

Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities

2021 HLPF Thematic Session: SDGs in focus: SDGs 3, 10, 16, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs:

Thursday, July 8 at 9:00 am - 12:15 pm EDT (New York time)

Delivered by: Dwi Ariyani on behalf of the Stakeholder Group of Person with Disabilities

I am an advocate and a woman with a disability from Indonesia, representing the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities.

Throughout this pandemic around the world, persons with disabilities have faced discrimination threatening our lives and access to health care, and without the changes I set out here today, this will continue throughout this crisis and in future crises where justice systems exclude us.

Discrimination against persons with disabilities has been magnified during the pandemic. Barriers to our access justice to justice are further amplified by stigma, lack of accessible justice facilities, and restrictions on our exercise of legal capacity such as guardianship, contravening the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.^[1] We cannot challenge discriminatory health access in court if laws do not recognize our legal personhood. The principle of no one left behind cannot be upheld without us.

It is clear that urgent action is needed to make an inclusive recovery possible.

Governments should ensure that decision-making on policies and laws at national and local levels involve the active participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all stages of Covid-19 response. This includes involving them in decisions regarding social protection, food aid and monitoring and evaluation of all programmes.

Governments should ensure access to justice for all persons with disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence during the pandemic by guaranteeing accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the judicial process, aligning with Goal 16 indicator 3 to “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.”

Lastly, we recommend governments develop national targets and indicators to address the specific barriers women and girls with disabilities face to access the justice system, particularly for children and women with disabilities who are survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. This, like all change, must include the participation of women and girls with disabilities.

Thank you.