

Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Issue: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities

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Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Esteemed delegates,

My name is Danai Galatsopoulou, and I have the pleasure of serving as a Co-Chair in this year's Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3) of the 4th session of DSTMUN. I am an IB1 student in Anatolia College, hence my experience in MUN covers both the aspects of a Delegate and a Student Officer.

During the conference, you are going to discuss and debate upon very fundamental issues of our time that involve our global community. Through your contributions, we can attempt to resolve worldwide humanitarian crises and inequalities that have affected UN Member States for years. This is also an incredible opportunity for each of you to further ameliorate your English skills, meet new people your age, develop new friendships, and have the chance to debate upon critical issues that affect the current global legislative, cultural, humanitarian and political climate.

This study guide will provide insight about the topic, which is realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, but it's only the starting point for your research. We expect you all to come with various information and points of views according to your delegations and you should not limit your research only on this document.

In case of any questions or clarifications about the guide or the conference in general don't hesitate to contact me through my email which is 20097176@student.anatolia.edu.gr.

I am looking forward in meeting you all,

Kind Regards,

Danai Galatsopoulou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

A large proportion of the world's population binds to the term Persons with Disabilities. In their daily life, persons with disabilities face multiple functional difficulties, resulting in exclusion and unacceptance in some social hierarchies. In addition, discrimination and violence have become a major part of these peoples life seemingly with no improvements prevailing at the moment. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) tackle this discrimination in order to facilitate and lead the way to a wide-ranged acceptance and equality towards peoples with disabilities in society, and eliminate any discrimination directed towards them. The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 international goals that aim to be "a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all"¹, and one of their principles is to "leave no one behind"². The SDGs have developed opportunities for engagement and recognition for people with disabilities.

The first Sustainable Development Goal which tackles problems persons with disabilities face is Sustainable Development Goal 4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All. This SDG refers to the opportunity of children having equal access to education, despite their gender, ethnicity, financial and social status, and environment. The target that mentions people with disabilities is Sustainable Development Goal 4 Target 4.a, which aims to "Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all"³. This target ensures that in all educational institutions the facilities are safe and accessible for disabled children.

One other Sustainable Development Goal that incorporates the human rights deserved by people with disabilities is the 8th one: Promote Sustained Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment, and Decent Work for all.⁴ It is a goal that refers to the employment conditions and opportunities for every individual, including persons with disabilities. The sub-Target 8.5, which by 2030 is to achieve Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for all women

¹ United Nations (2017) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 July 2017, [Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(A/RES/71/313 Archived](#) 28 November 2020 at the [Wayback Machine](#))

² "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Disability Enable." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-and-disability.html, <https://wecapable.com/sdgs-disability-sustainable-development-goals/>

³ United Nations. (n.d.). *Goal 4 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. United Nations. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4>.

⁴ United Nations. (n.d.). *Goal 8 | Department of economic and social affairs*. United Nations. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>.

and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, as well as equality in salary and wages for jobs that entail equal value.

In addition, SDG 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries, refers to inequalities and discrimination between countries and their members. It consists of specific targets that provide means of eliminating inequalities, as well as various forms of inequalities, such as Sustainable Development Goal 10 Target 10.2, which says that by 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.⁵

Furthermore, SDG 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable, refers to the sustainability of cities and communities after, taking into consideration all elements from which cities and communities consist of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 Target 11.2, which states that by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons and Sustainable Development Goal 11 Target 11.7, By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.⁶

Lastly, Sustainable Development Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, refers to the importance and the impact of all the other goals.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Disability

Commonly described as any condition of the body or mind that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities and interact with the world around them.⁷ Disability is when an area of the body is damaged and

⁵ United Nations. (n.d.). *Goal 10 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. United Nations. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10>

⁶ United Nations. (n.d.). *Goal 11 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. United Nations. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11>

⁷ "Disability and Health Overview." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 16 Sept. 2020, [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability.html#:~:text=A%20disability%20is%20any%20condition,around%20them%20\(participation%20restrictions\)](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability.html#:~:text=A%20disability%20is%20any%20condition,around%20them%20(participation%20restrictions)).

cannot fully function, or there is a mental impairment that includes cognitive and learning difficulties.

Persons with disabilities

People with disabilities often have a difficulty in functioning either physically or mentally. 'People who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others⁸. They are a vulnerable minority of the community that often experience discrimination. A way of ensuring better living conditions for the people with disabilities is through the Sustainable Development Goals.

Types of disabilities

There are different types of disabilities, that can be both mental and physical. The most common ones are physical disabilities, that include audiovisual difficulties and physiological disabilities, and mental disabilities that include mental health conditions, and cognitive disabilities. It is important that all types of disabilities are acknowledged and highlighted in order to improve the living conditions for the people that suffer from them.

Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the United Nations adopted 17 goals, known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which include specific sub-targets that ensure that by 2030, Peace, Prosperity and Safety will be granted worldwide. The first one is No Poverty, the second one is Zero Hunger, the third one is Good Health and Well-Being, the fourth one is Quality Education, the fifth one is Gender Equality, the sixth one is Clean Water and Sanitation, the seventh one is Affordable and Clean Energy, the eighth one is Decent Work and Economic Growth, the ninth one is Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, the tenth one is Reduced Inequalities, the eleventh is Sustainable Cities and Communities, the twelfth is Responsible Consumption and Production, the thirteenth is Climate Action, the fourteenth is Life Below Water, the fifteenth is Life on Land, the sixteenth is Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and the last one is Partnership for the Goals.⁹

Marginalization

⁸ "UN Enable - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/faqs.htm.

⁹ "THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development." *United Nations*, United Nations, sdgs.un.org/goals.

The act of treating someone or something as if they are not important;¹⁰ a process of social exclusion in which individuals or groups are relegated to the fringes of a society, being denied economic, political, and/or symbolic power and pushed towards being 'outsiders'¹¹. When people are marginalized, they face exclusion from society and are unwanted for some characteristics they have. A great percentage of people with disabilities experience marginalization in their local community, which has as a result their exclusion from the society. The SDGs aim to improve marginalization and reduce discrimination to people with disabilities.

Universal Healthcare

All people have access to healthcare services and facilities whenever and wherever they need, without financial adversity. Universal healthcare entails that all people have access to all basic medical services such as health promotion, prevention, diagnosis, treatment of conditions and rehabilitation, with financial help when needed. Many people with disabilities cannot seek treatment for their condition due to their limited financial situation, so they get even more marginalized and their condition worsens.

Accessibility

Accessibility is when all people, despite having disabilities, have access to all facilities and services everyone is entitled to, such as education, healthcare, safety, without difficulties. People with disabilities often experience issues with accessibility and the SDGs aim to improve accessibility for all individuals, in all sectors.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals were established in 2012 at Rio de Janeiro, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.¹² All the Sustainable Development Goals have sub-targets, which aim to specify the issue within different societies and circumstances, and tackle more approaches related to each goal. More specifically, the targets that are included in the Sustainable Development Goals 4: Quality Education, 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, 10:

¹⁰ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/marginalization>

¹¹ <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100133827>

¹² *Background of the Sustainable Development Goals.* UNDP. (n.d.). [https://www1.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/background.html#:~:text=The%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20\(SDGs,economic%20challenges%20facing%20our%20world.](https://www1.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/background.html#:~:text=The%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20(SDGs,economic%20challenges%20facing%20our%20world.)

Reduced Inequalities, 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and 17: Partnership for the Goals, specifically mention people with disabilities and ensure that the goals can be applied to them equally. As people with disabilities have been facing exclusion from society, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established to assure their inclusion in the society.

Mental Disabilities

Mental Disabilities were not acknowledged until 2015¹³, where they were included in the Sustainable Development Goals. An organization that played an important role in the inclusion of mental disabilities in the SDGs is FundaMentalSDG, where members of the groups defended mental health and urged international leaders to include targets and goals related to mental health. In the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, where the resolution regarding the SDG's was adopted, the United Nations declared mental health a priority to achieve sustainability by 2030.

Accessibility

Accessibility is a major issue that people with disabilities face daily. The sustainable development goals have as one of their targets to assure accessibility for everyone. More than half of the schools worldwide are not accessible for wheelchairs, and 61% of the websites that exist are not user friendly for people with audiovisual disabilities. However, there are targets, such as 4.a: Build disability sensitive education facilities, 11.2: Provide accessible transport systems and 11.7: Provide accessible public and green spaces, which ensure accessibility for everyone.

Accessibility and Autism

Autism is a commonly stigmatized disability. The rates of bullying in people with autism is one of the highest than any other cognitive disability. People that suffer from autism need to be in very controlled environments in regard to sensory and intellectual stimuli. Since Autism has as a side effect distraction, facilities and accommodations need to be compatible for people with autism. There should not be destructive objects that include multiple colors, movement and sounds, so people don't get distracted, and in more severe situations, face crisis.

¹³ Votruba, N., Thornicroft, G., & FundaMentalSDG Steering Group. (2016, September 9). *Sustainable development goals and mental health: learnings from the contribution of the FundaMentalSDG global initiative*. Global mental health (Cambridge, England). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5454784/>.



Figure 1: Access for Persons with Disabilities

Education

Children with disabilities face inequalities through education in all countries and continents. Educational facilities are not always accessible for all types of disabilities, and many families cannot financially support the education of their disabled children due to increased costs for medical assistance and treatment. However, in cases where children are provided with education, they often experience inequalities in the school environment and face exclusion from activities. Another common issue faced is the stigma that exists, which results in children being socially distant from their peers with disabilities and not including them in their groups and teamwork activities. For example, in subjects that contain physical activity such as Physical Education, students with kinetic and physiological disabilities get excluded from all the activities, which may lead to isolation and discrimination. In terms of grades, there is the negative stigma that students with any kind of disability cannot perform as well as the non-disabled students, and this influences their confidence and self-image, possibly resulting in lower scores on assignments and tests.

Education and Disability All Over the World

Children with disabilities are less likely to attend school than those without one, having a difference of 44% and 97% in Vietnam and 53% and 98% in Indonesia. Overall, disabled students worldwide tend to have less

years of attendance in school and rate of completion. It has also been proven through studies that in some cases, women with disabilities have lower literacy rates than men with disabilities.¹⁴

Education and Accessibility in Lebanon

As enforced by law, schools should be accessible for all people with disabilities in Lebanon. However, 85%¹⁵ of all children with disabilities do not complete all years of elementary school due to lack of accessibility in educational facilities. During the pandemic, individuals who suffer from cognitive disabilities in Lebanon have faced a great improvement with online studying, as due to programs that moved online, they had access and assistance from instructors and therapists for their education.

Education and Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a learning and cognitive disability that causes problems in learning abilities such as writing, spelling, and reading. It has been found that about 20%¹⁶ of the world's population suffers from dyslexia, which negatively impacts and poses difficulties on mostly their academic life. In order to improve the educational conditions for students who suffer from dyslexia, adjustments in the academic environment have been made. Nowadays students are allowed to submit assignments in alternative formats such as voice recording. In some private schools curriculums like easier level maths or learning support has been enforced. Moreover, year groups that sit exams may facilitate their dyslexic students with a separate room for utmost concentration, or even provide extra time to finish an exam. In addition, the material is now taught in more interactive ways that contain visual graphs and pictures and sensory technology.

Employment

¹⁴ "Disability and Employment Enable." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/factsheet-on-persons-with-disabilities/disability-and-employment.html.

¹⁵ Philipp, Jennifer. "Disability and Poverty in Lebanon." *The Borgen Project*, Jennifer Philipp https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The_Borgen_Project_Logo_small.Jpg, 19 Feb. 2021, borgenproject.org/disability-and-poverty-in-lebanon/.

¹⁶ "Dyslexia FAQ." *Yale Dyslexia*, dyslexia.yale.edu/dyslexia/dyslexia-faq/

Adults with disabilities face inequalities in employment as companies and employers tend not to hire people with disabilities. Consequently, around 12.6%¹⁷ of the global population with disabilities is unemployed, making it a higher percentage in relation to the unemployment rate of non-disabled people. Employed people with disabilities are lower paid than non-disabled people, and are often offered positions with lower responsibilities and authority. Commonly, the facilities that people with disabilities work in are not suitable and cannot cover their needs in regards to accessibility.

Employment and Disabilities in Lebanon

There are established Lebanese Laws that set quotas for the number of disabled people that should be employed by a company. However, due to inappropriate facilities this number enforced by the quota cannot be met and the government does not impose the law to the marketplace resulting in a high percentage of unemployment.

Employment and Disabilities Worldwide

In Asia and the Pacific, there are cases where the unemployment rate of people with disabilities reaches 80%, double than the general population's unemployment rate. In the United Kingdom, one fifth of the total working age population are people with disabilities, and there is a three times more likely chance to be without employment, despite their qualifications and experience.

Factors that increase the chance of disability

Poverty

One significant factor that may increase the risk of disability is poverty. Poverty typically results in malnutrition, decreased access to education and employment, with lower quality educational and working conditions, unsafe living environment and lack of healthcare and sanitation. It also has psychological effects on people who live under impoverished conditions. With a GDP of 558¹⁸, the Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the poorest countries in the world, located in Sub-Saharan Africa. The constant conflicts with Belgium in the past have resulted in economic

¹⁷ "Persons with a Disability: Labor Force Characteristics Summary." *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 24 Feb. 2021, www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.nr0.htm

¹⁸ FocusEconomics. "The Poorest Countries in the World (2019-2023)." *FocusEconomics | Economic Forecasts from the World's Leading Economists*, 7 Mar. 2018, www.focus-economics.com/blog/the-poorest-countries-in-the-world.

development, and with COVID-19 striking, the situation worsened. Another effect of poverty is children's malnutrition. Many diseases have been developed due to the lack of specific foods, such as Kwashiorkor, which is a severe form of malnutrition when there is lack of protein. It is common in the Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), and especially in Afghanistan with a 30.7% rate of malnutrition and Chad with 44.7%¹⁹.

Poverty and Physical Disability

Disability is often characterized both as a cause and a consequence of poverty. Living in poverty can result in physical disabilities, as impoverished areas are more likely to have insufficient access to resources such as clean water and healthcare. Such poor living conditions can result in unhealthy self-conditions, finally, resulting in physical disability.

Conflict

Another factor is conflicted countries. Whenever countries are in a conflict situation, they tend to have more people with disabilities and face more inequalities. They are unprovided with healthcare and sanitation which results in more deaths and mental disabilities as well. In times of conflict, countries undergo multiple destructions, such as the ruining of infrastructures. When an issue in infrastructure occurs, such as the destruction of hospitals, the chances of disability are much higher. Individuals do not have access to healthcare services, equipment and personnel, causing disabilities. For instance, Afghanistan, is considered to be the worst conflict affected country as it has the highest rates of killing and injuring of children, recruitment of children, attacks on public services such as schools and hospitals and lack of access to humanitarian support like basic healthcare.

Conflict and Poverty

There is a correlation between poverty and conflict, which can also result in disability. In times of conflict, the countries involved suffer from great damages in all sectors such as economic, humanitarian, medical, political, and cultural. In order to fix and replace all the lost facilities, infrastructures and heritage, great amounts of money are spent by the government that was originally planned to be invested somewhere else.

¹⁹ Published by M. Szmigiera, and Mar 30. "Global Hunger Index 2020: Countries Most Affected by Hunger." *Statista*, 30 Mar. 2021, www.statista.com/statistics/269924/countries-most-affected-by-hunger-in-the-world-according-to-world-hunger-index/.

These additional investments on the improvement of living conditions can increase the poverty rate and decrease the quality of life even more.

Conflict and Shell Shock

Shell Shock was a condition prevailing during World War I, which is similar to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It was a term used to describe when soldiers could not function completely anymore, without any obvious cause. Nowadays that PTSD has been officially characterized and identified as a mental disability, and is similar to shell shock, is another example of how conflicts can increase the risk of disability. A shocking and traumatic event can cause mental disabilities for life that will have implications on daily functioning.

Disabilities in COVID-19

COVID-19 has had a major impact on people with disabilities. Since people with disabilities have underlying health conditions, they tend to be vulnerable to Covid-19 and they experience it with more severe symptoms. They are also more vulnerable since they need to visit medical facilities more often than tend to have Covid-19 patients. With Covid-19 came the closing down of transport systems. What this means is an increased lack of access to transportation for people with disabilities.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

China

In China, more than 82.96 million²⁰ people are disabled, which is approximately 7% of the whole population. The past years there has been great improvement in China's treatment towards people with disabilities. Multiple positive legislations, laws, quota systems, organizations and facilities have been developed in the past years in order to improve the living conditions and social status of people with disabilities in China. The legislation strongly promotes and includes their employment conditions and job opportunities. In addition, taxation authorities have been offering financial assistance to people with disabilities in order to be able to finance their medical needs and also have the opportunity of self-employment. However, they still remain a vulnerable group and face various challenges and difficulties in society. People with disabilities face bias and discrimination, as they are affected by the existing stereotypes, and there is a gap between their living

²⁰ "Facts on People with Disabilities in China." ILO, ILO, http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-beijing/documents/publication/wcms_142315.pdf

conditions and other people's. Disabled people receive lower education and the unemployment rate is high.

United Kingdom (UK)

In the UK, 14.1 million people have disabilities. The living conditions are not as beneficial as China's. People with disabilities tend to be twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people, their living costs are £583 more, and the poverty rate is higher in people with disabilities than non-disabled people.

Overall, they feel the stigma and the discrimination projected by the media, the government and the society, and this has a result to make them less productive and be victims of prejudice.

Canada

In Canada, more than 22% of the population is identified as people with disabilities. Only 59% of the disabled population is employed, compared to the 80% of the non-disabled people that are employed. A new legislation has been adopted, called the Accessible Canada Act, that aims to improve accessibility. It will create a country without barriers, starting off with situations where citizens have an interaction with areas under federal jurisdiction. With this legislation, there is the opportunity to adopt new regulations that will benefit disabled people in terms of telecommunication, transportation and banking. Finally, the legislation aims to remove any barriers to accessibility.²¹

Syria

In Syria over 27% of the population is identified as disabled. Only a limited percentage of disabled kids (44%) have access to education, which is limited, and they get to have the most absences. 62% are unemployed or have limited positions, power, and rights in their job environment. In order to cope and improve their living

²¹ Morris, Stuart, et al. "This Profile Article Is the First Main Release by Statistics Canada Based on Findings from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability. It Is Divided into Three Sections - Demographics, Employment, and Income - and Provides a General Snapshot on Persons with Disabilities to Inform on Emerging Government Priorities (Such as Opportunity for All: Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy; Government of Canada, 2018) and Community Interest in the Areas of Disability Prevalence, Labour Market Participation, and Income Inequality." *A Demographic, Employment and Income Profile of Canadians with Disabilities Aged 15 Years and over, 2017*, Government of Canada, Statistics Canada, 28 Nov. 2018, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2018002-eng.htm.

conditions, people with disabilities tend to enforce child labor, to increase their income, sell properties, receive financial help from organizations and receive assistance from the local community.²²

European Commission

The European Commission is the part of the European Union, which is responsible for enforcing legislations and laws. It funds multiple Non-Governmental Organizations that are responsible for the protection of the rights of people with disabilities and for the improvement of their living conditions. The European Commission has contributed multiple times in the protection of the rights of disabled people, as they get to pass and enforce laws that protect these rights in all sectors such as employment, education, healthcare and politics.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD

OECD is a global policy forum that promotes policies in order to improve the economic and social wellbeing of people all around the world. It supports projects, and legislations that promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the society, in the employment section, in education and in accessibility in general.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
December 10, 1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
March 22, 1950	“Social rehabilitation of the physically handicapped” “Social rehabilitation of the blind”
December 20, 1971	Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons, adopted by the General Assembly
December 9, 1975	Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons
1981	International Year of Disabled Persons

²² “Disability: Prevalence and Impact.” *Humanitarian Needs and Assessment Program* , HNAP, www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/Disability_Prevalence-and-Impact_FINAL-2.pdf.

December 3, 1982	The General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons
March 15, 1989	Tallinn Guidelines for action on Human Resources Development in the Field of Disability”
December 20, 1993	Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
June 25, 1993	The World Conference on Human Rights saw the generation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action ²⁶ , adopted by the General Assembly to advance the human rights in line with the changing scope of society
March 12, 1995	The World Summit for Social Development adopted the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, ²⁸ which stipulates that developments in economics, social and environmental are mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.
May 3 2008	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
September 2015	Mental Health was included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Resolution 2475- The rights of disabled people in conflict - Security Council

Aims at the protection of disabled people in countries with conflict, protecting their rights and their inclusion in decision making, in regard to humanitarian issues. It was established in 2019 and was unanimously adopted.

Resolution (A/RES/73/220)- Flagship report on disability and development: Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities

This resolution requests a report submitted to the General Assembly including all national policies, programs and organizations regarding the progress made in addressing the internationally agreed documents that aim at persons with disabilities.

Resolution in the 75th session, 2020-2021- inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities

This resolution aims at the constant development of the living conditions of all persons with disabilities in the upcoming years, while focusing on accessibility and inclusion.

Resolution (A/74/246) Accessibility and the status of the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol thereto

This resolution recognizes and improves the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Optional Protocol related to the Convention, while focusing on accessibility.

Resolution (A/RES/72/163)- Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: situation of women and girls with disabilities

This resolution aims at the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol, related to the convention, however it aims specifically at females suffering from disabilities. It is very important because it emphasizes and implements their rights and ensures better living conditions for them.

Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons

The document that officially declared and recognized the rights of people with mental disabilities. It was established on the 20th of December in 1971 and was proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. It recognizes multiple types of mental disabilities and acknowledges their rights to everyday life, accessibility, and medical care.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

It is an internationally signed treaty which supports the rights of people with disabilities and the responsibility of international and national organizations to protect and emphasize these rights.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

This convention aims at the promotion, security, insurance, and protection of all human rights for people with disabilities. It Was adopted in 2006 and was in use in 2008, with 165 states ratifying it. Since the CRPD was adopted, awareness has been raised regarding both mental and physical disabilities and its impact on sustainable development. It has been used as a basis for the creation of several organizations, such as the International Disability Alliance (IDA). With the adoption of the CRPD, all nations have included the rights of disabled people, up to an extended level, in their society, as well as created multiple programs which aim at development. However, because of the frequently unrealistic goals that CRPD has as its agenda, there is difficulty in always being up to date and promoting the rights of people with disabilities.

In 2012, the United States failed to ratify the CRPD. The main reason for this failure was that local organizations that were opposed to the CRPD misinformed its members, and members of the local community that the ratification of the convention would be opposing parental rights and would influence the already existing laws.

European Commission's Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

A strategy which was established on the 3rd of March 2021, is the extension of the Disability Strategy 2010-2020. It contributes to the establishment of the objectives that the European Union has set regarding the improvement of the daily life of people with disabilities.

This strategy has proven successful since the European Union has funded with great amounts of money international partnerships related to sustainability and sustainable development, that include aspects such as Climate Change, Peace, Safety, Human Rights and Democracy in all European Union countries, and all of the partnerships include people with disabilities.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Raising Awareness about the Conventions

Enforce and support the implementation of the aforementioned conventions through legislations and informational campaigns. By raising awareness about the already established conventions, more and more people can support it and take action in favor of them and promote them to others.

Raising Awareness about the Rights of Disabled People

Promotion of human rights of disabled persons in the educational, health, employment and social protection sectors. It should be commonly acknowledged by everyone that human rights are rights for all. Not everyone is the same, but everyone deserves the same respect; a message that must be promoted in schools, universities, and the aforementioned sectors.

Government Intervention and Multinational Corporations

Governments can mitigate and eliminate the negative stigma surrounding PWDs in communities by offering more employment opportunities, promoting them in public and in campaigns, such as political ones, and creating more convenient installations for their everyday life.

When well established multinationals and big companies hire employees with disabilities, they do not only enhance their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), but actually generate a more inclusive and friendly environment, which may benefit them in regards to employee motivation and quality of output, but also promote diversity, setting precedents and influences for further generations to adopt similar policies. They will attract more customers, as they will be projected as more sensitive and socially responsible companies, and as a result they will have higher profits. The government benefits from the profits of the businesses as they collect taxes and also the economy of the country is boosted.

Funding in different sectors

Organizations that are responsible for promoting and protecting the rights of people with disabilities can fund projects that will benefit disabled people by improving their everyday living conditions. For instance, in public places such as schools, hospitals, parks, cultural locations and infrastructures, they can fund projects in order to make them more accessible for everyone. In addition, these organizations will be able to agree with medical facilities, like hospitals and

rehabilitation centers, to financially aid people with disabilities by offering discounts for diagnosis and treatment, as to be afforded by everyone.

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