**14 January 2021**

**Intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Building Back Better: Integrating Human Rights in Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

Historic, systemic and institutional discrimination, including based on the intersection of gender, and disability has exacerbated inequalities in the context of COVID-19 and thus contributed to impeding the realisation of SDG 10. The reality is that “… for some persons with disabilities, staying at home means spending more time in a place that may not always be safe due to increased proximity to an abuser.” [[1]](#footnote-1) Persons with disabilities must have access to services and resources to protect themselves from abuse including the information on how to use those services.

Additionally, relying on stereotypical perceptions about the length and quality of lives of persons with disabilities in providing rationed care[[2]](#footnote-2) impedes SDG 10. When developing assessment and determination processes for eligibility to access urgent care, governments must follow a human rights-based approach basing decisions on solely clinical assessments.

Turning to Goal 16 target10, States should ensure accessibility of information for persons with disabilities in official publications and events.[[3]](#footnote-3) Additionally, without “data on persons with disabilities, we cannot address the challenges and discrimination they and their representative organizations encounter, and their marginalization increases. Data provide essential information …to support policymakers to amend existing policies, regulations, and programs to include persons with disabilities fully and equally into society.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entitles persons with disabilities to information, participation in all aspects of life, and protection against discrimination. Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations must meaningfully participate in all measures to protect against discrimination and address inequalities to build back better.

1. Oranicha Jumreornvong , Laura Tabacof , Mar Cortes , Jenna Tosto , Christopher P. Kellner , Joseph E. Herrera & David Putrino (2020) *Ensuring equity for people living with disabilities in the age of Covid-19*, Disability & Society, 35:10, 1682-1687, DOI: 10.1080/09687599.2020.1809350 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Singh S. Disability ethics in the coronavirus crisis. J Family Med Prim Care 2020;9:2167-71 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. OHCHR. *Policy Guidelines for Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals FOUNDATIONS.* 2020 <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Disability/SDG-CRPD-Resource/policy-guideline-foundations.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Lockwood, E. International Institute for Sustainable Development. *Community-Driven Data for Persons with Disabilities Fosters Inclusion and Representation. 20 October 2020.* <https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/community-driven-data-for-persons-with-disabilities-fosters-inclusion-and-representation/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)