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**AUSTRALIA IN AN INCLUSIVE WORLD:  
SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN  
GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY WHITE  
PAPER CONSULTATION**

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## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **1. Australian aid as a cornerstone of foreign policy**

- 1.1 The Australian Government's forthcoming foreign policy white paper should conceive of aid alongside diplomacy, trade and security as a strategic imperative and an equally crucial pillar of the enabling environment to advance Australia's interests. It should grant the Australian aid program the legitimacy and budgetary protections granted to the diplomatic, trade and defence portfolios.
- 1.2 The foreign policy white paper should clearly outline correlations with the Sustainable Development Goals and articulate Australia's intent to achieve them as a foreign policy priority.

### **2. Delivering inclusive and effective Australian aid**

- 2.1 The forthcoming white paper should articulate social and economic inclusion as core, values-based objectives of Australia's aid and foreign policy.
- 2.2 Australia should build upon its established leadership in promoting gender equality and disability inclusion by recognising how these issues interact, and in response embed an intersectional inclusion agenda within Australia's foreign policy.

### **3. An inclusive and human-centred approach to security and stability**

- 3.1 The forthcoming foreign policy white paper should adopt an inclusive human security approach as it outlines Australia's security and stability priorities, in order to ensure the stability of our region for all of its people.
- 3.2 Working with the international community, Australia should play an active and appropriately-resourced role in securing a global commitment to a UN resolution on disability, peace and security.
- 3.3 Australia should take steps to address climate change across all pillars of its forward-looking foreign policy as an urgent priority, and work to build the evidence base of impacts on people with disability to ensure the development of inclusive mitigation and adaptation approaches.

### **4. Championing inclusion through Australia's global diplomatic engagement**

- 4.1 Australia should adopt and embed a twin-track approach to global and regional engagement by investing in disability-specific fora, while simultaneously supporting mainstream platforms to become more deliberately and effectively inclusive.
- 4.2 The forthcoming white paper should outline opportunities for Australia to influence the major structures and organisations of which it is part, with a view to reforming data collection practices, improving the shared quantitative understanding of exclusion and ensuring future budget tracking on disability globally.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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Late 2016 to early 2017 is likely to be remembered, globally, as a short time of abrupt change. It is fitting, then, that Australia should take this moment to think deeply about our values and vision as we develop a forward-looking foreign policy direction. This important task requires us to examine and evaluate global trends, but we should also resist the temptation to allow short-term reactions to guide our thinking as we endeavor to secure Australia's long-term place in the world.

In countries such as the US and the UK, large groups have used their voices and votes to express concern that they no longer felt represented or included in the political establishment. There is much to learn from these complex events, but in the process of building and embedding a truly Australian foreign policy aligned with our values, ambitions and strengths, we must recognise the process of consultation not as a precursor to the development of a foreign policy vision, but as an immovable foundation.

An inclusive, long-term and locally-owned foreign policy must be underpinned by an understanding of the nature of exclusion; who is systemically absent from decision-making, and why exclusion persists. As an Australian international development agency dedicated to ending the cycle of poverty, exclusion and disability, CBM Australia's submission will therefore champion inclusion not as optional charity, but as a necessary cornerstone of effective aid, diplomacy and broader foreign policy. In this submission, we will seek to highlight the need to:

1. Embed Australia's aid program as an equal cornerstone of foreign policy;
2. Deliver effective and inclusive Australian aid;
3. Adopt an inclusive and human-centered approach to security and stability; and
4. Champion inclusion through Australia's global diplomatic engagement.

To do so will establish a foreign policy direction within which all Australians – regardless of disability, gender, national origin or socio-economic status – can identify and recognise themselves, extending a hand to our neighbours at the edges of a changing world.

## **1. AUSTRALIAN AID AS A CORNERSTONE OF FOREIGN POLICY**

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Australia's aid program has a volatile recent history, having been in the last decade alone characterised by both dramatic increases and decreases in expenditure. In order for any aid program to be effective in its efforts to alleviate poverty, however, a foundation of predictability, strategic interconnectedness and inclusion is required. This generates a more prosperous, stable and safe environment from which Australia, alongside its neighbours, can benefit.

The Australian Government is well-versed in the value of international development for advancing Australia's interests. The strategic and human value of aid investments in countering violent extremism in our region is, by its very nature, unquantifiable. The ongoing commitment of Australian aid resources to strengthening health systems in neighbouring states has not only saved lives abroad, but halted the spread of drug-resistant disease to nearby – predominantly Indigenous Australian – communities. And commitments to end poverty and increase economic growth around the world have opened new economies to Australia, enabling more Australians to engage with our region not only as global citizens, but as active global partners and investors.

Well-targeted aid is a cost-effective means of exercising geopolitical leadership in line with key Australian values and areas of strength, and is a crucial pillar in supporting the achievement of overall foreign policy objectives. Despite this understanding, however, the

Australian aid program has continued to suffer from budget cuts that undermine its soft power efficacy, minimise our influence, and deny opportunities to Australians and our neighbours alike.

The Australian Government's forthcoming white paper should conceive of aid alongside diplomacy, trade and security as a strategic imperative and an equally crucial pillar of the enabling environment for Australia's interests to be advanced, as well as for contributing to the achievement of globally agreed goals. In practice, the Australian aid program should be granted the legitimacy and budgetary protections granted to the diplomatic, trade and defence portfolios.

Australia would be far from alone in embracing this approach. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed by the international community in 2015, provide an overarching framework for achieving inclusive and sustainable development in line with not only national interest, but a shared common interest. The SDGs are applicable to all countries and beyond; in their implementation, they have engaged private sector actors in financing the ambitious 2030 Agenda.

Australia's 2003 foreign policy white paper made no reference to the Millennium Development Goals framework then in place to guide global efforts towards alleviating poverty. In 2017, however, the SDGs provide the architecture for coordinated engagement and influence towards goals which stretch well beyond aid and international development, into the realm of truly global policy. Speaking to the UN General Assembly in September 2015, Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Julie Bishop MP noted that 'the Sustainable Development Goals can only ever be a statement of ambition unless we plan for how we will achieve them'<sup>1</sup>. In line with this sentiment, the forthcoming white paper should clearly outline correlations with the Sustainable Development Goals and articulate our intent to achieve them as a foreign policy priority.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The Australian Government's forthcoming foreign policy white paper should conceive of aid alongside diplomacy, trade and security as a strategic imperative and an equally crucial pillar of the enabling environment to advance Australia's interests. It should grant the Australian aid program the legitimacy and budgetary protections granted to the diplomatic, trade and defence portfolios.
- 1.2 The foreign policy white paper should clearly outline correlations with the Sustainable Development Goals and articulate Australia's intent to achieve them as a foreign policy priority.

## **2. DELIVERING INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE AUSTRALIAN AID**

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In order to maximise effectiveness and to articulate a uniquely Australian aid and foreign policy, the forthcoming white paper should retain at its heart those values which exemplify the very best of Australia. Where our communities function best and our people are best supported, we can often identify a foundation of social, economic and political inclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP. 27 September 2015. *2015 UN Summit Plenary Meeting for Sustainable Development: National Statement*. URL: [http://foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/Pages/2015/jb\\_sp\\_150927b.aspx?w=tb1CaGpkPX%2FISOK%2Bg9ZKEZ%3D%3D](http://foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/Pages/2015/jb_sp_150927b.aspx?w=tb1CaGpkPX%2FISOK%2Bg9ZKEZ%3D%3D)

In the countries of our region, however, exclusion persists. One in five people live with disability and face systemic barriers to full and rich participation in community and national decision-making, economic activity, or foundational education<sup>2</sup>. Women continue to experience devastatingly high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as economic and political marginalisation. And children grow in environments where the social norms underpinning systemic exclusion continue to pervade. These persistent inequalities are contrary to Australia's values, the stated priorities of our aid program, and our vision for a wholly prosperous and stable region.

While Australians are not immune from risk of exclusion on the basis of disability, gender or ethnicity, the barriers to inclusion become further heightened in environments marked by entrenched poverty. For women and girls with disability, threats to wellbeing are even more keenly-felt, as experiences of exclusion and risk of violence are compounded by these intersecting identities and related norms. In the Pacific, women with disability were found to fare more poorly than both men with disability *and* women without disability against metrics pertaining to education, employment, freedom from violence, economic status, health and social inclusion<sup>3</sup>. Women with disability in Cambodia experienced similar levels of intimate partner violence as women without disability, but reported strikingly higher incidences of family emotional and physical violence, and non-partner sexual violence<sup>4</sup>. Despite this increased risk of household sexual violence, women with disability are largely perceived as asexual and subsequently experience heightened barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights information, or accessing appropriate health services<sup>5</sup>.

Development practitioners increasingly understand that policy and program interventions cannot achieve their objectives in comprehensive poverty alleviation and economic growth while inequalities persist, and when people with disability are unable to participate and benefit. The exclusion of people with disability from paid employment carries a high cost not only for individuals, but for societies, due to limitations on productive potential and implications for families and carers. Globally, the International Labour Organisation estimates that the economic exclusion of people with disability may cost countries between 1 to 7 per cent of GDP<sup>6</sup>.

Although globally consistent data collection is a work in progress and paints a fragmented portrait of the global community of people with disability, indicators of the cost of exclusion not only to individual wellbeing but to household, community and even national-level economic growth are emerging:

- A study led by the WHO and published by The Lancet found that depression and anxiety, the most common mental illnesses/psychosocial disabilities, cost the global economy US \$1 trillion per annum. However, every US \$1 invested in scaling up treatment and inclusion leads to a return of US \$4 in improved health outcomes and ability to work<sup>7</sup>.
- In Pakistan, investment in community-based inclusion for people who are blind was estimated to lead to US \$71.8m per annum in increased household earnings.

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<sup>2</sup> World Health Organisation and World Bank. 2011. *World Report on Disability*. p. 27. URL: [http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html)

<sup>3</sup> Stubbs, D. and Tawake, S. 2009. *Pacific Sisters with Disabilities: At the Intersection of Discrimination*. UNDP Pacific Centre, Suva. p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Rates of family emotional violence (52.5 per cent of respondents with disability, compared to 35.2 per cent without disability), physical violence (25.4 per cent, compared to 11.4 per cent) and non-partner sexual violence (5.7 per cent, compared to 1.1 per cent) cited in Astbury, J. and Walji, F. 2013. *Triple Jeopardy: Gender-based violence and human rights violations experienced by women with disabilities in Cambodia*. AusAID, Canberra. p. 24.

<sup>5</sup> Arcella, S., Curado, L., Edwards, M., Fingleton, M., Kasat, V., Gomez Lucas, C., Westheimer, M. and Willing, A. 2009. *A Situational Analysis of the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Women with Disabilities*. United Nations Population Fund, New York. p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> International Labour Organisation. 2012. *Disabilities and Decent Work in the Pacific: The Case of Disability Inclusive Employment*. ILO Country Office for Pacific Island Countries, Suva. p. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Chilsholm, D., Sweeny, K., Sheehan, P., Rasmussen, B., Smit, F., Cuijpers, P. and Saxena, S. (2016). 'Scaling-up treatment of depression and anxiety: a global return on investment analysis', *The Lancet Psychiatry*. Vol. 3(5), pp. 415 – 424.

Productivity gains over a ten year period were projected to total between US \$709 million and US \$4.9 billion, depending on whether inclusion models targeted the entire population of people who are blind, or only those who experience particular cause-based blindness (e.g. trachoma or river blindness)<sup>8</sup>.

- Underinvestment in the empowerment and inclusion of people with disability can also place economic strain on the household through family members having to forgo productive or remunerated work to act as full-time, unpaid assistants. A study found the lost income from adult caregivers in Bangladesh to total US \$234 million per annum<sup>9</sup>; these losses could be easily minimised through early investment in disability inclusion.

Such losses are substantial, and represent not only an immediate lack of income and increased vulnerability to entrenched poverty, but also a reduced capacity to engage in economic activity and contribute to the growth of vibrant and resilient communities in line with Australia's foreign policy objectives.

An inclusive foreign policy is fundamental for achieving the globally-agreed goals of reduced poverty and inequality for all people, everywhere. Australia, in recent years, has taken a noticeable and globally recognised leadership role in promoting our values on the global stage through its prioritisation of gender equality and disability inclusion. But at the intersection of these priorities, people continue to fall through the narrow gap. Effective inclusion must be intersectional and comprehensive, in order to ensure that all people can be reached. The forthcoming foreign policy white paper should therefore seek to adopt an intersectional inclusion agenda, and articulate steps to embed this through international development programs and policy frameworks.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The forthcoming white paper should articulate social and economic inclusion as core, values-based objectives of Australia's aid and foreign policy.
- 2.2 Australia should build upon its established leadership in promoting gender equality and disability inclusion by recognising how these issues interact, and in response embed an intersectional inclusion agenda within Australia's foreign policy.

## **3. AN INCLUSIVE AND HUMAN-CENTRED APPROACH TO SECURITY AND STABILITY**

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As the global order and systems continue to shift, shape and solidify, our efforts to understand the changes which will most impact the wellbeing and stability of Australia and our region should not be confined to the traditional parameters of state boundaries. In 2017 and in the years to come, state-based security risks are being increasingly superseded in significance by global and regional threats including protracted and non-state crises, and climate change. These are threats which cross borders with ease, and which threaten not only states but, even more importantly, the people and communities within them.

Resilience and security increasingly rely upon ensuring the safety of families and individuals from violence; the capacity of people of all abilities and identities to access those institutions which exist to support their protection and inclusion, and allow them to exercise their economic, civil, political, cultural and social rights; and the freedom of all people to live

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<sup>8</sup> Awan, H., Khan, N. And Malik, S. (2012). 'The economic burden of blindness in Pakistan: a socio-economic and policy imperative for poverty-reduction strategies'. *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology*. Vol. 60(5), pp. 358 – 364.

<sup>9</sup> World Bank, cited in Morgon Banks, L. and Keogh, M. *Inclusion Counts: The Economic Case for Disability-Inclusive Development*. CBM International, 2016, Bensheim. p. 76.

in dignity. In a dramatically changing world, a core orientation around inclusive, human-centered security can provide an anchor for Australia's regional efforts. In outlining Australia's security and stability priorities, the forthcoming foreign policy white paper should adopt an inclusive human security approach to ensure the stability of our region for all of its people.

In the wider global community, the increasing protraction of crises driven by conflict and compounded by state fragility, food insecurity and the breakdown of institutions providing necessary early-intervention services in health and other sectors has presented dramatically new challenges for the world's aid and development actors. In line with a suggested overarching inclusion and human security agenda, the potential for Australia to extend its global leadership in disability inclusion to the peacebuilding policy arena is particularly notable.

It has long been understood that conflict and disability are inextricably linked by the frequency of physical injury and psychosocial trauma, inadequate health care, poverty, malnutrition and displacement characteristic of conflict zones<sup>10</sup>. Recent reports from Syria and surrounding countries, however, indicate that the causation of disability has in some instances moved from an incidental outcome to a deliberate means of causing long-term exclusion. Doctors have reported uncommonly high numbers of spinal injuries caused by targeted sniper fire<sup>11</sup>, while reporters and local workers – including CBM staff and partners – have been briefed on military strategies intending to cause paralysis and other disability as a 'lifelong humiliation'<sup>12</sup> and source of social and political exclusion. In determining how Australia looks to support people caught in protracted conflict and crisis, a focus on inclusion should lead us to play an active role in dismantling the norms that perpetuate the exclusion of people with disability.

Australia has demonstrated admirable and deserved support for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325; a landmark resolution which introduced a gender perspective to conflict, repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction in recognition of the unique needs and capacities of women and girls. But no such resolution or unified approach exists to foster the inclusion of people with disability in peacebuilding. Whether tied to another term on the UN Security Council or undertaken as an advocacy priority on the global stage, Australia should take on the challenge of securing a global commitment to a resolution on disability, peace and security as a major step towards empowering people with disability in rebuilding their communities.

Closer to home, disruption and displacement is reshaping the composition of the Pacific islands that Australia calls neighbours, with the impact of climate change compelling growing numbers of people to leave their homes in pursuit of safer and more viable ground. Climate-driven displacement drives fundamental shifts in the composition of lives and communities, with impacts ranging from the existential in the shape of compromised cultural and individual identity, to the practical through disrupted livelihoods and earning capacity, to the structural with states' capacity to provide the conditions for human security being undermined. Evidence indicates that the latter, in particular, impacts people who are already socially marginalised and possess limited capital assets soonest<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. 2007. *World Disasters Report: Focus on Discrimination*. IFRC, Geneva. p. 89.

<sup>11</sup> UNICEF. 2014. *Under Siege: The Devastating Impact on Children of Three Years Conflict in Syria*. URL: [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Under\\_Siege\\_March\\_2014.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Under_Siege_March_2014.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Sparrow, A. November 3, 2013. 'Syria's Assault on Doctors', *The New York Review of Books*. URL: <http://www.nybooks.com/daily/2013/11/03/syria-assault-doctors/>.

<sup>13</sup> Adger, W.N., J.M. Pulhin, J. Barnett, G.D. Dabelko, G.K. Hovelsrud, M. Levy, Ú. Oswald Spring, and C.H. Vogel. 2014. 'Human security' in Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L.White (eds.) *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. p. 762.

Much like conflict and other globally disruptive occurrences, climate change not only impacts people with disability in particular and severe ways; it also plays a role in increasing the risk of disability as a result of increased health challenges and diminished access to effective and early intervention. The fight against malaria has endured as a key development challenge, with many gains having been made in traditional contexts. Warming climates and changing weather conditions, however, are introducing malaria to new zones with insufficient measures of protection. Among children who contract cerebral malaria, around one in ten will acquire ongoing neurological impairment such as epilepsy, learning disability, changes in behaviour, loss of coordination or speech impairment<sup>14</sup>.

The impacts of climate change reach well beyond the environmental, and pose fundamental risks for traditional development activities in sectors including health, inclusion, resilience and livelihoods. Emerging migratory patterns and security challenges pose additional implications for diplomatic engagement and efforts to maintain regional stability. Climate change mitigation and adaptation should, then, cut across the pillars of our foreign policy as a priority issue for the decade to come. The world's people – whether in Australia's remote communities, the Pacific's ocean resource-dependent coasts, or Asia's rice bowls – can thrive only to the extent that the environments which sustain us thrive. The available evidence compels us to act, while the choice is still ours to make.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The forthcoming foreign policy white paper should adopt an inclusive human security approach as it outlines Australia's security and stability priorities, in order to ensure the stability of our region for all of its people.
- 3.2 Working with the international community, Australia should play an active and appropriately-resourced role in securing a global commitment to a UN resolution on disability, peace and security.
- 3.3 Australia should take steps to address climate change across all pillars of its forward-looking foreign policy as an urgent priority, and work to build the evidence base of impacts on people with disability to ensure the development of inclusive mitigation and adaptation approaches.

## **4. CHAMPIONING INCLUSION THROUGH AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT**

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On the global stage, Australia has most often appeared comfortably at home as it cultivates and exercises a level of influence that belies its size. The multilateral arena is one in which we have gained much and subsequently stand to lose much, should we succumb to the isolationism adopted by some of our closest global partners.

In maintaining and maximising our multilateral engagement, we should seek to add depth where we have strength, and employ this engagement as a tool in achieving our overarching foreign policy objectives. As articulated above, in Australia's case this overarching frame can and should be the pursuit of inclusion. In line with long-established approaches to disability inclusion and gender equality in policy and programming, we should embed a twin-track approach to our global and regional engagement by investing in disability-specific fora, while simultaneously supporting mainstream platforms to become more deliberately inclusive.

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<sup>14</sup> Lewis, D. and Ballard, K. *Disability and Climate Change: Understanding Vulnerability and Building Resilience in a Changing World*. URL: [http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/Disability\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/Disability_and_Climate_Change.pdf).

Australia should continue its leading roles in global structures such as the Global Action on Disability Network, and support to institutions including the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. In the Asia-Pacific region, our commitment to inclusion should manifest the principles of 'nothing about us without us' by amplifying the civil society voices of people with disability through ongoing support to structures such as the Pacific Disability Forum and strengthened engagement with the ASEAN Disability Forum, and by situating this engagement in a continuum that bridges the local (people with disability and their representative organisations) with the global (up to the UN Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

Australia's commitment to inclusion, of course, should not sit within the confines of the disability movement itself; to do so is inherently limiting and fails to recognise the complexity of identity and experience lived by people with disability. There is a growing recognition that neither the disability inclusion movement nor the gender equality movement can effectively achieve their objectives without diversity of representation<sup>15</sup>; yet in 2016, the UN Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities failed to elect any women to the governing body, leaving only one woman to continue in an ongoing role alongside 17 men. In the first instance, Australia should actively support and resource women with disability to join its delegations to relevant global fora, such as the Conference of States Parties and the Commission on the Status of Women, and encourage other global leaders to do the same.

Many of the world's global and regional organisations could benefit from an increased qualitative and experience-based understanding of the lives of people with disability. But many still require support and reform in developing a more robust quantitative knowledge of the state of disability in our world. At present, while the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has long implemented a gender marker code to facilitate the improved tracking of expenditure towards gender equality in member states' aid programs, no such marker for disability inclusion exists. Data on disability-inclusive aid investments is therefore lacking, with no structural mechanism for consistent collection. The establishment of a disability marker, in the form of a DAC code, would allow for enhanced reporting standards and ensure improved tracking of development assistance that targets people with disability, including by sector breakdown.

Australia's continued engagement in the OECD's Development Assistance Committee is sacrosanct, but this should not preclude us from examining how we can contribute to systemic reform and improvement of this – and other – important global structures to build a more inclusive international community.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Australia should adopt and embed a twin-track approach to global and regional engagement by investing in disability-specific fora, while simultaneously supporting mainstream platforms to become more deliberately and effectively inclusive.
- 4.2 The forthcoming white paper should outline opportunities to influence the major structures and organisations of which it is part, with a view to reforming data collection practices, improving the shared quantitative understanding of exclusion and ensuring future budget tracking on disability globally.

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<sup>15</sup> CBM International. 2016. *The 3 Ps for Inclusion of Women with Disabilities: The Personal, The Political, The Policy*. URL: [http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/The\\_Personal\\_\\_The\\_Political\\_\\_The\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/The_Personal__The_Political__The_Policy.pdf).

## **CONCLUSION**

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It may be tempting to consider disability inclusion too narrow an issue for the scope of Australia's foreign policy white paper. But with one billion people worldwide – and one in every five people in a developing country – living with disability, tackling the roots of exclusion and discrimination is fundamental for ensuring the efficacy of our aid and development activities. In developing the white paper, the Australian Government should consider how it can address inclusion across its full breadth by delivering an effective, inclusive and appropriately-resourced aid program; adopting an inclusive and human-centered approach to security and stability; and championing inclusion through Australia's global diplomatic engagement.

Australia has a celebrated recent history of leadership in disability inclusion. This has driven profound change in not only our region through our aid program delivery, but the wider international community as a result of our global advocacy and policy development. With its foundation firmly in Australia's values of social, economic and political inclusion, the approach recommended in this submission will not only continue to ensure immediate benefits to people with disability and their communities in our region; it will also affirm Australia's legacy as a global leader, and a committed partner to people with disability around the world. This is a legacy of which all Australians, of all abilities, can be proud.

## **ABOUT CBM AUSTRALIA**

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CBM Australia is an international Christian development organisation, committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in the poorest countries of the world. Operating for over 30 years, CBM Australia is the only Australian based international aid agency working to end the cycle of poverty and disability.

In 2015, we supported projects in 30 countries in Africa, Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific with a program budget of \$24.4 million. We reached over 7 million people, assisted almost 6 million people with preventative medication, engaged over 900,000 people in community programs, and advised 12 Australian development partners including the Australian Government. We are committed to working in partnership to build a more inclusive world.