenge: Obstruction and Barriers



## Challenge: Inaccessible Systems

- Public transport, e.g. stations without elevators
- Health care, e.g. no patient consent for operation
- Private enterprises, e.g. steps towards banking facilities
- Housing, e.g. student dorms without automatic doors
- Roads, e.g. open sewage roads without warnings
- Emergencies and disasters, e.g. acoustic-only tsunami warnings

## Opportunity: Political Recognition

- 2008 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:  
Accessibility as legal requirement
- 2013 UN High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development: Ensure accessibility in all aspects of development.
- 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development: Disability mainstreaming in many goals, including SDG 11.



## Opportunity: Cost Effectiveness

- It is generally feasible to meet accessibility requirements at one percent of the total cost.
- Retrofitting for accessibility is more expensive costing up to 20 percent of the original costs.

→ Think about accessibility from the start

## Way Forward: Universal Design



## Way Forward: Meaningful Participation



- Constructive dialogue with persons with disabilities
- Budget available for accessible urban design

→ Real pathway for change

## Summary: Some Recommendations

- Harmonise national and local legislation on accessibility with CRPD and SDG 11.
- Apply universal design principles in all public buildings
- Disseminate knowledge on accessible urban design among different cities and conduct regular trainings on universal design and accessibility standards.
- Include all people and celebrate diversity in planning.

## Summary: Some Recommendations

Active engagement with the community including Disabled Peoples' Organization representatives by Local body authorities and Officials to review the vulnerable areas/challenges in cities and communities for persons with disabilities.

## Summary: Take-Away Message

- Inaccessibility, in all its aspects, is a form of disability discrimination that denies persons with disabilities the ability to fully and effectively participate in and be fully included in society.
- Accessibility is the key ingredients for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities in the new urban development agenda

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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