

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE (IDA)

Member Organisations:

Disabled Peoples' International, Down Syndrome International, Inclusion International,
International Federation of Hard of Hearing People,
World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf,
World Federation of the DeafBlind,
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry,
Arab Organization of Disabled People, European Disability Forum,
Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with
Disabilities and their Families, Pacific Disability Forum

24, May, 2013

International Disability Alliance on

Water, sanitation and disability

FACT

- IDA would like to feed in to the conversation because **there are an estimated one billion persons with disabilities worldwideⁱ and disability, poverty and environmental sustainability are strongly linked.**
- 884 million people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water. Assuming these people are the poorest of the poor, at least 177 million are likely to be persons with disabilities (20% of poorest)ⁱⁱ.

PROBLEM

- Persons with disabilities **are systemically discriminated** against and **invisible in development policies. Accessibility of food, water and sanitation**, including toilets, and of related information, is especially important to persons with disabilities **as a means to maintain people's dignity, enable independence and social inclusion.**

RECOMMENDATION

- **We would recommend adopting a rights-based approach to food security, water rights.**
 - **Future sustainable development goals must be consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD).**
 - In practice, While a specific goal on persons with disabilities would be welcomed (but less realistic), disability should be mainstreamed across all the goals by defining disability specific targets and indicators.
 - **Sustainable development can only be achieved if it includes measures to prevent discrimination based on disability and ensure equal access to clean water and sanitation facilities, fulfilling the adequate standard of living.**
 - **Finally all assessment and monitoring mechanisms to be established must include indicators related to the capacities of the affected population, such as people with disabilities.**
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ⁱ World Health Organization and World Bank (2011) World Report on Disability. Geneva: WHO Press.

ⁱⁱ http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_FS_7_EN.pdf (see World Health Organization and World Bank (2011) World Report on Disability. Geneva: WHO Press).