

# **SDGs MONITORING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**An Evaluation of Countries Readiness**



**Research Committee Chair: Martin Gould**

**Analyst: Viviana Montenegro**

**November 2017**

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## **An Evaluation of Countries Readiness**

A Global Analysis of the Readiness of Countries to Monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations for Persons with Disabilities



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## About G3ict

G3ict, the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communications Technologies, was launched in December 2006, in cooperation with the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at UN DESA. Its mission is to facilitate and support the implementation of the dispositions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in promoting e-accessibility and assistive technologies. G3ict participants include industry, the public sector, academia and organizations representing persons with disabilities. G3ict relies on an international network of ICT accessibility experts to develop practical tools, evaluation methods and benchmarks for States Parties and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities. G3ict is the home of the International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP) which counts more than 1,200 active members in 41 countries. Since inception, G3ict has organized or contributed to more than 150 awareness-raising and capacity-building programs for policy makers in cooperation with international organizations such as the ITU, UNESCO, UNITAR and the World Bank. G3ict co-produces with ITU the “e-Accessibility Policy Toolkit for Persons with Disabilities” ([www.e-accessibilitytoolkit.org](http://www.e-accessibilitytoolkit.org)), which is widely used around the world by policy makers involved in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. For additional information on G3ict, visit [www.g3ict.org](http://www.g3ict.org).

## About the CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report

The *CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report* was launched in 2010 by G3ict in cooperation with Disabled People’s International (DPI) to measure the degree to which States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities implement its dispositions on the accessibility of Information and Communication Technologies. Research is conducted with the support of experts among advocacy organizations around the world who complete detailed questionnaires about their respective countries.

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## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| G3ict Global Research Panel .....  | 4  |
| Executive Summary.....   | 10 |
| Systemic issues - Data, Monitoring and Accountability.....   | 11 |
| The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Persons with Disabilities .....                        | 12 |
| The G3ict CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report .....   | 13 |
| Methodology: In Brief .....  | 14 |
| Data Analysis and Discussion .....   | 15 |
| Global South and Global North Readiness for 2030 Agenda: Key Challenges .....                          | 16 |
| Conclusions and Recommendations.....   | 20 |
| Annex I: Participating Countries in the G3ict 2016 CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report Survey ..... | 23 |

## G3ict Global Research Panel

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## Executive Summary

To support the most recent intersection of key international governance instruments and strategic plans (i.e., the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or CRPD, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or 2030 Agenda) as regards persons with disabilities, G3ict expanded the scope of its global voluntary monitoring and evaluation research protocols. In this way, G3ict expects to expand its research to the development of practical tools for explaining the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda, managing implementation, ensuring accountability, and reporting on progress at local, national, regional, and global levels.

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. There were 82 signatories to the Convention, 44 signatories to the Optional Protocol, and 1 ratification of the CRPD. This is the highest number of signatories in history to a U.N. Convention on its opening day. It is the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century and is the first human rights convention to be open for signature by regional integration organizations. The Convention entered into force on 3 May 2008.

The post-2015 development agenda was adopted in 2015, ends in 2030, and is referred to as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda is articulated in a 35-page document; applies to all countries; and, includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets and 231 indicators. There are seven instances in the SDGs, Targets and/or Indicators with explicit references to persons with disabilities, namely: Goal 1-Poverty, Goal 4-Education, Goal 8-Employment, Goal 10-Reduce Inequalities, Goal 11-Inclusive Cities, Goal 16-Inclusive Societies and Institutions, and Goal 17-Means of Implementation. One example of an SDG global indicator/measure which involves Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is: 4.a.1 Percentage of schools with access to (i) electricity; (ii) Internet for pedagogical purposes; (iii) computers for pedagogical purposes; (iv) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (v) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; (vi) basic hand washing facilities.

The CRPD recently marked its 10-year anniversary, while the 2030 Agenda celebrated its first. And while they may have different dates of enactment, the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs must be aligned with, and build upon the commitments and mechanisms of the CRPD. Put another way, the CRPD and its legal obligations should serve as a guiding framework for implementing key SDGs (listed above) in order to realize the full inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities. In that regard, it should be noted that many CRPD Articles are cross-cutting in nature and could be applied and/or considered for the implementation of related SDGs and Targets. Conclusions about official cross-cutting SDGs, Targets and Indicators, as well as corresponding CRPD Articles are provided by UN DESA and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR).

In 2016, the two sets of surveys from the fourth edition of G3ict's *CRPD Progress Report on ICT Accessibility* were filled out by 113 local correspondents in 106 countries. Data collection for the fourth edition of the Progress Report was completed in cooperation with Disabled People's International (DPI) and various

organizations of persons with disabilities and experts in countries where DPI correspondents were not available.

To what extent are countries ready and prepared to meaningfully include persons with disabilities in tracking, monitoring and reporting of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly through the use of credible data? The discussion, data and analysis in the following pages ahead reflect: (1) general systemic issues regarding 2030 Agenda data, monitoring and accountability; and (2) the degree to which key provisions of the 2030 Agenda and disability specific SDGs are being implemented.

This report concludes with a brief set of recommendations that Member States, organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), national, regional and international development agencies could take to ensure: (1) increased achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals and targets; (2) meaningful involvement by persons with disabilities in monitoring and reporting on implementation of the SDGs; and (3) effective tracking of progress, evaluation, and monitoring of their countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the use of credible and useful data and statistics.

## **Systemic issues - Data, Monitoring and Accountability**

According to the report of the United Nations Secretary-General, "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals" [E/2017/66](#), in 2016, 125 countries engaged in country-led monitoring of development effectiveness, which demonstrates their commitment to strengthening implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and multi-stakeholder partnerships; 54 of those countries reported overall progress towards those commitments. Countries' own result frameworks were used to define 83 percent of new interventions supported by donor countries in 2016.

More than half of the countries or areas (81 of 154 countries) for which information is available were implementing national statistical plans in 2016.

However, only 37 of 83 countries or areas with pertinent data had national statistical legislation in place that complied with all 10 Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

In 2014, developing countries received \$338 million in financial support for statistics. While that amount represented an increase of nearly 2.9 percent from 2010, it accounted for only 0.18 percent of total Official Development Assistance (ODA). In order to meet the data requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals, developing countries will need an estimated \$1 billion in statistical support annually from domestic and donor sources.

Population and housing censuses are a primary source of disaggregated data needed to formulate, implement and monitor development policies and programs. During the 10-year period, from 2007 to 2016, 89 percent of countries or areas around the world conducted at least one population and housing census, while 25 countries or areas did not have such a fundamental data source.

During the period from 2010 to 2015, more than half (56 percent) of the world's countries or areas (138 of 246 countries) had birth registration data that were at least 90 percent complete. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 8 of 53 countries reached that level of coverage. During the same period, 144 countries or areas, or 59 percent, had death registration data that were at least 75 percent complete. In sub-Saharan Africa, only 9 in 53 countries met that standard. Even in countries with functioning civil registration systems, coverage of birth and death.

## **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Persons with Disabilities**

As mentioned in the Executive Summary, the post-2015 development agenda was adopted in 2015, ends in 2030, and is referred to as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda is articulated in a 35-page document; applies to all countries; and, includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets and 231 indicators. The SDGs are a universal agenda of sustainable development, calling on all nations to pursue a holistic strategy that combines economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) developed a framework and a list of indicators (i.e., IAEG-SDGs) for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. The IAEG-SDGs were reported to have considered existing efforts by different groups of countries and organizations, including regional and international agencies, regional commissions, academia, civil society and other relevant international organizations. Finally, the IAEG-SDG framework and list of indicators were adopted by the UN Statistical Commission at its 47th Session.

There are seven instances in the SDGs, Targets and/or Indicators with explicit references to persons with disabilities, namely: Goal 1- Poverty, Goal 4- Education, Goal 8- Employment, Goal 10- Reduce Inequalities, Goal 11-Inclusive Cities, Goal 16-Inclusive Societies and Institutions, and Goal 17-Means of Implementation.

The 2030 Agenda stresses that Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review. In the 2030 Agenda, Member States commit to fully engage in conducting regular and inclusive reviews of progress at that national level. National reports will allow assessments of progress and identify challenges and will inform recommendations for follow up at the national, regional and global levels. The 2030 Agenda also underscores that quality and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Such data are key to decision making, as well as to monitoring and reporting on implementation for the achievement of SDGs particularly as related to persons with disabilities.

To be clear, SDG Goal 17 is of particular importance to G3ict's voluntary monitoring and evaluation research endeavors. Member States agree to intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries. Such an agreement is also reflected clearly in target 17.18 which says, "By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and

small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts."

What do we generally know regarding the implementation of disability-specific SDGs and their targets? Do Member States' demonstrate the ability to track and report on the status of those SDGs? How can such achievement be assessed?

## **The G3ict CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report**

G3ict's *CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report* identifies the degree to which each of the dispositions of the CRPD on accessible ICTs and Assistive Technologies (AT) is enacted in local laws, policies and regulations and their impact. The G3ict *CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report* (4th edition) incorporates a set of data against which the 2030 Agenda goals, indicators and targets regarding persons with disabilities can be measured. It includes data points relative to the status of ICT and AT accessibility for each country surveyed. Data is collected and presented within the following three clusters of data points:

- State Party legal and programmatic commitments;
- State Party capacity for implementation;
- Assessment of the State's implementation and actual results for persons with disabilities.

By drawing links between States' commitments and implementation/impact on persons with disabilities and comparing data from various countries, including from other international information and research sources.<sup>1</sup> Results may be used by Member States to improve their implementation of, and achievement with, the 2030 Agenda. For example, governments may use the results to improve the consultation, coordination and meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation processes.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, States could use results to request targeted training and support from their Institutions of Higher Education (IHE). Those IHEs could provide training to DPOs and NGOs, as well as government entities on critical ICT and AT issues in which the country was deemed to be out-of-compliance.

The data may also be used by international bodies as a baseline against which those bodies can estimate or judge, in part, the adequacy and focus of both their 2030 Agenda responsibilities and commitments. International organizations can use the data to foster international cooperation and monitor existing

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<sup>1</sup> E.g., [Global Consultation Report on ICTs and Disability](#) Launched at the U.N. High Level Meeting on Disability and Development. 2013.

<sup>2</sup> See, "Operationalizing the 2030 Agenda: Ways forward to improve monitoring and evaluation of disability inclusion" Technical note by the Secretariat - Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, DSPD, UN DESA. See also, [Monitoring and Evaluation of Inclusive Development](#) Sourced to the UN Statistics Division and Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

needs for accessibility in communities. Furthermore, and in keeping with the conceptual framework and capacity building approach for the U.N. human rights treaty body system, G3ict has standardized its global survey using a structure-process-outcome data collection strategy.

For example, U.N. Specialized Agencies such as UNESCO, ILO, ITU or WHO, and Departments like UN DESA, in their role of providing technical assistance may use the data to identify policies and programs required by the CRPD and expected by the 2030 Agenda and determine how to best engage Member States in the implementation of those policies.

On a regional level, DPOs and NGOs can also use the data to gauge 2030 Agenda achievement, or lack thereof, by governments in order to: Raise the awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing persons with disabilities; facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, good practices, tools and products; and, determine which actions need to be taken to improve implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## Methodology: In Brief

The G3ict Research Committee reviewed the text of the CRPD to identify all provisions that include the terms: Communications, technology, information or information services, accommodation, and access, accessible, and accessibility because Article 9 includes ICTs in its definition of accessibility. Through its analysis, G3ict identified 17 instances of the word “access” or “accessible” or “accessibility” and seven instances of the words “reasonable accommodation” in the text of the CRPD.

Furthermore, in October 2009, the United Nations Secretary-General issued guidelines on the treaty-specific reporting document to be submitted by States Parties under Article 35, paragraph 1, CRPD (CRPD/c/2/3). G3ict identified 52 instances of the word “access” or “accessible” or “accessibility” and five instances of the words “reasonable accommodation” in the text of the Guidelines CRPD/c/2/3.

Once identified, the Committee created an exhaustive listing which included the above provisions redrafted as “audit” items (N=50 items out of which 35 items were selected as variable components) and which also called for an evidentiary justification for the score given for every item. This has been referred to as the Leg #1 audit tool. Next, the Committee created a second set of measurement scoring tool (N= 12 items), which were perceived to be directly related to the ICT provisions of the CRPD identified for the Leg #1 assessment, and which were perceived as representing the basic capacity of a country to implement the ICT provisions of the CRPD. This has been referred to as the Leg # 2 audit tool. Finally, a third measurement scoring tool (N= 10 items) was created in order to represent the systemic and/or individual impact(s) of a country’s fulfillment of the ICT provisions of the CRPD. This has been referred to as the Leg #3 audit tool.

The variables and items ultimately used to construct the 4th edition of the G3ict *CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report* are a subset of those items contained in the three (3) audit tools described previously. Its methodology is based on 11 variables aggregated from 57 data points measuring: Country commitment to a Digital Accessibility Agenda; Capacity to implement it; and, Actual implementation and results.

In 2016, G3ict added specific questions addressing SDG monitoring of disability-specific goals and indicators. Hence, this separate report is made possible. This evaluation was conducted at the country level by advocacy organizations and it is possible that, notwithstanding their solid efforts, existing materials (e.g., relevant data sets) may have been missed due to lack of transparent and/or accessible publicly available information.

## Data Analysis and Discussion

From the 4th edition of G3ict's *CRPD Progress Report* survey the two sets of questionnaires were completed by 113 local correspondents in 106 countries during 2016. The list of participating countries can be found in Annex 1. The 106 countries surveyed have a combined population of 4,318,077,118, meaning that the 2016 Index covers 60 percent of the world population.

**Table 1 - Breakdown of Countries that Responded to the Survey in 2016**

| Global South                |                                  |                                 |                       | Global North |        |               |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|
| 89                          |                                  |                                 |                       | 17           |        |               |
| 84%                         |                                  |                                 |                       | 16%          |        |               |
| Africa                      | North Africa and the Middle East | Latin America and The Caribbean | Asia                  | Oceania      | Europe | North America |
| 31                          | 10                               | 22                              | 22                    | 7            | 13     | 1             |
| 30%                         | 10%                              | 20%                             | 20%                   | 7%           | 12%    | 1%            |
| Very High Human Development | High Human Development           | Medium Human Development        | Low Human Development | Grand Total  |        |               |
| 16                          | 26                               | 29                              | 34                    | 105          |        |               |
| 14%                         | 25%                              | 28%                             | 33%                   | 100%         |        |               |

\*Cook Islands is not included

| High Income | Upper-Middle | Lower-Middle | Low Income | Grand Total |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 20          | 25           | 38           | 21         | 104         |
| 19%         | 24%          | 37%          | 21%        | 100%        |

\* Cook Islands and the State of Palestine are not included



## Global South and Global North Readiness for 2030 Agenda: Key Challenges

While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection. So, countries will develop their own national indicators to assist in monitoring progress made on the goals and targets. Regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level. At the global level, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets of the 2030 Agenda will be monitored and reviewed using a set of global indicators. Persons with disabilities face two major challenges in their quest to be included in their Global South countries' "nascent" implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The first challenge involves the scarcity of the necessary data and information by which progress can be tracked and judged. The second challenge involves the lack of the necessary infrastructure, policies, service and products, to ensure the meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda monitoring and reporting.

Challenge #1. As reflected in Table 2, significant gaps exist among the majority of Global South countries with respect to their reported readiness and preparedness for reporting on key SDGs, Targets, and Indicators which include person with disabilities. SDG implementation for persons with disabilities requires monitoring tools without which requirements, policies and programs cannot be evaluated and reported. Out of 106 States Parties surveyed by Disabled People's International and G3ict in the Spring of 2016:

- 70 percent do not collect any disability data and statistics related to specific SDGs, Targets and Indicators;
- This percentage goes up to 75 percent among the 89 Global South countries included in the survey; and
- Among the 30 percent of countries which collect data, NONE have statistics covering all disability specific SDGs, Targets and Indicators.

While noting considerable global commitment in pre-implementation planning regarding the post-2015 development agenda, we cannot currently know if progress is made regarding actual implementation because only 28 percent of Global South countries (or 25 of 89 countries) participating in G3ict's 2016 *CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report* survey have reported that they do collect disability data and statistics related to specific SDGs, Targets and Indicators (See, Table 2). For 25 Global South countries that report they do collect such disability data and statistics, they indicate they currently are ready and prepared to do so for three of seven SDGs (i.e., Goal 4-Education, Goal 8-Employment, and Goal 11-Inclusive Cities).

SDG 4- Education: Education represents one post-2015 development area with the largest number of the 25 responding Global South countries showing some readiness and preparedness to report on the education status of students with disabilities.

Forty-eight percent (12 of 25) of countries report the number of students with disabilities who have access to education. Less than 12 percent (3 of 25) of countries report the percentage of schools with accessible computers or tablets for internet access. And, 8 percent (2 of 25) countries report the percentage or number of schools with adapted/accessible facilities.

SDG 8- Employment: Employment is a second post-2015 development area for which countries report on the status of persons with disabilities.

Thirty-two percent (8 of 25) of countries report the percentage or rate of unemployment or employment for people with disabilities.

SDG 11 Inclusive Cities: Inclusive cities is a third post-2015 development area for which countries report on the status of persons with disabilities.

Twenty percent (5 of 25) of countries surveyed report the percentage or number of accessible public transportation vehicles.

Sixteen percent (4 of 25) of countries surveyed report the percentage or number of accessible public spaces.

SDG 1- Poverty, SDG 10- Reduce Inequalities, SDG 16- Inclusive Societies and Institutions, and SDG 17- Means of Implementation, that includes+ availability of high-quality, timely and reliable national data: Each of these four SDGs represent post-2015 development areas for which the responding Global South countries indicate no readiness or preparedness to use data to measure and report on the status of persons with disabilities.

Table 2 - Global South &amp; Global North Countries Reporting Partial Readiness and Level of Preparedness to Report Implementation of Disability-related SDGs

| Countries                                    | Unofficial Proxy for<br>SDG Goal 1/Indicator<br>1.3.1: % of PwD<br>receiving benefits | SDG Goal 4/ Indicator<br>4.5.1: % students with<br>disabilities who have<br>access to education | SDG Goal 4/ Indicator<br>4.a.1: % of schools<br>with accessible<br>computers or tablets<br>for Internet access | SDG Goal 4/ Indicator<br>4.a.1: % or # of public<br>schools with adapted/<br>accessible facilities | SDG Goal 8/ Indicator<br>8.5.2: % or rate of<br>unemployment or<br>employment for PwD | Unofficial Proxy for<br>SDG Goal 10/ Indicator<br>11.2.1: % or # of<br>PwDs who vote | SDG Goal 11/ Indicator<br>11.2.1: % or # of<br>accessible public<br>transportation vehicles | SDG Goal 11/Indicator<br>11.7.1: % or # of<br>accessible public | SDG Goal 11/Indicator<br>11.7.1: % or # of<br>accessible public<br>voting venues | SDG Goal 17/Indicator<br>17.18: means of<br>Implementation |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Algeria                                      | Yes   | No  | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Argentina                                    | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Barbados                                     | No  | No  | Yes  | Yes  | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Cameroon                                     | No  | Yes   | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Cape Verde                                   | No  | Yes   | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Colombia                                     | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  | No   | Yes   | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Dominican Republic                           | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Ecuador                                      | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | Yes  | No  | Yes   | Yes  | No   |
| Gabon  | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No   |
| Ghana  | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | Yes   | No  | No   | No   |
| Guatemala                                    | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | Yes  | No   |
| India  | No  | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Jamaica                                      | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | Yes   | No  | Yes  | No   |
| Malaysia                                     | Yes   | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Maldives                                     | Yes   | No  | No   | No   | No  | Yes  | No  | Yes   | Yes  | No   |
| Myanmar                                      | No  | Yes   | No   | No   | No  | Yes  | No  | No  | Yes  | No   |
| Nicaragua                                    | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | No  | Yes  | Yes   | No  | Yes  | No   |
| Palestine                                    | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Qatar  | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | No   | Yes   | No  | Yes  | No   |
| Samoa  | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| South Sudan                                  | No  | Yes   | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | Yes   | No   | No   |
| Sudan  | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No   | Yes   | Yes  | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Turkmenistan                                 | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Vietnam                                      | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| Yemen  | No  | No  | No   | No   | No  | No   | No  | No  | No   | No   |
| "Yes" Subtotals of<br>Global South Countries | 10  | 12  | 3  | 2  | 8   | 5  | 5   | 4   | 7  | 0  |

| <b>Countries</b>                                     | <b>Unofficial Proxy for<br/>SDG Goal 1/Indicator<br/>1.3.1: % of PwD<br/>receiving benefits</b> | <b>SDG Goal 4/ Indicator<br/>4.5.1: % students with<br/>disabilities who have<br/>access to education</b> | <b>SDG Goal 4/ Indicator<br/>4.a.1: % of schools<br/>with accessible<br/>computers or tablets<br/>for Internet access</b> | <b>SDG Goal 4/ Indicator<br/>4.a.1: % of public<br/>schools with adapted/<br/>accessible facilities</b> | <b>SDG Goal 8/ Indicator<br/>8.5.2: % or rate of<br/>unemployment or<br/>employment for PwD</b> | <b>Unofficial Proxy for<br/>SDG Goal 10/ Indicator<br/>11.2.1: % or # of<br/>PwDs who vote</b> | <b>SDG Goal 11/ Indicator<br/>11.2.1: % or # of<br/>accessible public<br/>transportation vehicles</b> | <b>SDG Goal 11/Indicator<br/>11.7.1: % or # of<br/>accessible public</b> | <b>SDG Goal 11/Indicator<br/>11.7.1: % or # of<br/>accessible public<br/>voting venues</b> | <b>SDG Goal 17/Indicator<br/>17.18: means of<br/>Implementation</b> |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Global North Countries</b>                        |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |  |  |   |
| Denmark  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No   | No  | No   | No   | No  |
| France   | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No   | No  | No   | No   | No  |
| Hungary  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No   | No  | No   | No   | No  |
| Malta  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | No   | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | No  |
| Moldova  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No   | No  | No   | No   | No  |
| New Zealand  | No  | Yes   | No  | No  | No  | No   | Yes   | No   | Yes  | No  |
| Portugal   | Yes   | Yes   | No  | No  | No  | No   | No  | No   | No   | No  |
| Russia   | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No  | No   | Yes  | No  |
| Serbia   | Yes   | Yes   | No  | No  | Yes   | No   | No  | No   | No   | No  |
| Singapore  | No  | No  | No  | Yes   | No  | No   | Yes   | No   | No   | No  |
| Slovenia   | No  | No  | No  | Yes   | No  | No   | No  | No   | No   | No  |
| Spain  | Yes   | Yes   | Yes   | No  | Yes   | No   | Yes   | No   | No   | No  |
| Sweden   | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No   | No  | No   | No   | No  |
| <b>"Yes" Subtotals of<br/>Global North Countries</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>1</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>0</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL "Yes" North and<br/>South Countries</b>     | <b>15</b>   | <b>18</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>12</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>9</b>  | <b>5</b>   | <b>10</b>  | <b>0</b>  |

**Challenge #2.** If CRPD Article 33.3 is read in conjunction with Article 4.3, it becomes clear that persons with disabilities must not only be involved in the Convention's monitoring framework of Article 33.2, but also in the coordination mechanism of Article 33.1. In addition, States Parties work on building capacity within society to ensure that DPOs can participate meaningfully in the process of 2030 Agenda implementation and monitoring.

However, data derived from the 4th edition of G3ict's *CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report* - which covers 106 countries - shows that 46 percent of the countries do not have a designated focal point; 93 percent of the countries, do not have a mechanism to involve DPOs; and, 62 percent do not promote awareness raising and training programs (See, Table 3).

**Table 3: Percentage of Countries that Include Persons with Disabilities in the Framework for Monitoring and Reporting**

| Does Your Country Have:   | Yes       | No         |
|---|-----------|------------|
| <b>A systematic mechanism to involve the DPOs (persons with disabilities) working in the field of digital accessibility to the drafting, designing, implementation and evaluation of laws and policies?</b> | <b>7%</b> | <b>93%</b> |

In order for access to the monitoring process to be meaningful, persons with disabilities will require the resources to make use of this access. This means ensuring that accessibility requirements are taken into account, and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is made available in forms that all civil society participants can understand.

Based on data derived from the G3ict's 2016 global survey, a majority of the 106 countries do not have the capacity to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is made available in forms that all civil society participants can understand. Furthermore, a majority of the countries do not have critical accessibility policies, programs, and equipment in place to ensure meaningful access and involvement by persons with disabilities.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The data and information in this report documents critical gaps in countries' readiness and preparedness in their capacity for meaningful monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs by, with and for persons with disabilities. These facts call for the United Nations to fund and support capacity development, training and technical assistance as critical success factors that will enable countries to meaningfully include persons with disabilities in the implementation of the new post-2015 development agenda. The following three recommendations are offered to give effect to this proposition.

**Recommendation #1.** Identify and build on working models and frameworks for including persons with disabilities in 2030 Agenda monitoring and reporting, and build on those effective practices. Existing

procedures and working methods provide a rich bank of experience which can be identified and disseminated so that, in so far as appropriate, they can be put into use by a Member State and its DPOs.

Through methods similar to the ICT Accessibility [Self-Assessment Framework](#) and process, Member States and local stakeholders (e.g., persons with disabilities, DPOs, NGOs), can take the initiative to evaluate their own progress toward domestic conformity with the country commitments to the 2030 Agenda. Self-Assessment can be a constructive way to discover problem areas in extant methods of SDG implementation. The gaps between the reality of the national situation and 2030 Agenda requirements would become clear when Member States scrutinize policy and practice to develop their Self-Assessment reports. After all, the practical effects of 2030 Agenda obligations depend on state actors as all roads lead back to State responsibility.

Self-assessment results and reports can be used to mobilize concerned actors within States to work together to promote the 2030 Agenda, especially if various governmental agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) contribute to the Self-Assessment and reporting process. When working toward improved compliance with the initiative's provisions, concerned organizations should be involved in investigating and monitoring domestic situations. Self-Assessment may facilitate advocacy and needed improvement on many levels by encouraging cooperation among concerned actors within Member States.

In collecting data for the Self-Assessment, a Member State would rely on in-country local assessment teams to complete a formal questionnaire and/or checklist review, in most cases with the assistance of a local lawyer or expert with a mastery of the country's laws, or preferably individuals with experience working on issues involving digital accessibility -- i.e., representative DPO leaders.

The Self-Assessment team would be expected to justify its answers to specific questions during the completion of the in-country questionnaire and checklist. Without a proper justification, the assignment of a score is largely meaningless. In some cases, for example, it will be clear from a simple reading of the excerpted language of the law/legislation/policy that a country's compliance with a related Sustainable Development Goal for that matter is poor or exemplary. But this may not always be the case, and in any event, it cannot be assumed that, based on the text alone, compliance (or non-compliance) will be apparent to a reader with little or no familiarity with a particular country or to someone from a country with a different legal tradition.

**Recommendation #2. Leverage Technology to Develop and Maintain an Active Knowledge Base and Technical Assistance Center on SDGs Monitoring (TAC).** The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals involve long-term endeavors. In most instances, countries with SDGs (e.g., using credible data to track progress towards SDGs) will need ongoing access to experts, training curricula, data collection materials, and an e-body of knowledge about what works and how. The most efficient and cost-effective means to address these needs and to help build local capacity, is to establish an online accessible knowledge base and technical assistance center. As a working hub for those in need of technical assistance and support, the TAC could generally be structured as follows:

| <u>Library</u> | <u>Training Opportunities</u> | <u>Manuals &amp; Instructions</u> | <u>FAQs and Answers</u> | <u>Suggestions</u> | <u>Contact Us</u> |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| General Info   | Events                        | Guidebooks                        | Not just legal          | Lessons learned    | Phone             |
| --written      | -- Self-directed learning     | -- How-to manuals                 | --Policy                | -- What works      | Email             |
| --videos       | -- Classes (time-limited)     | -- Instructional tapes            | --Operational           | -- What doesn't    | Social media      |
| --audio        | -- Workshops                  |                                   | -- Field-oriented       | -- Expert leads    | Other             |

**Recommendation #3. Outreach Regarding the Implementation Status of Recommendations #1 and #2.**

The path forward here simply involves publicly sharing what elements and features of the above two recommendations have been put into effect, and what has been achieved as a result. This should be done by:

- Defining a Country Level Monitoring Framework(s) with Civil Society Participation to be issued at the annual Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP Conference)
- Defining methodology(s) for data collection and disaggregation for all countries in participation with Civil Society, and issuing those methodologies at COSP
- Enrolling the support of U.N. Specialized Agencies in promoting those methodologies among relevant country level government ministries or departments
- Enrolling the support of country level advocacy organizations to ensure that methodologies are implemented
- Publishing an overall SDGs Implementation Dashboard at each COSP

## Annex I: Participating Countries in the G3ict 2016 CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report Survey

|                                      |  |  |                                     |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Afghanistan</u>                   | <u>Egypt, Arab Republic of</u>           | <u>Liberia</u>                         | <u>Qatar</u>                        | <u>United States of America</u> |
| <u>Algeria</u>                       | <u>El Salvador</u>                       | <u>Malaysia</u>                        | <u>Russia</u>                       | <u>Uzbekistan</u>               |
| <u>Angola</u>                        | <u>Ethiopia</u>                          | <u>Malawi</u>                          | <u>Samoa</u>                        | <u>Vanuatu</u>                  |
| <u>Antigua and Barbuda</u>           | <u>Fiji</u>                              | <u>Maldives</u>                        | <u>Senegal</u>                      | <u>Vietnam</u>                  |
| <u>Argentina</u>                     | <u>France</u>                            | <u>Mali</u>                            | <u>Serbia</u>                       | <u>Yemen, Republic of</u>       |
| <u>Bangladesh</u>                    | <u>Gabon</u>                             | <u>Malta</u>                           | <u>Sierra Leone</u>                 | <u>Zambia</u>                   |
| <u>Barbados</u>                      | <u>Gambia, The</u>                       | <u>Mauritania</u>                      | <u>Singapore</u>                    |                                 |
| <u>Benin</u>                         | <u>Germany</u>                           | <u>Mauritius</u>                       | <u>Slovenia</u>                     |                                 |
| <u>Bhutan</u>                        | <u>Ghana</u>                             | <u>Mexico</u>                          | <u>Solomon Islands</u>              |                                 |
| <u>Burkina Faso</u>                  | <u>Guatemala</u>                         | <u>Micronesia, Federated States of</u> | <u>South Sudan</u>                  |                                 |
| <u>Burundi</u>                       | <u>Guinea</u>                            | <u>Moldova</u>                         | <u>Spain</u>                        |                                 |
| <u>Cambodia</u>                      | <u>Guyana</u>                            | <u>Mongolia</u>                        | <u>Sri Lanka</u>                    |                                 |
| <u>Cameroon</u>                      | <u>Hungary</u>                           | <u>Morocco</u>                         | <u>St. Kitts &amp; Nevis</u>        |                                 |
| <u>Cape Verde</u>                    | <u>Kyrgyz Republic</u>                   | <u>Myanmar</u>                         | <u>St. Lucia</u>                    |                                 |
| <u>Chad</u>                          | <u>Haiti</u>                             | <u>Nepal</u>                           | <u>Sudan</u>                        |                                 |
| <u>Colombia</u>                      | <u>Honduras</u>                          | <u>New Zealand</u>                     | <u>Suriname</u>                     |                                 |
| <u>Congo, Republic of</u>            | <u>India</u>                             | <u>Nicaragua</u>                       | <u>Sweden</u>                       |                                 |
| <u>Congo, Democratic Republic of</u> | <u>Iraq</u>                              | <u>Niger</u>                           | <u>Syrian Arab Republic</u>         |                                 |
| <u>Cook Islands</u>                  | <u>Jamaica</u>                           | <u>Nigeria</u>                         | <u>Tajikistan</u>                   |                                 |
| <u>Costa Rica</u>                    | <u>Japan</u>                             | <u>Pakistan</u>                        | <u>Tanzania, United Republic of</u> |                                 |
| <u>Cote D'Ivoire</u>                 | <u>Jordan</u>                            | <u>Palestine, State of</u>             | <u>Togo</u>                         |                                 |
| <u>Denmark</u>                       | <u>Kenya</u>                             | <u>Panama</u>                          | <u>Trinidad and Tobago</u>          |                                 |
| <u>Dominica</u>                      | <u>Lao, People's Democratic Republic</u> | <u>Peru</u>                            | <u>Tunisia</u>                      |                                 |
| <u>Dominican Republic</u>            | <u>Lebanon</u>                           | <u>Philippines</u>                     | <u>Turkmenistan</u>                 |                                 |
| <u>Ecuador</u>                       | <u>Lesotho</u>                           | <u>Portugal</u>                        | <u>United Kingdom</u>               |                                 |