

2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum Statement

I am delivering this statement as an organizing partner for the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities.

At the outset I must give a nod to the context we find ourselves; we are recovering from a health crisis that showed our health systems have not worked for those of us who are most marginalized.

We have a key role as civil society in delivering the SDGs. All processes should be involving key constituencies, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in decision-making processes at all levels when discussing policies and programs for development, and Covid-19 recovery, including the development of accessible digital infrastructure. Without our active participation, we will be left further behind.

Our inclusion cannot happen without evidence and data. This forum should encourage member states to create and use high-quality disaggregated data, including citizen-generated data, which should also include participation from marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities. This is not only beneficial for evidence-based work, but also to influence decision makers on urgent actions and steps at national, regional and global levels.

In closing, the work to achieve the SDGs brings together many strands of multilateralism. We as the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities, are united to help move it forward. Thank you.