

BEING A PERSON

Disability in the World: Rights, Inclusion and Rehabilitation

5 and 6 April 2019

PLENARY SESSION: Disability: being recognised as Persons Abstract Johannes Trimmel (initial draft)

Persons with disabilities are increasingly recognised as stakeholders in international cooperation. More than 10 years after the enforcement of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the recognition of persons with disabilities however largely stays at the level of guidelines, policy frameworks and debates – mostly among the converted; and a continuation of a limited number of programmes specifically targeting persons with disabilities for provision of services.

As president of CONCORD, the European Confederation for Relief and Development, I want to specifically look at the landscape in European Development Cooperation and address the following perspectives:

1. Institutional Developments from the 2003 European Year for Persons with Disabilities to today in the area of inclusion of persons with disabilities in development cooperation
2. CONCORD and the development NGO community: Diversity, Participation and Inclusion
3. Organisations: Programme Work, Governance and Internal Practice
4. 2030 Agenda: an Agenda by, with and for the people (with disabilities), with the promise to leave no one behind
5. Where are the spaces for inclusion of persons with disabilities > debates and developments we are missing out
6. Changing politics: European politics for Europe and European Politics for the World follow the same narrative, that needs to be changed
7. In Practice: bringing change towards inclusive approaches, beyond disability
8. Finance, Data and Evidence

With the CRPD we have a normative legally binding framework. We have expertise and experience on how to make development work for persons with disabilities. We are collecting and systematising evidence, which is still weak in a good number of areas. And we have been advocating and engaging in policy-influencing for years, and continue to do so. Yet we may need to do different things and do things differently to achieve an Inclusive Future.