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editorial

The Millennium Development Goals are a unifying set of goals specifically designed to address the needs of the world's poor and marginalised populations. They are meant to forge collaborative action to reduce poverty, improve health and address educational and environmental concerns around the world's most pressing development problems.

With these in view, the lack of mention of persons with disabilities in the MDGs has raised concern among various stakeholders in the disability movement. Despite the fact that persons with Disabilities make up 10 per cent of the world's population, nowhere in the MDGs are persons with disabilities cited.

It is often said poverty and disability are closely linked. In the world poverty index, disability is associated with 20 per cent of global poverty. Research shows that persons with disabilities experience lack of education, social marginalisation, poverty and unemployment based

on discrimination and ignorance by decision makers. To address this oversight, The Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD) jointly with the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) and the UN MDG campaign office for Africa held a conference on 15-19 September 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya.

This issue covers extensively the outcome of the conference. It lists the resolutions passed by delegates at the conference. You will also have an opportunity to view photographs depicting the mood at the conference, attended by over 200 delegates from twenty four African countries.

Other activities of the secretariat in the last three months are also featured. We also deeply express our gratitude for the partnership and assistance we receive from Disabled Peoples Organisations - Denmark (DPOD), DANIDA and Sida. Welcome to the second issue of human rights Africa, 2008.

Jane Mwangi
Editor

The front cover photo features a section of participants of the MDGs and Disability Conference held in Nairobi on 15th-17th September 2008. Seated in the centre is SADPD's CEO A.K.Dube. Participants were mainly drawn from the African continent.

MDGS and DISABILITY

In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. These goals were called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Summit's Millennium Declaration also outlined a consensus road map for how to proceed, with a stronger focus on human rights, good governance and democracy.

However, the needs of persons with disabilities were not captured in the formulated goals. To address the oversight and conceptualize the way forward Persons with Disabilities from the African continent gathered in Nairobi on 15th -17th September 2008. They expressed their disappointment. They drew attention to the plight and poverty experienced by people with disabilities and identified ways to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are met in government fast track initiatives.

The Nairobi conference organised jointly by The secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities, the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) and the UN MDG campaign office for Africa brought together over 200 delegates from twenty four African countries.

They deliberated at length on effective ways of mainstreaming disability in MDGs and in their countries.

The delegates asked their respective governments to protect persons with disabilities from adverse effects of rising costs and include them in existing social protection schemes. They also asked governments to uphold the principle of gender equity in disability, promote the use of positive language and to encourage the use of professional campaigners including goodwill ambassadors.

The delegates resolved to continue advocating for the mainstreaming of disability issues and to engage more in influencing the social development processes.

They also resolved that they would lobby for inclusion in national poverty reduction strategies and other national development plans and initiatives and explore avenues of partnerships with the private sector in their economic empowerment.

The delegates therefore resolved that: -

We Resolve As Delegates That We Shall;

Communicate the outcome of this conference to our governments to review, prioritise and include issues of disability in their Country Statements during their high level meetings on MDGs in New York, in the September 2008 Summit.

Call on our governments to move and support a motion during the UN General Assembly, calling for the establishment of a new UN Special Agency on Disability; to provide leadership, coordination, harmonisation and enhanced monitoring and reporting.

Engage our governments to ensure that People with Disabilities are protected from adverse effects from rising costs and related vulnerabilities and participate and benefit from existing social protection schemes

Lobby governments through the African Development Bank and related partners to establish an African Disability Equity Fund to support economic empowerment, entrepreneurship and business of people with disabilities

Uphold the principle of gender equity in disability and promote the use of positive language in reference to people with disabilities

Encourage the use of professional campaigners including goodwill ambassadors in promoting disability inclusion

Recognise the efforts of parents, friends and guardians of people with disabilities and recognise them as part of the wider disability movement.

We Urge the UN through Member States;

To establish a Specialist Agency on Disability in the league of UNICEF and UNIFEM to provide leadership and global accountability on matters related to the disabled people

To prioritise include and partner with the disability movement in its entire millennium campaign initiatives and develop the strategies for doing so in the September summit.

We Urge The AU and Related Bodies To;

Set up a Disability Desk within all African regional bodies to monitor the implementation of both the convention and



A section of Participants at the MDGs conference, held in Nairobi, September, 2008.

human rights violation of people with disabilities within the respective regions

Mainstream disability into their programmes and performance management systems

Establish peer review mechanism and performance management system for disability in Africa

Ensure political and social economic representation of people with disabilities in NEPAD and develop terms of reference for their participation.

Work with DPOs to urgently review the structure and mandate of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI)

Extend the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities for another ten years by means of a proclamation by the meeting of the African Heads of State planned for January 2009.

Facilitate self- representation of PWDs in all commissions, Pan Africa Parliament and other structures.

We Call on The Secretariat of African Decade of Persons With Disability to;

Establish a programme to develop human resource capacity for policy analysis to act as a watch dog in monitoring disability inclusion.

Allocate responsibilities, roles and duties to the regional federations and other partners in order to ensure effective, well – monitored follow up and implementation strategies.

We urge all Government to;

Ratify, domesticate and implement the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Work with DPOs in nominating the members of the panel of experts in convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Recognise DPOs as agents of change and therefore as partners in development planning and programmes

Include people with disabilities and disability into their poverty reduction and development programmes

Put into place affirmative action to enhance participation in political social and economic sectors

Include disability data collection within the general national data collection systems recognising diversity in disability

Use data to inform planning and service delivery and monitoring and evaluation

Highlight and include disability in the existing MDG indicators in partnership with the disability movement.

We Call On Development Partners To;

Prioritise disability as a tool for planning and analysis for development assistance and international cooperation in all their international cooperation and assistance (aid, debt relieve and trade).

Include and consult people with disabilities and their respective organisations in planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Include disability as a requirement / condition for funding development programmes.

We Resolve that As Disabled Peoples Organisations We Shall;

Advocate to ensure that disability issues are mainstreamed in all government, UN agencies and development partners policies, plans and programmes particularly those related to MDGs.

Endeavour to understand the structures of various government, UN agencies and development partners with a view to engaging with them more effectively for full inclusion of people with disabilities.

Advocate development partners to include disability as a requirement / condition for funding development programmes

Engage and influence the social development process

Participate in the Social Protection processes to ensure people with disabilities are included

Advocate and lobby to be included in national poverty reduction strategies and other national development plans and initiatives

Explore avenues of partnership with private sector in their economic empowerment programmes

Utilize our individual and collective capacity to cause the implementation of programmes related to the MDGs for the benefit of people with disabilities

Build our own capacity to engage with our government on their commitments and agreement at national and international levels

Ensure that whatever is agreed at regional or national workshops cascades downward to people with disabilities at the grassroots and rural areas

Familiarise ourselves with the disability policies of different development agencies and ensure that they benefit us

Strengthen our unity and common voice in planning, implementation and monitoring processes whilst at the same time recognising diversity in disability

Restructure and reform our internal governance structures to adopt modern management and good governance systems and increase transparency and accountability to our members

Nurture and mentor youth with disabilities into leadership succession plans and support them towards social economic empowerment

Make a paradigm shift from the charity model to the human rights and social development model

Strategically engage with media for both awareness and advocacy and built our capacity to engage with media



Participants are taken through sessions at the MDGs and Disability Conference

Sensitise and capacitate the media to various disability needs and to urge them to be inclusive in their presentation and reporting

Link with African Universities to promote evidence based disability research and to promote disability inclusive academic programmes

Review through our Governments the Accra Development Plan of Action and cause its implementation for the benefit of PWDs in Africa.

The workshop ended on a high note. Participants hoped their leaders had heard them and would be at the forefront in advocating for mainstreaming of disability.



A group photograph of the participants of the MDG Conference, held in Nairobi

Conference Pictorial



SADPD'S staff Aida Sarr (centre) and Thomas Ongolo left welcoming Pape Diouf, the Secretariat's good will ambassador to the Conference



SADPD Programme Manager, Judith Van der Veen assisting Conference participants register.



Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equity and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Disease
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop a Goal Partnership for Development

Top left: Kenya's Vice president his Excellency Kalonzo Musyoka in red tie is welcomed to the conference

Bottom left: Delegates pose for a photo



Diouf doing his jig

Pape Diouf Performs in Nairobi

Pape Diouf the Secretariat of the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities Goodwill Ambassador engaged in a thrilling performance in Nairobi, Kenya during the Regional Conference on Millennium Development Goals & Disability held on 15th - 17th September, 2008. His performance and approach towards disability will remain in memory for a long time. By Aida Sarr

The Artist, nominated Goodwill Ambassador by the Secretariat of the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities is aware of his mission and his dedication is unmatched.

To reach as many groups as possible SADPD decided to engage a few influential and popular Africans as Goodwill Ambassadors to assist in raising awareness on the rights and needs of Persons with Disabilities. An assignment well understood by the 27 year old young Senegalese singer. The overall purpose as a good will ambassador is to advocate for the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

Pape believes, Persons with disabilities should not be considered as objects of charity, but as African citizens who have rights like everybody else and should be included in policies and programmes of development.

This powerful message is in one of his CD tracks called "Disability", a way to pay homage to the struggle of persons with disabilities. Diouf passionately believes in the empowerment of persons with disabilities and emphasized this during a press conference he held after the opening ceremony of the Regional Conference on Millennium Development Goal & Disability.

"My goal is reach out to all in Africa and plead for sensitivity to the plight of persons with disability" he says.

After Nairobi, he plans to take the message to Europe and the United States. But he promised to come back in Africa

precisely in Senegal Dakar for a big concert to celebrate Disability International Day held annually on the 3rd of December.

It is one year since his nomination as Goodwill Ambassador. He was appointed in December 2007.



Participants dancing to Diouf's lyrics

THE SECRETARIAT'S NEW BOARD

The Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD) has a new Board of Directors. The board was elected on 19th September 2008 at an Annual General Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Roseweter Mudarikwa from Zimbabwe representing African Women's Network (AWN), was elected the Chair Person of the New Board of the Secretariat of African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD).

Mrs. Vanessa dos Santos from South Africa, representing Inclusion Africa was elected the Secretary of the SADPD Board.

Mzolisi ka Toni also from South Africa representing Disabled People of South Africa (DPSA) was elected the new Treasurer of SADPD Board.

The other members of the Board are Papa M. Fall from Zimbabwe representing, African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI).

David Shaba from Tanzania, representing African Federation of Deaf Blind (AFDB).

Paul Tazanou from Cameroon, who will temporarily represent African Union of the Blind (AFUB).

Euphrasia Mbewe from Zambia, representing African Deaf Union (ADU).

Nomasonto Grace Mazibuko from South Africa representing Pan African Albino Society.

Antony Zimba representing Epilepsy Africa Regional Committee.

Goulou Moussa Traore from Mali, representing African Persons with Leprosy Disability Organisation (ALO).

Diop Alpha Boubacar from Guinea representing the Pan African Federation of the Disabled(PAFOD).

Fredrick Asong from Ghana representing the Youth Network in Africa.

Moosa Salie representing Psychiatric users and survivors (PANUPS)

It was agreed that Paul Tazanou be in office until November 2008 when African Union of the Blind (AFUB) will send the name of nominee after the organization's General Assembly. It was also agreed that the South African government and

African Union send their nominees.

The Board will be in office for two years. We wish the new board members well and a successful tenure in office. For the outgoing board members, Thank you.



Out going board members from left seated, Louis Nzimande, Joshua Malinga, Paul Tezanou, Sebenzile Matsebula, SADPD C.E.O A K Dube and Euphrasia Mbewe. Standing, left Moosa Salie and Pape Malick Fall

SECRETARIAT SIGNS MOU

It makes sense to harness the skills and energy of the youth in Africa. The youth in Africa make the majority of the population. They are the future generation and are willing and able to contribute to the planning and implementation of policies and programmes to promote economic growth and human rights and ensure the prosperity of the continent *By Nafisa Baboo*

The Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD) has recognized the important role that the youth play in shaping the future. A strong focus, therefore has been to facilitate the inclusion of youth with disabilities in the influential mainstream youth movement.

An exciting partnership between the African Youth Trust (AYT) and the Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities was officially launched with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the C.E.O of SADPD, A.K.Dube and AYT, Executive Director, Nahum Okwiya in September, this year.

The African Youth Trust (AYT) has agreed to include youth with disabilities in all their programmes that promote good governance, human rights, economic empowerment and youth participation in local and national government across East Africa.

AYT works in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. The initiative will enhance SADPD programmes to eradicate poverty and facilitate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. If you are interested in learning more about AYT and would like to get involved please refer to the AYT website : www.africayouthtrust.org.



AYT Executive Director and SADPD C.E.O A.K.Dube sign the MOU at a Nairobi hotel.

Disability Youth Network in Africa

Networking and social networking has taken the world by storm. It is a great way of sharing ideas, experiences and information. Plans are underway to develop strong national and regional networks for youth with disabilities. The network would essentially comprise of youth with disabilities and those interested in enhancing the lives of young people with disabilities on the African continent.

The Secretariat is looking for volunteers to assist with the development of these networks in their countries. We would also like to hear and learn from existing networks. Please contact nafisa at nafisa@africandecade.co.za

SECRETARIAT APPLAUD AFRICAN PALARYMPIC TEAMS



An Amputee athlete gets set for the pool

The Secretariat of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities congratulates African teams to the Paralympics held in August this year, in Beijing china. The athletes made us proud. As advocates of the rights of persons with disabilities, we celebrate their achievements.

We thank the various governments and organizations' that have put their money and time in building sports among persons with disabilities. The achievements of these sports men and women are an example of what persons with disability can achieve if given equal opportunities in the different spheres of society.

The achievements of the South African team at the Olympics was perhaps one of the most memorable. They harvested several medals at the pool and short distance races. Natalie Du Toit broke world records and left us in frenzy. We will for sure celebrate these achievements for many years to come.

This show of might will be a living example to many other persons with disabilities that they too can shine and bring glory to their countries and families. The South African team performed well in the continent. We salute the team led by Du Toit who received five gold medals in the various disciplines she participated in. we also salute other South African medal holders listed below:-

BOUWER Charl - Gold

du TOIT Natalie - 5 gold

HAYES Ilse - 1 Gold, 1 silver

JOHNSON Philippa - Gold

KILPATRICK Gavin, THOMSON

Michael - bronze

LOMBARD Fanie - 1 Gold, 1 bronze

MOKGALAGADI Teboho - bronze

NEL Riaan - silver

NEWMAN Nicholas - bronze

PAUL Kevin - Gold

LANGENHOVEN Hilton - Gold

PISTORIUS Oscar - Gold

ROOS David - silver

SAPIRO Shireen - Gold

SLATTERY Tadhg - bronze

van der MERWE Fanie - Gold

van DYK Ernst - 1 Gold, 1 bronze

SADPD activities in the last quarter

On one page we present activities of the Secretariat in the various countries in Africa

Women Network formed

An African Network of Disabled Women was formed in July, 2008. The network was formed at a forum held in Johannesburg, South Africa and attended by 12 women with disabilities from 12 different countries.

The forum is an independent continental network aimed at offering support and voice to women with disabilities within the disability movement. Countries represented included, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Botswana and South Africa among others.

All women with disabilities are invited to join the network. SADPD will continue to provide the necessary secretariat services.

Newsupdate July, 2008

National Status Reports on the African Decade Released

On 7th – 9th July, 2008 SADPD held a regional conference of Management Committees and National Decade Steering Committees (DSC) to discuss and share national Decade country status reports.

Reports from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda were tabled. The reports indicated positive progress on integration of disability rights by the various governments.

Participants at the conference called on countries that had not ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to do **so. To-date African 10 countries have ratified the Convention.**

Newsupdate July, 2008

SADPD Evaluates its activities

In the month of August, SADPD conducted evaluation meetings for its activities in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Kenya.

The evaluation exercise was conducted to obtain baseline information of agencies that the Secretariat has been working with over the past four years.

Evaluation meetings included, meetings with representatives of Disabled Peoples Organisations, Gender sub-committees of the Decade Steering Committee, Decade Steering Committee members and other agencies.

An analysis of the meetings indicated that capacity building of the Decade steering committees is still a priority.

Newsupdate August, 2008

African Youth Trust sign MOU with SADPD

The African Youth Trust (AYT) and the Secretariat of African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (SADPD), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this month to aid young people with disabilities participate in government, good governance, human rights and economic empowerment programmes across East Africa.

The signing of the MOU took place in Nairobi Kenya, on 19th September, 2008.

The agreement was signed between A.K. Dube SADPD C.E.O and AYT Executive Director Nahum Okwiya

Update Sept, 2008

useful links

On the following pages we provide you with interesting links on HIV/AIDS, human rights and disability. Check this selection of websites if you want more information to complement the articles in this issue of *Human Rights Africa*.

In 2004, the World Bank, working in association with the Yale School of Public Health, conducted a Global Survey on HIV/AIDS and Disability which specifically sought to determine the impact that the AIDS epidemic is having on individuals with disability around the world. (See the article entitled “There are no disabled people on the AIDS posters” in this newsletter.) Read the findings on the Global Survey website: <http://cira.med.yale.edu/globalsurvey/index.html>

An internationally-focused website with comprehensive information on prevention, infection, treatment, statistics, news and events. Administered from England but does a good job of presenting globally-relevant information with sections pertaining specifically to Africa, the USA as well for youth, gays and lesbians: <http://www.avert.org/>

The official website of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS that is comprised of 12 UN organizations as well as the World Bank. Contains countless press releases, studies and articles that can all be searched by topic, region or agency: www.unaids.org

Guidelines and ideas for community based AIDS education and prevention appropriate for various cultural contexts. Published by AIDS Action and Healthlink Worldwide: <http://www.aidsaction.info/aa/index.html>

The National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH). US based organization offering support to people with albinism: www.albinism.org

A comprehensive HIV/AIDS information site that contains the basic information on HIV, news on prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS as well as information and news focused on HIV globally. It is run by NAM a community-based organisation working from the UK: <http://www.aidsmap.com/>

The latest news on HIV/AIDS from Africa, updated daily. Organises and stores updates from over 125 African news organizations: <http://allafrica.com/aids/>

The Constellation for AIDS Competence wants to see a world where AIDS competence is spreading faster than the virus: <http://www.aidscompetence.org/>

more useful links

The World Health Organization provides links to descriptions of activities, reports and news, as well as contacts to the various WHO programmes and offices working on the topic of HIV/AIDS: http://www.who.int/topics/hiv_infections/en/index.html

A comprehensive list of books, reports, cassettes, CDs, videos, websites and email forums relating specifically to HIV/AIDS and disability as well as links to organisations currently working on HIV/AIDS education for people with disabilities can be found here: http://www.ids.ac.uk/sourcesearch/cf/keylists/keylist.cfm?Search=QL_hivdis_AS04&topic=hiv

The AIDS and Disability Action Program is a part of the British Columbia Coalition of People with Disabilities "Wellness and Disability Initiative". Founded in 1988 in Canada, the program collects and creates HIV and AIDS prevention material in accessible formats. They have produced a set of easy-to-read-and-understand pamphlets on HIV/AIDS and related issues. Hard copies of resource materials are available upon request, via this website: <http://www.bccpd.bc.ca/wdi/adap.html>

This is a great collection of links to organisations and networks of women with disabilities, as well as of links to information about issues affecting women with disabilities: <http://www.bioethicsanddisability.org/disabledwomen.html>

Read about a rare research project on women with disabilities here: <http://www.bioethicsanddisability.org/disabledwomen.html>

Deaf Child Worldwide is the only UK-based international development agency dedicated to enabling deaf children to overcome poverty and isolation. <http://www.deafchildworldwide.org>

This website has free accessible resources on inclusive education and a newsletter filled with wonderful examples of useful and promising practices in developing countries. <http://www.eenet.org.uk>

The SINTEF Group is a large independent research organisation in Scandinavia. Among their projects is research on the relationship between disability and poverty in Africa, funded by the World Bank. Read more: http://www.sintef.no/content/page1_5116.aspx

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has information about the *human rights dimension of disability*: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/disability/intro.htm#human>

There is also a study on Human Rights and Disability, reflecting and analysing the shift to the rights-based approach to disability and what this means for the United Nations: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/disability/study.htm>

The latest information on the work of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on a *Comprehensive and Integral International Convention to Promote and Protect the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities* can be found here: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahc8.htm>

See also the Convention Ratification Toolkit developed by Disabled Peoples' International: <http://v1.dpi.org/icrpd/en/index.htm>