



Disability rights and inclusion in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy

Joint EDF-IDDC input for EU consultation, December 2022

The [European Disability Forum](#) (EDF) and the European Union (EU) Task Group of the [International Disability and Development Consortium](#) (IDDC) welcome the opportunity to contribute to the mid-term review of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

In 2020, EDF and IDDC along with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and its members [called for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the next EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy](#). We welcome the stronger references to the rights of persons with disabilities, including an objective on advocating for EU partner countries to ratify and implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We would like to now see the EU putting its words into action when it comes to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU external action. We would like to see stronger coherence and connections between the implementation and monitoring of the current action plan and other EU strategies and action plans which also include commitments to disability inclusion and to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in EU external action.

EDF and IDDC would like to remind the EEAS and the European Commission of some other recent commitments made by the EU in relation to disability inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities in EU external action, and we would like to put forward some additional questions which would be useful to consider as part of the mid-term review of this action plan.

a) Since 2020:

- The EU has also adopted the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 where with Section 6 focuses on 'Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities globally'.
 - o See the [EDF-IDDC joint analysis of Section 6](#) (June 2021)
- The European Commission also made 17 commitments related to disability inclusion in EU external action at the 2022 Global Disability Summit (GDS).
 - o See the overview of the [GDS commitments](#) including those made by the European Commission (February 2022).
- The EU will be reviewed by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on its implementation of the CRPD – including in relation to its

implementation in EU external action. The EU must submit its responses to the List of Issues Prior to Reporting by April 2023.

- See the [joint EDF-IDDC input for the List of Issues Prior to Reporting](#) as well as the [List of issues Prior to submission of the 2nd and 3rd periodic reports of the EU from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (April 2022)

b) Suggested questions for the EEAS and the European Commission to consider in the remaining years of the implementation and monitoring of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy:

- When does the EU plan to adopt an action plan for its external action on promoting and respecting the rights of persons with disabilities, including appropriate resources and how it will support partner countries to implement the CRPD?
- How the EU will systematically involve organisations of persons with disabilities in a structured way in all relevant processes at EU, partner countries and global level, including in all EU overseas delegations, with an independent budget line and sufficient funding, in the implementation of the Action Plan?
- How did / does the EU ensure an intersectional approach and analysis to support the design and implementation of EU programmes in partner countries?
- What financial and human resources are being dedicated to making the work, consultations and offices of the EU delegations fully accessible and inclusive to all persons with disabilities?
 - To what extent are the rights of persons with disabilities included in the national human rights and democracy country strategies?
 - To what extent involve EU Delegations DPOs in the local and regional civil society and human rights dialogues?
- The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 calls on delegations to designate disability coordinators. When will the coordinators be in place?
- What steps is the EU taking to provide training and capacity building for EU staff, including the 'disability coordinators', human rights focal points in the EU delegations, and also for EU Member State agencies in partner countries, on the implementation of the Action Plan and the CPRD?