

The Atlas Alliance's political platform to promote equality and inclusive development 2022-2025

This is a translation from the Norwegian original. In case of discrepancy, the Norwegian version shall prevail.

Adopted by the Board 29th September 2022

If we are to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and pursue Norway's new strategy "*Equality for all. Norway's strategy for disability-inclusive development (2022–25)*"¹, there needs to be a drastic increase in efforts to achieve equality and inclusion for people with disabilities.

The principles of *Leave no one behind* and *Nothing about us without us* must be central premises of Norwegian development policy. The main objective is to include and promote the interests of persons with disabilities in all Norwegian aid, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This must be reflected in both the aid budget and the organisation of development cooperation.

CRPD implies a paradigm shift, away from a medical view of disability to a social and human understanding, with a clear focus on rights and diversity. Disabled persons' organisations both in Norway and in the Global South are key partners in this rights-based work.

The Atlas Alliance will actively support the government's work to implement the strategy, including efforts to change attitudes and work to combat intersectional (multidimensional) discrimination, particularly discrimination against women and children with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

The Atlas Alliance will actively support Norway's work on equality and inclusion in further follow-up to the Global Disability Summit (GDS), as well as in relevant multilateral organisations, with an emphasis on ownership ("disabled persons in the lead") and the traceability of inclusion in all aid. In order to follow up on GDS 2022 and to help Norway fulfil its obligations, the Atlas Alliance will work in particular for:

1. **Equality, inclusion and traceability**

All Norwegian development aid must promote equality and be **inclusive** and

¹ <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/8e66a78f345048948894c4bfb55f32bc/no/pdfs/e-1009-b-likestilling-for-alle.pdf>

https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/departementene/ud/dokumenter/planer/equality_strategy_2022.pdf

traceable and Norway must require all recipients of Norwegian aid funding to report (at the very least) using the OECD/DAC disability marker. This also applies to multilateral aid.

2. Disabled persons in the lead

Disabled persons' organisations must play a key role in work on behalf of disabled persons in development cooperation. This is particularly true in strategic partnerships, where disabled persons' organisations must be in the lead, in line with the Charter for Change from GDS 2018 and the final declaration from GDS 2022. The imbalance of power and influence must be changed and disabled persons' organisations and other partners in the Global South must have greater ownership of their own agenda and solutions. This also includes addressing the imbalance of power between men and women as well as discrimination against women with disabilities.

3. Implementation of the strategy "Equality for all. Norway's strategy for disability-inclusive development (2022–2025)"

The government must draw up a specific action plan and establish an inclusion team consisting of a network of people responsible for such an action plan in all parts of the development administration (Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norad, embassies, delegations).

Norad/The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs must introduce clear and explicit requirements for inclusive planning and for reporting disaggregated results for persons with disabilities in all development cooperation.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities must be a core element of **Norad's knowledge bank**.

4. Inclusion in humanitarian action/emergency relief.

All Norwegian humanitarian action must promote equality and be inclusive and traceable. The strategy for Norwegian humanitarian aid must take into account and incorporate input from disabled persons' organisations, as well as the conventions and guidelines endorsed by Norway, such as CRPD, Security Council Resolution 2475 and the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. Norwegian humanitarian organisations and UN organisations that are supported by Norway must ensure that they have effective **humanitarian inclusion strategies** in place.

5. Inclusive work on food security and climate change adaptation.

Persons with disabilities are particularly hard hit by climate change, environmental degradation and poor access to food. In its new focus on climate change measures and food security, the government must ensure that persons with disabilities and their families are included in the work on climate change plans and adaptations, while also securing their rights to safe

and adequate food.²

6. Funding for disabled persons' own rights work must be increased considerably.

Over the past 12 years, funding for targeted measures promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities has accounted for between 0.4% and 0.7% of Norwegian aid. This proportion must be increased to a minimum of 1% of annual Norwegian aid by 2025.

7. Advocacy groups in Norwegian development cooperation

The government must ensure that marginalised groups (including persons with disabilities) are included in development cooperation through their respective advocacy groups. Two administrative considerations must be taken into account in order to ensure this. Firstly, the requirement for co-financing from the organisations must be differentiated. Secondly, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Norad must share the risk associated with corruption in partner countries to a greater extent.

² On the right to food as a human right, see <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4538838c11.html>, as well as CRPD Article 10