

## **Submission to the Australian Government's new international development policy**

The Australian Federations of Disability Organisations (AFDO) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the formation of the Australian Government's new international development policy.

AFDO is a Disabled People's Organisation (DPO), a recognised Disability Representative Organisation (DRO), and the cross-disability national peak in the disability sector. Our mission is to champion the rights of people with disability in Australia and support them to participate fully in Australian life.

AFDO has Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is a Full member of Disabled People's International (DPI), and is privileged to hold the sole Australian representative vote on DPI. We are also a member of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) Shadow Report Working Group, which is made up of disability organisations from around Australia, and a Full member of the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) which is the regional peak body that works in partnership with Disabled Person's Organisations (DPOs) in the Pacific region.

Disability inclusion should continue to be a crosscutting priority for Australia's international engagement on human rights, development assistance and humanitarian action enshrined within the new international development policy and performance framework. The Australian Government is recognised internationally as a global leader on disability inclusive practice within international development and humanitarian efforts as well as in the promotion of disability rights worldwide. People with disabilities continue to be overrepresented in the world's poorest. It is imperative that Australia continues to play this leadership role to meet the commitments under the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper, the SDGs and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Articles 11 and 32), and ultimately to support people with disabilities in developing countries to find pathways out of poverty and realise their rights and full potential.

AFDO is a founding organisation of the [Australian Disability and Development Consortium \(ADDC\)](#) and a current member of their [Executive Committee](#). ADDC is a network of over 600 members including Australian development agencies and disabled people's organisations acting as a collective voice calling for the inclusion of people with disabilities across the Australian international development sector.

AFDO supports ADDC's recommendations and submission to the Australian Government's new international development policy. The submission provides both principled and practical guidance to aid the Australian Government in maintaining their globally-recognised leadership in disability-inclusive development; ensure the integration of inclusive approaches across development assistance, humanitarian and human rights policy; suggest action and accountability measures; and outline necessary resourcing for the effective and impactful delivery of the new international development policy.

Yours sincerely



Ross Joyce  
Chief Executive Officer

## **ADDC RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **A principled development policy**

- The new international development policy include eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind as the clearly-stated, primary objective of Australia's international development program in order to drive greater targeted investment in disability-inclusive development.

### **Impact for disability inclusion**

- Disability-inclusive approaches be integrated across the new international development policy's thematic pillars of development assistance, humanitarian response and human rights advocacy, through the active and central voice of people with disabilities and particularly by:
  - Embedding a 'twin track' approach to disability-inclusive development, which sees disability-specific development programming and actions prioritised as a necessary enabler of inclusion, as well as inclusion principles and practice integrated across all 'mainstream' aid investments;
  - Ensuring that approaches to humanitarian response incorporate best practice in disability inclusion, through incorporating reference to the principles of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the newly-developed Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action; and
  - Actioning the recommendations made in the Office of Development Effectiveness' 2017 evaluation of Australian advocacy for disability-inclusive development, particularly the recommendations relating to continuing advocacy relating to global human rights frameworks and processes, and investing in the capacity of Indo-Pacific governments and DPOs to increase country-level implementation of the CRPD.
- The Australian Government ensures that people with disabilities, through their representative organisations, play an active and central role in consultations and decision-making processes, including future Performance Framework and other accountability mechanisms, relating to the new international development policy.
- The new international development policy clearly identify linkages with existing regional strategies, particularly the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This should drive increased investment and mobilisation of other donors towards a regional collaborative mechanism, in order to best strengthen coordination.

### **Action and accountability**

- As a key measure in ensuring the effective implementation of the new international development policy's commitments to disability-inclusive development, a new *Development for All* strategy be introduced to replace the current iteration. The new strategy should include a targeted focus on inclusive humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction and an ongoing commitment to disability rights advocacy in addition to development assistance.
- The accompanying Performance Framework to the new international development policy includes clearly defined and measurable targets. This framework should include an ambitious and time-bound target for a percentage of investments to be rated 'satisfactory' against disability inclusion across the whole international development program, and specific disability inclusion targets for each of the international development program's thematic areas.
- The aid program's country and regional plans and thematic strategies reflect the twin-track approach to disability-inclusive development. All plans should utilise disability-disaggregated data and engage DPOs in their development in order to ensure that the priorities of people with disabilities are reflected in both disability-specific and mainstream development investments across the whole of Australia's international development policy.

## **Resourcing rights-based development**

- In order to effectively implement the new international development policy, Australian official development assistance be increased to at least 0.5 per cent of GNI within 5 years. Over the longer term, the Australian Government should commit to increasing it to 0.7 per cent of GNI within the next decade.
- Within the context of a growing aid budget, specific funding for disability-inclusive development increase by \$1 million per year over the coming five years, in order to accommodate the increased attention to disability-inclusive development outlined in the Foreign Policy White Paper. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade should also receive increased core departmental budget for staff and associated activity costs to ensure whole of department capacity is strengthened to facilitate effective mainstreaming of disability inclusion and disability-specific actions across the department's development assistance, humanitarian and human rights work.

**For the full version of the ADDC submission, [download it here](#).**