

8.3 ACFID Resolution 3-2019

RESOLUTION on Disability-Inclusive Development and the aid program

Pre-Amble

- i. The UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development released in late 2018 found that people with disabilities are still disadvantaged compared with those without disabilities in the global, regional and national efforts towards the achievements of the SDGs.
- ii. For over a decade, Australia has been a global leader at the forefront of advancing disability inclusion in international development policy and practice and driving international momentum to include people with disabilities as key agents of development. Australia's Development for All strategies have been foundational to this global leadership.
- iii. The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) evaluation released in 2018 stated that good progress was made in strengthening disability inclusion under the Development for All strategies across the past decade with inclusive development 'now a crosscutting priority'. However, the evaluation also noted that 'the Australian aid program is still far from being fully disability inclusive' and sustained efforts are central to Australia maintaining and advancing on the achievements made.
- iv. Australia's consistent leadership on disability-inclusive development is now more important than ever. As the ODE evaluation reported, 'Much work remains to ensure people with disabilities are treated as equal citizens but strong leadership from Australia will no doubt help advance the cause.
- v. Disability-inclusive development supports people with disabilities in claiming their human rights and in being active members of society. It ensures that people with disabilities are meaningful participants of all development and humanitarian programming and policies.
- vi. When implemented well, the Development for All strategy has a substantial soft power role to play as it guides Australian aid to broker new regional and global partnerships, strengthens national systems, and brings about normative change with Australian values of inclusion at its core.
- vii. By prioritising these efforts not only in direct aid investments, but also in diplomatic engagement at events such as the UN Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Australia has emerged as 'one of the most effective advocates for implementation and enforcement of the CRPD.
- viii. The current Development for All strategy is due to expire in 2020.

Resolutions

We encourage the Australian Government to:

- i. Commit to a third Development for All strategy that will build on success to date and guide their continued leadership, advocacy, support and implementation of disability-inclusive development through the Australian development and humanitarian programs.
- ii. Ensure that a third strategy is designed and implemented in partnership with people with disabilities and their representative organisations. Consultations should encompass those currently benefitting from aid investments, as well as ensuring inclusion of diverse members of the disability movement, including commonly marginalised groups and those from rural and remote areas.
- iii. Recognise that over the past decade the disability rights movement across the Indo-Pacific has strengthened, and that the priorities of the movement are central to that of the next strategy.

We reaffirm that:

- i. Australia has commitments under the CRPD (article 32) to ensure that international cooperation, including international development program, is inclusive of and accessible to people with disabilities;
- ii. Agenda 2030 is an inclusive agenda that specifically includes people with disabilities. To achieve SDG targets people with disabilities must be actively included in development efforts, contributing to and benefitting equally from progress made.
- iii. Australian development agencies are united by the desire to see a more inclusive world and consider it vital for disability inclusion to continue as a core component of the Australian international development and humanitarian program.

ACFID Council resolves to:

Engage with our supporters and partners to highlight the inclusion of people with disabilities in aid and development programs from policy and programming through to implementation and evaluation.

Advocate for Australia to continue its global leadership in disability-inclusive development and meet its global commitments under the CRPD and SDGs.

Acknowledge that disability-inclusive development is an important aspect of the Australian aid and development program. The introduction of a third Development for All strategy is considered integral to meeting Australia's commitments to the rights of people with disabilities living in poverty.

Moved: Jane Edge, CBM Australia

Seconded: Kylie Mines, Motivation Australia