

## Submission to Australian Government's new International Gender Equality strategy

### Recommendations

#### 1. Gender transformative approach

Australia should adopt a gender transformative approach to the International Gender Equality strategy that challenges gender norms, promotes gender equality and addresses the marginalisation and discrimination that women and people of diverse SOGIESC experience at the intersection of gender and disability.

#### 2. Accountability

To undertake a gender transformational approach, this strategy should strive to be accountable with and to the impacted communities, including with and to women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities, to understand the root causes of discrimination and exclusion and transform the power imbalances and norms that perpetuate injustice.

#### 3. Ending all forms of gender-based violence and increasing disability inclusive GBV and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) services

Ending all forms of gender-based violence and ensuring disability-inclusive sexual and reproductive health rights needs to be foundational to a gender transformational approach. Women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities are exposed to gender-based violence at a greater rate than the rest of the population. In this strategy, Australia needs to commit to both investments specifically addressing the increased rates of violence women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities experience, as well as commit to increase funding for the inclusion of women with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities in all programs to combat gender-based violence. Australia must also commit to removing the barriers to and increasing access to disability inclusive SRHR on an equal basis with others.

#### 4. Intersectional approach to movement building

To enable transformational change, Australia needs to commit to strengthening both feminist and disability rights movements by opening spaces for dialogue and cross movement building, furthering inclusion and the realisation of rights for all through specific support for movements of feminists and gender diverse persons with disabilities and for inclusion of women, girls, and gender-diverse people with disabilities in broader feminist movements.

#### 5. Combating climate change

All Australia investments in combating climate change must take a gender-responsive, intersectional approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, including policy, strategy and partnerships, recognising the impacts of climate change and disasters are exacerbated for people with intersecting identities, particularly gender, age and disability.

#### 6. Indigenous women with disabilities

In recognition of the multifaceted layers of discrimination and marginalisation indigenous women with disabilities often experience, Australia needs to commit to the inclusion of indigenous women with disabilities as a target group within their gender equality investments, both within mainstream programs and specific investments supporting their inclusion and rights.

#### 7. Inclusion in humanitarian and protracted crises

ADDc recommends all humanitarian and protracted crises responses are fully gender and disability inclusive by:

- Requiring that data is fully disaggregated, including by disability, across all humanitarian and protracted crises investments. This includes a mandatory requirement that all data collected in protracted crises

settings is disaggregated using the Washington Group short set questions to identify beneficiaries with disabilities throughout the humanitarian program cycle.

- Include women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities and programs to inform and play a leading role in responding to crisis events.
- Include women with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities in recovery and peacekeeping efforts, particularly in the design of support programs and service delivery targeting survivors of SGBV, SRHR and mental health and psychosocial support.

## 8. Comprehensive resourcing

In order to deliver the above recommendations, comprehensive resourcing is required to underpin partnerships with OPDs as well as strengthen and enhance the capacity of DFAT to move beyond inclusion and deliver programs that transform systems of power that perpetuate inequality and marginalisation.

## Recommendations

The vision of the Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) is that the voices and rights of people with disabilities are elevated, reflected in and inform all Australian international development policies and programs. In pursuit of this vision, we welcome the opportunity to provide input drawn from the experience and expertise of our membership to the formation of the Australian Government's new International Gender Equality strategy.

### RECOMMENDATION 1 - Gender transformative approach

Australia should adopt a gender transformative approach to the International Gender Equality strategy that challenges gender norms, promotes gender equality and addresses the marginalisation and discrimination that women and people of diverse SOGIESC experience at the intersection of gender and disability.

Disability equity is an essential part of creating more equitable and inclusive societies where people of all genders have the opportunity to thrive and contribute to positive change. For this strategy to be transformational it must be inclusive of those who experience marginalisation and discrimination at the intersection of gender and disability. A gender transformative approach encompasses inclusive practises and an understanding of the intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by women, girls and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities. Its application challenges and addresses gender norms and stereotypes and transform power dynamics that continue to exacerbate injustices experienced by people with disabilities. It also recognises people with disabilities as a highly diverse group and seeks to learn from and partner with those from the most marginalized communities and those with non-majority identities and sexualities, such as ethnic minorities, refugees, indigenous persons or LGBTQI persons.

People with disabilities comprise around 16 per cent of the global population. They are women and men, boys and girls, non-binary and transgender, they are young and old, they are all ethnicities, in all circumstances, all orientations and all characteristics. However, people with disabilities are disproportionately represented in every under-served and vulnerable group, and disproportionately impacted by humanitarian crises and shocks and climate change. One in five women live with a disability globally compared to one in eight men.<sup>1</sup> In low and middle-income countries, women are estimated to comprise up to three-quarters of people with disabilities.<sup>2</sup> Women with disabilities face the same spectrum of human rights abuses that woman without disabilities face, but social isolation and discrimination magnifies the injustices they experience and their consequences.<sup>3</sup> In addition, women and girls with disabilities face multiple barriers to realizing their rights: environmental, physical and informational and accessibility issues, including lack of resources and inadequate access to services, as well as

widespread discrimination, stereotyping and social stigma. Australia's new International Gender Equality strategy should facilitate locally led approaches to achieve systems transformation and poverty reduction through sustainable and inclusive development. It should promote justice, human rights and address systems and structures of inequality, gender injustice and poverty by partnering with communities, particularly those most impacted, including a specific and targeted approach to partnering women with disabilities.

A gender transformational approach inclusive of persons with disabilities, supports Australia's commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UN CRPD), specifically, Article 4.3 on consulting and actively involving persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities through their representative organisations, Article 6 on taking actions to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women with disabilities, Article 11 on measures to ensure safety and protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, Articles 16 on freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse, Article 31 on data and Article 32 on international cooperation.<sup>4</sup> Likewise, it will progress achievement of Australia's 2022 Global Disability Summit commitments to implementing strategies to advance gender equality and persons facing intersectional discrimination and partnering with them in policy development, implementation monitoring and evaluation.<sup>5</sup>

To achieve this Australia needs to in this strategy:

- Apply an intersectional disability lens to all gender equality investments from program inception to evaluation. Taking an intersectional analysis seeks to understand how gender norms interacts with other factors in social inclusion, such as disability. Understanding and incorporating findings into investments is critical to effective development practice overall and increasing gender equality specifically.
- Partner with women and girls with disabilities as well as people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities and their representative organisations to deliver gender equality investments, with an explicit requirement for the costs of partnering be borne by those most able to pay, not the most marginalised.
- Utilize a twin-track approach, committing to specific measures targeted at the rights, needs, and priorities of women, girls, and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities, as well as integration of this group into broader investments.
- Include women with disabilities bringing diverse perspectives to the table. Their experiences provide valuable insights into the different ways gender inequalities intersect with disability-related disparities, helping to shape more inclusive and effective strategies.
- Commit to dedicated resourcing in all investments for reasonable accommodations and, where possible, meeting preconditions for inclusion.<sup>6</sup>
- Include women with disabilities as well as people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities in local, national (including political) and organisational leadership programs as well as supporting leadership development via local avenues.

## **RECOMMENDATION 2 - Accountability**

To undertake a gender transformational approach, this strategy should strive to be accountable with and to the impacted communities, including with and to women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities, to understand the root causes of discrimination and exclusion and transform the power imbalances and norms that perpetuate injustice.

*'Persons with disabilities are beneficiaries and decision makers and need to be included in consultation and decision-making spaces. Their experiences cannot be compared to others. One size does not fit all. OPDs are often approached when disability participation is compulsory at the beginning and when the project is completed. The*

*partnership is also ended. Stakeholders come and get our data and then they forget about us. We are not acknowledged or included along the way. There needs to be more mainstreaming. Accountability mechanisms are paramount. We want development partners to understand and accept cultural diversity and other associated barriers which might sometimes hinder progress of implementation.'*

Mataafa Faatino Utumapu, General Manager of Nuanua O Le Alofa (NOLA) Samoa remarked the above at a Disability Rights Fund forum of Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) in the Pacific in September 2023. The call is clear from Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) to the international development community to have authentic partnerships that are founded in openness and accountability to each other.

For this strategy to have a foundation of accountability, Australia needs to:

- Apply a minimum benchmark within the gender framework on disability equity and rights.
- Commit to integrating a disability data analysis in all gender equality investments, including disaggregated disability data.
- Undertake an inclusive co-design process to develop this strategy, including substantial input from women with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities, and continued through implementation and evaluation. To enable this, ensure budget for and provision accessibility and reasonable accommodations to ensure active and meaningful participation.
- Integrate regular active reflection and learning processes, including of diverse stakeholders, to track progress and identify strategies to progressively learn from investments and progress achieving gender equality. This would include a process of celebrating what has been achieved, sharing stories of change, as well as learning and unlearning ways of working to achieve gender equality for all.
- Throughout the entire process, partner and consult with women with disabilities as well as people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities and their representative organisations during the Development Partnership Plans process to ensure the resulting objectives, expected outcomes and approaches are fully reflective of marginalised groups within partner countries.

### **RECOMMENDATION 3 - Ending all forms of gender-based violence (GBV) and increasing disability inclusive GBV and sexual and reproductive health rights.**

Ending all forms of gender-based violence and ensuring disability-inclusive sexual and reproductive health rights needs to be foundational to a gender transformational approach. Women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities are exposed to gender-based violence at a greater rate than the rest of the population. In this strategy, Australia needs to commit to both investments specifically addressing the increased rates of violence women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities experience, as well as commit to increase funding for the inclusion of women with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities in all programs to combat gender-based violence. Australia needs to also commit to removing the barriers to and increasing access to disability inclusive SRHR on an equal basis with others.

Evidence suggests that people with disabilities are at least three times more likely to experience sexual violence, physical violence, and emotional violence than people without disabilities. In particular, women with disabilities are up to 10 times more likely to experience sexual violence.<sup>7</sup> When considering age, 40 percent to 68 percent of young women with disabilities will experience sexual violence before the age of 18.<sup>3</sup><sup>8</sup> Overlay the indigenous experience, more than 33 percent of indigenous women are raped during their lifetime, with almost 80 percent of indigenous women with disabilities experiencing violence and being four times more likely to experience sexual violence than non-indigenous women.<sup>9</sup>

Access to sexual and reproductive health services are a right for all women, however, a UNFPA study has found that a fifth of married women with disabilities want to delay or prevent pregnancy but are not using contraception and a third of births by mothers with disabilities are not attended to by a skilled health worker. These percentages are higher in rural areas.<sup>10</sup> Lack of accessibility to services and information are key barriers experienced by persons with disabilities. Fear of abuse and violation of sexual and reproductive health rights is also a barrier as people with disabilities, particularly women and those with intellectual disabilities, are subjected to involuntary sterilization in some countries. A lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services results in persons with disabilities experiencing a higher risk of unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.<sup>11</sup>

Recent DFAT funded work by UNFPA, Women Enabled International and the Pacific Disability Forum is already working to understand and address the discrimination, injustice and violence against women and young people with disabilities<sup>12</sup>. Initiatives that look to understand and respond to the lived experiences of women with disabilities are essential to achieving gender equality and need to be continued and expanded.

To seek to transform systems and end all forms of GBV, Australia needs to:

- Increase investment in inclusive and accessible SRHR and GBV programs, ensuring the barriers to disability inclusive SRHR and GBV are removed, that the autonomy and legal capacity of persons with disabilities are recognised and that persons with disabilities in all their diversity can make free, informed choices about their health, safety and wellbeing.
- Commit to both investments specifically addressing the increased rates of violence women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities experience, as well as commit to increase funding for the inclusion of women with diverse disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities in all programs to combat gender-based violence.
- Partner with OPDs, with particular focus on representative organisations and groups of women with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities, to research, develop and implement effective strategies to end all forms of gender-based violence.
- Commit to work with those who may have been excluded from current initiatives, with particular focus on inclusion of multi-marginalised people with disabilities.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 4 - Intersectional approach to movement building**

To enable transformational change, Australia needs to commit to strengthening both feminist and disability rights movements by opening spaces for dialogue and cross movement building, furthering inclusion and the realisation of rights for all through specific support for movements of feminists and gender diverse persons with disabilities and for inclusion of women, girls, and gender-diverse people with disabilities in broader feminist movements.

Research has found the participation and lived experiences of women and girls with disabilities and gender diverse people with disability have been largely excluded from feminist as well as human rights movements.<sup>13</sup> Discriminatory attitudes and institutional barriers remain preventing women with disabilities being able to enter spaces that are crucial for shaping debates and resources around building gender equality, human rights, international development, and the future of the planet. Despite constituting 16 percent of the population, grants for people with disabilities make up just two percent of all human rights funding. People with disabilities are also the only population group for which global human rights funding has recently declined. Furthermore, funding is significantly limited for persons with disabilities who have additional marginalized identities, with just one percent of human rights funding for women and girls or Indigenous peoples even referencing persons with disabilities.<sup>14</sup>

Research has also found that feminist movements agree an intersectional approach is necessary to ensure their advocacy, agendas and resources are legitimate and reflect the diversity of women's experiences. However, the gender and disability movements largely work in silos limiting the inclusion and impact that could be created through cross and intra movement building and collaborative action.<sup>15</sup>

A critical opportunity exists under this new strategy to increase gender equality and disability equity by:

- Resourcing spaces for connection, co-learning and collaboration within and between feminist and disability rights movements, including budget for accessibility and reasonable accommodations. By including women with disabilities movements can develop more effective, inclusive and sustainable solutions that benefit all women and society as a whole.
- Directly resourcing organisations led by or focused on the rights of women with disabilities and gender diverse persons with disabilities to exercise agency, leadership, build membership and advocate for social and systemic change.
- Drawing on resources such as the *Feminist Accessibility Protocol*<sup>16</sup> to inform disability equity across all gender investments and ensure greater access by women with disabilities and gender diverse people with disabilities to global and national spaces seeking to advance gender equality.
- Resource the disability rights movement, through OPDs, to strengthen gender inclusion in mainstream disability rights spaces in line with recommendations in the research *Strengthening Gender Inclusion in Disability Rights Spaces*.<sup>17</sup>
- Ensuring a gender, intersectional and disability equity approach is applied in all stages and across all DFAT investments and partnerships.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 5 – Combating climate change**

All Australia investments in combating climate change must take a gender-responsive, intersectional approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation, including policy, strategy and partnerships, recognising the impacts of climate change and disasters are exacerbated for people with intersecting identities, particularly gender, age and disability.

An analytical study by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities in the context of climate change, found that while climate change directly and indirectly impacted a wide range of human rights for everyone, people with disabilities experienced those impacts differently and more severely than others. During a crisis, morbidity and mortality rates of people with disabilities are disproportionately higher than people without disabilities. In addition, women and girls with disabilities are at heightened risk of abuse in emergency situations, including in shelters. Beliefs in some countries also constrain movement of women and girls with disabilities who often have no control or choice about who assists their evacuation or where they stay.

Access by persons with disabilities to agriculture and fisheries, food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, health-care services and medicines, education and training, adequate housing and access to decent work are all adversely affected regardless of whether the onset of disasters is sudden or slow. A DFAT funded study by the Pacific Disability Forum and the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership highlighted that in addition to the impacts noted in the OHCHR study referred to above, people with disabilities are also being excluded from climate-related migration and mobility.<sup>18</sup>

In addressing adverse effects of climate change, the new strategy needs to:



- Mandate and resource gender-responsive and transformational, child-sensitive and disability-inclusive climate action to better address existing and emerging risks and respond to the differential impacts of climate change on people with disabilities. Draw on recommendations of DFAT-funded studies in the Pacific, the *Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change* by UNHRC<sup>19</sup> and the new CRC General Comment 26 on children’s rights and the environment<sup>20</sup>.
- Ensure the meaningful participation of OPDs and persons with disabilities in communities in climate preparedness, adaptation, and mitigation.
- Build in requirements to consult and partner with OPDs throughout the whole policy and project cycle - with appropriate remuneration recognising this is a request for their expertise - in all climate financing work. This includes work flowing from the Australian Government’s commitments to increased climate investments and climate risk outlined in Australia’s new International Development Policy.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 6 – Indigenous women with disabilities**

In recognition of the multifaceted layers of discrimination and marginalisation indigenous women with disabilities often experience, Australia needs to commit to the inclusion of indigenous women with disabilities as a target group within their gender equality investments, both within mainstream programs and specific investments supporting their equity and rights.

Both people with disabilities and First Nations people are over-represented amongst those in living in poverty globally.<sup>21</sup> Indigenous women and girls with disability face multiple and intersectional discrimination based on gender, disability and indigeneity. International Disability Alliance and Indigenous Person with Disability Global Network’s recent submission to *CEDAW Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls* reflects the views and experiences of indigenous women with disability across the world. It emphasised that,

*‘Indigenous women and girls with disabilities are subjected to historical, structural, direct, indirect and others forms of discrimination that are distinct from others and vary among indigenous women with disabilities... Often living in rural areas, indigenous women and girls with disabilities have limited access to employment, education and healthcare. All this places indigenous women and girls with disabilities as one of the most marginalised groups in society, rendered vulnerable by the lack of their political voice and of consideration of their needs and rights, reinforcing disadvantages.’<sup>22</sup>*

Echoing the recommendation to CEDAW by the Indigenous Person with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) and International Disability Alliance (IDA) and in recognition of the multifaceted layers of discrimination and marginalisation indigenous women with disabilities experience<sup>23</sup>, we recommend Australia commits to the inclusion of indigenous women with disabilities as a target group within their gender equality investments, in alignment with DFAT Indigenous Diplomacy Agenda to “Prioritise gender equality and disability inclusion for indigenous peoples.” National, regional and local organisations of Indigenous people with disabilities are a critical link to understanding collective and individual rights and enabling local strategies and priorities to build sustainable equality and inclusion.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 7 – Inclusion in humanitarian and protracted crises**

ADDC recommends all humanitarian and protracted crises responses are fully gender and disability inclusive by:

- Requiring that data is fully disaggregated, including by disability, across all humanitarian and protracted crises investments. This includes a mandatory requirement that all data collected in protracted crises settings is disaggregated using the Washington Group short set questions to identify beneficiaries with disabilities throughout the humanitarian program cycle.

- Include women and girls with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities and programs to inform and play a leading role in responding to crisis events.
- Include women with disabilities and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities in recovery and peacekeeping efforts, particularly in the design of support programs and service delivery targeting survivors of SGBV, SRHR and mental health and psychosocial support.

### Humanitarian crises and recovery

Australia's ongoing commitment to supporting disability and gender-inclusive humanitarian action is to be commended. This includes Australia's previous work on championing the *Charter on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action*<sup>24</sup> at and beyond the World Humanitarian Summit as well as the government's more recent commitment to provide Australia's first LGBTQIA+ human rights strategy. Australia must continue to prioritise people with disabilities in humanitarian investments, ensuring all humanitarian programs are designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities and all data is disaggregated and reported on by sex, age, and disability.

People with disabilities are at significant risk of being left behind, injured or even killed during a disaster or emergency.<sup>25</sup> Women and people of diverse SOGIESC with disabilities face even greater discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation and ability. Ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities during emergency response is a core component of principled and effective humanitarian action. It is based not only on the humanitarian principles of humanity and impartiality, but also on the human rights principles of equity and non-discrimination.

As in other stages of the disaster response cycle, people with disabilities and diverse SOGIESC are often overlooked in peacebuilding and recovery efforts. This means some of the most vulnerable people in communities are often shut out from shaping peace and recovery efforts in their communities. Increased investment is required to empower people with disabilities, particularly women and people of diverse SOGIESC through collaboration with OPDs and women-led organisations to be agents of change and contribute to inclusive and lasting peace in their communities.

### Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Despite people with disabilities being at increased risk during a disaster, they are still largely excluded from disaster risk reduction planning and activities.<sup>26</sup> DRR is crucial to the livelihoods of populations in the Asia-Pacific region, where one in six people (approximately 690 million people) have a disability and natural disasters occur more frequently than in any other region in the world.<sup>27</sup> Without the full and substantive participation of people with disabilities in the decision-making processes involved DRR, disaster responses risk excluding the most vulnerable community members with devastating consequences.

DRR programs that embed gender and social inclusion have a greater impact on protection of vulnerable populations and disaster resilience outcomes.<sup>28</sup> Effective DRR requires the full and substantive participation of people with disabilities in DRR decision making processes and activities. This includes supporting persons with disabilities to take on leadership roles in disaster preparedness activities, both in local, national and global forums. This requires humanitarian actors and communities to work to address social exclusion, increase accessibility, and provide reasonable accommodations to ensure people with disabilities are invited to, included in DRR activities and programming.



### Protracted crises and data

The average length of a humanitarian crisis is now nine years.<sup>29</sup> Protracted crises<sup>30</sup> are a new normal and require a re-think not only in how Australia responds, but in how people with disabilities are included in that response. Eighty percent of people with disabilities globally living in developing countries, where crises are more likely to occur and become protracted in nature due to increasing state fragility and climate change. Without adequate disaggregated population data, humanitarian and development actors are unable to effectively carry out programming that addresses the needs and priorities of people with disabilities in crisis contexts. A mandated requirement that data collection is disaggregated by the Washington Group short set questions allows humanitarian and development actors to identify people with disabilities and measure access rates of persons with disabilities to humanitarian programs and services.

### **RECOMMENDATION 8 – Comprehensive resourcing**

In order to deliver the above recommendations, comprehensive resourcing is required to underpin partnerships with OPDs as well as strengthen and enhance the capacity of DFAT to move beyond inclusion and deliver programs that transform systems that perpetuate inequality and marginalisation.

Fostering an evidence-based and transparent approach across all investments will deepen understanding of the drivers of change, including provide avenues to see the cycle of poverty and disability broken for people with disabilities living in poverty, their families and communities. A core component of this is the development of knowledge products and evidence, building the capacity of local OPDs, particularly those from marginalised groups, and gathering and sharing internal practices and lessons learned. Australia must commit to restoring detailed reporting of development expenditure, including disaggregated to disability as well as gender, to provide an objective and measurable framework to guide progress.

To achieve this, ADDC recommends the new strategy;

- Commits to expanding funding and technical expertise for gender, disability and social inclusion analysis of all country and regional plans and new funding initiatives across Australia's international development cooperation program, including resourcing to implement the findings of this analysis. This would include a requirement that all DFAT staff to upskill in intersectional power analysis, going beyond simple inclusion to include an understanding of the way that systems of power perpetuate inequality and marginalisation.
- Strengthen and enhance DFAT's capacity for inclusion, ensuring sufficient technical expertise on both gender and disability is available to all investment managers.
- All DFAT staff and contractors required to take annual disability equity and rights training.
- Acknowledge OPD reflections on their experiences of exclusion from programs that have a sole staff position focused on Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion. Recognise the diversity of the population within the GEDSI portfolio and consider alternative strategies to respond to the specific and diverse situations of people with disabilities across DFAT's investments, including appropriate resourcing of advisory functions focused on the most marginalized members of communities.
- Ensure accessibility and reasonable accommodations are central to any gender equality investment to ensure active and meaningful engagement of women and gender diverse persons with disabilities throughout the whole investment cycle. This includes mandatory budgeting for and including reasonable accommodations as a condition of procurement.

### **About ADDC**

ADDC is an Australian based, international network focusing attention, expertise and actions on disability in the majority world<sup>31</sup>, building on a human rights platform for disability advocacy. ADDC brings people together to

inspire, influence and support all international development actors in Australia to embrace and deliver disability inclusive development<sup>32</sup>. ADDC is made up of over 500 members from Australian Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs), aid agencies, managing contractors, academia as well as individuals. This submission has been developed in consultation with ADDC members and written by the ADDC Executive Committee - the governance body of the network elected by the membership every two years. Organisations currently represented on the ADDC Executive Committee include; CBM Australia, ACFID, People with Disabilities Australia, Australia Federation of Disability Organisations, National Disability Service, World Vision Australia, Motivation Australia, The Leprosy Mission Australia, Exemplar International and Nossal Institute for Global Health.

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, *Issue Brief - Making the SDGs Count for Women and Girls*, 2017, accessed [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, *Issue Brief - Making the SDGs Count for Women and Girls*, 2017, accessed [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> AusAID, *Triple Jeopardy: Gender-based violence and human rights violations experienced by women with disabilities in Cambodia*, 2013, accessed [here](#); UN Women, *Fact sheet on indigenous women with disabilities*, 2020, accessed [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, Article 6 Women with Disabilities, accessed [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> Global Disability Summit 2022, Australian Government Commitments 2022, accessed [here](#).

<sup>6</sup> Pacific Disability Forum, *Guidelines to pre-conditions for inclusion for people with disabilities – COVID 19 Response*, 2021, accessed [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> Women Enabled, UNFPA and UN Women, *COVID-19, Gender and Disability Checklist preventing GBV*, 2021, accessed [here](#).

<sup>8</sup> Women Enabled, UNFPA and UN Women, *COVID-19, Gender and Disability Checklist preventing GBV*, 2021, accessed [here](#).

<sup>9</sup> UN Women, *Fact sheet on indigenous women with disabilities*, 2020, accessed [here](#).

<sup>10</sup> UN Enabled, *Accessing sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights for all persons with disabilities*, 2019, accessed [here](#).

<sup>11</sup> UN Enabled, *Accessing sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights for all persons with disabilities*, 2019, accessed [here](#).

<sup>12</sup> UNFPA, *Women and Young People with Disabilities: A Needs Assessment for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender-Based Violence, and Access to Essential Services – Fiji*, 2020, accessed [here](#); UNFPA, *Women and Young People with Disabilities: A Needs Assessment for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender-Based Violence, and Access to Essential Services – Vanuatu*, 2021, accessed [here](#); UNFPA, *Women and Young People with Disabilities: A Needs Assessment for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender-Based Violence, and Access to Essential Services – Samoa*, 2020, accessed [here](#).

<sup>13</sup> DRF, *Supporting Inclusive Movements: Funding the rights of women with disabilities*, accessed [here](#).

<sup>14</sup> DRF, *Reversing the trend – The time is now to fund disability rights*, 16 November 2021, accessed [here](#).

<sup>15</sup> DRF, *Supporting Inclusive Movements: Funding the rights of women with disabilities*, accessed [here](#).

<sup>16</sup> The Inclusive Generation Equality Collective, *Feminist Accessibility Protocol*, December 2022, accessed [here](#).

<sup>17</sup> Women Enabled, *Strengthening Gender Inclusion in Disability Rights Spaces*, 2022, accessed [here](#).

<sup>18</sup> Pacific Disability Forum, *Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific - Findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu*, August 2022, accessed [here](#).

<sup>19</sup> UN. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change : report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, 2020, accessed [here](#).

<sup>20</sup> General Comment to No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change, UN Office of Human Rights, 22 August 2023, accessed [here](#).

<sup>21</sup> See e.g., Banks, L. M., H. Kuper, and S. Polack, *Poverty and Disability in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review*, 2017, PLOS ONE 12 (12): 1–19, pp. 9- 10; Canedo, A. P, *Analyzing Multidimensional Poverty Estimates in Mexico From an Ethnic Perspective: A Policy Tool for Bridging the Indigenous Gap. Poverty & Public Policy*, 2020, 10(4), 543-563, p. 550.

<sup>22</sup> IDA & IPWDGN, *Submission for the CEDAW Committee on the rights of indigenous women and girls*, June 2021, pg. 3.

<sup>23</sup> UN Women, *Fact sheet on indigenous women with disabilities*, 2020, accessed [here](#).

<sup>24</sup> Humanitarian Disability Charter, accessed [here](#).

<sup>25</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Humanitarian Leadership Conference, Paper 18, *Experiences of people with disabilities during and after Tropical Cyclone Pam and recommendations for humanitarian leaders*, 2017, accessed [here](#).

<sup>26</sup> CBM, IDA, PDF, *Our Lessons – An approach to disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction*, March 2022, accessed [here](#).

<sup>27</sup> Incheon Strategy – To make the rights real for persons with disabilities, accessed [here](#).

<sup>28</sup> CARE, *Does gender responsive disaster risk reduction make a difference?*, 2017, accessed [here](#).

<sup>29</sup> EU Science Hub, *Humanitarian crises around the world are becoming longer and more complex*, 20 November 2020, accessed [here](#).

<sup>30</sup> Protracted crises are contexts in which a significant proportion of the population is acutely vulnerable to hunger, disease and disruptions to livelihoods over prolonged periods. In these situations, undernourishment is severe, long-standing and almost three times more frequent than in other developing contexts. See FOA, *Resilience in Protracted Crises*, accessed [here](#).

<sup>31</sup> Majority world refers to the grouping of the countries where the majority of the world's population live. ADDC is intentionally using a more geographically accurate and less pejorative term than 'developing countries', the 'global south' or the 'third world'. See Khan T, Abimbola S, Kyobutungi C, Pai M. 'How we classify countries and people-and why it matters', *BMJ Glob Health*. 2022 Jun;7(6).

<sup>32</sup> Disability inclusive development (DID) is ensuring that all phases of the development cycle – from design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation - include a disability dimension and that people with disabilities are meaningfully and effectively participating in development processes and policies. DID is founded upon the three key principles of participation, inclusion and accessibility. It is based on a twin-track approach that implies both actions to mainstream disability in all programs, and actions specifically targeting people with disabilities to enable them to participate and benefit from programs on an equal basis with others.