Committee: Forensics Junior Group Discussion (FJGD)

Topic: Improving Accessibility and the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Urban Areas

Student Officers: Fragiskos Nistikakis and Vasso Vasilonikolou

Position: Deputy Presidents

Personal Introduction

Hello everyone, my name is Vasso Vasilonikolou and I will be serving as one of the Deputy Presidents in the Forensics Junior Group Discussion. This will be my first time chairing and I am more than excited to share this experience with all of you. MUN has been a really important part of my life for the past couple of years because it has given me the opportunity to meet new people, explore new ideas and have fruitful debates about today's society. Throughout this study guide, I will aim to help you learn about the improvement of accessibility and in the inclusion of persons with disabilities in urban areas. Although this document should be a good starting point in your research, I would encourage you all not to solely rely on it. I hope this provides you with useful information and helps you in your preparation; if you have any questions or need any help please don't hesitate to contact me via my email
(written below). Can't wait to see you all in October!
Yours truly,

Vasso Vasilonikolou

1

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Dear All,

My name is Fragiskos Nistikakis. I am currently 16 years old and I am attending the 11th class of the German School of Athens (DSA). It is my honor to serve as a Deputy President in the Forensics Junior Group Discussion (FJGD) in this year's CSMUN. I have participated in eight previous MUN Conferences and have served as a Student Officer three times. I am really looking forward to working with you towards sustainable solutions on ongoing issues. The following study guide will provide you with an overlook on the issue of Improving Accessibility and the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Urban Areas. Feel free to contact me on my personal e-mail (fragiskos@gmail.com) for any further clarifications or guidance.
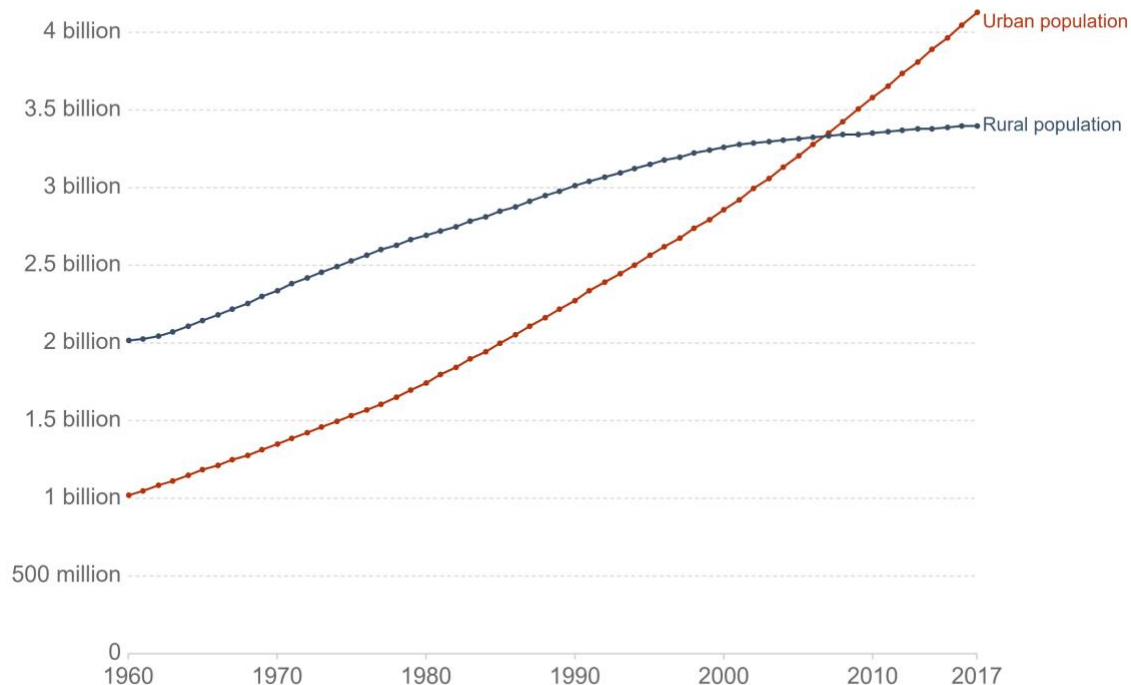
Best of luck,
Fragiskos Nistikakis

Topic Introduction

Urbanization began taking place during the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century. It is considered to be one of the most common phenomena of human history due to continuous economic growth and the evolution of capitalism which led to urban areas having higher living standards. Urbanization is still happening all over the world, both in Less Income Countries (LICs) and High Income Countries (HICs). It is estimated that by 2050 more than two-thirds of the population, around seven billion people, will live in urban areas.

Number of people living in urban and rural areas, World, 1960 to 2017

Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects (2018)
Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.
OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY

1

Considering that today more than four billion people live in urban areas globally, urbanization could lead to the remodelling of cities in order for them to be more environmentally sustainable, accessible and hospitable to persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, people with disabilities are one of the societal groups that have least received official aid; they currently have none or few alternatives to staying home, seeing as how cities do not engage in creating viable infrastructure or cannot financially support the amelioration of the already existing facilities.

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1 "World Urbanization Prospects 2018 - United Nations ...." https://population.un.org/wup/. Πρόσβαση στις 9 Αυγ. 2020.

CSMUN | Forensics Junior Group Discussion

The inclusion of persons with disabilities in urban areas is highly important, especially in the 21st century, due to two key factors; firstly, accessibility to services is considered a fundamental human right and the deprivation of it would mean that we would be socially encouraging inequality. Furthermore, the redesigning of urban areas would welcome persons with disabilities to daily life and give them opportunities to positively influence the economy and society.

Definition of key terms

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); "The United Nations Millennium Development Goals are eight goals that all 191 UN member states have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015". The MDGs are focusing on bringing together the United Nations, governments and civil society around eight key development issues.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[2]; "The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030". Like the MDGs, the SDGs are a series of key developing issue that are estimated to be established by 2030.

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[2] "Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)." *WHO | World Health Organization*, www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/about/en/.

Disability [3]; "an illness, injury, or medical condition that makes it difficult for someone to do the things that other people do";

A disability is a condition, either mental or physical, and it usually sets boundaries in following through activities the majority of the population can do. An example is the loss of a limb or loss of vision.

Urban area [4]; "the region surrounding a city. Most inhabitants of urban areas have non-agricultural jobs. Urban areas are very developed, meaning there is a density of human structures such as houses, commercial buildings, roads, bridges, and railways."

Urban areas describe suburbs and city centres, far from nature, where the population density is quite high and there are usually more technological and economic opportunities. Urban areas are easily distinguished from rural ones.

Social Inclusion[5]; "Social inclusion is the process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities – that everyone, regardless of their background, can achieve their full potential in life. Such efforts include policies and actions that promote equal access to (public) services as well as enable citizen's participation in the decision-making processes that affect their lives".

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[3] "DISABILITY | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary." 24 June. 2020, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/disability. Accessed 1 July. 2020.
[4] "urban area | National Geographic Society." https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/urban-area/. Accessed 13 July 2020
[5] "Social Inclusion | Poverty Eradication." *Welcome to the United Nations*, www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/issues/social-integration.html.

Access City Award;[6]

The purpose of this award is to support and inspire cities in Europe, which may face challenges when it comes to being accessible for all types of tourists and promote best practices across Europe. It recognizes and celebrates a city's willingness, ability and efforts to become more accessible

Urban development [7] ; "the development or improvement of an urban area by building"

Urban development refers to ameliorating the appearance or the function of urban areas, by means such as creating new facilities or housing places

LIC/HIC[8] ; LIC refers to Low Income Countries and HIC correspondingly refers to High Income Countries. World Bank experts claim that low income countries are those with a per capita gross national income less than $1, 026.

Accessibility[9]; "the fact of being able to be reached or obtained easily"

Accessibility refers to improving objects, facilities or services so that they can be obtained by all people of all socioeconomic standards without any particular struggle.

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[6]   "Access City Award 2019: Quick Wins from Breda, the Netherlands." *NTG*, 26 June 2019, https://www.nexttourismgeneration.eu/access-city-award-2019-quick-wins-from-breda-the-netherlands/ .

[7] "Urban development definition and meaning | Collins English ...."
https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/urban-development.Accessed 1 July. 2020.
[8]   "New country classifications by income level: 2019-2020." 1 July 2019, https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/new-country-classifications-income-level-2019-2020. Accessed 29 July 2020.
[9] "ACCESSIBILITY | meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." 15 July 2020, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/accessibility. Accessed 22 July 2020.

It is a much-needed action in today's world, especially in urban areas, because most of the population inhabits them.

Background Information

When we talk about accessibility, we mean making things easy to approach and have access to for everyone, regardless of their social, political, economic or any other sort of status. In modern societies, urban areas tend to provide access to more opportunities and vacancies than other areas. However, many societal groups have little to zero access to the aforementioned due to lack of resources and social exclusion. People with disabilities have been and remain one of those groups; in fact, even though legislative plans considering protection of their fundamental human rights have been made, they are not being carried out, leading to somewhat of a faulty circle. Thus, accessibility and inclusion of disabled people need to be implemented as soon as possible in urban areas.

Social regard

People with disabilities are still subject to many prejudiced opinions and stereotypes concerning them. They are often viewed as incapable or weak and they are pitied upon instead of being respected. Mass media play

quite an important role in building a victim profile for them. For instance, a lot of disabled people's stories seem to highlight their difficulty in doing things other people can do instead of their bravery, struggle and real problems. They are painted in such a way that makes the rest of the population feel as if disabled people are another category of people who can't ever share experiences or sentiments with them.

Another issue disabled people face is a denial of access to infrastructure and public services; cities of today either neglect them completely or fail to preserve urban development in terms of accessibility. An example is when people aren't properly fined for parking at a parking spot designed for people with disabilities or when supermarkets lack ramps or salespeople with compassion and understanding for someone intellectually challenged.

Economic regard

Something we fail to recognize is that improved infrastructure, support services and disability-inclusive urban development will not only benefit disabled people but the urban population and society as a whole. First of all, removing the socioeconomic ban and stigma this group faces in the workplace would be quite helpful; this could be achieved by means such as not limiting their workplace to their homes. Lack of access to urban economic services for disabled people could also lead to a loss of around 7% of GDP. Furthermore, the human capital which could have been produced is calculated as more significant than the cost to the governmental expenses, amounted to 2% of GDP. Consequently, we cannot characterize governmental decisions not to invest in ameliorating the already existing infrastructure or creating new accessible buildings and services as logical or understandable.

Political regard

People with disabilities are estranged from most socioeconomic functions; consequently, they are under-represented or momentarily viewed as members of society, especially in urban areas. Governments tend not to cooperate with Non-Governmental Organizations ruled by disabled people. Moreover, people with disabilities are isolated when it comes to education and work and don't get a proper opportunity of growing an interest in or participating in political life and events. Representatives of the disabled community are much needed in politics to erase the taboo treatment of their community, but also to shed a new light in the way politicians view society and its problems, seeing as how their marginalization had led to them experiencing harassment and prejudice firsthand. [10]

Barriers

Accessibility

Accessibility is considered to be a key factor when it comes to the barriers to the inclusion of disabled people. Undoubtedly, the lack of accessibility is not only causing isolation, but also other negative outcomes, like the prevention of the participation of disabled people in economic and social development in urban environments. To sustainably tackle the issue, it should be ensured that the current build-up surroundings and building are adapted to fulfil the needs of all people equally.
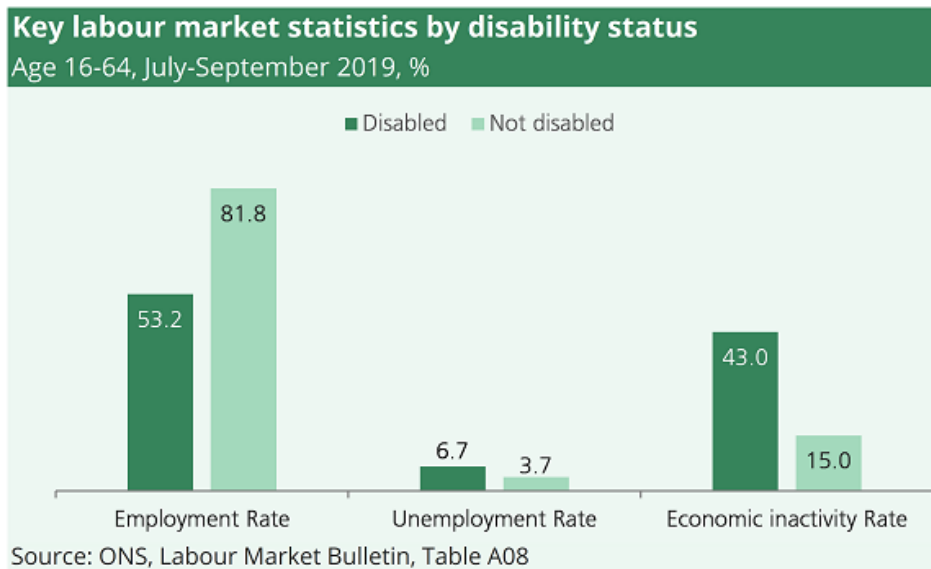
Unemployment[11]

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[10] "Disabled Representation in Politics: Why Do We Still Need to ...." 10 July 2019, http://4liberty.eu/disabled-representation-in-politics/. Accessed 29 July 2020.
[11] Disability and Work, www.ilo.org/global/topics/disability-and-work/lang--en/index.htm.

Despite the promotion of equal training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities promoted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), only 20% of the disabled population is employed, which undermines the overall role and contribution of disabled in the community. The unemployment issue is also leading to extremely high rates of poverty.[12]

Key labour market statistics by disability status
Age 16-64, July-September 2019, %

■ Disabled ■ Not disabled

	Disabled	Not disabled
Employment Rate	53.2	81.8
Unemployment Rate	6.7	3.7
Economic inactivity Rate	43.0	15.0

Source: ONS, Labour Market Bulletin, Table A08

Negative Stereotyping and stigma

Another issue preventing the sustainable inclusion of the disabled is one of stigma and prejudice. It has been proven that most people living with disabilities have experienced some forms of discrimination, stereotyping or stigma, thus causing segregation from society. This behavior is mainly influenced by the lack of understanding and awareness, misconceptions about nature and abilities and from religious and cultural beliefs since disability is mistakenly interpreted as a form of punishment in many religions.

[12] Powell, Andy. "People with Disabilities in Employment." *House of Commons Library*, 9 Aug. 2020, commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7540/.

Organizations of disabled persons

In the past years, disabled minority groups have organized their own NGOs. These organizations have the primary aim to provide to share the needs of the disabled, to identify needs, express political opinions, to evaluate policies and of course to raise awareness. Generally, the organizations have played a key role in the positive development of the issue and their opinion should be taken into consideration by the local authorities since they are representing the disabled minority groups themselves.

National Disability Strategy

Every nation that is willing to comply with the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and generally work towards the inclusion of the disabled in the society, must develop a National Disability Strategy. Also known as NDG, the National Disability Strategy is a series of objectives and actions that are creating a legal framework that promotes and protects the rights of the disabled. Normally, an NDG focuses its actions in 6 priority areas, namely guaranteeing services accessible to people with disabilities, ensuring that the disabled are enjoying the same rights with others, combating discrimination based on disability, increasing the participation of the disabled in the labour market, ensuring inclusive education and lifelong learning for disabled students and last but not least promoting equal access to health services.

Major countries and organizations involved

European Union

The European Commission's European Disability Strategy considering the decade of 2010-2020 and first adopted in 2010, is aiming at taking action in the following eight

sections: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social promotion, health and external action. The European Disability Strategy of 2010-2020 has led to initiatives such as the EU disability card project, which facilitated journeys of disabled people across the Member States of the European Union.

USA

The United States of America introduced the Americans with Disability Act, a book written by American Congress and Tom Harkin in 1990. The aforementioned Act is considered a civil rights law that forbids any sort of distinction and discrimination based on disability. ADA also foresees measures of the fit of disabled people in the workplace and public services, especially in urban areas.

However, in USA certain aspects of accessibility and equality have not been achieved, since, for instance, people with Down Syndrome can legally get paid around 30 cents an hour and can be put in segregated schools instead of typical ones.[13][14]

Netherlands

The city of Breda in the Netherlands was named the winner of the 2019 Access City award, an award given to a city of a European Commission Member State based on its "willingness, ability and efforts to become more accessible"[15]. Mainly roads and urban

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[13] "Many People With Disabilities Are Being Paid Way Below the ...." 8 Aug 2017, https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/08/many-people-with-disabilities-are-being-paid-way-below-the-minimum-wage-and-its-perfectly-legal/.Accessed 29 July 2020.

[14] "More disabled workers paid just pennies an hour - NBC News." 10 Aug 2013, http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/more-disabled-workers-paid-just-pennies-hour-v19916979. Accessed 29 July 2020.

[15] "Access City Award - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion ...." https://ec.europa.eu/social/accesscityaward. Accessed 15 July 2020.

transportations via buses have been adjusted to fit wheelchairs as well, and bus drivers have specialized in disability awareness. Also, facilities such as hotels, parks, shops and bars have been ameliorated in order to be accessible.

Furthermore, the Ministry on Health, Welfare and Sport carries the responsibility of implementing the UN Disability Treaty, introduced in June 2016 to the Netherlands and the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights supervises the aforementioned implementation.[16]

China

China's law on the Protection of Disabled Persons, first voted on in 1991 and amended in 2008, foresees safety and equality of persons with disabilities in education, legal liability, property, access and more. Furthermore, the regulations on Construction of Accessible Environment require local authorities to invest in accessible urban development and the creation of facilities for disabled people.

Germany[17]

Germany, while following a different approach, is also seen as a country appropriately handling the issue. The government of Germany has employed experts on handling the inclusion of the disabled. Based on their supervision, the government can take more precise actions. Apart from that, based on the evaluation of the BMZ Action Plan, the government of Germany has created an impactful strategy on the issue.

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[16]   "Ministry   of   Health,   Welfare   and   Sport | Government.nl." https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-health-welfare-and-sport. Accessed 29 July 2020.
[17] Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ. "Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities – a Key Principle in Germany's Development Policy." Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, 27 July 2020, www.bmz.de/en/issues/rights-of-people-with-disabilities/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-a-key-principle-in-Germanys-development-policy/index.html.

Ghana[18]

Like many other Low Income Countries (LICs), Ghana doesn't have the resources to support a decent public health system or form an accessible environment for its disabled citizens. Even though there is a variety of NGOs working in Ghana's territory, disabled minorities are still facing a lack of accessibility or barriers to education among others, since there is no governmental help provided.[19] Apart from that, the negative stereotyping and stigma is another issue that should be taken into serious consideration. These ideas are mainly driven by different religious groups that describe the disabled as either coursed or punished.[20]

South Korea

It has been reported several times in the past, that the government of South Korea is completely ignoring the rights, needs and demand of the disabled minorities. Moreover, no actions have been taken to guarantee equal education, accessibility, equal employment opportunities or a decent and affordable health system. Despite all the demonstrations and campaigns carried out by civil society members and activist, no development on the issue has been made.

DIAUD

The Global Network on Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development is a multi-stakeholder network working to achieve the inclusion of people with disabilities. DIAUD collaborates with authorities, advocates and activists and the global persons with disabilities community. DIAUD was also a participant in the 9th World Urban Forum and ratified the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, suggesting the global

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18 *YouTube*, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ww2CP0a8qOg&t=184s.
19 *YouTube*, www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=AlU6GNBXpPE&feature=emb_logo.
20 *YouTube*, www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7HRnXxY_go.

implementation of the New Urban Agenda, namely in its 10th actionable recommendation.[21]

EDF

The European Disability Forum is a Non-Governmental Organization, one of the few ruled solely by people with disabilities in Europe and their relatives. As well as their Europe based action, EDF is a founding member of the International Disability Alliance, an active participant in negotiations with the United Nations and working alongside them, the European Union and other NGOs in order to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved.

The Academic Network of European Disability Experts (ANED)

The Academic Network of European Disability Experts, also known as ANED, was created by the European Commission in 2007. Its purpose is to provide supervision and to make sure that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected and protected throughout Europe. The ANED has undoubtedly played a key role in the protection of the disabled, while also providing coordination for the implementation of the European Disability Strategy.

The International Labour Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Agency (ILO) is a United Nations Agency focusing on advancing social and economic justice for all. The ILO is also responsible for the international labour rules, a series of rules concerning the rights of employment, which have further promoted the rights of the disabled in the labour market.

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[21] "FEEDBACK – WUF 9: Scaling up implementation of the New ...." http://blog.hi.org/3646-2/. Accessed 29 July 2020.

Timeline of events

Date	Event
1968	The Architectural Barriers Act made an official statement in regards to the necessity of housing accessibility
1973	The passage of the Rehabilitation Act was one of the first accomplishments of the disabled rights movement.
1975	The Education for All Handicapped Children Act was established to guarantee equal access to public education for children with disabilities.
1990	The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) started and it is considered to be one of the greatest legal achievements concerning the inclusion of people with disabilities.

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2000	The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established.
2006	The UN Chief and Executives Board established the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (IASG)
2007	The Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) was created by the European Commission
2007	The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed on 30th March.
2015	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Developments was adopted by the UN in that year.
2018	The Secretary-General initiated the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy to strengthen the accessibility and

	mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

Introduction of the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons

The Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons was introduced to the United Nations General Assembly in 1975. The document included the definition of disabled people's rights and was considered a first step in solving the issue. Nevertheless, seeing as it's only a UN resolution, it has no legally binding power for Member States.

Americans with Disabilities Act

American with Disabilities Act is a civil rights law concerning the prohibition of disability-based discrimination introduced in 1990. Seen in retrospect, its adoption as legally binding has contributed to greater access in sectors concerning facilities and public services.

European Accessibility Act

The European Accessibility Act, proposed in 2012, referred to ameliorating terms of urban accessibility mostly towards digital services and goods. However, the program didn't manage to fulfil the expectations it was charged with, as it had a very small impact.

Case study examples

Particular cities or countries across the world have set a prime example of good urban development, such as Brazil when it comes to construction work or the amelioration

and redesign of Lucca, Italy, as well as the organisation of Musholm, a conference specifically organized for disabled people in Denmark. Nonetheless, these efforts operate on a very small scale worldwide and cannot be considered innovative enough.

Relevant UN Resolutions, Events, Treaties and Legislation

United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/91

Adopted on the 14/11/1990, this United Nations General Assembly resolution focused on "transforming" awareness into action, referring to the awareness raised during the 1980s, that was marked as the International Year of Disabled Persons.

United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/96

Adopted on 20/11/1993, it laid out the right steps towards full integration of the disabled persons in society. Additionally, this resolution focused on establishing a series of Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Person with Disabilities, while also creating a long-Term Strategy in order to implement the successful inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society to the year 2000 and beyond.

United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/99

Following the United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/96, this resolution was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in order to further suggest measurers and provide international supervision towards full integration of persons living with disabilities in society.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As it was previously defined, SDGs are eight goals/issues that should be tackled by 2030, to succeed a better and sustainable future for all, including minorities like the disabled. They were adopted in 2015 by all Nations. The SDGs focus on ending poverty, hunger, equality and create sustainable cities and communities (among others).

Figure 1 - Link between the SDGs and the CRPD

1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
CRPD Applies to all articles	CRPD Article 28	CRPD Articles 10, 11, 23, 25, 26	CRPD Article 24	CRPD Applies to all articles	CRPD Article 28
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
CRPD Article 28	CRPD Article 27	CRPD Articles 9, 20, 21	CRPD Article 5	CRPD Articles 9, 11, 19, 29, 30	
13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	
CRPD Articles 21, 25			CRPD Articles 4, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 29	CRPD Article 32	

How the SDGs support the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons (WPA)

The World Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons, also known as WPA, was adopted by the General Assembly on the 3rd December 1982. The WPA sets a global strategy, concerning the equalization of opportunities for the disabled.

UN Disability Inclusion Strategy

The UN disability Strategy was created by the UN in order to further support international actions for the inclusion of the disabled, while also creating an international framework for the successful inclusion of the disabled. Its importance

20

can be justified by the fact that based on its supervision, most National Disability Strategies were created and further implemented.

United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

As it was previously pointed out, MDGs were created in 2000 and were obtained by all 191 UN member states to end threats towards an equal and sustainable future. The MDGs are combating poverty, promoting equality for woman and ensure environmental sustainability, by ensuring effective association of governments and civil society.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities

It was established in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly. By creating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities the UN aimed to raise awareness and further promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Despite its importance and positive outcome, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was not able to end the aforementioned negative stereotyping and stigma, hence proving that there is still a percentage of people that do not understand the importance of the inclusion of disabled persons.

The International Year of Disabled Persons

In 1976 the UN felled the need to create a plan of action to raise awareness on an international scale, while also understanding the needs of the disabled. Therefore, the year 1981 was proclaimed as the International Year of Disabled Persons. The data gathered from this year was later on used to create other important events and organizations, like Apar the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy or the WPA.

The United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability (UNFV)

21

While preparing for the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, the UN established the UNFV in order to fund all actions, events and organizations promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Possible solutions

Global design company

One of the main problems concerning the lack of accessibility for disabled people when it comes to infrastructure is that there is not a particular foreseen design policy. Thus, every government or local authority opts to act on their own, based on the region's socioeconomic standards. A universal design policy would be quite helpful in terms of determining the cost and the materials that remain a necessity and would, consequently, erase possible inequalities between High Income Countries (HICs) and Low Income Countries (LICs). Furthermore, there would be a raising of certain criteria by which facilities and services will be deemed accessible, resulting in higher plan efficiency.

Another settlement could be the renovation and use of all public facilities which have not been in use for a certain time period. This could be proven less costly than the creation of proper infrastructure and also use public property which in other cases would have been wasted.

Development of a National Disability Strategy

Moving on, a lot of countries still have not developed a National Disability Strategy, thus commonly dealing with issues inappropriately related to the disabled. Moreover, such countries completely fail to comply with the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. In

such cases, international guidance and supervision are considered to be the most efficient way to deal with this issue. This can be achieved through the development of a UN body that can provide this aforementioned supervision to nations that haven't succeed in the implementation of solutions.

The collaboration of governments and local authorities with NGOs

Another issue that comes to mind when speaking about the selectiveness of authorities in a matter of utter global importance is that their actions are usually locally, and short term based. A possible solution to this could be the collaboration of governments with Non-Governmental Organizations since the latter seem to have a more objective view on the matter and can provide funding and support on all levels. For instance, the collaboration of a government and the European Disability Forum could be proven quite functional, since the voices and concerns of actual members of the disabled community would be heard and respected.

The effective raising of public awareness

Still to this day, disabled people have trouble in facing society due to the constant relation of disability with weakness, pity and victim roles. They are not treated equally or even respected; as experts mention, 90% of children with disabilities cannot attend school in LICs[22] and persons with disabilities are more likely to become victims of violence or rape[23] than the rest of the population. These are only some of the struggles

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[22] "Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities | United Nations Enable." https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/factsheet-on-persons-with-disabilities.html. Accessed 15 July 2020

[23] "Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities | United Nations Enable." https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/factsheet-on-persons-with-disabilities.html. Accessed 15 July 2020.

23

they have to fight daily. Therefore, the need to effectively raise public awareness about disability in modern urban and rural areas as well has become urgent.

Examples of applicable measures are the launch of global campaigns, supported by NGOs, local authorities and the United Nations. Something quite important as well as the collaboration of media and the disabled community so that people with disabilities have a chance to share their true stories and voice their concerns, something sincerely lacking in modern society.

The amelioration of education offered to disabled people

Most issues that cause lifelong problems to the disabled community stem from lack of proper education, especially in retrospect to the education non-disabled people are provided with. Out of the goals every UN document or convention sets, equal education is perhaps the most crucial, because it can -in a slow but steady manner- lead towards the achievement of all the others e.g. working conditions can be ameliorated. Besides, education can give the community a chance to grasp the root of the problems they face every day and discourage them from shutting themselves away from society, hence turning them into active participants in the struggle for urban development.

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24

"Disability Inclusion Plan." Family & Community Services, 5 Mar. 2020, www.facs.nsw.gov.au/inclusion/disability/overview.

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