

Editorial

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), arguably the most significant development with the potential to impact lives of persons with disabilities worldwide. About 85% of the countries in the world have already ratified the Convention and are in the process of reporting on the status of its implementation. Governments, especially those from middle and low income countries, have either developed new legislation or are revising existing legislation to be in line with the CRPD.

2016 is significant for another reason - the launch of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to address economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Disability is specifically mentioned in five SDG goals related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs. Apart from this, indicators across other goals, for example Goal 1 on ending poverty and Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, include data on persons with disabilities.

Implementation of CRPD and SDGs puts the onus on governments to ensure inclusive development for all, including persons with disabilities. From the perspective of low and middle income countries, this is a challenge because implementation requires financial, technical and human resources, which are not readily available in these countries. Much of development work for persons with disabilities has been funded and managed by external donors till now. In some countries, it is observed that governments are not ready to take over these programmes yet, mainly because of constraints related to financial and human resource capacity. At the same time, budget cuts from donors to low and middle income countries have become a reality over the last few years due to various reasons, and it becomes imperative for governments to seriously consider how they can fulfil their commitment to inclusive development according to international frameworks like CDPD and SDGs.

Governments will need to develop a clear roadmap in the medium and long term for financing of disability programmes. Obviously this will need time, effort and importantly, consultations with key stakeholders like persons with disabilities and

their associations, bilateral and international organisations supporting disability programmes and national level civil society organisations. Advocacy will need to be continued by interest groups to motivate and convince governments to fulfil their commitments to international frameworks. Local governments will need to be sensitised on disability issues so that concerns of persons with disabilities are included in decentralised development plans and budgets. In-country fund-raising from alternate sources will need to be explored.

It is 5 years since the Asia Pacific Disability Rehabilitation Journal was renamed as *Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development*. The journal has continued its mission of being a non-commercial, not-for-profit publication that is free to authors and readers. We are in the process of getting the journal indexed in SCOPUS and EBSCO. While our three donors have supported the journal from the beginning, ensuring continued sponsorship for the journal is a challenge and we have had to stop the practice of distributing print copies from 2016 as a cost-cutting measure. The editorial team is making every effort to increase funding sources, and we welcome suggestions from readers on how we can continue to sustain the journal's mission.

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Disability, CBR and Inclusive Development