



The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (commonly known as Sightsavers), ECOSOC Consultative Status

<https://www.sightsavers.org/>

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Chapeau

The Chapeau should include a recommitment to the promise to 'leave no one behind' in SDG implementation but also recognize that this promise is in peril. This recommitment is essential for eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions as well as meet the multiple crises that the world faces but will only be realised if member states take the transformative, accelerated, disability-inclusive action required. We call on Member States to reaffirm and renew their commitments to:

- Reaffirm that 'the achievement of the SDGs is in peril. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, we are alarmed that the progress on most of the SDGs is either moving much too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline. Our world is currently facing numerous crises. Years of sustainable development gains are being reversed. Millions of people have fallen into poverty, hunger and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent, humanitarian needs are rising, and the impacts of climate change more pronounced. This has led to increased inequality exacerbated by weakened international solidarity and a shortfall of trust to jointly overcome these crises.' (A/RES/78/1, 2023)
- "Recognizing that social inclusion and equality are intrinsically linked and that focusing on and investing in the most disadvantaged and excluded populations, which may include children, women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, is critically important for the effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,
- Recognizing persons with disabilities as both agents and beneficiaries of development, stressing the need to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and their participation, including through their representative organizations, in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." (Resolution, A/RES/74/120, 2019)
- Commit "to ensuring that persons with disabilities actively participate in and equally benefit from sustainable development efforts". (A/HLPF/2023/L.1, 2023, para.14)

- Commit “to achieving sustainable development and shared prosperity for all by focusing our policies and actions on the poorest and most vulnerable. We will endeavour to identify those who are being left behind and reach those who are the furthest behind first. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities.”

and external financing for education, including in sanitary and humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations” (A/HRC/RES/47/6, 2021, para 5, b and c)

- Renew their calls upon States “to take all measures necessary, including by making education a priority in their national budgets by granting sufficient budgetary allocations to education, to ensure accessible, inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory quality education to all at all levels, and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, paying particular attention to women and girls, children in the most vulnerable and marginalized situations, older persons, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and all persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including those affected by humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations” (Resolution A/HRC/RES/47/6, 2021, paraa

- Recognise “the negative impact of climate change, natural disasters, conflict and crisis on the full realization of the right to education” (Resolution A/HRC/RES/47/6, 2021),
- Urge “all States to develop and strengthen emergency education preparedness within their respective education systems, grounded on human rights”; (Resolution A/HRC/RES/47/6, 2021)
- “Strengthen the resilience of health systems by ensuring that primary health care, referral systems, and essential public health functions (...) are among the core components of prevention of and preparedness for health emergencies, in order to respond to such emergencies while maintaining the provision of and access to essential health services and medicines, especially routine immunization, as well as mental health support, or to quickly reinstate them after disruption and commit to strengthening public health systems across

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

To ensure we provide the best possible future for young people today and future generations we call on Member States to:

- Urge “Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people, (...) and to foster social integration for social groups such as young persons with disabilities” (Resolution A/RES/74/121,2019, para.8)
- Reaffirm “that the right to education, enshrined in international human rights law, can help to enable the realization of many other human rights” (Resolution A/HRC/RES/47/5, 2021) and “that the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality are central to the full realization of the right to education and emphasizing that everyone is entitled to the right to education without discrimination of any kind” (Resolution A/HRC/RES/47/6, 2021)
- Urge member states to “give full effect to the right to education by, inter alia, complying with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the right to education by all appropriate means and without discrimination of any kind” (Resolution A/HRC/RES/47/6, 2021)
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