



UN SDGs and CRPD in MONGOLIA

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A NATIONAL SDGs PROCESS AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE DISABLED COMMUNITY IN MONGOLIA

ABOUT MONGOLIA


- ▶ Mongolia is located between two major global markets: China and Russia
- ▶ Mongolia has a vast land mass and is the 19th largest country in the world
- ▶ Of its small population of 3.2 million people, almost half are concentrated in the capital city and the rest are spread over vast rural areas and a nomadic life style
- ▶ Total number of persons with disabilities is 103,000 representing 3.3% of the total population

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CRPD IMPLEMENTATION IN MONGOLIA

- ▶ Mongolia ratified the UNCRPD in 2019
- ▶ The initial state report on the implementation of the CRPD was reviewed by the CRPD committee in 2015
- ▶ CRPD committee adopted a list of issues on Mongolia for the second state report in September 2018
- ▶ Currently the Mongolian government has been preparing the second state report according to the list of issues

How DPOs participation are ensuring the proper implementation of the CRPD

- ▶ DPOs in Mongolia are really making efforts and taking actions to promote the implementation of the CRPD based on their capacity
- ▶ They played a significant role from the beginning in all CRPD activities, such as advocating for the ratification, preparation of the initial and second state review of the CRPD committee as well as advocating for its effective implementation
- ▶ The government has taken positive actions to ensure the implementation of the CRPD as a result of the active advocacy of DPOs:
 - Adoption of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disability in 2016
 - Adoption of 4-year disability program 2017-2021
 - Establishment of National council on disability rights and its branches in each provincial level under the local mayor
 - Establishment of sub-committee on disability rights under the state secretary in each ministry in 2016 and 2017
 - Development and implementation of a 4-year project to improve inclusiveness and quality of life of persons with disability in Mongolia with the ADB loan of 25 million USD 2018-2022
 - Establishment of the General Department for the development of persons with disability, in August 2018



Although there has been some progress in terms of developing policies for persons with disability, on the grass-root level, persons with disabilities have not yet received much benefit since the adoption of the CRPD

Therefore, in order to have a united voice and strong advocacy activities for accelerating effective implementation of the CRPD, DPOs established Mongolian Disability Forum in September 2019

The MDF has been carrying out activities in accordance with a newly developed action plan

About SDGs in Mongolia

- ▶ In line with SDGs, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted its Sustainable Development Vision-2030 (MSDV-2030) which is the National SDG in 2016, a strategic policy document on the country's development priorities for the next 15 years
- ▶ This makes Mongolia one of the early adopters of the SDGs: three years have passed since the adoption and implementation of the Mongolian long-term sustainable development policy
- ▶ In 2019, the Mongolian government prepared a voluntary national review report on IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS* and it was presented and discussed at the High Level Political Forum in July 2019

* The Report provides insights on the SDGs in Mongolia, the challenges faced by the country and a forward-looking agenda for accelerating progress towards sustainable development

About DPOs participation in the initiation and implementation of SDGs

- ▶ In 2016, There was no involvement of persons with disabilities and DPOs in the process of drafting, negotiating and approving the MSDV-2030 (the National SDG) at the parliament level due to a lack of knowledge on SDGs and how to engage the process
- ▶ DPOs were not invited to participate in the process, as the disabled community was not informed about development of this SDG policy document
- ▶ Because DPOs did not participate, disability related issues were not reflected sufficiently in that policy document (Persons with disabilities are referenced only 1 time in the MSDW, in the principle)
- ▶ Persons with disabilities are mostly included among the category of vulnerable people, and “vulnerable “ is referenced 3 times in the MSDV2030: 1 instance in employment etc.

DPOs' involvement in the process to prepare the VNR

- ▶ The VNR is one of the main national tools to assess progress towards the SDGs
- ▶ The National Council for Sustainable Development, under the Prime Minister took the decision to prepare The First National Voluntary Review (VNR).
- ▶ The National Development Agency was mandated to lead this process undertaken over a one year period from 30 May 2018
- ▶ As per the Prime Minister's Order, a Working Group headed by the National Development Agency (NDA) was established consisting of representatives from the government, non-government organizations, academia, and private sector
- ▶ During the VNR preparation process, a series of multi-sectoral consultations/discussions with many stakeholders including civil society organizations and DPOs was organized
- ▶ Forum on “persons with disabilities – SDGs” was organized and participants provided information on issues they faced, their concerns and interests, which helped to reflect their perspectives in the VNR
- ▶ A working group consisting of representatives from DPOs was established with the purpose of reflecting disability related issues in the report. Under this work, DPOs have been involved in the workshops and discussions conducted by the civil society network on SDG and received guidance from them about how to engage in the process.
- ▶ As the result of the involvement of the DPOs, persons with disabilities issues and problems faced by them are now included in the report

Implementation of the SDG in Mongolia in terms of ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities

- ▶ Based on the assessment made by some DPOs including the VNR in regard to the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, it has been concluded that the implementation of the SDG including the SDGV - 2030 is insufficient
- ▶ Even the Mongolian government has admitted in the VNR that the implementation is insufficient by mentioning the followings:
 - Several laws, policies and procedures conducive to SDG acceleration are in place, but their implementation has been insufficient
 - Moreover, due to data gaps, the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs has been hindered
 - Therefore, there is a need for substantial support to build capacity to monitor SDGs and strengthen the accountability framework
 - SDGs cannot be achieved by actions of the government alone – a “whole of government” approach will have to be complemented by a “whole of society” approach by drawing in contributions not just from all levels within government, but also from businesses, civil society, academia and especially disadvantaged groups
 - During the VNR preparation, the population groups identified at-risk of being systematically left behind, those who need better targeted policy attention and wider recognition in society were identified. One of these groups is persons with disabilities and policies are being put in place to ensure that all these groups get focused attention

Activities taken by the DPOs in Mongolia to ensure the implementation of the SDG

- ▶ While participating in the preparation of the VNR, we have improved knowledge on how to engage in the SDG process in the future in order to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities
- ▶ Therefore, the following are been carried out by DPOs:
 - Established the forum on the rights of persons with disabilities consisting of DPOs
 - Developed action plan where one of the issues is activity in relation to the engagement in the SDG process
- ▶ Seeking an opportunity to engage with other civil society actors to ensure mainstreaming of rights of persons with disabilities
- ▶ There is the Forum on human rights consisting of Civil society organizations and DPOs have joined the Forum in order to conduct joint advocacy for the proper implementation of the SDG
 - Organized several meetings with government organizations including National development agency and discussed the issues to increase our participation in the national SDG implementation
 - Seeking a funding opportunity to conduct training for DPOs on the SDG and how to engage in its process effectively

Activities taken by the DPOs in Mongolia to ensure the implementation of the SDG

- ▶ Some examples of practices of the Mongolian disability community in relation to the implementation of goals number 4 and 11 of SDGs.
- ▶ Under the goal 4, “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.
- ▶ As the result of strong DPOs’ advocacy for ensuring the right to education of children with disabilities, the Ministry of education adopted the procedure on an inclusive education. The procedure has been implemented since 1 September 2019.
- ▶ As a result of the implementation of the procedure, numbers of children with disabilities have enrolled in mainstream schools.
- ▶ Under the goal 11 “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, the following activities are being initiated by DPOs:
 - DPOs evaluated the accessibility of public transport, buildings and roads, and based on the result of the evaluation, the need to develop laws on accessibility was agreed upon.
 - In cooperation with the Ministry of Construction, a working committee consisting of representatives from DPOs and government was formed to draft a law on accessibility where I am a committee member.

Room for future improvement

On the behalf of the Mongolian disabled community, we urge all North east Asian countries to consider the following issues in order to ensure that persons with disabilities get benefit from the implementation of the SDG:

- ▶ Take measures to establish a formal mechanism to ensure the effective participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organization in the process to draft, implement and monitor of any development policy
- ▶ Adopt a twin track approach by mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities across all development policies, programs and allocate needed budget for the implementation
- ▶ Educate persons with disabilities on the topic of SDG and how to engage its process
- ▶ Support DPOs to increase their cooperation with civil society organizations of other countries to learn and improve their advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities through SDGs and CRPD



Thank you for attention