



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# Disability and Development Report

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Realizing the Sustainable  
Development Goals by,  
for and with persons  
with disabilities

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2018



Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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United Nations

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## Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Five expert group meetings were organized to coordinate the production of this flagship publication, which included additional experts from Member States, United Nations entities, International Financial Institutions and civil society. The lists of participants of these meetings are available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/monitoring-and-evaluation-of-inclusive-development/medd.html>

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Disability-inclusive development is an essential condition for a sustainable future. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pledging to leave no one behind in the global efforts to realize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Without the world's one billion persons with disabilities - 15% of the world population - being included as both agents and beneficiaries of development, these Goals will never be achieved. Yet, persons with disabilities are still invisible and often left behind.

This United Nations flagship report is the first publication to address, at the global level, the nexus between disability and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also the first global analysis based on an unprecedented amount of data, legislation and policies from over 100 countries to understand the socio-economic circumstances of persons with disabilities and the challenges and barriers they face in their daily lives. This report examines new areas, like the role of access to energy to enable persons with disabilities to use assistive technology, for which no global research was previously available. And explores the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as other international relevant norms and standards relating to disability. Against the backdrop of all the available evidence, the report identifies good practices and recommends urgent actions to be taken for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities.