In the year 2000, world leaders adopted the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – a set of eight time-bound development goals to be achieved by 2015. While a great deal has been achieved through the MDGs, much work remains. Increasingly, it has been recognized that the gains made through the MDGs have not equally benefited all people – that the poorest and most marginalized, in particular people with disabilities, have been excluded. In the lead-up to 2015, a new dialogue between the United Nations and its agencies, Governments, and civil society organizations is happening. This dialogue will shape and influence the post-2015 development agenda. It is critical that the voices of people with intellectual disabilities and their families be part of this dialogue. Inclusion International is working with key UN agencies, the International Disability Alliance, and civil society organizations like Beyond 2015 to advance the issues of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Inclusion International and the MDGs
When the MDGs were adopted in 2000, they did not explicitly include a disability focus. Inclusion International was the first organization to link people with intellectual disabilities and their families and the MDGs. II used the MDGs II developed an inclusive vision for the MDGs and defined disability-specific targets for achieving the MDGs in ways that were meaningful for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. II used this framework to guide our global study on poverty and disability and the corresponding 2004 global report, *Hear Our Voices: People with an Intellectual Disability and their Families Speak Out on Poverty and Exclusion*.

Recognizing the importance of the MDGs and the opportunity they afforded, II fused its efforts with the vision of the MDGs and committed to contributing to the achievement of the MDGs for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. II used the MDGs to shape its strategic plan and the efforts of the organization.

Disability and the Post-2015 Development Framework
To-date, the disability community has been successful in ensuring that disability is included as a key issue and that persons with disabilities and their families are participating in consultations and discussions. These efforts have resulted in a number of references in various post-2015 reference documents. A position paper on disability and the MDGs developed by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) highlights that the new development framework must:

- Enable a focus on the poorest, most marginalised groups, such as persons with disabilities, ensuring their effective participation in all stages of the process including in the negotiation phase.
- Be driven by the human rights-based approach, with equality and non-discrimination as priority themes. To ensure this leads to concrete action, there should be a stand-alone goal on equality and non-discrimination, as well as the obligations to pursue these principles across the new framework.
- Revise the current understanding and definition of poverty, progress and development so that it goes beyond income, consumption and wealth.

Specific to disability, the new development framework must:

- Be inclusive of persons with disabilities and compliant with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). All goals should be inclusive of persons with disabilities. There
need to be specific indicators related to the inclusion of the persons with disabilities within each of the goals.

- Secure mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of organisations of persons with disabilities at every stage of the process.
- Ensure mandatory disaggregation of data by disability, as well as producing new datasets on persons with disabilities.
- Revise overseas development assistance to include disability related markers.
- Ensure new global partnerships must include persons with disabilities in their international cooperation efforts.
- As established by article 32 of the CRPD, all projects and programmes, whether mainstream or disability specific, have to be compliant with the CRPD, and promote the rights and full and effective participation for persons with disabilities, including by supporting the work of representative organizations of persons with disabilities.
- In accordance with Paragraph 135 of the Rio +20 Outcome Document, governments must commit to promote sustainable development policies that support inclusive housing and social services; a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly, persons with disabilities.

Who’s Involved
There are many groups involved in the post-2015 dialogue. Key groups include:

- **High Level Panel of Eminent Persons** - the panel, appointed in July 2012 by the UN Secretary General, will provide advice and recommendations on the post-2015 Development Agenda. The Panel is co-chaired by: President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia; President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia; and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom.

- **UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda** – co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) coordinates over 50 UN entities and international organizations to provide system-wide support to the post-2015 consultation process. The team’s report, *Realizing the Future We Want for All* ([http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf)), serves as a core reference document.

- **The World We Want 2015** – the World We Want ([http://www.worldwewant2015.org/](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/)) is a joint initiative between the UN and Civil Society. It is a web-based platform that provides information and updates about the post-2015 consultations and efforts. It’s also an opportunity to contribute to the global dialogue through a series of on-line discussions and consultations.

- **Beyond 2015** – a coalition ([www.beyond2015.org](http://www.beyond2015.org)) of more than 500 civil society organizations around the world campaigning for a strong post-2015 development framework that is: “participatory, inclusive and responsive to voices of those directly affected by poverty and injustice.”

- **UN General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals** – It is largely anticipated that the post-2015 development agenda will merge with the sustainable development agenda, predominantly focused on environmental sustainability and guided by the Rio+20 document. The Open Working Group will be established in September 2013. It will consist of 30 UN member country representatives nominated by different regions.

- **UN Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on post-2015** – Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria has been appointed as the Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning. In addition to providing advice to the UN Secretary General and serving as an ex-officio member of the High Level Panel, she will provide a link to the UNGA Open Working Group on sustainable development goals.
The Process
The post-2015 development dialogue is mainly comprised of three parts:
1. National level consultations led by the UN Development Group – 50+ national dialogues are being convened to stimulate debate and provide input to the process (see here).
2. 9 thematic consultations led by UN agencies (see here)
3. An on-line global conversation led by The World We Want (see here (http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sitemap))

Additionally, the High Level Panel hosts regular meetings and will be developing a report on the post-MDG process to be submitted to the UN Secretary General and then to the MDG summit taking place in New York on September 20 – 22, 2013.

What Can YOU Do?
There are many ways to participate in this important dialogue:
1. Find out if a national consultation is being held in your country and participate.
2. Request an invitation for you or your organization to participate in the thematic consultations.
3. Participate in the on-line discussions and consultations being hosted by The World We Want 2015.
4. Check out the membership of the High Level Panel. If your country has a representative on the panel, send them a letter encouraging participation of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in the consultation process and their inclusion in the post-2015 development framework. Inclusion International can help you with this.
5. Fill out the UN Survey My World (http://www.myworld2015.org/) and suggest disability as a priority.
6. Keep informed through Inclusion International and other organizations involved like Beyond 2015.
7. Keep us informed! Please share with us any information you have or any activities you are involved in regarding the post-2015 development framework.