



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Resolution 2023 -1
Disability Equity & Rights
ACFID AGM 2023

Preamble

- I. For more than 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.
- II. Australia's leadership in this space has been hollowing out over recent years. There has been a lack of strategic direction, following the expiry of the second Development for All strategy in 2021, after it was extended beyond the original end point of 2020. Funding for disability inclusive development has also stagnated, and at times reduced.
- III. The most recent evaluation of Australia's investment in disability inclusive development, conducted by the Office of Development Effectiveness in 2018, found that while good progress was made in strengthening disability inclusion under the Development for All strategies, '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. Since that time, the combination of the escalating climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and economic crises have had severe and ongoing impacts on people with disabilities in the Indo-Pacific, resulting in the risk and reality of them being left to fall even further behind in development efforts.
- V. The disability movement, with strong leadership from the Pacific, is calling for a step beyond tick box inclusion, toward equity and rights for people with disabilities. This is more than a seat at the table for people with disabilities, it is the shape of the table being changed to enable full and equal participation and leadership.

- VI. This shift toward equity and rights requires that disability equity is both the ultimate outcome and the point of origin of development approaches, driving investment and decision-making from the outset. That requires a significant shift in the scale and nature of Australia's engagement in disability equity throughout the development program.

Resolutions

Encourage Australia Government to:

- a. Ensure that the vision, commitments and resourcing of the forthcoming Disability Equity and Rights strategy are commensurate with the scale required to make measurable and substantive contributions toward equity and rights outcomes of people with disabilities in the Indo-Pacific region.
- b. Commit to establishing funding requirements and performance targets for disability equity that mirror those in place for climate change and gender equality which were identified, along with disability equity, as core areas for action in the Australian Government's new International Development policy.

Council resolves to:

- a. Acknowledge, in solidarity with the disability movement, the shift from a focus on inclusion to one on disability equity and rights and acknowledge that this comes from a desire to accelerate progress toward full and equal participation and leadership by people with disabilities.
- b. Continue to strengthen analysis, investment, and approaches toward disability equity across the Australian international development sector.

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ENDS