UNITED NATIONS AND DISABILITY

70 years!

This historical reflection presents the key milestones in the work of the United Nations to advance the equality and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development.

2015

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is adopted. It is a global development plan that specifically includes persons with disabilities, under five goals in seven targets. Disability and persons with disabilities are also included in other global development frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development.

2010s

2000s

The General Assembly convenes a **High-Level meeting on Disability and Development** (2013) at the level of Heads of State and Governments who commits to achieving the MDGs and all internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, as well as to mainstream disability in all development efforts.

The **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** (2006) is adopted as an international treaty to promote, protect and ensure all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities.

1990s

Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (1993) is adopted. The Rules serve as a guidance for policy-making, taking action to remove obstacles and creating equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in society and development. A **Special Rapporteur on Disability** (1993) of the Commission for Social Development is established to promote and monitor the implementation of the Standards Rules.

World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (1982) is a global strategy that provides a blue-print for countries to achieve the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities, marking a shift towards a human rights-based approach. The International Year of Disabled Persons (1981) and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1982) highlights that societal attitudes act as barriers to realizing the full human rights and equality of persons with disabilities.

1980s

1970s

The **Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons** (1971), followed by a second disability-specific instrument, the **Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons** (1975) are adopted. These declarations are the first UN instruments that specifically address persons with disabilities.

1960s

The **Declaration on Social Progress and Development** (1969) affirms the fundamental freedoms and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and emphasize the need to protect the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities.

1950s

Economic and Social Council adopts resolutions that indicate an increased awareness that recognize disability and persons with disabilities from a social dimension.

1945

The **United Nations** is established and **UN Charter** is adopted, committing to peace and security, human rights and socio-economic development for all people, everywhere.

Accessible



United Nations

