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
Background: I * B = D

**Impairment (I)**
Limited or total loss of functioning in parts of the body or organs of the body:
- Physical
- Sensorial
- Intellectual
- Mental Conditions

**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

Making design accessible to everyone in society
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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