

Towards Further Improvements in Disability Statistics

-Joint Statement by UNSD and the Washington Group-

We recognize that fundamental improvements in statistics on disability require a holistic approach including improvement in the collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization of statistics on disability. At the same time, we also recognize the urgent need for high-quality and relevant statistics on disability for monitoring the full inclusion of persons with disabilities as required by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) is a substantive Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the secretariat to the United Nations Statistical Commission. UNSD's disability statistics programme that started in the early 1980s covers a range of areas including the development of international guidelines on measurement of disability, technical assistance for strengthening national statistical capacity, and compilation and dissemination of statistics on disability. Hence, as a goal, UNSD, strives towards an overall development of national statistical systems in advancing statistics on disability in the long-run.

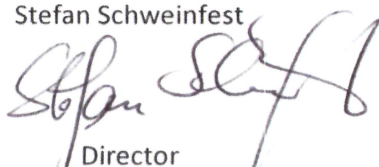
The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG), a city group under the aegis of the United Nations Statistical Commission, was established in 2001 to address the need for cross-nationally comparable population-based measures of disability. The WG has developed a Short Set (WG-SS) of six questions on disability for use in censuses and surveys, an extended set (WG-ES) for use in surveys, and, jointly with UNICEF, a Child Functioning Module (CFM) and is conducting regional implementation workshops to facilitate their adoption. The WG-SS and the WG-UNICEF CFM have been tested extensively and when added to ongoing data collections provide an efficient approach to monitor implementation of the UN CRPD and the SDGs by disaggregating data by disability status. The data collection tools are in use by a significant number of National Statistical Offices and have been endorsed by a number of UN agencies, development ministries and civil society organisations.

We recognize that, in addition to addressing the current, urgent needs for data, there must be a long-term and coordinated strategy across all international partners for strengthening national capacity to generate robust statistics on disability for national planning and monitoring. Together, and building on our complementary roles, these approaches will ensure that persons with disabilities are included in national development.

We hereby reaffirm our commitments to collaborate closely and effectively under the guidance of the UN Statistical Commission to achieve further improvements in statistics on disability.

New York, Washington, Sydney, 31 October 2017,

Stefan Schweinfest



Director
Statistics Division/DESA

Jennifer Madans



Chair
Washington Group on Disability Statistics