

Editorial

The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017* (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/>) reviews progress made towards the 17 Goals in the second year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report, based on the latest available data, highlights both achievements and challenges in full realization of the 2030 Agenda.

It is acknowledged in the Report that while considerable progress has been made over the past decade across all areas of development, the pace of progress observed in previous years is insufficient to fully meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets by 2030. In relation to some of the key indicators, it is stated that: “While nearly a billion people have escaped extreme poverty since 1999, about 767 million remained destitute in 2013, most of whom live in fragile situations. Despite major advances, alarmingly a high number of children under age 5 are still affected by malnutrition. In 2016, an estimated 155 million children under 5 years of age were stunted (low height for their age). Between 2000 and 2015, the global maternal mortality ratio declined by 37 per cent and the under-5 mortality rate fell by 44 per cent. However, 303,000 women died during pregnancy or childbirth and 5.9 million children under age 5 died worldwide in 2015”.

According to the report, progress has not always been equitable; advancements have been uneven across regions, between the sexes, and among people of different ages, wealth and locales, including urban and rural dwellers. In his Foreword, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres states that “Implementation has begun, but the clock is ticking. This report shows that the rate of progress in many areas is far slower than needed to meet the targets by 2030.”

Earlier reports on progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) sounded very similar to the above, and that should be a cause of worry to governments and other stakeholders, particularly the people whom the SDGs are meant for. The key principle of the SDGs is “Leave no one behind”. If the present pace of progress to achieve the SDGs is not sufficient, then it is likely that many marginalised groups of people, including persons with disabilities, will be left behind yet again.

It is hoped that the report will act as a spur to governments to increase their efforts

and resources to realise the SDGs. Civil society groups, including organisations representing persons with disabilities, will need to focus on increased efforts to advocate for faster and more effective implementation of the SDGs.

It is 7 years since this journal has been in operation. In 2018 DCID will focus on issues related to its sustainability. Indexing is necessary for academic and technical sustainability, and to make the journal more attractive for authors. All efforts will be made to get the journal indexed by reputed indexing agencies. Management sustainability is another vital issue. Linking the journal with a university or agency involved in promoting disability issues would be of help in maintaining the journal over a longer term and will also help with academic sustainability. The third aspect is financial sustainability. The journal continues to be committed to its mission of being free to readers and authors, and efforts are underway to increase the donor base so that we can maintain this mission.

We welcome suggestions from our readers on the future of the journal.

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Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development