

CONCEPT NOTE

Mid-Point Review of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032

Social Development Division

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

26-27 August 2026 (09:00 to 16:00 hours, UTC+7)

1. Background and Rationale

The [Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032](#) articulates a regional vision of disability-inclusive development grounded in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It identifies six priority areas through which member States commit to realizing the rights, inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities:

- **Harmonization:** Aligning national laws and policies with the CRPD.
- **Participation:** Meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities, including by consulting and involving Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs).
- **Accessibility:** Built environments, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), transport, and services, using universal design principles and assistive technology.
- **Private Sector:** Engaging the private sector in disability-inclusive development.
- **Gender & Life cycle:** Responsive approaches in programs and policies.
- **Data & Evidence:** Strengthening data and systems for inclusive progress tracking.

The [Operational Guide](#) further identifies cross-cutting overarching priorities to support implementation, including:

- Realization of rights through constitutions and human rights treaties.
- Diversified and enhanced resource mobilization.
- Highest government authority to champion changes through strategic foresight and coordination.
- Capacity development to eliminate ableism and intersectional discrimination.
- A gender-responsive life cycle approach.

The ESCAP secretariat will conduct a mid-point review to support member States and key stakeholders in the region in assessing progress, identifying structural challenges and achievements, informing strategic adjustments for the remainder of the Decade, and strengthening regional cooperation.

2. Mid-Point Review Scope and Framework

2.1. An action-focused review

The mid-point review will emphasize **actions taken** through process and structural indicators rather than outcome indicators. This is justified by:

- **Time-Lag of Impact:** Meaningful shifts in outcome indicators (like employment rates) often require long-term interventions. Action-based monitoring identifies if the foundations are being laid now. It also aligns with the Jakarta Declaration and its [Operational Guide](#)'s emphasis on concrete policy, institutional and systems-level actions as the primary vehicles for change.
- **Data Consistency:** Disability-disaggregated data across sectors remains sparse. Focusing on concrete actions (e.g., laws, budgets, and policies) ensures a more equitable assessment across all member States.
- **Course Correction:** It provides immediate feedback on policy implementation, allowing for targeted technical assistance where progress is lagging.

Definitions of structural and process indicators versus outcome indicators:

Structural indicators	Commitments - assess legal and institutional commitments e.g. "ratification and adoption of laws, policies and institutional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights" (OHCHR, 2024). Converting international policy instruments into the 'structure' of domestic law (Priestley & Huete-García, 2022).
Process indicators	Efforts towards fulfilment - measure efforts of States towards fulfilment through policies and resource allocation - e.g. "training, awareness-raising and consultation" (OHCHR, 2024).

Outcome indicators	Results - capture actual enjoyment of rights by rights-holders - e.g. “record the impact of actions and describe the extent to which the rights of persons with disabilities are being fulfilled” (OHCHR, 2024). For instance, State Parties efforts to quantify outcomes between persons with/out disabilities (Priestley & Huete-García, 2022).
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Note: While this review focuses on structural and process indicators, the review will utilize available disability-related data from the [Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway](#) and other official sources, which may provide insight into emerging outcome indicators trends.

2.2. Geographic and Time Scope

- **Geographic scope:**

All ESCAP members and associate members geographically located in Asia and the Pacific (excluding United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France and the Netherlands).

Where data allows, the review will analyze progress by subregions: East and North-East Asia; South-East Asia; South and South-West Asia; North and Central Asia; the Pacific.

- **Time scope:**

The mid-point review will take stock of, and measure actions taken or planned from January 2023 onward. [Note: The review may include literature dated 2022 which refers to future actions to be undertaken from 2023 onward.]

3. Objective and Analytical Framework

The midpoint review will **aim** to:

- Document actions taken by Governments, OPDs, the private sector and other stakeholders across the six Jakarta Declaration priority areas, selected overarching priorities, in line with the Jakarta Declaration priorities and its [Operational Guide](#).
- Analyze alignment between actions taken and conclusions and/or recommendations stemming from:
 - CRPD reports, shadow reports, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) reports and the CRPD Committee reviews.
 - Disability-related reviews in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA).
 - Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of the SDGs.
 - Annual meetings of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities.

- Identify achievements, promising practices, persistent gaps and structural barriers, at the regional level. Where data permit, subregional trends will also be analyzed to inform context-based action planning and subregional collaboration.
- Generate actionable recommendations for accelerating implementation for the remainder of the Decade, with targeted support for countries with the largest gaps.
- Strengthen regional cooperation among Governments, OPDs, United Nations entities and other partners engaged in disability-inclusive development.

An **analytical framework** is developed to guide the assessment of progress in each priority area and key overarching action areas. More details are provided in **Annex 1: Analytical framework and tentative review questions**. Overall, the analytical framework is designed to understand what progress has been made in the Asia-Pacific region and to provide insight to inform forward looking action by Asia-Pacific countries to drive transformative changes in disability-inclusive development.

4. Methodology

➤ Desktop Review & Data Integration

- **UN Treaty Bodies:** The analysis will cover concluding observations issued by the respective treaty committees from January 2023 onwards, including documentations and information submitted by States Parties, CSOs and NHRIs corresponding to these concluding observations. The treaties to be reviewed will include CRPD, CEDAW, CRC, MIPPA, as well as UPRs submitted to the Human Rights Council.
- **SDG implementation:** Review of VNRs to assess how disability is mainstreamed into national sustainable development, submitted by member States since 2023.
- **Official Documentation:** Review of national disability laws, strategies, action plans; non-disability-specific national development plans/strategies; disability budgets, and sectoral roadmaps/policies, since 2023. This may include strategies and action plans that commenced before 2023 and remain in force beyond 2023.
- **Regional Working Group reports** in 2023, 2025 and 2026.
- Disability-related reports of United Nations entities, development banks and other reliable institutions in the region, since 2022
- **SDG data on disability:** To provide updated **facts and figures** related to persons with disabilities.
- **Relevant subregional review processes, focusing on preconditions to /enablers for inclusion including: :**
 - ASEAN Enabling Master Plan mid-term review ([2022](#)) and final review (2026);
 - Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD) 2016–2025 stocktaking (ongoing by PDF and PIFS in 2026).

➤ Primary Data Collection

- **Government Survey:** Targeting Governments of ESCAP member States, to be dispatched through National Disability Focal Points.

- **Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Survey:** Targeting regional/subregional OPD networks, CSO members of the regional Working Group, and major national OPDs.
 - **Private Sector Survey:** Tentatively, a designated survey may also be conducted among national chapters of the ILO Global Business and Disability Network (GBND) based in Asia and the Pacific.
- **Public Call for Inputs:** A public call for inputs – via a digital form - to capture the "lived experience" and grassroots perspectives from OPDs, marginalized groups, private businesses, and individuals. Input is expected in the form of short submissions documenting actions, promising practices, challenges, and recommendations. The primary use of information collected through this method is to connect analytical findings based on official data and evidence with real-life experiences at the grassroots level. It will also create a sense of ownership of the mid-point review among the disability community.
- **Stakeholder consultations:**
- The mid-point review concept note, the findings and the associated dissemination plan will be discussed and validated by the regional Working Group, consisting of 20 Governments and 20 CSO members. [2026 WGM to review plan; 2027 WGM to validate report].
 - United Nations entities based in the region will also be consulted in the design and implementation of the review.
 - Online subregional stakeholder consultation(tentatively, to be co-hosted with ASEAN Secretariat, the Pacific Community (SPC) or the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and/or major regional/subregional OPDs) may be organized, as needed, to review preliminary findings and solicit further feedback. [Briefings in 2026; consultation on findings in 2027]
 - An expert group meeting is tentatively planned for June 2027 to review the draft mid-point review report.

5. Expected Outcome and Outputs

The midpoint review will deliver:

- **A Comprehensive Analytical Report:** Presenting regional progress, gaps, and opportunities, along with case studies and recommendations for next steps.
- **A Roadmap for UN Support:** Guiding technical assistance and capacity development to countries for effective implementation of the remainder of the Decade.
- **Targeted Dissemination Products:** Including fact sheets, briefers and tailored, accessible materials targeting different groups of audiences.

6. Indicative Timeline

Phase	Timeline
Preparation and methodology design	Apr–June 2026
Concept Note and review tools vetted by Working Group and inputs from other United Nations entities	July – Aug 2026
Desktop review	Jun – Aug 2026
Surveys and public call for inputs circulated	Sept – Dec 2026
Data analysis and drafting of report	Jan – Apr 2027
Virtual stakeholder consultations (pending, alternatively, written feedback)	May - July 2027
Expert Group Meeting	Jun 2027
Finalization of report and associated materials	Jun – Jul 2027
Regional Working Group Meeting	Aug/September 2027
Dissemination and socialization of findings	Sept – Dec 2027

Annexes

☒ Annex 1: Analytical framework and tentative review questions

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