



Global Disability Summit
Norway, 16th February 2022, 18:00 CET

Side Event

Ensuring that indigenous peoples and minority with disabilities are not left behind in Covid-19 recovery efforts:

Building new partnerships to meet urgent challenges

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The advancement of rights for people with disabilities has made progress in the latter decades of the 20th Century and the first decades of the 21st Century, particularly through the efforts of the burgeoning disability rights movement and international cooperation in addition to adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

However, for those from marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities from indigenous communities and from ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities, the benefits of progress in attaining rights has not been equally experienced. Members of these groups, including with disabilities, often face additional barriers to knowing and accessing their rights and participating in civil society which puts them at risk of being the furthest left behind.

There are an estimated one billion persons with disabilities living across the globe, out of which approximately 54 million are indigenous. The issues faced by indigenous persons with disabilities, however, remain unaddressed in policies relating to disability and those related to indigenous peoples. A major issue is discrimination in access to quality of services compared with other persons with disabilities, as well as lack of prioritization of their requirements, unique capabilities and potential contributions to the development of their communities.¹ Subsequently, indigenous persons with disabilities are overrepresented among those living in absolute poverty and continue to exist as one of the world's most vulnerable populations.

For people with disabilities belonging to ethnic and religious minority communities around the world, similar issues resulting from structural and intersectional discrimination remain unaddressed and exacerbated by lack of disaggregated data, high levels of poverty, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the impacts of climate change and conflict. In the wake of ISIS's targeted campaign of violence against Yezidis and other communities in Iraq, minorities are disproportionately represented among people with disabilities and face added challenges due

¹E/C.19/2013/6, Study on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on challenges faced with regard to the full enjoyment of human rights and inclusion in development, EMRIP, 2013, para 30,

to displacement.² In the US, half of Black people with disabilities will be arrested by police before they turn 28.³ A lack of official documentation, discrimination and stigma prevents Roma with disabilities in Ukraine from accessing social assistance, healthcare and education.

Persons with disabilities in indigenous communities or minority do not experience discrimination as members of a homogenous group but rather as individuals with multidimensional layers of factors, identities and circumstances. They may face multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, caste, religion and language. While these factors may and should be analysed in context, persons with disabilities belonging to indigenous communities or minority may still face stigmas due to a lack of awareness and visibility and absence of meaningful actions that reach or include them, including work undertaken by the disability rights movement, the indigenous rights movement, minority rights movements and in the humanitarian and development sectors.

Partnership for progress

Ongoing partnership across the aforementioned sectors aims at ensuring effective and meaningful participation of indigenous and/or minority persons with disabilities.

The **Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network** (IPWDGN) is a network of indigenous persons with disabilities that was initiated in 2012 as a caucus to promote the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities, engage with international and regional human rights and development processes as well as reach out to new communities. The IPWDGN is guided by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and supported by the International Disability Alliance (IDA).

In recognition that Black people with disabilities experience poorer outcomes than their non-disabled and non-Black counterparts, bridges between the Black Lives Matter and disability rights movements have started to emerge. **Vidas Negras com Deficiências Importam** (VNDI) (translation: *Black Disabled Lives Matter*) started in 2018 to highlight the situation of Black disabled people in Brazil who experience denial of their existence by an ableist and racist social structure, exclusion from public policies of inclusion, accessibility and discussions with civil society. Similar movements in other countries signal progress in addressing issues of those caught at the intersection between discrimination on grounds of race and disability.

As a result of such progressive partnerships amplifying the voices of underrepresented groups, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People (EMRIP) have issued recommendations to states on the importance of tackling intersectional discrimination. It is by using international mechanisms through co-ordinated advocacy of local and national social justice movements that we can reach an anti-racist, anti-ableist and inclusive society for all.

² The World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples. 2019. Minorities with Disabilities in Iraq. Minority Rights Group website <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/disability-4/>

³ The Cumulative Probability of Arrest by Age 28 Years in the United States by Disability Status, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender. 2017. McCauley, E.J. American Public Health Association. <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304095>

Context and thematic focus

“This pandemic has made more noticeable the existing great gender inequalities, has reconfirmed the gaps related to gender, indigenous identity, disability, socio-economic, political and cultural factors, but we consider also that is a great opportunity to learn, and to end the exclusion of indigenous women and girls with disabilities. We need to be included, we want to be seen within the proposals of the new normality, we urge that the states build gender justice together with civil society and indigenous people with disabilities.”
Olga Montúfar, IPWDGN

In order to inform governments, NGO's, UN Agencies and other stakeholders on the need to prioritise the capacity-strengthening of organizations of indigenous, minority and other marginalised persons with disabilities, more specifically on building back better after the Covid-19 pandemic and on the elimination of the barriers raised by governments and other stakeholders in response to the pandemic, IPWDGN, VNDI, IDA, MRG and partners are holding a side event during the Global Disability Summit 2022 (GDS22) on **Ensuring that indigenous peoples and minority with disabilities are not left behind in Covid-19 recovery efforts: Building new partnerships to meet urgent challenges.**

The Covid-19 pandemic presents a serious and ongoing threat. It has been pointed out that humanity is experiencing the worst economic crisis in the century since the Great Depression,⁴ as by September 2020, every advanced economy had fallen into recession or depression, whilst all emerging economies were in recession.⁵ Modelling by the World Bank suggests that in some regions a full recovery will not be achieved until 2025 or beyond;⁶ this will be the equivalent of a 10-year setback in terms of growth.

A new concern of underrepresented groups of people with disabilities arises here: it is not clear how they will be included in the economic reactivation considering their exclusion prior to and during the pandemic, which exacerbated a significant number of pre-existing inequities and disadvantages. Therefore, an inclusive approach must be considered and applied in a recovery based on human rights that incorporates all sectors and prioritises women with disabilities.

That is why we need to ensure that the stakeholders of the GDS22 commit to leaving no one behind, and to take into consideration underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities when making these commitments.

This side event seeks to draw particular attention on the importance of strengthening partnerships between organizations spanning social movements and identifying the support they need and inviting the GDS22 stakeholders to commit to ensuring that no one is left behind

⁴ Zumbun, Josh (10 May 2020). "[Coronavirus Slump Is Worst Since Great Depression. Will It Be as Painful?](#)". [The Wall Street Journal](#). ISSN 0099-9660. Retrieved 20 January 2021,

⁵ "[World Economic Outlook Update, June 2020: A Crisis Like No Other, An Uncertain Recovery](#)". IMF. Retrieved 11 September 2020. Jump up to:^a ^b "[The Great Lockdown: Worst Economic Downturn Since the Great Depression](#)". IMF Blog. Retrieved 16 April 2020,

"[COVID-19 to Plunge Global Economy into Worst Recession since World War II](#)". World Bank. Retrieved 11 September 2020.

⁶ "[The Great Recession Was Bad. The 'Great Lockdown' Is Worse](#)". Bloomberg Quint. Retrieved 15 April 2020.

"[IMF Says 'Great Lockdown' Worst Recession Since Depression, Far Worse Than Last Crisis](#)". nysscpa.org. Retrieved 15 April 2020,

Winck, Ben (14 April 2020). "[IMF economic outlook: 'Great Lockdown' will be worst recession in century](#)". Business Insider. Retrieved 27 April 2020. Larry Elliott Economics editor. "['Great Lockdown' to rival Great Depression with 3% hit to global economy, says IMF | Business](#)". The Guardian. Retrieved 27 April 2020.

during the global recovery efforts from the pandemic. The initiation of a dialogue on how to ensure that people with disabilities from indigenous, minority and marginalised communities, particularly women and girls, will be central in efforts to “build back better” aims to ensure that they are not left behind in areas that include the right to education, healthcare and economic revival.

Format and agenda of the side event

The side event will be held in a virtual format, on 16 February 2022, 12:00 pm New York (18:00 CET). The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and Minority Rights Group will provide accessibility in the event, with simultaneous language interpretation services in English and Spanish, International Sign (IS) and captioning.

The proposed agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome by one of the IPWDGN Co-Chairs,
2. Opening remarks – IDA and MRG invited speakers,
1. Presentation by members of the IPWDGN on the impact of Covid-19 on indigenous women with disabilities in relation to the GDS Commitments and including the barriers to participation experienced
2. Presentation by representatives from the Roma rights movement (Europe), Dalit rights movement (South Asia) and Black Disabled Lives Matter movements (South America) – TBC.
3. Closing remarks by the other Co-Chair of the IPWDGN.

Platform and registration

Registration at https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QMWvzPjsT0CjMU_otCFGzQ
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