

## Editorial

According to the latest World Cities Report from UN HABITAT, 54% of the world's population lives in urban areas, with most rapid urban growth taking place in countries in Asia and Africa. The draft New Urban Agenda, that is expected to guide the sustainable and inclusive development of the world's cities for next 20 years, was released in June 2016, and is likely to be launched by the United Nations later this year. An informal global Network on Accessible and Disability Inclusive Urban Development has been established, with the aim of promoting networking among different stakeholders in order to contribute to discussions on the New Urban Agenda and to support its implementation. The Network and its stakeholders will work to ensure that the New Urban Agenda is fully inclusive of and accessible to all, particularly to persons with disabilities. As part of the preparations for the launch of the New Urban Agenda, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) have developed a publication entitled "Good practices of accessible urban development" ([http://bit.ly/unenable\\_urbandev](http://bit.ly/unenable_urbandev)), that provides case studies of innovative practices and policies in housing and built environments, transportation, public spaces and public services, including information and communication technology (ICT) based services.

The SDGs have a goal related to urban development as well. Goal 11 of the SDGs is to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". The 2 sub-goals are: "By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons;" and "By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities."

These developments indicate the growing need to plan appropriately for increasing urbanisation in different regions of the world. In the Asian region for example, it is reported that about half of the region's urban residents live in small and medium sized cities (areas with less than one million people). About 50% of the world's megacities (with populations of 10 million or more) are located in Asia. These are crowded cities, with continuous influx of people from rural areas

in search of livelihood opportunities, leading to the rapid growth of urban poor communities living in slums.

In the context of inclusive development for persons with disabilities, much of the earlier CBR work tended to focus on rural communities, although over the last decade, there is more literature available about CBR in urban poor communities. Yuenwah (2011, available at <http://dcidj.org/article/view/114/64>) cites urbanisation as one of the challenges that CBR and inclusive development practitioners need to address: *“The rapid urbanisation under way in Asia-Pacific makes for instability in the community and family context of persons with disabilities. This situation, affecting such huge numbers of persons with disabilities and their families, must be urgently addressed using CBR methodology”*. She goes on to add that *“CBR that can advocate the improvement of services and infrastructure, increasing their accessibility in small and medium cities of the region.”*

Planning for CBR and inclusive development in urban poor communities is different from planning for rural communities, because of differences in social, economic and political contexts between the two types of communities. Stakeholders working to promote CBR and inclusive development will need to consider the implications of urbanisation in relation to persons with disabilities, and to plan appropriately for inclusive development in urban areas, especially for those living in slums. The New Urban Agenda can help to guide this work.

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