

**Special Session on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities into
Humanitarian Action – 4 – 5pm, 23rd May –
Baroness Verma Speech (2 mins)**

Thank you. The UK welcomes this new Charter to include persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

Last year the world united behind a new set of Global Goals underpinned by one huge promise. The promise to leave no one behind.

But we cannot and will not be successful if people with disabilities, both with visible and non-visible disabilities, continue to be excluded from progress. People with disabilities including those with mental health impairments must be systematically included in and benefit from our humanitarian efforts.

And we need to be able to track progress, which means more and better quality data.

At DFID we launched our Disability Framework just 18 months ago. In that time we have already made progress in strengthening disability inclusion in our humanitarian response. Our new Framework makes two commitments.

The first, to advocate for all humanitarian partners to use the Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action produced by the Age and Disability Capacity Building Programme (ADCAP) to mainstream inclusion of people with disabilities across our work.

The second, to support all humanitarian partners to disaggregate data by sex, age and disability. That is why I am delighted to announce that the UK will be funding a new piece of research with Handicap International and the Washington Group to look at how to disaggregate data by disability status across the humanitarian cycle and to produce guidelines that we will be available for all to use.

I want to close by recognising the participation of those people in this room. A clear demonstration of our commitment that people with disability cannot, and will not, continue to be invisible. We know we cannot do everything

immediately, but we can all do more right now.

And the UK looks forward to working closely with you all, to achieve a world where truly no one is left behind.