**WBU FAQ SHEETS ON UN AND HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS**

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and post 2015 Development agenda**

### **What are the Millennium Development Goals?**

* The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the **Millennium Declaration** that was adopted by 189 nations-and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the [**UN Millennium Summit**](http://www.un.org/millennium/) in September 2000. The eight MDGs break down into **21 quantifiable targets** that are measured by **60 indicators**.
1. **Which are the 8 millennium development goals?**
* [Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger](http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal1.shtml)
* [Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education](http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal2.shtml)
* [Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women](http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal3.shtml)
* [Goal 4: Reduce child mortality](http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal4.shtml)
* [Goal 5: Improve maternal health](http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal5.shtml)
* [Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases](http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal6.shtml)
* [Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability](http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal7.shtml)
* [Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development](http://www.undp.org/mdg/goal8.shtml) of The MDGs:
1. **Is there a reference about disability in general and visual disability in particular?**
* There is no reference or mention about disability in general or visual disability in particular neither in 2000 to 2015 goals nor in targets and indicators.
1. **What did the disability sector do to influence millennium development goals?**
* The disability sector in general and visual disability sector in particular strived to include a specific goal, targets and indicators on disability but did not succeed in the inclusion of disability in the framework. As a consequence countries have not reported on disability as part of their MDG reporting.
1. **What is the progress of MDGs attainment from 2001 to 2015?**
* Countries have strived to achieve MDGs and have succeeded to some extent although without the effective inclusion and participation of persons with visual disabilities. It is the commitment of national GOVT to achieve the MDGS by 2015 but no country has reported in their MDG reports on the situation of persons with disabilities with regard to the 8 agreed goals. And indeed while progress has been made generally, there is also consensus that most of the MDG’s will not be achieved by 2015. The disability sector has strived and has been striving towards the effective inclusion and active involvement of persons with disabilities in the post 2015 development agenda.
1. **Which documents have references on persons with disabilities in relation to the Post 2015 development agenda?**
* The first significant milestone in the post-2015 discourse was the [Rio+20 Summit](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20.html) in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The outcome document titled ‘Future We Want’ contained a clear focus towards sustainable development. It was agreed to work towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will build upon MDGs and integrate into the post-2015 development agenda.
* In June 2012, the Secretary General’s [High Level Panel](http://www.post2015hlp.org/about/) (HLP) of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was constituted. This HLP had several consultations and came out with their [report](http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/) called ‘A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development,’ in May 2013 which has got 16 references with regard to persons with disabilities.
* The Secretary General’s [report](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/SG_report_a_life_of_dignity_for_all.pdf) titled ‘a life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015’ in August 2013 which has got several references on persons with disabilities.
* The High Level Meeting on Disability & Development (HLMDD) on September 23, 2013. The [Outcome Document](http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1590) of HLMDD underlines the importance of inclusion of disability in national & international development strategies for realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); inclusion of disability in the mechanisms leading up to the post-2015 development agenda and for the need to include people with disabilities in these discourses.
* The Special Event on MDGs on September 25, 2013 did not find much impetus on disability. Although the [Outcome Document of the Special Event](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Outcome%20documentMDG.pdf) talks about inclusivity; making MDGs and post-2015 a reality for those that have been left behind; and puts special emphasis on cross-cutting issues and multiplier effect; it does not mention disability.
1. **What are the developments so far?**

Since the past two years, there has been a lot of buzz regarding the post-2015 development agenda and the inclusion of disability. Much has been written and spoken. The important actions and process include:

 The Rio+20 Summit in June 2012 resulted in the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

* [Open Working Group](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549) on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) was formed in January 2013 as an intergovernmental mechanism to come out with a set of SDGs. It has a total of [30 seats](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549), which means that a number of Member States share seats. The OWG has had 4 Sessions so far. In the first Session in March, H.E. Csaba Kõrösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary, and H.E. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya were elected as co-chairs of OWG. The sessions of the OWG are working to conceptualise SDGs and are having thematic discussions. The **second Session** in April was on conceptualising the SDGs and poverty eradication. The **third Session** in May was on food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought; and water and sanitation. The **fourth Session** in June was on employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture; and health and population dynamics.
* High Level Panel report, released on May 2013 contains 16 references on persons with disabilities.
* UN secretary General’s report released in August 2013 mandates the states parties to include persons with disabilities in the framework.
* The High Level Meeting on disability and development (HLMDD) in September 23, 2013 resulted in the adoption of outcome document.
* Consultation by UNICEF on global partnership on Children with Disabilities (GPCWD in September 24, 2013.
* High Level Political Forum of heads of the state and high level dignitaries held its first meeting in September 24, 2013.
* Special event on MDGS in September 25, 2013 resulted in the inclusion of cross cutting issues and most vulnerable groups in the outcome document.
1. **What role did WBU and its members play in the MDG and post 2015 development agenda?**
* Some of the members participated in the various consultation processes organized by different UN agencies on various themes and significantly contributed to reflect the perspectives of persons with visual disabilities.
* Some of the members made both online/offline submissions to various UN agencies on different themes.
* Some of the members presented the position statement on post 2015 development agenda.
* WBU has significantly contributed to the discourse on post 2015 agenda through online/offline submissions to different UN agencies on various themes in order to reflect the perspectives of persons with visual disabilities.
* WBU and its members have attended the meetings of various agencies such as the special meeting just before the Conference of state parties in July 2013, the HLMDD, and special event on MDGS of state parties in September 2013 and the UNICEF Global partnership for children with disabilities in September 2013, and contributed significantly to the process and discussions.
* WBU has made joint submissions through vision alliance both to the online and offline consultation processes of the UN and other agencies.
1. **What is next?**
* The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals: The
* The OWG will have a total of 8 Sessions. 4 sessions have already taken place. The fifth Session (November 25-27) is on sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability), infrastructure development and industrialization; and energy.
* The sixth Session (December 9-13) will be on means of implementation (science and technology, knowledge-sharing and capacity building); global partnership for achieving sustainable development; and needs of countries in special situations, African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. The seventh Session (January 6-10, 2014) will be on sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport, sustainable consumption and production (including chemicals and waste); and climate change and disaster risk reduction.
* The eighth and final Session (February 3-7, 2014) will be on Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity; promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women’s empowerment; conflict prevention, post-conflict peace building and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance.
* High Level Political Forum: The first meeting of the [High Level Political Forum](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556) was held on September 24, 2013. Heads of States and high-ranking dignitaries attended this meeting to underline their commitment to continue action on sustainable development at the highest levels. However, it is not yet clear as to how the modalities of this Forum will work and how, if at all, civil society can feed into this process.
* The final post-2015 development agenda: Once the OWG submits its proposal in September 2014, all processes that have happened so far will be converged. This includes the HLP recommendations, the Secretary General’s Report, the World We Want surveys, the OWG proposal, etc. There are probabilities that other consultations may be organised before September 2014 by the UN, but nothing concrete has been heard or seen so far. From September 2014 till 2015, the onus will be on the Member States to discuss debate and finally arrive at a development framework for 2015-2030.
1. **Why is the post 2015 development agenda significant for persons with visual disabilities?**
* Disability is a development issue since persons with disabilities constitute 20% of the most excluded and poorest of the poor in the world.
* Poverty is both the cause and consequence of disability.
* Poverty eradication plans of the national GOVT are largely based on the post 2015 development agenda.
* Unless the poverty of persons with visual disabilities is addressed, they cannot live a quality life or life with dignity.
* The development programmes of all the agencies such as national GOVTs, national and international development agencies, UN and other global agencies are influenced by the framework of post 2015 development agenda.
1. **What role should WBU and its members play?**
* The main objective of WBU is to ensure that the 2015 development agenda is inclusive of persons with disabilities.
* Influence and inform the national GOVTs to vote for inclusion of persons with disabilities such as inclusion of specific goals, targets and indicators for persons with disabilities and inclusion of disability in each of the goals, targets and indicators in the post 2015 development agenda.
* Study the various documents of different agencies including the WBU FAQ sheet on post 2015 development agenda.
* Contextualise it from the perspective of persons with disabilities in general and visual disabilities in particular.
* Keep a watch on the consultation processes organised by various agencies.
* Negotiate with the national GOVT to organise national level consultations.
* Offer your expertise to the GOVT to make it inclusive of persons with visual disabilities.
* Participate in all the actions and processes of various agencies including the national GOVTs and contribute to reflect the perspectives of persons with visual disabilities.
* Plan and execute an advocacy initiative to influence the national GOVT in order to include visual disability in the development priorities of the national GOVT.
* Watch and contribute through submissions both online and offline.
* Build partnerships with other organisations of persons with disabilities at the national level.
* Do not miss opportunities to contribute to the processes.
* Strengthen the movement of persons with disabilities for collective actions.

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