

List of Issues regarding the First Report of the Swiss Confederation on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Submission by the
Swiss Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in International Cooperation¹

When Switzerland ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), it placed itself under the obligation to include persons with disabilities in development programs, that is, to ensure inclusive humanitarian aid and international cooperation. While some efforts were made to implement Art. 11 and 32 CRPD, Switzerland is a long way from a systematic policy that is inclusive of persons with disabilities in its international cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Art. 11 – Situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies

The First Report of the Swiss Confederation on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities does not indicate how Switzerland ensures that its humanitarian aid measures (incl. DRR) are inclusive of and accessible for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, so far Switzerland has not signed the Charter on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. However, in the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017-2020² persons with disabilities are mentioned in the chapter on humanitarian aid as belonging, depending on the context, to the "most vulnerable groups". Furthermore, in 2018 Switzerland signed and committed to the Charter for Change, elaborated during the Global Disability Summit.

Questions:

Please inform the Committee about:

- A) The measures taken or planned (incl. timeline) to ensure humanitarian aid is inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities (on a policy as well as operational level, e.g. aid distribution, sanitation and latrine facilities, shelters, recovery support, etc.).
- B) How the above-mentioned measures are assessed.
- C) How persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are and will be meaningfully consulted and actively involved in the development, design, monitoring and evaluation of the above-mentioned measures, so to ensure their effective participation in line with article 4.3 and the General Comment No. 7 of the CRPD Committee.

¹ The Swiss Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in International Cooperation consists of CBM Switzerland, HI Switzerland, International Disability Alliance and FAIRMED.

² Swiss Confederation. Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017-2020, BBI 2016 2380.

- D) The steps taken to build expertise within the humanitarian aid department on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- E) The process, if envisaged, to sign the Charter on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and if so by when.

Art. 32 – International cooperation

The Swiss state report on Art. 32 only generally describes the Swiss efforts in international cooperation and does not mention to what extent the Swiss international cooperation is inclusive of persons with disabilities. The Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017-2020³ for the first time mentions persons with disabilities explicitly among one of the target groups in poverty reduction. Likewise, other strategies (e.g. Guideline on Leave no one behind, Global Program Health, the Education Strategy) mention persons with disabilities among the most at-risk groups. However, in other central strategic documents (e.g. the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs' Human Rights Strategy 2016-2019 or the its Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights from 2017) references to persons with disabilities are missing. Moreover, on the operational level, unfortunately, there exist only isolated programs and projects regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities, especially targeting rehabilitation but not so much mainstreaming. Additionally, there exists no handbook or similar to guide employees towards inclusive programming, monitoring or evaluation.

Questions:

Please inform the Committee about:

- A) The steps taken to ensure a systematic strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities in international cooperation and the implementation thereof, including budgetary allocations.
- B) The measures undertaken or planned (incl. timeline) to adopt a disability perspective, in line with the twin track approach, into all development policies and programs, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- C) The meaningful consultation and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development, design, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and projects according to the CRPD and General Comment No. 7 by the CRPD Committee.
- D) The steps undertaken to collect and disaggregate data on persons with disabilities in programs and projects.
- E) The steps taken to build expertise within the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in general and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation specifically on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

³ Swiss Confederation. Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017-2020, BBI 2016.

- F) The affirmative-action measures taken towards the inclusion of the most at-risk groups among persons with disabilities, such as women, children and persons with intellectual, psychosocial or multiple disabilities.

25 July 2019. For any questions or for more information please contact Mirjam Gasser, Secretariat Swiss Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in International Cooperation and Head Advocacy CBM Switzerland (mirjam.gasser@cbmswiss.ch).