



[Inclusive Health Task Group]

Multi-stakeholder hearing on Universal Health Coverage New-York, 29 April 2019

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On behalf of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)

There are approximately one billion persons with disabilities globally, with numbers rising due to ageing populations and increases in chronic and mental health conditions.

Ensuring access to health for persons with disabilities is essential to achieve SDG3.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Article 25 requires that State Parties take all appropriate measures to ensure persons with disabilities access disability and gender-sensitive health services, including rehabilitation and provide free or affordable health services covering the same range and quality as those provided to others.

In reality, persons with disabilities often encounter physical, communication, attitudinal and financial barriers, as well as lack of information in accessing health services. According to WHO's estimation, 50% of persons with disabilities globally cannot afford access to healthcare and are three times more likely to be denied health care.

As countries work towards achieving the Universal Health Coverage, the lack of gender, age and disability disaggregated data is a major challenge for monitoring the equity gaps in health status and access to services.

The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) recommends:

- 1) **To improve the availability and use of gender, age and disability disaggregated data** on health status and access to services;
- 2) **To promote data dissemination** to ensure appropriate planning and policies for equitable access to health.
- 3) **To adapt and provide health services** for persons with disabilities ensuring accessible and affordable services and, most importantly, meaningful participation of persons with disabilities.