**Diane Kingston**

I would like to start by thanking Nahla Haider and the CEDAW committee for their ground-breaking work on the SDGs in their jurisprudence. It set the foundation for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to follow on.

Disability is referenced 11 times in Agenda 2030, women are referenced, girls are referenced, participation in decision-making is referenced, but…

**Gaps:**

* Specifically women and girls with disabilities not mentioned in Agenda 2030
* Invisibility has perpetuated the situation of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities. This is important as it includes discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived impairment including people living with HIV and others who may not identify as a person with a disability.
* Women with disabilities are not a homogenous group, they comprise of but are not limited to: indigenous women; lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender women, and intersex persons; refugee, migrant, asylum seeker and internally displaced women; women in detention (hospitals, residential institutions, juvenile or correctional facilities, prisons); women living in poverty; women from different ethnic, religious and racial backgrounds; and women with multiple disabilities and high levels of support.
* Many of these women cannot participate in the implementation of Agenda 2030, because criminalised, voiceless, invisible or without citizenship.
* Generally - lack of or insufficient participation of women and girls with disabilities in decision-making processes because of **barriers** in relation to infrastructure, transport, communication, information, negative stereotyping and discrimination.
* There are fewer opportunities to establish or join organizations that can represent their needs both as women and girls and as persons with disabilities. States should reach out directly to women and girls with disabilities, especially when cultural and social norms make it unsafe for them to participate in open consultations.
* In general, Organisations of persons with disabilities face challenges in organisational capacity, including resource mobilisation, as well as in advocacy capacity to participate in SDG monitoring. There is also limited visibility of smaller Organisations of persons with disabilities, limited support from large umbrella Organisations of persons with disabilities, and perceived lack of neutrality of national umbrella Organisations of persons with disabilities. There is also limited coordination and partnerships among Organisations of persons with disabilities, between Organisations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organisations, especially women’s organisations or those with a gender focus, and among donors.
* The general marginalisation of people with disabilities is acute in **Monitoring & Evaluation** processes within the SDGs. Their non-participation is partly linked to their invisibility, and to discrimination, but also to the limited knowledge and awareness of Organisations of persons with disabilities about country-led evaluation processes. Given limited resources, they may choose to focus on specific advocacy or legislative initiatives to enforce rights, rather than on Monitoring & Evaluation.

**Lack of participation and consultation can lead to:**

* Harmful gender and disability stereotypes combine to fuel discriminatory attitudes, policies and practices, such as lack of accessible sanitation facilities at schools to ensure hygienic menstrual management. In turn this results in high rates of illiteracy, school failure, uneven daily attendance rates, absenteeism and dropping out of school entirely. Lack of availability of accessible sanitation facilities in refugee camps or emergency situations or places of detention can in turn increase their risk of violence.
* Lack of physically accessible services and facilities used by women with disabilities. For example public buildings, protection services, childcare services, places of refuge, reception and accommodation centres and refugee camps, harm reduction centres and healthcare centres
* inaccessible and unsafe public transport for women with disabilities to attend healthcare, education and employment facilities.

**SHIFTS**

* to overcome structural and systemic multiple discrimination, long term measures such as reforming **laws and policies** to ensure the equal participation of women with disabilities
* Criminalised populations of women and girls, such as lesbians, trans women, those using drugs, selling sex or living with HIV are more likely to be homeless, thus **comprehensive anti-discrimination laws** must be enacted to ensure adequate social protection
* **Promote their participation, constitution and capacity building** of women and girls with disabilities in SDG consultation processes. Women with disabilities, should have the same opportunity to participate in these forums as others do, even if laws criminalise them, such as lesbian and trans-women or women living with HIV. This requires **funding** by donors and government budgets.
* Implementation of the SDGs requires a **twin-track approach** to provide specific programmes for women and girls with disabilities in close consultation with them, as well as be gender and disability sensitive by mainstreaming both aspects.
* States must ensure **disability budgeting** in all gender policies and programmes under Goal 5 and ensure gender-mainstreaming and gender-budgeting in targets aimed at ‘vulnerable’ populations.
* Public housing projects must take disability into account in terms of considering **accessibility** criteria in the physical and built environment (such as proximity to the neighbourhood and pedestrian access to community-based services),
* The **built environment and urban design** must be planned in close consultation with women and girls with disabilities, especially criminalised populations, for example, lesbians, bisexual and transgender women, or those living with HIV as they are at greater risk of violence and abuse. This must include safe and accessible public transportation.
* **Train current and future professionals in the fields** of architecture, design and engineering in universal accessibility, design for all and the gender perspective in architecture, construction, transport and water/sanitation facilities.

**Implementation aspects**

* **Few actors specifically promoting disability rights, including the rights of people living with HIV:** Organisations of persons with disabilities are the only or one of the few actors pushing for their inclusion of disability in the SDGs. There is limited intervention or joint efforts from other human rights movements, NGOs, or other actors. They conduct their affairs in siloes, they are competitive and resource poor. intersectionality exists in name but not in practice.
* **Negative attitudes and discrimination:** The most challenging and perhaps the most difficult barrier to overcome relates to pervasive negative attitudes and discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially those deemed criminalised, are invisible or voiceless.

**Finally**

Cross-cutting solutions that work horizontally across government departments, rather than vertically in ingle ministries are required in order to address multiple and intersectional discrimination to achieve the implementation of the SDGs