

Thank you, co-facilitators,

I am from the International Disability Alliance, an organizing partner of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities. Today I am speaking on behalf of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders. We will be brief.

We believe in the multilateral system, and we believe governments should come to the SDG Summit with the ambition and resources to reach the SDGs for ALL by 2030.

We will focus our brief remarks on leaving no one behind, and inclusion. The SDG's pledge to leave no one behind is a universal promise.

This universality, and the responsibility member states here, aligns with our human rights. That means the human rights of everyone in this room and beyond.

We have been left further behind as a result of the pandemic, and the compounding effects of the climate crisis, debt crisis, food crisis and increasing threats to peace.

In this context, we offer a few priorities for the Political Declaration:

All processes should involve key constituencies. This includes people of all ages, in all our diversity, including older persons, including persons with disabilities and our representative organizations. Meetings such as this one are excellent, but once is not enough. Without our active participation, we will be left further behind.

To guarantee that government responses will be sustainable and resilient, they must dismantle barriers to effective participation. It is important for us that finance goes to developing countries, but also groups within countries; it must reach grassroots communities, and guarantee a rights-based approach.

Before I move to our last point, I want to describe the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders mechanism in practice. The statement I am reading now was discussed in a meeting, and written with inputs from all interested of our 21 constituencies. Our deliberative processes are organized and fair, and accurately reflect many constituencies' priorities. I want to be clear that when we are talking about participation, it isn't tokenism. It is real and substantive as contemplated in resolution 67/290.

And lastly, at national levels, inclusion cannot happen without data. The Political Declaration should encourage member states to produce and use high-quality disaggregated data, including citizen-generated data with the participation and co-creation of data production from marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, from the very start. This is fundamental for evidence-based work, to reach the most marginalized and furthest behind.

In closing, as civil society, we have a responsibility to participate actively in holding our governments accountable for their human rights obligations to us. We are united in partnership to help move our collective vision forward. Thank you.