

**A DISCUSSION PAPER** How can Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland use the Global Disability Summit 2018 to further the Sustainable Development Goals and their emphasis on Leave No One Behind?

# LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

A NORDIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

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# PREFACE

## A New Nordic Vision

The Nordic countries have a long and proud tradition of cooperation, shared visions and inclusive societies. We often see this on the international development arena. After the Global Disability Summit in London, July 2018, the Nordic disability organisations see that both governments, agencies and organisations have a unique opportunity of doing more to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs), by putting more emphasis on leaving no one behind (LNOB). We have therefore made this report, to assess the current policies of our governments on international disability issues. In what way could the Global Disability Summit in London help strengthen the SDGs and LNOB agenda? Have our ministries understood that the SDGs require a new focus on inclusion? Our hope is that this report will help strengthen the cooperation between civil society organisations and the governments of our respective countries in order to fulfill the ambitious 2030 agenda.

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**“** As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognising that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first..

**UN General Assembly resolution, On the Sustainable Development Goals, 2015**

# A GREETING TO THE NORDICS



**Vladimir Cuk**

*/Executive Director, the International Disability Alliance*

The Global Disability Summit [GDS] held in London in July 2018 started a movement across the globe and inspired a number of Governments and a variety of stakeholder to reinforce the prior commitments they had made to disability inclusive development. This included engagement and commitments made by a number of stakeholders that have not traditionally been involved in the field. The GDS represents a significant tipping point that has brought the rights of persons with disabilities to the center of international diplomacy and propelled organisations of persons with disabilities as a key partner in the promotion of disability rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities [CRPD] and the 2030 Agenda.

The International Disability Alliance is proud with what has been achieved during the GDS, and we are looking with significant optimism to the next steps that the disability rights movement has started and what the outcomes of the GDS will yield.

The Nordic countries were historically a significant partner to the disability rights move-

ment and have supported organisations of persons with disabilities across the world, and particularly in the Global South. The International Disability Alliance and its members continue to partner with a number of Governments and organisations in the Nordic region. We see the Nordic world as one region that can and should continue to be a leader in this movement. Nordic countries have extensive experience in delivering disability inclusive development and partnering with organisations of persons with disabilities both in their own countries and in the Global South. Furthermore, Nordic countries and organisations are exemplary for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in their domestic policies.

We welcome this report as an effort to make an assessment of the commitments made by the Nordic partners, as it represents a concrete input to the objectives of the movement. Moving ahead, the International Disability Alliance is seeking the best ways in which we can bring more political attention and will to the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities globally, and we stand ready to work with our Nordic partners to realize this.

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# I / SUMMARY

The report starts with a reflection of where we are at now, after three years of working on the SDGs and their emphasis on LNOB. Do we need a summary after such a short while? Yes, if we are serious about also getting people with disabilities on board. The Global Disability Summit gave us such a space, and we start up by describing some of the outcomes there. We also touch on the current Nordic official development assistance, and give some initial recommendations as to how the LNOB agenda could be strengthened in the years to come.

## 1/ Ambitious intentions - and even more action?

“For too long, people with disabilities in the world’s poorest countries have not been able to fulfil their potential due to stigma or lack of practical support.” Penny Mordaunt, UK Secretary of State for International Development and Minister for Women and Equalities, didn’t mince her words when she gave the opening speech at the Global Disability Summit in London, 24th of July 2018.

The Minister said this, despite the fact the world already back in 2006 decided on the important Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). So was the London affair only another conference without any real impact? No, the Global Disability Summit might be a game changer. Some of the general, ambitious intentions behind the UN General Assembly Resolution from 2015 might now be filled with more concrete actions. As the saying goes: Where there is a will, there is a way.

The 2030 Agenda is inclusive in its phrasing, its ambition and in the number of stakeholders involved. The last major global development effort, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s; 2000 – 2015), were more limited, not global, and made no particular reference to people with disabilities. This contrasts sharply with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), where the words “disability” or “persons with disabilities” are specifically mentioned 11 times in the Resolution (70/1), as well as in targets for Goals 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17. The universal nature of the Agenda means that all Goals and targets are relevant for people with disabilities, as for any other groups.

The UK government co-hosted the first ever Global Disability Summit, together with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Government of Kenya. The summit took place at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London and brought together more than 1000 delegates from governments, donors, private sector organisations, charities and organisations of persons with disabilities.

An overall aim of the conference was to ensure that people with disabilities are more consistently and systematically included in international development and humanitarian assistance.

### The summit had four main objectives:

- raise global attention and focus on a neglected area;
- bring in new voices and approaches to broaden engagement;
- mobilise new global and national commitments on disability; and,
- showcase best practice and evidence from across the world.

The summit organizers deserve credit for pulling off such a meeting, as the carrying principle behind the SDG’s, Leave No One Behind (LNOB), is still a challenge which both governments, institutions and civil society have to deliver on.

More than 170 various commitments were pledged during the conference in London, and likewise a Charter for Change was signed. The latter is the principal legacy document from the summit, and has been called an action plan to implement the UN International Convention on Disability. 301 organisations and governments have signed the Charter for Change. Of the Nordic countries both Norway, Finland and Denmark signed the Charter. Sweden did not sign, and Iceland did not participate.

In what way might the Global Summit strengthen the Nordic countries’ already strong development cooperation in ways that help promote the principle of LNOB? This report tries to summarize Nordic development intentions and actions in this field, and to give some advice on the road ahead.

## 2/ The Nordics

Nordic overseas development assistance (ODA), both via multilateral, state to state, and via civil society organisations, could do more, to address both structural inclusion issues, but also to reach targeted groups directly.

This report concludes that putting those who linger furthest behind first, is what will make development sustainable in the end. The ideology of “trickle down” has failed. This implies that the SDGs will not be met if they are not met for everyone. Poor and marginalized countries, and people, must benefit equitably from economic, social and cultural progress. This implies members of specific vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, indigenous people, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT).

The last couple of years the world has seen a slight increase in armed conflicts, increased malnutrition and climatic induced natural disasters. All of these trends create people with disabilities. Already back in 2002 the World Health Organisation reported that climate change had resulted in a six percent increase in malaria in certain countries. If a child develops cerebral malaria, one in ten will experience neurological damage, which could lead to various forms of disability. (Ian Jones; *Neurological Damage from Malaria*; Wellcome Trust, 12.06.2002). Other reports quote that for every one person killed in conflict, ten are disabled.



Both Denmark, Sweden and Norway are amongst the most generous nations around when it comes to ODA, and all three countries have for years met the UN target of 0,7 % of GDP. Norway and Sweden are constantly hovering around the 1 % mark. Finland has some way to go before reaching the UN target, with 0,38 % of GDP currently used for ODA. There is no reason why Finland should lag behind her Nordic neighbours, and it must be a target for Finland to strive towards the 0,7 % mark.

All four Nordics countries are strongly engaged in the human rights agenda, and target large parts of their ODA towards the social sectors, such as education and health, as fulfilling these basic needs are important human rights issues. Furthermore, they emphasise cooperation with specific groups of countries, which also tend to be the poorest states around or what is often called fragile states.

All four countries have their global priorities too, Denmark in the field of emigration and the Middle East, and Norway particularly in the field of tropical forest protection. Sweden is strong on climatic issues. Also Finland has invested in the private sector, like Fnnfund, but most of its more limited funds are concentrated towards social development, including championing the disability cause. Other major issues for Denmark, Norway and Sweden is peace, and biodiversity protection. These three Scandinavian cousins are also in the process of building up more capacity on creating new jobs in poor countries, and focus more than before on private sector development and larger scale infrastructure, be it in the form of agricultural schemes and plantations, hydropower, the petroleum sector and other energy means. These large scale, more traditional business schemes, are not necessarily in line with the LNOB agenda, unless specifically targeted. All four countries can scale up and intensify their work in order to follow up the Global Summit and the LNOB-agenda, and thus help towards reaching the SDG's.

During the Global Summit Norway pledged 50 million NOK over three years to the new Inclusive Education Initiative [IEI]. This is to be a joint effort by the British Department for International Development [DFID], the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MFA], and the World Bank. The initiative's ambition is to support countries to strengthen disability-inclusive education planning, implementation, and monitoring of learning outcomes for children with disabilities, by supporting and encouraging partnerships, promoting data collection, investing in teachers, and aggregating evidence of practice and solutions at scale. This is possibly one of the most important developments on the international inclusion scene this year.

The commitments made in London need to be monitored and we need reports on progress. The organizers of the summit has told us in a mail that they are developing a result tracker, which will be launched between September and December 2019, and hopefully at next year's UN General Assembly.

Accountability and annual reporting on disability inclusion should also become part of all efforts the Nordics undertake, regarding their ODA efforts.



### 3/ Recommendations to the Nordic Ministries of Foreign Affairs and development agencies

Below follows ten recommendations to the Nordic governments and development agencies, to help fulfil the spirit of the Global Disability Summit 2018, the SDGs and the LNOB agenda.

#### 1/ "The last should come first": Progressive universalism must become a new principle

The key to 'leaving no one behind' is prioritizing and fast-tracking actions for the poorest and most marginalised persons – known as progressive universalism. If instead, policy is implemented among better-off group's first and worst-off groups later, the existing gap between them is likely to increase. This implies a major increase in support and funding for the most marginalized across all sectors and groups, among them people with disabilities.

#### 2/ Funding levels must be adequate

All Nordics must commit 0,7 % of GDP to ODA, in accordance with established DAC documents

Funds for targeted projects, i.e. activities where persons with disabilities are the main target group, should increase to at least 1 % of Nordic ODA by the year 2021.

In the long run all ODA projects should mainstream disability. In the short run, the level should at least be at 25 % of total national ODA by 2022.

#### 3/ The Nordics should be members of GLAD

The Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network is a coordination body of bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, the private sector and foundations working to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action.

#### 4/ Disabled people's own organisations must be strengthened

A strengthening of the advocacy work undertaken by Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), both home and abroad, must be a central priority for the Nordic countries in order to strengthen their human rights priorities.

#### 5/ Nordic experiences must be shared, including our experiences and practices on inclusive society development – and on how to leave no one behind

The disability issue must become a central part of the development agencies way of thinking. Norad, for example, has a "knowledge-bank". There should be a method to share proven Nordic experiences.

#### 6/ More funds should be earmarked for research and mapping regarding Leave no one behind/tracking inclusion

The OECD DAC statistics marker on disability must be implemented

#### 7/ There must be more crosscutting cooperation on issues of disability in ministries, agencies and embassies

Representatives of Disabled Peoples' own Organisations (DPOs) should meet regularly with the development agencies.

#### 8/ Private sector investments (and especially those receiving ODA-finance), must include the LNOB-agenda

The right to decent work is embedded in the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD). Article 27 states that private sector companies are bound by international rules and regulations as defined by the UN.

#### 9/ Too strict cofunding rules should be revised and adapted to promote inclusion

DPO's work should not be restricted by strict rules of cofunding.

#### 10/ The Nordics should co-host a Disability Summit in 2022

The world needs to follow up on the London meeting, and take stock of the inclusion agenda in time to address shortcomings

# II THE GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT

## 1/ A Charter for Change

All attendees at the event in London were invited by the organizers to sign the Charter for Change - the principal legacy document of the Global Disability Summit. [Denmark, Norway and Finland signed]. The Charter for Change aims at ensuring global consensus to address a long-neglected issue pertaining to rights of persons with disabilities, such as inclusion to education, employment, independent living, voting, and access to justice, among others. The Charter is not legally binding, but gives a strong moral and ethical direction and responsibility to those having signed it. It reads as follows:

### CHARTER FOR CHANGE

We gather here in London and across the world to achieve a common aim: to ensure the rights, freedoms, dignity and inclusion for all persons with disabilities.

Important progress has been made in the decade since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [CRPD]. But we must do more. We must strive for real change through the Convention's implementation and the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities. Now is the time.

### SO TODAY WE COMMIT TO

1. Catalyse political will and leadership to turn our promises into change; in long-term plans that we invest in, implement and review.
2. Promote the leadership and diverse representation of all persons with disabilities to be front and centre of change; as leaders, partners and advocates. This includes the active involvement and close consultation of persons with disabilities of all ages.
3. Eliminate stigma and discrimination through legislation and policies that make a difference, promoting meaningful leadership, and consistently challenging harmful attitudes and practices. All people deserve dignity and respect.
4. Progress and support actions that advance inclusive quality education for people with disabilities, with the necessary resources to put plans into practice: every child has the right to learn from birth.
5. Open up routes to economic empowerment and financial inclusion so that persons with disabilities can enjoy decent work and achieve financial independence. This will mean creating more and better jobs, providing social protection, ensuring the necessary skills training, making workplaces accessible and hiring people with disabilities.
6. Revolutionise the availability and affordability of appropriate assistive technology, including digital, which will enable persons with disabilities to fully participate and contribute to society.
7. Change practices to make all humanitarian action fully inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. We will mainstream inclusion across all Disaster Risk Reduction and humanitarian sectors, and implement our commitments in the Charter 'Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action'.
8. 'Leave no one behind' and put the furthest behind first. We will champion the rights of the most underrepresented and marginalised persons with disabilities, of all ages, affected by any form of multiple discrimination, and notably women and girls with disabilities.
9. Gather and use better data and evidence to understand and address the scale, and nature, of challenges faced by persons with disabilities, using tested tools including the Washington Group Disability Question Sets.
10. Hold ourselves and others to account for the promises we have made here today. We agree that our individual commitments will be reviewed, assessed and published on a regular basis, with the results published on-line.



## 2/ A brief summary of main commitments and planned actions

The key objective of the Global Disability Summit was to deliver ambitious new global and national level commitments on disability inclusion. In line with the principle of ‘nothing about us, without us’, DFID co-hosted the Summit with the International Disability Alliance [IDA], to ensure that people with disabilities were central to the planning and delivery of the summit.

National governments and other organisations made an impressive 170 sets of commitments around the four central themes of the Summit (ensuring dignity and respect for all, inclusive education, routes to economic empowerment and harnessing technology and innovation), as well as the two cross-cutting themes (women and girls with disabilities and conflict and humanitarian contexts), and data disaggregation.

Individual copies of the commitments made can be viewed in full on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/global-disability-summitcommitments>

**Many different updates, reminders and new initiatives were shared. Amongst them were the following:**

- **On the United Nations:** The UN Secretary-General has launched a comprehensive review of how the UN supports the rights of persons with disabilities – covering accessibility, employment, and mainstreaming in development and humanitarian action. The new UN system-wide policy, action plan and accountability framework on disabilities will be ready by early 2019. Before that the UN plans to launch the first ever flagship report on disabilities and development, which will include analysis of national policies, programmes, best practices and available statistics regarding people with disabilities.
- **On inclusive education:** UNICEF pledged to work with partners to enable an additional 30 million children with disabilities to gain an education by 2030.
- **On Economic Empowerment:** ILO’s Global Business and Disability Network provides a framework in which companies, global as well as local and in developing countries, can learn from each other on how to make their employment practices more inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Creation of opportunities for refugees with disabilities is essential. Drastic measures are needed including better work opportunities, financial and technical resources to start small businesses, capacity building, empowerment training and assistive technology. Tackling stigma is a key first step, and this should all be delivered in partnership with DPOs.

- **On producing good and reliable Data on Disability:** DFID-LCD Disability Data Portal was announced. The Disability Data Portal provides a snapshot of the data globally available on people with disabilities in 40 countries. Widespread commitment among countries and multilateral organisations including the World Bank, ILO, Unicef, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, IFAD, OCHA, IOM and IRC to strengthen the collection of disability data through the use of the Washington Group short set questionnaire in coming censuses and household surveys. <https://www.disabilitydataportal.com/>

The new OECD DAC Disability Marker was announced. Many countries, including the

Nordics committed to use the marker for their reporting. It is too early to predict how the big players will act. The disability marker has been met with objections within the entire system and is therefore only a voluntary option, and is an issue all the Nordics seem to be happy to nudge on.

The WHO re-expressed their support for the Inclusive Data Charter and called for all countries to measure disability in household surveys, using the Short Set of Washington Group questions or the short version of the WHO’s Model Disability Survey.

- **On Humanitarian response:** Humanitarian agencies set out how they are trying to do better in responding to the needs of people with disabilities. There is no silver bullet, but the central, fundamental requirement is to include people with disabilities and their organisations in planning for and implementing responses to humanitarian crises.

OCHA [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs] committed to promote greater inclusion across the humanitarian community, at every level of preparedness and response.

- **On Monitoring and follow-up:** There were many commitments made. Some are very general and broad, and only time will show how serious they are.

DFID, working alongside their co-host at the conference, the International Disability Alliance [IDA], will during 2019 publish a global tracker on the IDA website to ensure that the participants deliver on the promises made. The tracker will be available at this address: <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/summit>

## 3/ In what way could the Global Summit strengthen the principle of LNOB?

Most participants at the Global Disability Summit seem to feel that the summit was an important step forward for and by people with disabilities. The adopted Charter for Change is not legally binding, but is nevertheless a strong signal of intention that governments will be held accountable for.

According to Ivar Evensmo, [Senior Adviser in Norad, Department for Economic Development, Gender and Governance, Section for Human Rights, Governance and Fragility], Norway will continue to contribute towards getting better data on people with disabilities, and have supported the work on statistics markers in OECD DAC in order to register financial contributions and disability inclusion. Norway will also continue to support the work of the Washington Group for improved data collection on disability.

Norad is keen at enhancing its own knowledge on what functions, and finances research and supports advocacy work, not least via DPOs. During 2018 internal competence and consciousness has been strengthened within the Norad system. There is a functioning permanent network on disability issues within the organisation. The bureaucrats also sense that there is a lot of political will regarding disability issues.

A very exciting development at the summit was the launch of a new global initiative on assistive technology. The initiative ATscale Global partnership for assistive technology came into fruition thanks to good preparatory work. Some key players teamed up with the WHO, including DFID, USAID, UNICEF and the UN Special Adviser for Health Initiatives. The ambitions are

serious, with a goal of reaching 500 million people with assistive technology by 2030. The world has probably never seen such an ambitious project [recalling that 1 billion persons live with some kind of disability, and that 800 million of these live in developing countries].

Norway was asked to be a partner in ATscale, and can contribute to this through experience in system development and technological development. The Norwegian system has come into place after good lobby work by civil society organisations. The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) is competent, and could be involved. The partnership has been launched, but is not properly in place yet

#### 4/ The Inclusive Education Initiative

All this leads us to one of the most interesting decisions during the summit. Important channels for education are UNICEF, Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the World Bank. Norad and Norway have observed that UNICEF have achieved quite a lot, whilst the GPE have been struggling somewhat more, and that the WB were achieving little in the form of inclusive education. Institutions will not invest in something when they feel they have too little knowledge of the problem addressed.

The Inclusive Education Initiative (IEI) was therefore announced during the Summit as a joint effort by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and the World Bank. Hosted by the World Bank, the IEI will collaborate and partner with stakeholders such as UNICEF, the GPE, civil society, and academia. The initiative's ambition is to support countries to strengthen disability-inclusive education planning, implementation, and monitoring of learning outcomes for children with disabilities by supporting and encouraging partnerships, promoting data collection, investing in teachers, and aggregating evidence of practice and solutions at scale. During the summit, Norway pledged 50 million NOK over three years, starting in 2019.

#### 5/ Notable progress in the World Bank

The World Bank has historically often been on the receiving end of criticism by large part of the international NGO community. Projects have been too big, and have lacked emphasis on the poorest segments of society.

But the bank has for quite some time now had their own policy on people with disabilities and their own dedicated team on the issue. In April 2018 the bank's global disability advisor, Charlotte McClain Nhlapo, was invited to Norway by the Atlas Alliance, and had meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norad and parliamentarians. However, the good work on inclusion, has not won necessary internal «battles» in the bank,

The Global Summit might in hindsight be seen as a game changer. Of course, the bank has been working on the issue for some time, but on the 24th of July, the bank announced its set of ten commitments to accelerate global action for disability-inclusive development in key areas such as education, digital development, data collection, gender, post-disaster reconstruction, transport, private sector investments, and social protection.

In a press release, the bank said:

“In line with the WBG’s strategy to develop human capital around the world, the World Bank Group Commitments on Disability-Inclusive Development aim to help develop-

ing countries invest more – and more effectively – in persons with disabilities and in accessible services.

Kristalina Georgieva, Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank, said:

“It is past time that the voices of a billion people around the world living with a disability are heard – this is a truly powerful group, whose potential is far too often left on the sidelines.”...“Economic growth and poverty reduction depend on equal opportunities for everyone, and today we are committing to do more and do better to make sure that people with disabilities have an equal chance to succeed.”

The commitments launched build on the WBG’s ongoing efforts to respond to the urgent need for accelerated action at scale to achieve disability-inclusive development in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and are the following:

- 1/ Ensuring that all WB-financed education programs and projects are disability-inclusive by 2025.
- 2/ Ensuring that all WB-financed digital development projects are disability sensitive, including through the use of universal design and accessibility standards.
- 3/ Scaling up disability data collection and use, guided by global standards and best practices, such as using the Washington Group’s Short Set of Questions on Disability.
- 4/ Introducing questions on disability into the Women, Business and the Law survey to better understand the economic empowerment of women with disabilities.
- 5/ Ensuring that all projects financing public facilities in post-disaster reconstruction are disability-inclusive by 2020.
- 6/ Ensuring that all WB-financed urban mobility and rail projects that support public transport services are disability-inclusive by 2025.
- 7/ Enhancing due diligence on private sector projects financed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) regarding disability inclusion.
- 8/ Ensuring that 75 percent of WB-financed social protection projects are disability-inclusive by 2025.
- 9/ Increasing the number of staff with disabilities in the WBG.
- 10/ Promoting the Disability Inclusion and Accountability Framework among World Bank staff as a way to support the WB’s new Environmental and Social Framework [ESF].



# II DISABILITY AND THE NORDIC RESPONSE

We have now presented some of the most important decisions, intentions and thoughts on policy matters that were decided and discussed during the Global Disability Summit in London. In the following, we will present and analyse the various Nordic countries' way of going about prioritizing disability inclusive development up until the Summit, based on some of the most recent official documents on ODA, the SDGs and LNOB.

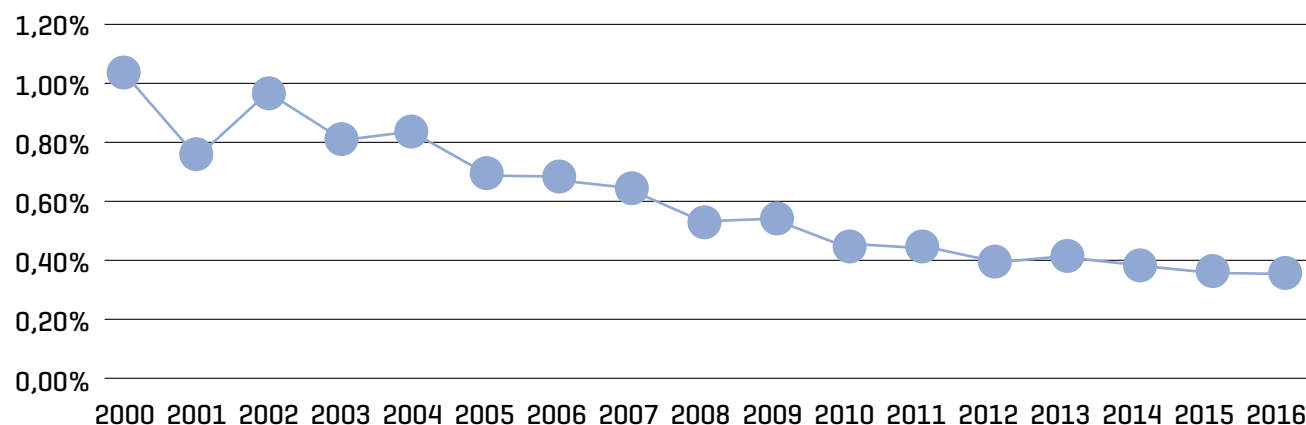
## A/NORWAY

### 1/ Background

In 2012, Norad published the report **Mainstreaming disability in the new development paradigm. Evaluation of Norwegian support to promote the rights of persons with disabilities**. It was revealed that the proportion of targeted Norwegian aid for people with disabilities had fallen from 1.02% in 2000 to 0.47% in 2010.

On behalf of the Atlas Alliance, the same researchers recently conducted a similar study for assistance up until 2016. They found that the proportion of assistance for targeted measures for people with disabilities had further decreased - to 0.36% of all aid.

**Actions targeted towards people with disabilities as a percentage of Norwegian development aid**



## 2/ The SDGs as part of official Norwegian policy

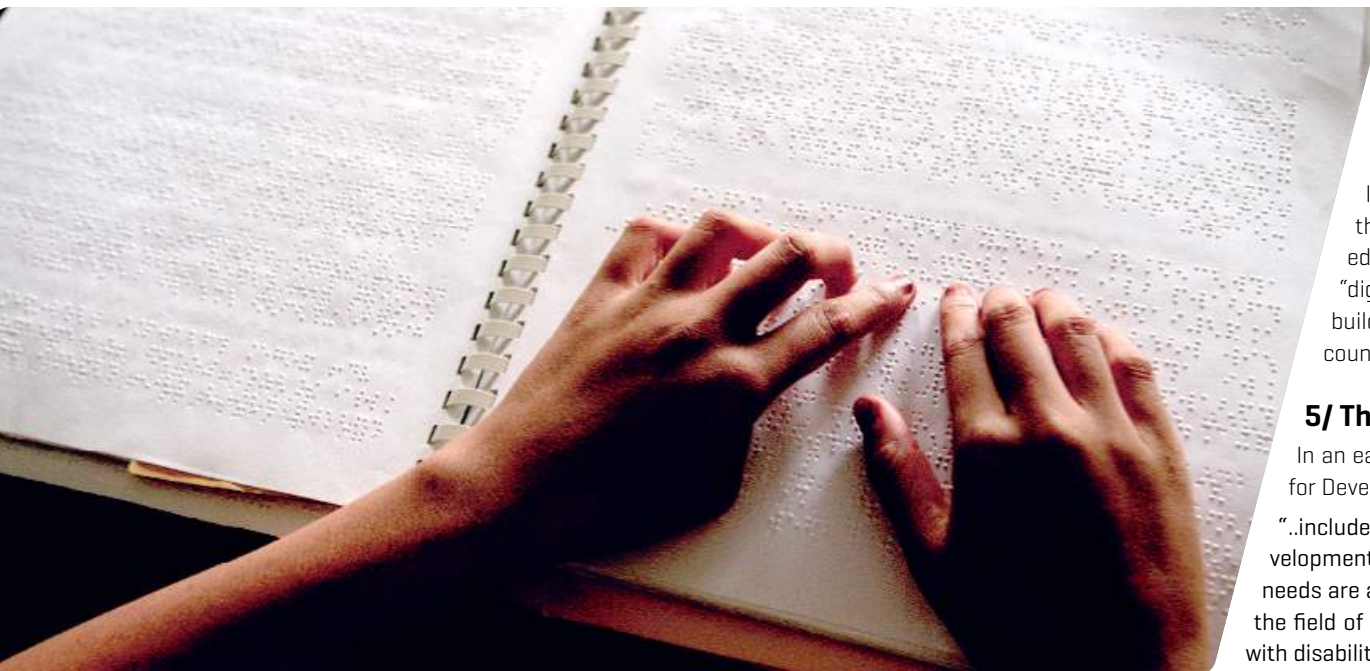
In 2016 the government published a white paper to the parliament, Common Responsibility for a Common Future, The Sustainable Development Goals and Norway's Development Policy, Meld. St. 24 [2016–2017]. An ambitious agenda is forecast:

“The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] have set the stage for a concerted global effort to eradicate poverty, in which no one is to be left behind. Meeting the SDGs will require a coherent approach to global, regional and national development.”

Furthermore, the white paper emphasizes that “Low-income and least developed countries will be prioritized”, and “There will be stronger focus on countries affected by conflict”. The following factors are cross-cutting issues for all Norwegian development policy:

- Human rights;
- Women's rights and gender equality;
- Climate change and environment;
- Anti-corruption.

People with disabilities are only mentioned a couple of times in the white paper, and the principle of Leaving No One Behind is hardly visible. In chapter 5, special needs in education is highlighted. In the Norwegian version of the document, in the same chapter, cash transfers are mentioned as an innovative, new way of reaching the poorest segments of society, including people with disabilities.



## 3/ Special emphasis on people with disabilities in humanitarian crises

In the same year, 2016, the government stepped up its support to vulnerable groups in humanitarian crises, highlighting also people with disabilities. In a press release from the 10th of April that year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs revealed that Norway was to earmark NOK 40 million for efforts to help people with disabilities and to combat sexual violence in humanitarian crises.

“The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] is playing a leading role among international organisations, both in the work to combat sexual violence and in efforts to support people with disabilities. The Government is therefore increasing its support for this work by NOK 10 million, to a total of NOK 40 million.”

## 4/ A new digital reality, for everyone?

In August of 2018, a Digital strategy for Norwegian development policy was published. The strategy emphasises how technology can provide girls and women better access to education and the labour market. We are also told that “digital technology can support disabled persons in many ways”, without this being spelt out in any details.

“Mobile technology may provide marginalised groups access to saving, lending and insurance services. Digital tools enable people to create their own jobs and invest in their own future. Digital money transfers are increasingly being used in humanitarian crisis

response. Such cash transfers are often more cost-effective, and more beneficial to affected individuals and local communities, than traditional methods.”

The strategy also underlines how digital ID systems and population registers might improve access to public and private services for more than two billion people who still lack identity papers. A new programme will emerge from this, and Norway will share digital transformation knowledge and expertise with partner countries through a new “digitalisation for development” programme, which aim is to build skills and capacity among public authorities in partner countries.

## 5/ The government's emphasis on education

In an earlier white paper [White Paper 25, 2013–2014, Education for Development], the Norwegian government promises to:

“...include the needs of children with disabilities in its bilateral development cooperation, and be a driving force in ensuring that their needs are also addressed in multilateral and humanitarian efforts in the field of education; and help to ensure that the needs of children with disabilities are integrated into national education plans.”



At a summit on education in Oslo in 2015, an expert group was established setting up a background document on inclusive education. The recommendations in this document have later been important as guidance in Norway's education efforts in all relevant channels, such as Global Partnership on Education (GPE), UN Children's Fund (Unicef), Unesco and the World Bank, and in the work on education for children in humanitarian crises and conflicts.

As a result of increased investment in education, Norad in 2017 announced extraordinary funds for Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Applicants were asked to include vulnerable and marginalized groups, including people with disabilities.

But a FAFO report, commissioned by the Atlas Alliance, also in 2017, was fairly critical. The report assesses Norway's progress on the commitments made in the White Paper. It finds that the verdict is decidedly mixed.

#### **Tracking Inclusion in Norwegian Development Support to Global Education**

Kathleen M. Jennings; [FAFO 19:2017], finds that while Norway has played an important normative role in advocating for disability inclusion in global education, it is nevertheless the case that these efforts have, thus far, resulted in few verifiable results. The report further finds a global "implementation gap" with respect to disability inclusive education.

"Disability inclusion is not [yet] an integral and necessary component of the global education agenda, as evidenced by the fact that disability inclusion is not mainstreamed at the programmatic, sectoral, or strategic levels in Norway, partner countries, or implementing agencies. There is also a troubling lack of decent data on the extent to which children with disabilities have access to education in developing countries."

A major conclusion in the report is that this makes it difficult to hold the Norwegian government accountable – even though the Parliament has asked the government to devote more attention and development assistance to persons with disabilities, and to report more precisely and systematically on the allocation and use of resources for disability inclusive education:

"While it is possible to trace specific Norwegian bi- and multi-lateral development funding flows down to a project level, it is extremely difficult to assess how much of this funding is used on inclusive education, much less on children with disabilities."

In the spring of 2018, Sintef Technology and Society, published the report *The role of stigma in accessing education for people with disabilities in lower and middle-income countries* (Gloria Azalde og Stine Hellum Braathen). The report analyses various barriers people with disabilities face when trying to get education.

In a direct response to the Sintef report, the Minister of Development, Mr. Nikolai Astrup, commented on the report at an Atlas Alliance seminar on the 16th of May 2018. He highlighted the need to work both at the system level for broad inclusion, but also with more targeted measures for new approaches to inclusion, all the way down to the individual



level. At a system level, access to good data is a key challenge. Among some of the Minister's points of what Norway is targeting in this field, were:

- There is Norwegian support to Unicef, and their developing a Module on Child Functioning that can be used in household surveys to identify children with disabilities.
- Likewise, Norway supports Unesco and Unicef, in order to get better statistics, courses and capacity building at country level.
- Norway is a major contributor to The Global Partnership for Education [GPE]. In 2017 they launched a review of how inclusion is a part of all projects and initiatives they support.
- Norway has led the development of the Global Digital Library, which will provide children and young people with access to free reading books in different languages. In this work Norway has emphasized that all books should have a universal design and could be used by the most possible, including children with disabilities.
- Norway is also the largest donor of the UNESCO International Teacher Task Force, which will have a dialogue forum in the autumn of 2018, where inclusive education is a key theme.

## 6/ Some further points

State Secretary Marianne Hagen addressed the general annual meeting of the Atlas Alliance, on the 17th of January 2018. Some of the points she underlined are worth quoting, as they bear witness to Norwegian official priorities:

- Human rights are a cross cutting principle in all of Norwegian ODA.
- Inclusion of people with disabilities is a principle in all projects of the Norwegian Peace Corps.
- Norad's application forms explicitly ask whether the measures are aimed at or include disabled people.
- In 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entered into an agreement with the World Deafblind Association.
- Norway is one of the largest contributors to the UN Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Norad has entered into an agreement with Handicap International of approximately NOK 55 million spread over five years.
- During the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, Norway signed a charter on the inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian efforts. This Charter emphasizes the principles of non-discrimination, right of participation, inclusive response and services, and better coordination and cooperation to ensure that disabled people and other vulnerable groups are not overlooked and forgotten.
- Norway has supported Britain's proposal to introduce a disability marker in the OECD-DAC. It is an important step in the process of obtaining good statistics and making it possible to follow developments in this area. Norad is actively involved in the development of the marker.
- MFA and Norad have participated in GLAD, Global Action on Disability since its inception in 2015. The purpose of this network is to strengthen the inclusion of people with disabilities in international development and humanitarian efforts. The network consists of donor countries, the World Bank, several UN organisations and the private sector. The International Disability Alliance (IDA) is part of the presidency and is also a secretariat for GLAD. This has become an important meeting place for sharing information, joint efforts and resource mobilization.

## 7/ Conclusive remarks

There seems to be considerable willingness to learn and to implement more inclusive development assistance from the official Norwegian side. Norway has taken on extra responsibilities when it comes to education and inclusion, and does not dispute the fact that inclusive education so far has not been a big success.

The proportion of assistance for targeted measures for people with disabilities has decreased for some years now, and is according to one study only 0.36% of all assistance. The Inclusive Education Initiative (IEI) announced at the London Summit, and partly funded by Norway, is therefore a step in the right direction.



# B / DENMARK

## 1/ Background

Denmark has for many years been an influential part of the international donor community, and the country has many different channels to distribute funds, via multilateral UN and other institutions, country to country arrangements and via Danish civil society organisations.

A particularity of the Danish system is that civil society organisations, like Disabled People's Organisations Denmark (DPOD), receive 43,5 million DKK per year, without any demand for matching funds. Most of this money is for the Disability Fund managed by DH and aimed at the international work of its member organisations.

DPOD is an umbrella organisation, consisting of 34 organisations, with approximately 330.000 members. The organisations are "pooled" in this manner, as the Danish government wants a strong and diverse Danish civil society, and they also see this as conducive to a popular backing for development aid. [There are similar "pools" also for youth organisations, church based organisations and the broader civil society sector].

This is a very different situation from Norway, for instance, where similar organisations have been known to shy away from international cooperation, as they cannot afford, or do not have time for working on searching for their own proper funds as their contribution.

## 2/ A rights based approach to development

A policy paper from June 2014 [Danida: Politik for dansk støtte til civilsamfundet, Juni 2014] especially chapter 7, gives a thorough introduction to Danish civil society policy. The policy paper introduces a rights-based approach to Danish development cooperation. The UN's human rights conventions, standards, norms and instruments will guide Denmark's political dialogue, development efforts and partnerships, including civil society. The paper goes on to explain the content of this new approach:

"The rights-based approach is based on four main principles that underpin Denmark's development policy commitment: participation and involvement, accountability, non-discrimination and openness."

"The principles are fundamental principles and values of international human rights and are also emphasized in the Danish International Development Cooperation Act, which stipulates that the goal of Denmark's development cooperation is to combat poverty and promote human rights, democracy, sustainable development, peace and stability in accordance with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN's nine core human rights conventions."

"The Right to a Better Life" focuses on four strategic priority areas: Human rights and democracy, green growth, social progress and stability and protection. People with disability are singled out as an important group to prioritize:

"The primary target groups for Danish support for civil society are civil society actors in the global south, especially the poor, marginalized and excluded groups, i.e. right-holders who have limited opportunities to claim their rights or have proper influence over their own lives. By focusing on marginalized and excluded groups, Denmark wants to support people who are discriminated against based on, for example, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, sexuality and religion, such as women and girls, indigenous people, migrants and people with disabilities. Some target groups, especially women and young people, can play an important role as social change agents"

## 3/ The World 2030; A white paper for the future

The overarching Danish development principles were reviewed again in January 2017, and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a white paper, called Verden 2030 – Danmarks udviklingspolitiske og humanitære strategi. The English version is known as The World 2030. Denmark's strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action.

The report hails the SDGs as having set a new international framework for development cooperation. Danish development cooperation will therefore help to realize the global ambitions by 2030, i.e.: A balanced world, without extreme poverty and with sustainable growth and development – economic, social, and environmental – where no one is left behind.



The principle of 'leaving no one behind' applies both internally in countries and between countries. It must ensure that the implementation of world targets also includes the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities, including refugees and internally displaced persons.

The report underlines that Denmark will maintain its historically long and politically broad tradition in order to meet the UN's goal that all rich countries of the world provide a minimum of 0.7 per cent of gross national income in development assistance. Denmark has been doing this since 1978, as one of only a few countries in the world, and will continue to do so, according to the report.

The SDGs are seen in a broader historical picture: 2015 was a historic year for the world community. The world entered into three global agreements that all affect future development cooperation: the Agreement on the Financing of Development in Addis Ababa, signed in July 2015, the UN's 2030 agenda and the 17 SDGs, signed in New York September 2015, and finally, the Climate Change Agreement, signed in Paris in December 2015.

In addition to this, there was the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement signed in Nairobi in December 2015, with significant results for free trade in agriculture and other initiatives for least developed countries. We can also mention the Humanitarian World Summit in Istanbul in May 2016.

The report states that the common global visions in all of these agreements are largely in line with the Danish interests, values and principles. Denmark has worked for such outcomes globally for decades. However, states the report, these agreements also signal a paradigm shift in development cooperation: Future development assistance will continue to be crucial, but assistance will increasingly be catalytic. Development aid is just a small part of what leads to development.

#### **4/ Danish politics; open to learn and to influence**

In a meeting in Copenhagen with representatives from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the importance of the Global Disability Summit was underlined. Danish human rights policies are spot on, agrees both Lene Aggernæs (Special consultant/Humanitarian aid, migration and civil society) and Jens Ole Bach Hansen (Chief Consultant for Development Policy and Global Cooperation).

Lene Aggernæs underlines the strong cooperation between Danish civil society organisations, and the ministry. The current civil society pot for disability organisations is now DKK 43,5 million p.a., plus dedicated project funds of 38,5. million. This is a rise from 2016-17.

Æggernæs explains that Denmark signed on to the Global Humanitarian Charter in December 2017, and Denmark had no problems in signing on to the Charter for Change in London, during the global disability summit.

“The Charter itself is valuable; we want our partners to sign on to it also. Different organisations prioritize differently, and we ask ourselves how are to follow up on the Charter for Change – we have asked Danish organisations the same. What groups are we really talking about when we say the most vulnerable? The organisations themselves must prioritize.”

Æggernæs goes on to explain how Danish organisations are allocated funds.

“We have meetings with them and allocate up front. The organisations are given points if their project proposals include a variety among gender, age, disabilities etc. Girls, women and education are our priorities, but we are not as good as UK and Finland here when it comes to mainstreaming. We are not against it, but have other priorities also. Therefore it is also up to the organisations themselves and their priorities.”

But Denmark also wants to influence trends internationally. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee [IASC] is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. It is a unique forum involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, like Unicef, the Red Cross, Save the Children etc. IASC is in the process of going through the guidelines for humanitarian aid, and Denmark will organize a seminar on this in the beginning of 2019.

This, according to Aggernæs, will have a large say when it comes to yearlong conflict zones, like, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Myanmar etc. 75% of people with disabilities do not access humanitarian aid in such crises. They are also excluded from livelihood projects. That is the reason why Denmark focuses so strongly on this.

“We know that women, the disabled and minorities live for decades in urban slums, stuck away, with little possibility of development. But we have the dilemma of cost-efficiency, of course. We like to show how many we reach. Reaching the furthest behind could mean reaching lesser numbers. This is an enormous challenge; should we mainstream or target groups specifically? What we see of UN reporting for instance is a lot about efficiency. But we know that people with disability are then not reached.”

## 5/ Small steps are important too

Jens Ole Bach Hansen underlines that the new Danish development strategy was approved by 8 out of 9 Danish political parties. Only the Enhedslisten [The Red-Green Alliance] declined, as they did not find it ambitious enough.

Having a target of 0,7 % of GDP is important for us working here with strategy, says Bach Hansen.

“The strategy is not very specific on the LNOB, but there are many references to the 2030 Agenda, which of course has this principle inbuilt. All this is also written into the law on development cooperation.”

Bach Hansen also argues that as human rights are now the Danish entrance to development work, this also addresses the LNOB principle. Reaching the poorest individuals and countries is LNOB in practical terms. Bach Hansen also underlines that Denmark signed the Charter for change as they felt Denmark is already doing what it says.

Bach Hansen mentions, as a small thing, but never the less, that Denmark are now supporting the LNOB and the Charter for Change, through applying for a person with disabilities for a position in the UNDP, funded by Denmark. It is a position where people with disabilities so far have not had the right facilities in order to do the job, so they have not applied for it. Now Denmark is doing something about it, and thus the UNDP is looking for a consultant under the organisation's Talent Programme for Young Professionals with Disabilities. This is a small thing, he underlines, but still an important one, in line with the Charter.

## 6/ Conclusive remarks

Denmark's strong emphasis on human rights as their basis for Danish ODA, indicates an understanding of the country's willingness to work with the complex issues of disability. Denmark, so far, has no elaborate strategy on disability, and did not commit any additional funds during the Global Disability Summit. The country signed the Charter for Change and seems willing to dialogue and discuss how to follow up on this with the Danish civil society organisations.

# C / SWEDEN

## 1/ Background

According to [donortracker.org](https://donortracker.org) Sweden is the largest donor in terms of official development assistance (ODA) in proportion to the size of its economy, spending 1.01% [US\$5.4 billion in 2016 prices] of its gross national income (GNI) on net ODA in 2017. This makes it the seventh largest donor country in absolute terms.

Sweden's 2016 Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid outlines eight focus areas:

- 1/ human rights, democracy, and the rule of law
- 2/ gender equality
- 3/ the environment and climate change, and the sustainable use of natural resources
- 4/ peace and security
- 5/ inclusive economic development
- 6/ migration and development
- 7/ health equity
- 8/ education and research

Sweden stands out in world affairs as it has made it a priority to promote what they have called a 'feminist foreign policy'.

Regarding people with disabilities, they have long been an integral part of Sweden's development cooperation. Both in the former Development Policy Platform [2014] and in the current [2016], the rights of people with disabilities are highlighted, not least as part of a more general rights' perspective.

## 2/ An early evaluation

Disability issues have for some years now been highlighted as an important part of Swedish efforts. In 2013, Sida commissioned Sipu International to make an evaluation of their 2009 workplan on the issue. [Human rights for persons with disabilities; an evaluation of the work plan, by Ulrika Ribohn, Francesca Jessup and Christian Carlbaum].

The work plan for human rights for persons with disabilities came as a result of a letter of appropriation for 2009. The task, according to the letter of appropriation, was for Sida to present "a plan that sets out how the organisation intends to guarantee that the observance of human rights for persons with disabilities is incorporated into Sida's internal work and bilateral development cooperation."

This resulted in a work plan valid for the years 2009-2013. The work plan aimed to a greater extent than previously to include the rights of people with disabilities in development cooperation. It also had as a goal to increase the knowledge of Sida's own staff. The plan had two intermediate objectives and 24 activities. The first objective was "to specify how Sida will include human rights for women, men, girls and boys with disabilities in its development cooperation." The second objective was: "to increase knowledge and understanding of Sida's personnel and strategic implementers within development cooperation of the possibilities and challenges facing children, youth, women, and men with disabilities, and, further, the implications these possibilities and challenges have for Sida's work on strengthening the ability of poor people to improve their living conditions."

The overall conclusion from the evaluation stated:

"[...] it is difficult attribute the work- and decision processes regarding human rights of persons with disabilities to the work plan. The evaluation shows that there is a limited awareness of the existence of the plan and its objectives. Many attribute the work done to a few committed employees and local initiatives. The operational responsibility for implementing the plan was never transferred to the relevant departments; it stayed instead within the working group. A lot needs to be done to fully mainstream persons with disabilities into Sida's work and reach the work plan's objectives.

As the evaluation shows, there are a number of documents, dialogue guides, Human Rights Base Approach (HRBA) briefs, policies and strategies that emphasize the importance of mainstreaming disability. Therefore, no new work plan is needed in order to complete what has been started; instead the personnel need help to understand why, how and when to use the material."

A whole number of concrete points were then lined up, for Sida to follow up on:

- Sida should build on the foundation that has been laid and continue to use and propagate a social definition of disability instead of a medical one, thereby enabling mainstreaming it in most programmes.
- Sida should prepare and implement training for their own personnel regarding when, why and how to mainstream disability.
- Sida should distribute, remind or make their staff aware of, and create a demand for existing material and advice such as: the baseline study, the work plan, dialogue



papers, HRBA briefs, and goals and objectives regarding persons with disabilities in strategies and policies.

- Sida should develop ways to ease the inclusion of persons with disabilities so that it should not be perceived as yet another layer on top of all the other tasks.
- Sida should monitor the rights of persons with disabilities in order to evaluate whether the inclusion of the disability perspective in policies, strategies, analyses has positive consequences for development cooperation.

### 3/ Sida's briefs

Sida has since then developed briefs with information and guidance on the application of the Human Rights Based Approach in relation to persons with disabilities. There are briefs for almost every country and/or region where Sweden is engaged in development cooperation. These briefs can be accessed at Sida's homepage.

The introduction to the briefs explains how human rights of boys, girls, men and women with disabilities are a Swedish priority. Sida see the briefs as possibilities to stimulate more interest and debate on an issue where Sweden would like to do even better:

"The briefs have therefore been prepared to provide basic information about the situation of this group and inspire discussions on what Sweden could do to better include disability rights in programmes and dialogue."

### 4/ Sida's latest regulatory letter on persons with disabilities

Every year Sida receives a regulatory letter from the government. The regulation letter governs the year's activities and sets targets, and decides how the ODA budget will be used for different activities. [Återrapportering enligt regleringsbrev av uppdrag om Sidas arbete med funktionshinderperspektiv i internationellt utvecklingssamarbete. Utenriksdepartementet, 11.09.2018].

Sida is also commissioned to report how their efforts and follow-up in international development cooperation include people with disabilities. In addition, they must also report on how these efforts contribute to meeting established goals for Agenda 2030, where people with disabilities are specifically mentioned.

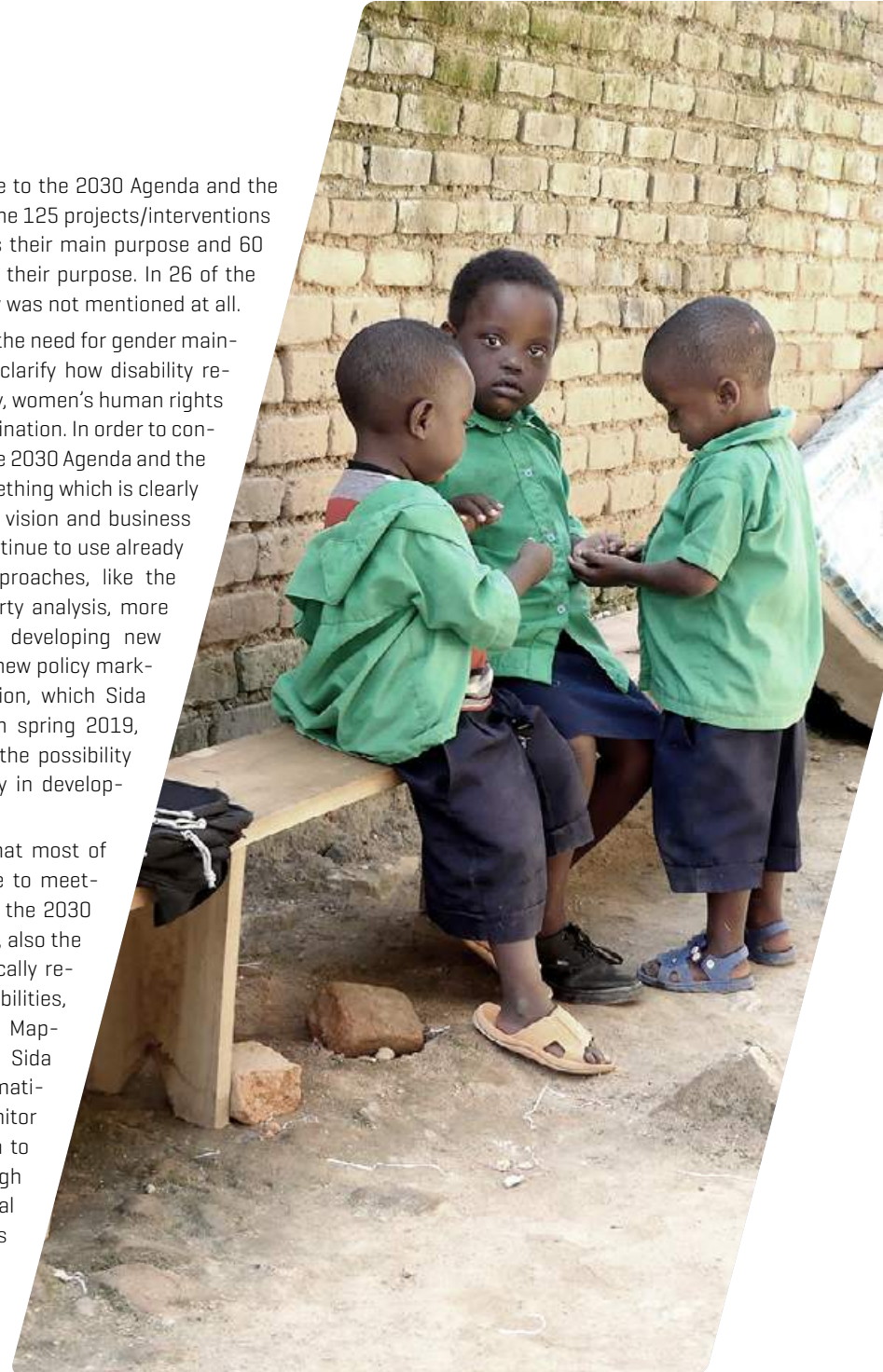
According to the 2018 regulatory letter, a survey has been made of Sida's efforts to reach people with disabilities in development cooperation. The survey includes Sweden's bilateral, regional and global strategies. The multilateral organisational strategies are not included]. The survey covers the period 2016-2017.

The survey showed that Sida had 125 projects/interventions in the period including disability (of approximately 1845 projects/interventions per year). 29 of these were projects/interventions with targeted support for people with disabilities. The rest, i.e. 96 of the projects/interventions, includes or integrates disability, but is not specifically targeted at people with disabilities. In 77 of the total 125 projects/interventions, a clear and pro-

nounced link was made to the 2030 Agenda and the SDG's. A total of 39 of the 125 projects/interventions had gender equality as their main purpose and 60 had equality as part of their purpose. In 26 of the efforts, gender equality was not mentioned at all.

The survey also shows the need for gender mainstreaming in order to clarify how disability relates to gender equality, women's human rights and to multiple discrimination. In order to contribute even more to the 2030 Agenda and the principle of LNOB, something which is clearly reflected in Sida's new vision and business idea, Sida needs to continue to use already existing tools and approaches, like the multidimensional poverty analysis, more effectively as well as developing new ones. The OECD DAC's new policy marker for disability inclusion, which Sida plans to start using in spring 2019, will probably increase the possibility of monitoring disability in development cooperation.

Sida's survey shows that most of their efforts contribute to meeting the global goals of the 2030 Agenda, in many cases, also the sub-goals that specifically refer to people with disabilities, but this varies greatly. Mapping illustrates that Sida lacks tools to systematically assess and monitor its activities in relation to global goals, even though the multidimensional poverty perspectives are clearly reflected in global goals, not least in the principle of LNOB.



In the letter, it is mentioned that the OECD DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics [WP-STAT] has just recently [summer 2018] approved reporting against the global objectives in the DAC reporting. This means that all member states can report to the OECD DAC on an annual basis on the global goals. Sida plans to carry out such reporting in early 2019.

In order to continue to strengthen the conditions for Sida's work on the rights of persons with disabilities, the letter states that the following is required:

- 1/ More systematic use of multidimensional poverty analysis and application of a rights' perspective and the perspective of poor people themselves. Likewise, this requires a gender perspective at both a strategic and at an intervention level in order to make well-founded decisions on increased focus on people with disabilities.
- 2/ In-depth competence development of Sida's staff in multidimensional poverty analysis and application of these perspectives at the strategic level and in the actual project implementation.

This type of instructive letter gives us an insight into how Sida and Sweden take the issue of disability and the 2030 Agenda very seriously indeed. It also goes some way to show that there are no shortcuts to changing the organisation, as many of the recommendations from 2018 are very similar to those made in the evaluation report in 2013.

## 5/ "Sweden has some homework to do"

Sweden chose not to sign the London Charter for Change. Birgitta Weibahr in Stockholm, Lead Policy Specialist on Human Rights and Democracy at Sida, explains why.

"The problem with the Charter for us is that we support its intentions, but our Ministry of Foreign Affairs didn't find the language to be correct from a human right's perspective, and also compared to the carefully weighted language used in the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities [CRPD]. Personally, I am of a more pragmatic inclination, but this is the Ministry's turf."

Weibahr underlines the fact that Sida is an independent institution and is given annual

direction by the Ministry, on strategies, countries, regions and on global priorities. But the human rights approach is evident in all areas, including on climate and conflict. In that sense, Sida is different from DFID, or Finland, with their particular disability inclusion agenda.

"We feel that our human rights approach is the right tool, helping us towards inclusion of people with disabilities. We use a multi-dimensional poverty analyses. Our challenge is that not all our colleagues know sufficiently well how to use these tools,. Thus we have agreed we have some serious homework to do in order to strengthen internal competences."

Weibahr is afraid that countries choosing a pure inclusion agenda, will encounter problems when only certain groups are lifted. Sida feels a human rights approach is broader. That doesn't mean everything is perfect, and Weibahr believes the SDGs have helped Sweden align their tools in a better manner. The language behind the Leave No One Behind movement helps understanding a complex world.

"The SDGs are holistic. We are urged on to think outside of our silos, and work across sectors. I can truthfully say that the SDGs have influenced Sida's work, we have become more effective and we see the global agenda being important both home and abroad. Thus, we are very open to work more closely with MyRight and other organisations, in order to become more effective and better at fulfilling our mandate."

## 6/ Conclusive remarks

Of all the Nordics, Sweden seems to be the country putting most emphasis on human rights', to such an extent that the country declined to sign onto the London Charter for Change, as the Swedish MfA found the language used wanting when it comes to proper human rights jargon.

The last regulatory letter received by Sida [2018], is very clear on required reporting on Swedish efforts to include people with disabilities. In addition, they must also report on how these efforts contribute to meeting established goals for Agenda 2030, where people with disabilities are specifically mentioned.



## 1/ Background

Finland has promoted essential rights and well-being for all through universal social policies. Finland has also greatly benefitted from its strong disability movement, leaving its mark on Finnish social policy and practice.

Finland's approach to international development has thus been shaped by the ideals of the Nordic Welfare Society. The importance given to the rights of persons with disabilities is reflected in the country's international development policy, which recognizes that investing in equality and in the rights of persons with disabilities are crosscutting objectives for all Finnish development.

## 2/ Strong support to the 2030 Agenda

There are several interesting documents highlighting Finnish development priorities, although much of it is only in Finnish. There are some documents in English, though, to be found on the web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Here the general principles of Finnish development aid are outlined, and there is also a chapter on the 2030 Agenda, but without any particular mentioning of LNOB.

But the LNOB issue comes up in a report to the Finnish parliament in February 2016, in the form of a Government Report to Parliament [4 February 2016; One world, common future – towards sustainable development].

In Chapter 4.1, The underlying principles and sustainable values of Finland's development policy", it is stated:

**"The rights of children and the most vulnerable, notably persons with disabilities, are taken account of in all our activities. Finland has the appropriate know-how and resources to support persons with disabilities, who are in a particular need for support because they are often excluded from other support."**

In a comprehensive Development Policy Results Report from November 2018, submitted to Parliament, it is highlighted that, thanks to Finnish efforts, women's and girls' right to bodily integrity has improved, and that 1.5 million women and girls have received sexual and reproductive health services, nearly six million people have been provided toilets, and 2.5 million people have got access to clean water. The Report contains results that have been reported in 2015–2018. Results in the field of reaching people with disabilities are not mentioned in the English summary, but are mentioned in the actual report, but so far only in Finnish.

This is the first time that aggregated results are presented based on programmes carried out in different parts of the world. The report was submitted to Parliament and debated, as Finland's development policy and development cooperation. And as is stated on the Ministry's home page:

**"[...] form an important part of Finland's foreign and security policy and Finland's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."**

## 3/ The mother of all reports

There is another report that very strongly underlines the Finnish emphasis on the LNOB, stemming from 2017, called Leaving No One Behind: The Finnish Approach to Addressing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Development Cooperation and Policy. According to this report, the Finnish Model for addressing inequality and disability rights can be summarized via the following four elements:

- 1) Human rights are at the core of all activities.
- 2) This implies supporting equal, accessible and non-discriminatory national institutions, strategies and policies and ensuring capacity of duty bearers at all levels to deliver services and protection for all.
- 3) Gender equality cuts across all interventions and is a key priority for Finland.
- 4) Civil society participation, in this case meaningful participation of the Organisations of Persons with Disabilities [DPO] in particular, is a principle without which no sustainable results in terms of human rights for persons with disabilities can be achieved. Autonomous participation of persons with disabilities in society is both an important principles as well as one of the goals of the Finnish Development Cooperation."

## 4/ Nothing About Us Without Us

We further read that a core principle in the Finnish approach to disability inclusion is the principle "nothing about us without us". This principle has been realized by recognition of the importance of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations [DPOs] in the implementation and processes of the development cooperation. This recognition and the approach is largely based on the advocacy by the strong Finnish disability movement, which has significantly influenced the disability rights agenda in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

“What is unique about the Finnish approach is the strong focus on supporting the capacity of the organisations of persons with disabilities as well as the focus on relatively low-capacity grassroots actors in developing countries. A significant part of the Finnish support to disability inclusion is fully designed and implemented by persons with disabilities themselves.”

Just like the other Nordics, reducing poverty and inequality and the promotion of sustainable development goals form the main objective of the current development policy of Finland. But the Finnish are clearer on the fact that the commitment to the LNOB principle is an inherent part of the implementation of the development policy programme. Finland,



like the other Nordics, has also ratified the Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities [CRPD]. The Convention specifically obliges the state parties to ensure that international development is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities [Article 32]. And the key phrase in the report is the following:

“Additionally, the current Development Policy states that the rights of persons with disabilities are taken into account in all activities. The Finnish approach to LNOB-principle focuses specifically on addressing and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.”

This implies both mainstreaming and targeting:

“The approach to disability inclusion in Finland has two main tracks: Finland aims to 1) mainstream disability across policies and programmes as well as 2) support disability-specific interventions. In addition, Finland is also active in political dialogue to advance the attention and urgency to the disability rights agenda globally.”

““Leaving No one Behind” is a principle that is at the core of effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, making it universal and transformative. This principle should therefore be at the core of international development cooperation setting its priorities in a way that everyone is included.”

## 5/ Some Finnish achievements

Finland coordinates its efforts both nationally and internationally. Finland, together with a group of like-minded partners, established the Global Action on Disability [GLAD] network in late 2015. GLAD members are committed to collectively increasing coordination of their disability-inclusive contributions, learning from each other by sharing knowledge and resources, expanding and diversifying the community partners’ contributing resources to disability-inclusive development and humanitarian action and to strengthening existing partnerships and disability inclusion within existing global initiatives.

The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates a group of Finnish CSOs, DPOS, research institutes and the departments of ministries in charge of disability inclusion. The group mainly functions as an information exchange nexus. The coordination group is led by the Ministry’s Unit for Human Rights Policy.

Finland was the first country to adopt a disability marker for development cooperation. This marker was primarily created for tracking of funding and it was introduced in 2016. The marker is still relatively new and there is no comprehensive data available yet. It has been noted however, that once the proper use of the marker is fully introduced, it will be a great tool for better tracking of the funding and for overall accountability.

Monitoring of the disability inclusion is further strengthened by the Quality Assurance Board that regularly checks all financing proposals against the HRBA minimum criteria. The integration of disability in the Finnish Development Policy Priority Areas has also been

strengthened significantly in order to be able to report on the commitment to advancing disability rights. Finland is also increasingly committed to systematic gathering and use of disaggregated [sex, disability] data across all activities, results tracking and reporting.

## 6/ Can Finland's country focus be something to follow?

The report also delves into various Finnish partners within the UN system and amongst other civil society organisations. But maybe specific attention should be made to the Finnish country focus? The report shows statistics on the significant progress Ethiopia has made in getting more children in schools.

"Enrolment in primary school increased from 75% in 2007 to 86% in 2011. More children also finished primary school – an increase from 48% to 58% over the same period. Ethiopia matched its ambition with resources. Government spending on education rose from 11% of total spending in 1999–2000 to more than 25% in 2012–2013. While these numbers are encouraging, children with disabilities often do not have access to quality education."

"In the 1980's Finland supported training of Ethiopian teachers, educators and experts in special needs education. During 2008–2012, Finland supported the implementation of the special needs education programme strategy. During this intervention, the strategy was revised towards a more inclusive focus. Nine pilot inclusive education resource centres were set up. Currently, special needs and inclusive education is recognized as a crosscutting programme in the five year plan of Ethiopia's Education Sector Development Programme. Although the number of students with special needs in schools is still very low, the number has steadily increased and awareness on their right to education has improved."

Finland financed a project called Enhancing Inclusive Education Capacity of Teacher Education and Resource Centers, and it aimed to enhance the capacity of teacher training colleges to introduce a pedagogical approach to special needs and inclusive education. This has increased the awareness about special needs among parents, school personnel and broader community. The models of the project have now been adopted by the national General Education Quality Improvement Program for Equity for scaling up.

This is an interesting approach and the report goes on to say:

"Finland's long-term commitment to supporting the national education system in Ethiopia has resulted in systemic change. Finland has been able to support the Ethiopian education sector as well shape the understanding of inclusive and good quality education. A new funding model, implemented by the Global Partnership for Education, has created incentives for developing country partners to tackle the most difficult education challenges of equity, efficiency and quality. In Ethiopia, it has resulted in more investments in the strategies and programmes that will lead to systematic and durable reforms.

Finland has become a valued global leader in inclusive education. An external evaluation stated that Finland has been a "leading light" around the world in this field, and in

certain countries the only prominent donor systematically taking the inclusive education agenda forward. Despite Finland's small size as a donor, it has been able to capitalize expertise, moral authority and global prestige around this agenda in a way that has made a difference in the global agenda of inclusive education."

These results seem worth learning from. Maybe the other Nordics could also try something similar?

## 7/ Could Finland become even better?

In a telephone interview with the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the MfA underlines the human rights based approach and the general Nordic welfare model as explanations of the Finnish approach. [Katariina Sario, Senior Adviser for Non-discrimination and Rights of Persons with Disabilities].

The MfA puts equal emphasis on the strong Finnish DPOs and their prominent spokespeople. A Finnish strategy has come along because of strong personalities, and ministers who have been personally and genuinely interested in the issues. This has led to a change in Finnish priorities the last five years. There is a new pride around and Finland has something to give the world. "I think we can say we have done a good job".

When it comes to targeted funding approximately 2 % of Finnish ODA could be labelled as targeted, but the MfA underlines that it is difficult to measure the broader picture, where the goal is to make sure that all is disability inclusive. Finland tries to build on their crosscutting objectives, and thus make all ODA non-discriminatory. Working with UN institutions and others is very important.

Having worked for years with long-term partner countries, like Ethiopia, has helped towards reaching some proper results and we could now talk about having supported systemic changes, strengthening governments in fulfilling their legal obligations.

Sario was impressed by the London Summit:

"Four years ago such a summit would not have been possible. It is incredible. Progress has been made. Traditional donors are now picking up on these issues and there is stronger commitment towards mainstreaming."

## 8/ Conclusive remarks

Finland has taken a Nordic lead on inclusive development. The Finnish example of targeting certain countries, like Ethiopia, seems to bear fruits. Given these facts, a pertinent question would be if Finland in the future could devote larger parts of their GDP to development cooperation. The country elected a more conservative government into office four years ago, and there were major budget cuts in several sectors, including ODA. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development has changed five times in this period. In April 2019, there are general elections.

# IV / SOME FINAL REFLECTIONS

This review of official Nordic policy documents, adopted texts from the Global Summit in London and various interviews show us that there is both interest and willingness to do more to promote and implement inclusive development. In order to be able to go forward, we will quote a couple of other interesting reviews and reports done by other organisations and institutions, so as not to forget important points of view which so far have not been dealt with in any extensive way in this report.

We will touch on such issues as policy coherence and progressive universalism, before ending with a matrix where the recommendations to the Nordic ministries are repeated, but now in some more detail for each of the four Nordics.

## 1/ Critical reports and policy coherence

Several interesting reports on various aspects of the SDGs have been published the last two years. And many more will come.

In April 2018, Save The Children Norway published *How can Norway implement 'Leave No One Behind', as a guiding principle, in its aid and development policy?* (Romilly Greenhill/Lars Engen, Overseas Development Institute). The report takes a closer look at how Norwegian ODA and development policies can reach the most excluded groups. Save the Children, Norway recommends that the government develop a coherent LNBO-strategy for Norwegian international efforts. This should include Norwegian policies on taxation and resource mobilization. There is also an explicit warning that the poorest segments of society should not be left on the sidelines when clashing with other Norwegian interests. For instance, the new Norwegian focus on migratory challenges, could turn out to be against the interests of refugees.

In a same critical tradition, we might also mention that the 2030 Agenda does not address the new generation of bilateral investment treaties and free trade agreements. These have a tendency of reducing the ability of governments to promote human rights and sustainability, and encourage countries to compete in the race to the bottom, offering lower taxes and cheaper labour to attract investments.

Taking an even more critical position we could state that there is an evident discrepancy between Norway's laudable SDG policies, and some of our trade policies. There is a lack of policy coherence for development ('samstemthet'). We want to pave the way for the

world's disabled, but Norway is a major weapons and arms' seller. After the Kashoggi case, Norway on the 9th of November 2018 decided that no new licences are to be granted for exports of defence-related products or dual-use items for military use to Saudi Arabia.

There is no doubt that selling weapons and defence systems to countries like Saudi Arabia indirectly "create" thousands of disabled youth in places like Yemen.

## 2/ Fast tracking as a method

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has a very informative webpage where several reports highlight both advances and challenges to the SDGs. One such report is from July 2016, called *Leaving no one behind. A critical path for the first 1,000 days of the Sustainable Development Goals* (Elizabeth Stuart, Kate Bird, Tanvi Bhatkal, Romilly Greenhill, Steven Lally, Gideon Rabinowitz, Emma Samman, Moizza Binat Sarwar, and Alainna Lynch). It found that the total cost of leaving no one behind in health, education and social protection across the 75 countries for which they have data is an annual average of \$739 billion. But despite the cost, they conclude that the investment will produce a solid profit. Evidence suggest an additional dollar invested in high-quality pre-schools delivers a return of anywhere between \$6 and \$17. Concludes the report. Another report, from The Brookings Institute, tells the worrying story of the poorest countries being stuck behind, maybe forever. [*Leave no country behind: Ending poverty in the toughest places*, Geoffrey Gertz and Homi Kharas, January 2018].

Should we think in new ways to address this serious challenge? Will "adopting" countries in order to get them going be a way out? Should Sweden "adopt" Malawi in an all-out effort to cooperate and assist development, as something akin to Finland's approach in Ethiopia? Alternatively, should positive discrimination be introduced, like what was done in the US, when blacks were brought to white area schools in order to redress differences in education, so called «positive discrimination/affirmative action»?

India has for years had quotas for the lowest casts, in order that they get education and to bridge the economic and social gaps. Some countries might positively give the poorest segments of society a larger share of the country's health budget. Some indigenous populations have more say than other groups. In Norway, there are laws regulating the percentage of women on registered company boards.



A Briefing paper from the ODI, called *Defining 'leave no one behind'* (Elizabeth Stuart and Emma Samman, October 2017) states that introducing the SDGs implies that yesterday's trickle down ideology is dead. This was an ideology based on the understanding that when the middle class got richer, also the poor would benefit. Evidence from China and other countries show us that reality is more complex, and that statistics are skewed and do not tell the correct story.

According to the ODI paper, 19 percent of the world's poor lived in weak and conflict-torn countries. By 2012, this had grown to 41 percent. The trend continues and in 2030 as many as 62 percent of the world's poor might live in these countries. The paper thus concludes:

- 'Leaving no one behind' means ending extreme poverty in all its forms, and reducing inequalities among both individuals [vertical] and groups [horizontal].
- Key to 'leave no one behind' is the prioritisation and fast-tracking of actions for the poorest and most marginalised people – known as progressive universalism. If instead, policy is implemented among better-off groups first and worst-off groups later, the existing gap between them is likely to increase.
- 'Leave no one behind' goes well beyond being just an anti-discrimination agenda; it is a recognition that expectations of trickle-down progress are naïve, and that explicit and pro-active attempts are needed to ensure populations at risk of being left behind are included from the start.

### **3/ The SDGs are for all; and we must not leave our own behind**

The Global Summit in London was a success, and should be used by the Nordics to strengthen good ongoing policy developments. On the other hand, we must not forget that the SDGs also apply to our own societies.

Unknown to many is that there was an alternative summit taking place in London, two days before the Global Summit. Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC), organized what they called a solidarity summit, with the support of the Reclaiming Our Futures Alliance (ROFA). They claimed that there had been anger among disability activists at the decision of the UK government to co-host the event when its own record on disability rights is so poor.

DPAC's Ellen Clifford is quoted as saying:

"We want to draw attention to the hypocrisy of the government in hosting the global summit. People in the UK are rightly very angry about it, but we think it is important that anger is not channelled at the summit itself because of the chance that it is going to benefit disabled people in other countries."



ROFA released a statement claiming that the UK government had been found guilty in November 2016 of grave and systematic violations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [UNCRPD] in connection with its policies on independent living, social security and employment. According to the statement, the committee had called for more than 80 improvements to the ways in which the UK's laws and policies affect disabled people's human rights, the highest number of recommendations it had ever produced for a country undergoing the review process.

This goes some way in showing that the SDGs are truly international, and that they thus require a strong role for DPOs in our own western societies. The Charter for Change, point 2, underlines the importance of participation when it advocates **"the active involvement and close consultation of persons with disabilities of all ages"**. This should imply that DPOs on a regular basis are invited and involved in relevant processes related to disability inclusion issues, both at formal and informal arenas, both in rich and in poor societies.

#### 4/ Last reflections on the current situation

During the parliamentary debate on the Norwegian white paper on the SDGs on November the 2nd 2017, the rapporteur, Sylvi Graham [Conservative Party] said:

"Finally, President, I would like to exercise a rare prerogative from this chair; namely self-criticism. As a rapporteur, I think we could have had a broader perspective on "the leave no one behind" principle of the sustainability goals. Yes, maybe we should have said something about the special challenges of disabilities? President; there are 1 billion people with disabilities in the world, 80 percent living in poor countries. 20 million disabled children do not go to school, 32 million are blind, something which is totally unnecessary, 12 million of the over 60 million people who are refugees are disabled, more than one million disabled people die annually of poverty and malnutrition."

In a similar frank manner, the former British Development Minister Priti Patel said to The Guardian in December 2016, when she still was a fresh minister:

"I was shocked when I discovered how little has been done for people with disabilities in countries receiving assistance from the world community."

She had been exposed to reality during some of her travels. DFID certainly seem to have taken her observation seriously, as the Global Summit in London proves.

Exposure to people, exposure to life, exposure to realities, help us form our visions of the world. Knowledge leads to compassion, compassion might lead to a will to change structures. Quite a number of people attended the Global Summit and were exposed to a world they knew little about. That changed them.

This is part of what the SDGs and the principle of Leave No One Behind is all about.

The London Charter for Change is a splendid piece of good intention. It is in some ways similar to the South African Freedom Charter, and the struggle for equity and freedom, stemming from 1955. It inspired a whole nation and all of its peoples.

Our hope is that the Charter for Change can contribute to a sense of liberation, for us all. Both home and abroad. Leaving no one behind is a pathway to such a freedom.



## 5/ Recommendation to the Nordic Ministries of Foreign Affairs and donor agencies regarding The Leave No One Behind agenda

NORWAY	SWEDEN	DENMARK	FINLAND
<b>1/ “The last should come first”. Progressive universalism must become a new principle</b> The key to ‘leaving no one behind’ is prioritizing and fast-tracking actions for the poorest and most marginalised persons – known as progressive universalism. If instead, policy is implemented among better-off groups first, and worst-off groups later, the existing gap between them is likely to increase. This implies a major increase in support and funding for the most marginalized across all sectors and groups, among them people with disabilities.			
There are no present plans to fast-track people with disabilities.	There are no present plans to fast-track people with disabilities.	There are no present plans to fast-track people with disabilities.	Finland scores highest of all the Nordics when it comes to having a national strategy where disability is highlighted as one of the main focus areas. This is as close as we come to ‘progressive universalism’.
<b>2/ Funding levels must be adequate</b> a/ All Nordics must commit 0,7 % of GDP to ODA, in accordance with established DAC documents b/ Funds for targeted projects, i.e.. activities where persons with disabilities are the main target group, should increase to at least 1 % of Nordic ODA by the year 2021. c/ In the long run, all ODA projects should mainstream disability. In the short run, the level should at least be at 25 % of total national ODA by 2022.			
a/ Norway has for years hovered around 1 % b/ 0,36 % (2016) c/ 7,5 % in 2016	a/ Sweden has also for years had a 1 % level b/ Sweden has just recently published data on targeted funding, and their results seem to be way under 1 %. c/ Not sufficient data material; but probably way off target	a/ The Danish are within the 0,7 % mark b/ The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs have no data available c/ Not sufficient data material; but probably way off target	a/ Finland is way below target, at a meagre 0,38 % b/ Full score c/ Full score
<b>3/ The Nordics should be members of GLAD</b> The Global Action on Disability [GLAD] Network is a coordination body of bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, the private sector and foundations working to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action.			
Is a member already	Is a member already	Must join. Should be a target for 2019	Founding member
<b>4/ Disabled people’s own organizations must be strengthened</b> A strengthening of the advocacy work undertaken by Disabled People’s Organizations [DPOs,], both home and abroad, must be a central priority for the Nordic countries in order to strengthen their human rights priorities.			
This has been partially undermined in Norway. On the positive side there is positive dialogue with MFA/Norad and openings to discuss inclusion issues. But in a period with growth in Norwegian ODA, the allocations to the Atlas-alliance has gone from 0,27 % to 0,18 % (2017) of the ODA. The Atlas-alliance has also been stripped of information allocations. On a positive note, other organizations have taken on the inclusion agenda	Swedish organizations have close contact with Sida, and there is a good debate on how to strengthen the inclusion agenda via Swedish organizations. It is imperative that Sida ensure that Swedish DPOs have possibilities to keep playing a significant role in the cooperation with international DPOs working on the development agenda	In Denmark there is relatively close contact between the disability organizations and Danida/MfA	Finland has a strong partnership between the Finnish MfA and the Finnish DPOs.

NORWAY	SWEDEN	DENMARK	FINLAND
<b>5/ Nordic experiences must be shared, including our experiences and practices on inclusive society development – and on how to leave no one behind</b> The disability issue must become a central part of the development agencies way of thinking. Norad, for example, has a “knowledge-bank”. There should be a method to share proven Nordic experiences.			
Norway already has a proven track record, sharing the valuable experiences on distribution of wealth (resource extraction management; taxsystems etc). Norwegian national disability policies and competence, especially on assistive devices [hjelpemiddelsentraler] should be included in the Knowledge Bank from 2020.	Sweden should send a delegation to Norway to study the “knowledge-bank” concept and adapt it to Swedish reality.	Denmark should send a delegation to Norway to study the “knowledge-bank” concept and adapt it to Danish reality..	Finland should send a delegation to Norway to study the “knowledge-bank” concept and adapt it to Finnish reality.
<b>6/ More funds should be earmarked for research and mapping regarding Leave no one behind/tracking inclusion</b> The OECD DAC statistics marker on disability must be implemented			
Norway has committed to the Washington principles, and have capable research institutions [Fafo/Sintef] doing good work on household surveys and others, with disability as an important issue. The new Norwegian digital strategy should be more disability focused. Norway is to implement the OECD DAC statistics marker on disability in 2019	Committed to the Washington principles and agrees in principle with the need of better statistics and data. Sweden is to implement the OECD DAC statistics marker on disability in 2019	Committed to the Washington principles and agrees in principle with the need of better statistics and data. Denmark is to implement the OECD DAC statistics marker on disability in 2019	Committed to the Washington principles and agrees in principle with the need of better statistics and data. Finland is to implement the OECD DAC statistics marker on disability in 2019
<b>7/ There must be more crosscutting cooperation on issues of disability in ministries, agencies and embassies</b> Representatives of DPOs should meet regularly with the development agencies.			
There exists an ‘Inclusion Team’ in Norad, influencing the rest of the agency to be more inclusive. This could be duplicated in development administrations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the embassies and various delegations. CSOs could do likewise.	In 2018, Sida made an overview [described in this report], regarding the inclusion of disability perspectives in international development cooperation projects. This is a step in the right direction	There are already regular meetings between the Danish disability organizations and the Danish authorities. But Danish national priorities are not inclusive friendly enough, and should open up for suggestions from the organizations as how to organize better.	The Human Rights Unit of the MFA hosts an informal working group called “coordination group for international disability policy”. This working group is a platform for information sharing in the disability and development sector. It is not a decision-making body, but it has proven very useful in information exchange, sharing ideas and coordinating participation in international meetings and events. Participants include staff from different units of the MFA, DPO representatives, individual PWDs working with the CRPD, the special disability rights envoy of the MFA,

## NORWAY

## SWEDEN

## DENMARK

## FINLAND

Marko Vuoriheimo a.k.a Signmark, sometimes also staff from Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Interior and the National Institute for Health and Welfare. The group has been meeting for 7-8 years, about 3-4 times a year.

### 8/ Private sector investments [and especially those receiving ODA-finance], must include the LNOB-agenda

The right to decent work is embedded in the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities [CRPD], Article 27 states that private sector companies are bound by international rules and regulations as defined by the UN.

Norway has advocated and supported UN conventions on work and workers' rights. An inclusion of people with disabilities must be part of all of Norway's Finance Institution and Norfund's feasibility studies [due diligence].

The CRPD have commended that Sweden has brought a disability policy perspective to its international cooperation work. This must also apply to Swedish companies in developing countries.

Denmark puts a lot of emphasis on private sector investments and market mechanisms. It is important that the country put weight behind the need to adhere to UN and CPRD rules and SDG principles like Leave No One Behind. So far there seems to be little national emphasis on this.

Finland has the most disability inclusive policy of all the Nordics, but there is little policy guidelines on Finnish private investments

### 9/ Too strict cofunding rules should be revised and adapted to promote inclusion

Norad obeys strict rules of 10 % cofunding for support to civil society. The result is that not all DPO's able and willing to participate in foreign aid are able to do so. In-kind contributions, like medical equipment, or doctor's contributions, could be given a market value. This would be far more inclusive, than organizations getting their cofunding from bingo-machines.

Sweden has a flexible system. Organizations with a framework agreement with Sida must cofund 10 %. Those not having such an agreement [like MyRight], getting funds from Forum Syd, only need a cofunding of 5 %.

Denmark operates with a modality, where the umbrella organization DPOD functions as a fund manager where small and bigger DPOs can apply for cooperation. The Danish organizations do not have to raise own financing. This liberates the organizations and more Danish disability organizations are thus involved in development work.

Finland has a flexible funding system. Organizations, as a rule, cofund 15 % from private sources, but disability programmes and projects can be financed with a 7,5 % cofunding.

### 10/ The Nordics should co-host a Disability Summit in 2022

The world needs to follow up on the London meeting, and take stock of the inclusion agenda in time to address shortcomings

Norway should support IDA in the follow up of the Global Disability Summit, beat the rest and provide the venue

Sweden should first and foremost sign the Charter for Change post Global Disability Summit, should support IDA in the follow up, beat the rest and provide the venue

Denmark should support IDA in the follow up of the Global Disability Summit, beat the rest and provide the venue

Finland should support IDA in the follow up of the Global Disability Summit, beat the rest and provide the venue

# USEFUL WEBPAGES AND ADDRESSES

## NORWAY

Common Responsibility for a Common Future, The Sustainable Development Goals and Norway's Development Policy, Meld. St. 24 [2016–2017], available on net:  
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<https://www.sida.se/svenska/0m-oss/sa-styrs-vi/regleringsbrev-och-aterrapporterng/>

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## OTHER INFORMATION

The Charter for Change  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/721701/GDS\\_Charter\\_for\\_Change.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721701/GDS_Charter_for_Change.pdf)

General information page with several reports pertaining to the SDGs:  
<https://www.odi.org/>

Criticism of the British government:  
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# CONTRIBUTING PERSONS



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