1. What should Australia prioritise to advance disability equity and rights internationally?

Prioritise disability inclusive development at all stages of development processes. i.e

Non-discriminatory full and effective participation and inclusion. Sensitise people to respect differences and acceptance of people with disabilities.

1. What are the most effective approaches to progress these priorities?

A contextualized approach is required.

1. Understand the existing policy, laws or envisioned plans and align efforts with the local government and agencies. This allows for maximizing local resources and supports sustainability efforts.
2. Identify the target groups that are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other dimensions of inequality.
3. Deliberately include people with disabilities in key activities and enabling roles similar to their peers.
4. Target the younger generation; i.e. school aged children to become change champions to support inclusion and respect people with disabilities.
5. Use information and lessons learned globally and adapt to context. When designing and building a hospital or school, consider the  *universal design principles for accessibility;* how is that deliberately captured in the design to enable the facility to be accessible for all.
6. How can DFAT support the role of, and partner with, organisations of persons with disabilities?

Educations programs, sports programs or other development initiatives should not set apart people with disabilities because that encourages the gap.

Organisations of persons with disabilities should integrate their efforts into the project/programme to present as one. Partners/Projects having a GEDSI policy but actual outputs that can be monitored and measured by the partner organization. This may support and bridge data gaps.

There are data gaps throughout the region on disability equity in development. Partner organisations need to play a key role in establishing what the true priorities are to reduce discrimination and have more inclusive communities.

1. What are the biggest challenges to and opportunities for advancing disability equity and rights?

People. Respecting people with disabilities and creating inclusive communities comes down to behaviour change. People are uncomfortable or scared of the unfamiliar and what they don’t understand.

Challenge is behaviour change with adults.

Change the approach to embed the principles of respecting people with disabilities and creating inclusive communities with children. Children advocating for disability equity is a great way to create awareness and encourage behaviour change with adults.

**Priority Areas and Related Strategies**

Sports is recognised as an effective tool for disability inclusion and is part of the Australian government’s Sports Diplomacy Strategy 2030 and the UN 2030 Agenda. Leveraging on sports for disability and social inclusion is a strategic move given the leading role Australia plays in sports in the region and beyond.

1. Disability inclusive budgets in sports:

Adequate funding needs to be built into all budgets to accommodate the costs of support for the inclusion of people with disabilities in sports and beyond and this can be for sports equipment, accessible transport, adaptable materials, adaptive sports, accessible venues/fields etc. Disability inclusive budgets should be aligned with Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

Restructuring donor budget frameworks to include these costs ensures the move to mainstreaming is more efficient and appropriately resourced, and development investments are removing barriers.

All of this should be through an intersectional disability budgeting approach recognising that people with disabilities experience inequity differently based on their social identities such as ethnicity, age, gender etc

A disability inclusive budget will lead to inclusive human resources which would ensure adequate resourcing to employ people with disabilities in sports which will lead to high engagement with people with disabilities and greater awareness for effective inclusion.

1. Disability disaggregated data in sports:

There is currently insufficient or poor-quality data which hinders efforts towards inclusive budgeting and programming. Having disability disaggregated data means better measuring of development aid to people with disabilities or towards disability justice.

Australian development assistance to support both State and civil society actors in producing data, indicators and knowledge on people with disability, and people with disability should participate in this process to set the indicators and methods for data collection and analysis of information.

Furthermore, research linked to disability provides opportunities to better advance disability justice and equity by providing accurate and contextualised insights into the lives of people with disabilities and supports the development of research methodologies appropriate to context and people.

1. Mainstream sport environment:

This is possible through disability inclusive budget and disaggregated data where people with disability are included in mainstream sport environments instead of excluded to segregated or disability sports organisations. Whilst the segregated, specialized or disability sports environment is an important part of social inclusion there needs to be equal effort on promoting disability inclusion in mainstream sport environment.

For the overall effectiveness of disability inclusion in development programs, donors and development partners need to agree upon indicators and common understanding of the CRPD standards to work towards monitoring the progress of the CRPD. The indicators should include budgetary allocation and actual expenditures. This would ensure resources are allocated effectively and equitably.