

## Editorial

The 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD was held from 13 to 15 June 2017, with the main theme of “The Second Decade of the CRPD: Inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation of the Convention”. The sub-themes were:

- Addressing the impact of multiple discrimination on persons with disabilities and promoting their participation and multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving the SDGs in line with the CRPD;
- Inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action;
- Promoting inclusive urban development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda – Habitat III.

While the report of the meeting will become available later, it is important for stakeholders to reflect on these themes, especially with the approaching second anniversary of SDGs on 25th September 2017.

With regard to reducing discrimination and promoting participation of persons with disabilities, many challenges remain, as different reports have highlighted. A majority of persons with disabilities in many low and middle-income countries continue to live in rural areas or far flung islands. These are also the areas with limited coverage of health and rehabilitation services. Poverty and the resultant poor health care, lack of access to health care, lack of awareness, poor hygiene and sanitation, and communicable diseases, continue to be the largest contributors to the causation of impairment and disability, and remain as barriers to participation and inclusion in some countries. While CBR programmes exist in many countries, their coverage is limited, and many remote rural areas remain unreached. Other challenges include limited commitment and awareness among some sectors of government; low multi-sectoral collaboration; inadequate understanding of CBR and rights based approaches; and lack of sufficient numbers of trained personnel, information and material resources on CBR.

The second sub-theme of including persons with disabilities in humanitarian action assumes special significance in view of the on-going disasters and conflict

situations in different parts of the world. It is acknowledged that in any crisis situation, persons with disabilities tend to be among the most neglected and marginalised groups.

The third sub-theme looks at inclusive urban development. The New Urban Agenda recognises the need to address discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, along with other marginalised groups. The increasing urbanisation in different regions of the world indicate the growing need to plan appropriately not only for urban development but for inclusive urban development. Yuenwah (2011, available at <http://dcidj.org/article/view/114/64>) cites urbanisation as one of the challenges that CBR and inclusive development practitioners need to address: *“The rapid urbanisation under way in Asia-Pacific makes for instability in the community and family context of persons with disabilities. This situation, affecting such huge numbers of persons with disabilities and their families, must be urgently addressed using CBR methodology”*.

The Sustainable Development Goals follow the principle of “no one will be left behind”. With the CRPD providing the philosophy and framework for inclusive development, all stakeholders will need to work together for the successful achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development