

G3ICT

Smart Cities for All Initiative

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Talking Points

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The right of persons with disabilities to accessibility should be perceived as a matter of human rights issue. The right has been granted through a number of articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, mainly article 9, and across other articles as well.

Accessibility is also recognized among the main aspects of urban development according to goal 11 of the Sustainable Development agenda 2030. The SDGs have also recognized the right of persons with disabilities to accessibility, particularly in areas of education, health care, gender equity, and urban development and resilience. Habitat3 on Urban development is another important platform to recognize the need for promoting the language and standards of disability inclusion in urban development planning, policies, and programs.

It is much easier to recognize the essential adoption of disability inclusion, accessibility, and safety at the outset stage of urban development and throughout. Pursuing the business model for ensuring disability inclusion in urban development is a rather effective communication strategy to convince different stakeholders, particularly in both public and private sector-based entities, and thus motivate them to get involved in related innovative initiatives.

Ensuring the adoption of both language and standards on accessibility through any procurement policies and programming is crucial for enhancing opportunities of disability inclusion through all stages of urban development. Adopting disability inclusive procurement strategy is also necessary to the availability of minimum infrastructure of an equally accessibility urban environment. This strategy should be equally relevant in all aspects of accessibility whether digital or physical.

Outreach to and building partnerships with relevant stakeholders is an essentially helpful strategy to ensure successful disability inclusive urban development-based operations. End Users i.e., persons with disabilities, their families, and their representative organizations should be considered key among these stakeholders. Persons with disabilities, their families, and their representative organizations are key source regarding disability inclusion and accessibility knowledge and data. They should be present at all levels of urban development decision-making mechanisms.