The inclusion of the transformative promise to leave no one behind gave us much hope in 2015, particularly for persons with disabilities who make up 16% of the population, more than 50% of them are women with disabilities.

Making the most of this in PACT FOR FUTURE is not going to be easy for the implementation SDG but it is possible – only if governments, UN and CSOs act now to create an Equal World.

This is fundamental to rebalancing power, opportunities and outcomes between groups and individuals. This has the potential to benefit whole societies not just individual groups.

We need appropriate financial plans for delivering on the SDGs, with robust accountability at the national and local level. And listen and learn from lived experience of Women with disabilities experiencing GBV, everyday in their lives.

The UN and its agencies also play critical role in working in partnership with governments to support this change - we welcome the Secretary General’s leadership on the creation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. While huge progress has been made, much more is needed from the Asia Pacific level, in Political declaration

Before the UN is systematically including persons with disabilities at all levels. We need to ensure that women with disabilities, the survivors of GBV have access to accessible services, linked with the national policies

All of this must be delivered in partnership with civil society organisations. Governments will not be able to deliver on their commitments unless they meaningfully engage with their citizens and ensure that all voices are heard. This requires specific action to build partnerships with those who have been traditionally excluded.

Civil society representatives, networks, major groups can play a critical role in creating partnerships to advocate for change at the local, national and global level.

I call on everyone to join us, let’s create an Equal World together.

Civil society must ensure that we don’t replicate the inequalities we see in government policy and process – we must unite and include everyone across society. Especially those who have been excluded from raising their voices.

It’s clear that there is a movement behind this change, and we need governments to take action.