

ESCAP: Topic B Primary Sources

The Disability Inclusive Initiative

Here are the primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: Perspectives of Disability-Inclusive Business in Asia and the Pacific

This report from the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) focuses on the role that businesses can have in fostering a disability inclusive environment in Asia and the Pacific. Rather than looking at the disabled as a burden, businesses should seek to engage those with disabilities as employees and potential customers. In order to identify companies that are disability inclusive, the APCD developed a 3-part test: 1) a business incorporates principles of accessibility; 2) it offers disability-friendly productions, communications and services; and 3) it is committed to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. While the United Nations, ESCAP and national governments remain important drivers of disability inclusion, a role for the private sector exists as well.

http://www.apcdfoundation.org/?q=system/files/disability_inclusive_business_booklet.pdf

Source #2: Expert meeting on Disability-inclusive Technology and Innovation

This page provides access to notes from an expert meeting hosted by ESCAP that sought to understand how technology could further promote disability inclusion. One of the presentations, hyperlinked at the bottom of the page, outlines the key challenges face by people with disabilities, such as issues with mobility and accessibility as well as legal challenges. While the presenters do not necessarily believe that technology can solve legal hurdles to inclusion, there is a strongly held belief that technology can help reduce accessibility and mobility challenges, through the implementation of ramps on public transit systems as well as elevators at transit stops and buildings.

<https://www.unescap.org/events/expert-meeting-disability-inclusive-technology-and-innovation>

Source #3: Disability-Inclusive Development

This webpage provides a broad set of information on the challenges facing the disabled in Asia and the Pacific as well as a history of work undertaken by ESCAP to foster more inclusive societies. For example, ESCAP is the only Regional UN Commission that promotes the rights of people with disabilities, building its efforts off of the Incheon Strategy. This strategy calls for a semi-annual regional overview of disability policies and practices as well as gathering data on the disabled and the challenges they face in the region. Before the adoption of these frameworks in 1993, very little was known about the disabled population in most countries in Asia and the Pacific. These reports have further brought forth national efforts to be disability-inclusive in disaster planning, as those with disabilities are more likely to die in disasters.

<https://www.unescap.org/our-work/social-development/disability/about>

Source #4: Assessing Progress of the Incheon Strategy

This source is one of the reports mentioned in the above source. It outlines the ways in which the Incheon Strategy must continue to strive to create an inclusive region for the disabled. The report points to 6 areas that must be worked on: 1) decreasing poverty for persons with disabilities; 2) providing greater educational and economic opportunity to those with disabilities; 3) developing greater involvement of those with disability in the political process; 4) empowering women and girls with disabilities to overcome additional barriers related to their gender in accessing opportunities; 5)

accessibility needs for those with disabilities should be addressed; and 6) reliable data must be collected on disabled communities in member countries in order to develop more effective policies. <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/SDD%20BDIS%20report%20A4%20v14-5-E.pdf>

Source #5: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol

Passed in 2006, the CRPD is the international community's foundational document for creating more inclusive societies for those with disabilities. Article 3, General Principles, lays out the guiding values of the convention, such as non-discrimination and respect for those with disabilities, an equality of opportunity, accessibility, and equality between men and women. The convention includes articles focusing on the notion that those with disability should have liberty and security of person (Articles 14-17); should have freedom of expression, opinion and access to information (Article 21), and have a right to education and health, without fear of discrimination due to their disability (Articles 24-26). The CRPD has 161 signatories and has helped further the international agenda on the inclusion of those with disabilities.

<https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

Source #6: Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

This report from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat provides significant information regarding the regional framework to support persons with disabilities in the Pacific. The vision of this framework is "An inclusive, barrier-free, and rights-based society for men, women and children with disabilities, which embraces the diversity of all Pacific people." Pages 6 and 7 provide a concise overview of what is discussed in the report: promoting livelihoods, mainstreaming rights through legislation, developing leadership opportunities, improving disaster risk management, and strengthening research. Each of these 5 goals are discussed in depth through the rest of the report, including strategies and actions that can be implemented to achieve the goals. This document will help delegates brainstorm possible actions to take in committee, as well as provides specific information regarding the Pacific populations.

<http://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Framework-on-the-Rights-of-Persons-with-Disabilities-.pdf>