# **Preconditions for inclusion:**
# Guidance for organisations of persons with disabilities

# Introduction

The preconditions for inclusion are a framework of core components that are essential to ensure equity, by overcoming barriers that commonly prevent persons with disabilities from participating in programs, services, opportunities and everyday life in their communities on an equal basis with others.

The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' 2016 report on 'disability inclusive policy frameworks' was the first to outline how **assistive technology, support services, non-discrimination and accessibility are 'prerequisites' for implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals.** The report demonstrated how, without these, even the most inclusive 'mainstream' programs and services can be beyond reach for persons with disabilities. Inclusive policy frameworks are therefore **essential to enabling access and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring their inclusion.**

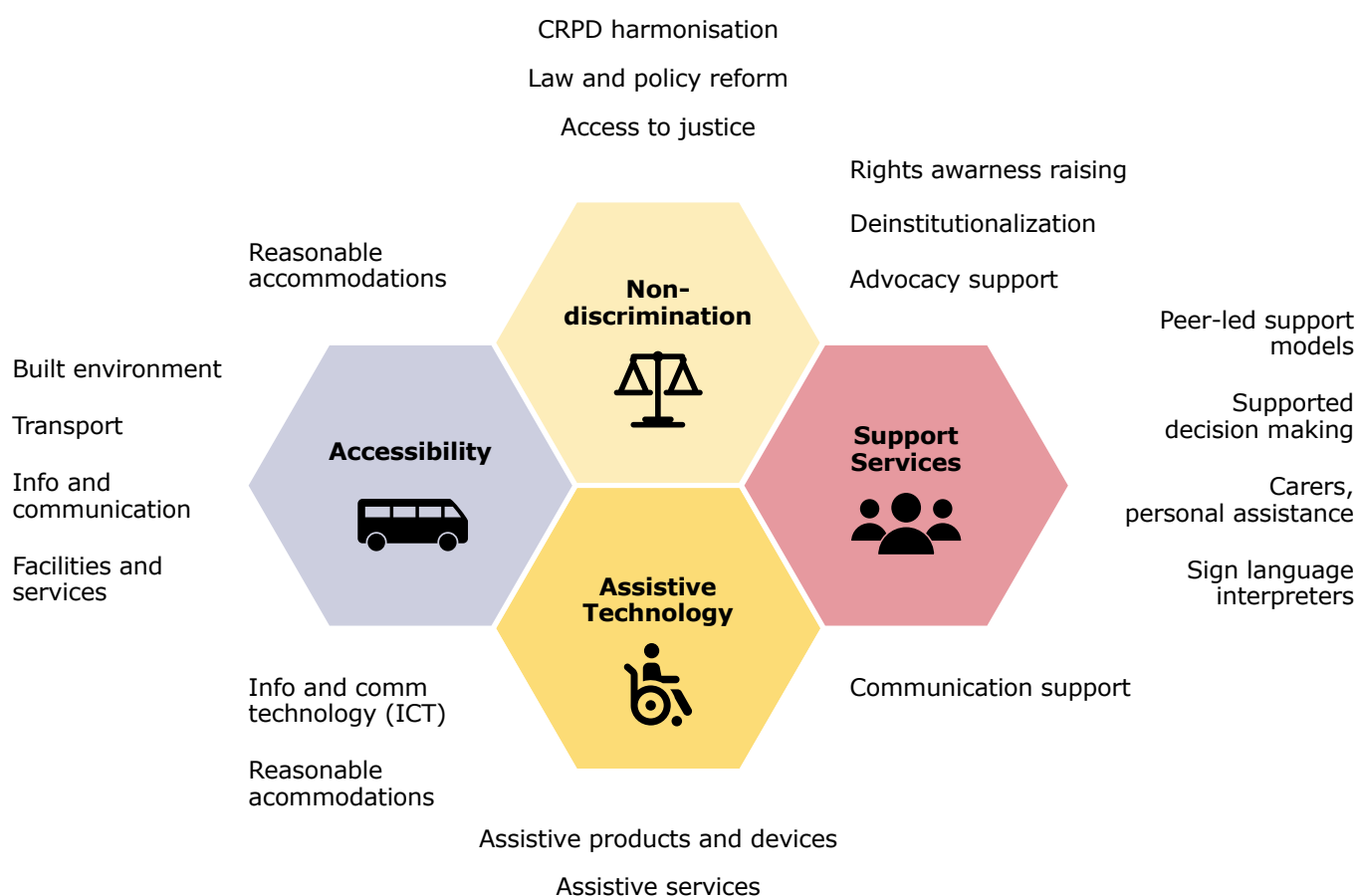*Prepared by the Inclusion Advisory Group (IAG) of CBM Global Disability Inclusion.*

All links were correct at the time of publication.

# Core components of the preconditions for inclusion framework

There are several versions of preconditions for inclusion frameworks used by different organisations. All versions include **non-discrimination, accessibility, assistive technologies, and support services.** Some organisations add in extra components that are relevant for the specific contexts and purposes that they have developed their frameworks for.

## The core components of the preconditions for inclusion

CRPD harmonisation

Law and policy reform

Access to justice

Rights awarness raising

Deinstitutionalization

Advocacy support

Reasonable accommodations

**Non-discrimination**

Peer-led support models

Supported decision making

Built environment

Transport

Info and communication

Facilities and services

**Accessibility**

**Support Services**

Carers, personal assistance

Sign language interpreters

**Assistive Technology**

Info and comm technology (ICT)

Reasonable acommodations

Communication support

Assistive products and devices

Assistive services

While the framework consists of discreet components, the 'preconditions to inclusion' framework works by grouping these together as a collective policy and programming framework. If one is missing, there is a risk of exclusion of, and discrimination against, persons with disabilities. For example, assistive technology such as wheelchairs, white canes and screen readers require accessible built environments, transport and communications to be effective.  Similarly support services such as sign language interpretation, supported decision making, peer-led support models, as well as rights awareness raising, are all essential to achieve non-discrimination in practice.

This means that when we do implement the preconditions components as a full framework it can **build truly inclusive communities** where persons with disabilities are able to fulfil their rights and participate on an equal basis.



## Component 1: Accessibility

Accessibility considerations include:

- **Infrastructure** including buildings, public spaces and other facilities and services designed for public use, such as elevators and cash machines.

- **Transportation systems** that provide options for persons with disabilities to travel independently and comfortably.

- **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** such as signage, announcements, documents, websites and ICT systems, television, broadcasts for people with a range of disabilities.

Universal design ensures that spaces and services are accessible to everyone.

# Component 2: Assistive technology (AT)

AT is an umbrella term including considerations of:

- **Assistive products and devices:** These are designed to maintain or improve an individual's functioning and/or independence. Examples include wheelchairs, white canes, walkers, crutches, prosthetics, hearing aids, communication aids, Braille materials, screen readers, voice recognition software.

- **Assistive services:** These include fitting, maintenance and repair services for technology, training, and (re)habilitation services.

# Component 3: Non-discrimination

Non-discrimination is **both a right and a cross-cutting principle.**  It includes:

- **The right to access and benefit from all laws,** policy frameworks, programmes, and services on an equal basis with others.

- **The right to equal legal protection.**

Non-discrimination considerations cover different forms of discrimination, including:

- **Direct and indirect discrimination -** that is, where actions disproportionately disadvantage persons with disabilities.

- **Denial of reasonable accommodation requests.**

- **'Intersectional discrimination'** where people with more than one marginalised identity may experience multiple and unique forms of discrimination – e.g., women with disabilities, Indigenous people with disabilities.

- **Denial of the right to legal capacity:** where people are prevented from making decisions about their lives because they have a disability. This is discrimination and most often experienced by people with psychosocial and cognitive disabilities, children, and older people with disabilities.

The scope of non-discrimination is far-reaching. It is intrinsically linked with:

- **Awareness raising** amongst persons with disabilities, and amongst their communities, others with and their service providers, to reduce discrimination and increase equality.

- **Law and policy reform** to ensure alignment with the CRPD and adequate access to justice for persons with disabilities should discrimination occur.

## ☻ Component 4: Support services

Support service considerations include:

- Human supports (such as care or personal assistance).

- Supported decision-making.

- Communication support (such as sign language interpreters or screen readers).

- Mobility support (such as extra funding for transport, guides, service animals, equipment).

- Housing assistance, such as supported living arrangements.

- Peer-led models of support including peer-to-peer support, Circles of support and self-advocacy support

There are strong gender considerations particularly regarding **caregiving support,** as currently up to eighty per cent of all long-term support is provided unpaid by informal carers and family members, mainly women and girls. Policies and programs here should consider the cultural context, wishes, choices, and safety of persons with disabilities and their families.

# Taking action

OPDs can play an important role in ensuring the preconditions for inclusion are understood by governments and development and humanitarian actors, and that action is taken to implement them. OPDs can:

## On accessibility

- Be involved in the development and/or review of **accessibility laws, policies, and standards at local and national levels.**

- Advocate for all programmes, procedures and public procurement processes **meet accessibility standards.**

- **Facilitate establishment of monitoring and regulatory systems,** including accessible complaints mechanisms, to enforce standards and provide recourse where accessibility requirements are not met.

- **Advocate for budget for accessibility measures** in the design, implementation and review of all programs and policies and hold governments to account for any accessibility related commitment made.

## On assistive technology (AT)

- Be involved in the development of policies and processes to ensure procurement and supply of **suitable assistive products.**

- Be involved in the development of policies and processes to **ensure affordability of, and access to, assistive technology.** This could be done via social protection or national health insurance schemes.

- **Advocate for investment in an assistive services workforce,** including rehabilitation services and outreach and referral systems.

# On non-discrimination

- **Be involved in law reform and policy work** that ensures discrimination on the grounds of disability is prohibited by law and that legal action can be taken if disability-based discrimination occurs.

- **Address denial of legal capacity** through deinstitutionalisation policies and processes, provision of supported decision-making schemes, and community-based supports, so that people can live the way they choose to and are supported to do so.

- **Be involved in identifying persons with disabilities who may be experiencing intersectional discrimination** due to multiple marginalised identities. Supporting their inclusion by they are effectively included in design and implementation of all policies and programmes.

- **Advocate for budget allocations** to ensure reasonable accommodations can be provided.

- Raise awareness

  - **Amongst communities and duty-bearers** (e.g., programme implementers, governments) to address disability-based discrimination and improve access.

  - **Amongst persons with disabilities** to promote understanding of their capabilities and rights under the CRPD. This empowers persons with disabilities to access opportunities on an equal basis with others and address discrimination themselves.

# On support services

- **Advocate about the importance of support services** to enable the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly in areas where AT and accessibility do not fully meet their needs.

- **Be involved in the development of policies and programmes** that ensure access to support services. This includes:

  - **Provision of affordable services,** including Sign Language interpretation, personal assistants, support care workers, supported decision making schemes, and community-based and peer-led support services and programs such as independent living and peer support programs.

  - **Culturally appropriate policies and programmes** that support informal caregiving e.g., family or community-based support through social protection, peer to peer supports, and community building activities; recognising that these responsibilities typically fall on women and girls.

  - **Development of enforceable standards for industry providers,** particularly given the exploitation and abuse risks related to personal support for persons with disabilities.

# Resources and further information

**Preconditions framework**

- OHCHR. (undated). [Policy Guidelines for Inclusive Sustainability Development Goals: Foundations](#)

- Pacific Disability Forum. (2023). [Conference Discussion paper](#)

- Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (2016). [Report on Disability-Inclusive Policies](#)

- UNPRPD. (undated). [The preconditions necessary ensure disability inclusion](#)


**Accessibility**

- ESCAP. (2019). [Investing in Accessibility in Asia and the Pacific](#)

- The Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility. (2017). [Improving Accessibility in Transport Infrastructure Projects in the Pacific Islands](#)

- UNCRPD Committee. (2014). [General Comment No. 2, Accessibility, Art. 9](#)

- UNDIS. (2020). [Guidelines on the Implementation of Indicator 8: Procurement](#)


**Assistive technology**

- WHO. (2022). [Global Report on Assistive Technology](#)

- WHO. (2020). [Assistive technology procurement study: technical report](#)


**Non-discrimination**

- ESCAP. (2022). [Harmonisation of national laws with the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities: Overview of trends in Asia and the Pacific](#)

- OHCHR. (2020). Article 5: [List of illustrative indicators on equality and non-discrimination](#)

- UNCRPD Committee General Comment. (2018). [No. 6 – Article 5 – Equality and Non-Discrimination](#)

- UNCRPD Committee General Comment. (2014). [No. 1 – Article 12 – Equal Recognition before the law](#)

**Support services**

- Centre for Inclusive Policy. (2023). The Disability Support Gap: Community support systems for persons with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries

- International Disability Alliance (IDA), the OHCHR, UNICEF, International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and CBM Global. (2023). Towards sustainable support systems for community inclusion of persons with disabilities

- Special Rapporteur on the Rights of People with Disabilities. (2023). Transformation of services for persons with disabilities

- Pacific Disability Forum. (2019). Deaf People in the Pacific Island Countries

- OHCHR. (2023). Support systems to ensure community inclusion of persons with disabilities

- OHCHR. (2022). Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies