

October 16, 2016



Launch of a new publication: “The Inclusion Imperative: towards Disability-inclusive and Accessible Urban Development”

QUITO, October 16, 2016 – The Global Network on Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development (DIAUD) announces the launch of a new joint publication “The Inclusion Imperative: Towards Disability-inclusive and Accessible Urban Development” that World Enabled and CBM have produced in collaboration with DIAUD members including coordination support from the Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) at American University and its Disability Inclusive Development Policy Collaboratory.

The official launch is planned for today during the High-level Forum on disability-inclusion and accessible urban development preceding the UN HABITAT III Conference in Quito.

This innovative publication presents examples of disability-inclusive urban development, features the voices of people with disabilities claiming their rights as well as key recommendations to help ensure that cities respond to the needs of everyone, including persons with disabilities.

About 6.25 billion people, 15% of them with disabilities, are predicted to be living in urban centers by 2050. 'We will fail to achieve the new international development agenda if we don't consider disability inclusion at the starting point' says Catalina Devandas, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. 'It is important to stress once again that there are no excuses to leaving persons with disabilities behind; our recognition as equal members of society will bring prosperity to all and cities that are respectful and safe for all human kind.'

Building cities and societies for human diversity, social inclusion, and equality is becoming an increasing priority and is key for a truly inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for all. Well-planned cities can dramatically improve the social and economic outcomes for individuals with a range of disabilities, their families, and the larger communities they participate in.

Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda provide a critical opportunity for the disability community to help shape a more accessible and inclusive urban future. It also provides an opportunity to design an enabling environment that reflects the reality of how inhabitants access their communities and live their lives.

TO DOWNLOAD the publication and get more information, please visit the webpage of the [DIAUD Network](#).

The publication will be available shortly, stay tuned!