



Open-ended Group of Friends of the Chair on the rights of persons with disabilities and the population and development agenda, within the framework of the RCPD (Cartagena Group).

Disability from a social and rights perspective: towards effective equality for persons with disabilities

Daniela González Ollino

CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC

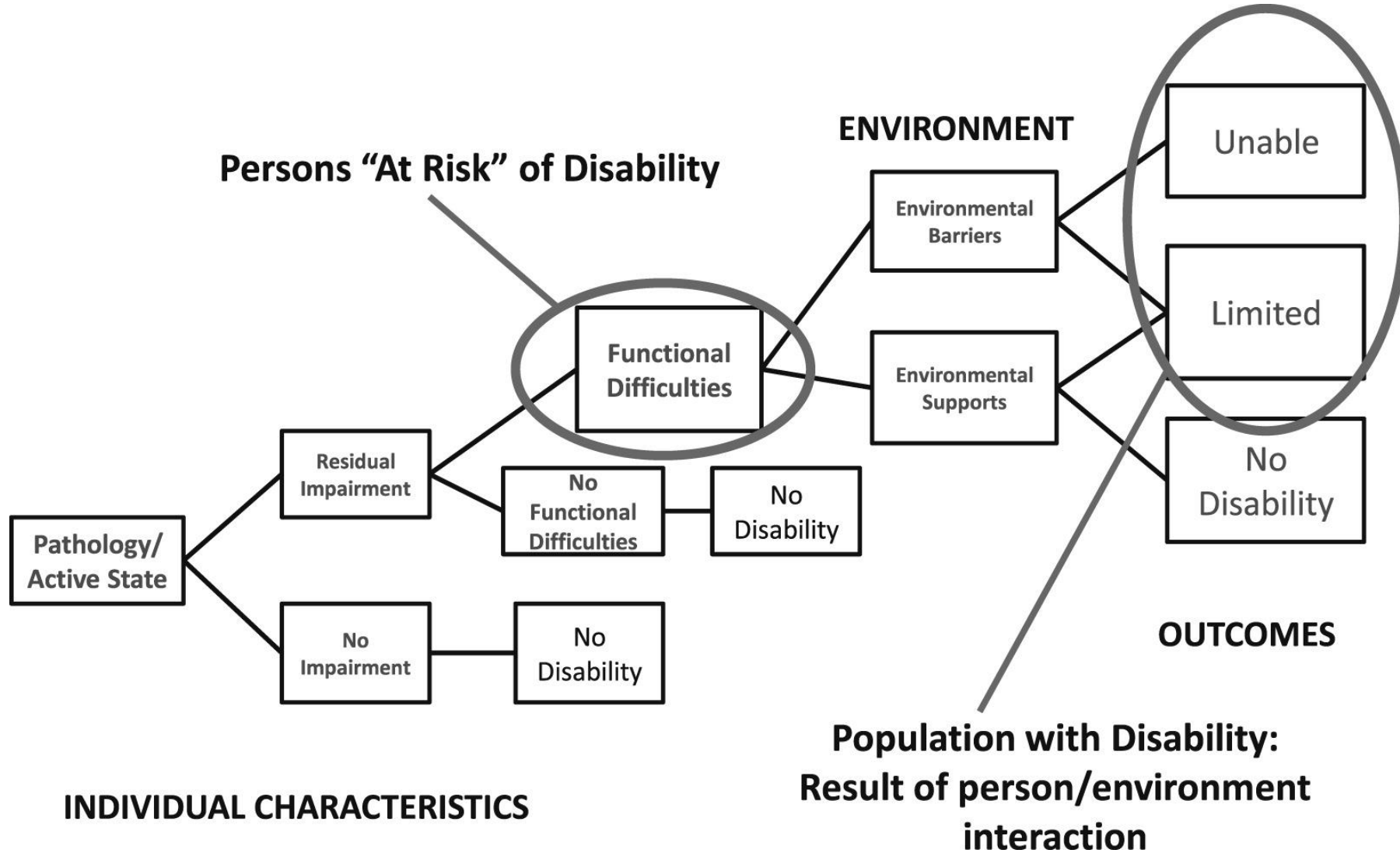
Different approaches to tackle disability

- In the past, there was the dispensation approach, the medical perspective and the biopsychosocial one. All of them centred disability on the individual, and therefore charitable persons were seen as objects of charity and assistance.

For example:

- the predominance of the medical approach, based on the notion of individual functional limitations, can lead to the design and implementation of policies focused on medical and rehabilitative treatment.
- the use of the social and human rights approach, with an emphasis on social barriers, will facilitate the adoption of policies aimed at inclusion, universal accessibility and the elimination of such barriers.
- The concept of disability has been widely debated over the last decades and is a complex and constantly evolving concept.

Visual model of disability and its relationships



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It implies a paradigm shift from a deficit-based definition of disability to one that integrates health, economic, socio-cultural and political factors (González and Stang, 2014).

It considers society as a whole: it refers to a difference between **deficiency** (a bodily or mental condition) and **disability**, as the loss or limitation of opportunities to participate in the life of the community on an equal basis with others (Burchardt, 2004).

Disability is generated in relation to the environment

This approach considers persons with disabilities to be subjects of rights that must be guaranteed in order to address these limitations on participation in social life in terms of effective equality.

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States have an obligation to address these social barriers in order to ensure full respect for the dignity and equal rights of all people (Victoria Maldonado, 2013)

The lack of recognition of diversity is reflected in the absence or inadequacy of policies, which do not adequately address the structural barriers faced by people with disabilities, for example the predominance of welfare approaches.

Disability from a social and rights perspective: Three fundamental elements that must be addressed from a human rights perspective.

The main challenges faced by people with disabilities stem from social attitudes rather than from functional limitations.

The environment shaped by society is formed and influenced by social policies.

In a democratic society, social policies reflect the prevailing attitudes and values of that society.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)

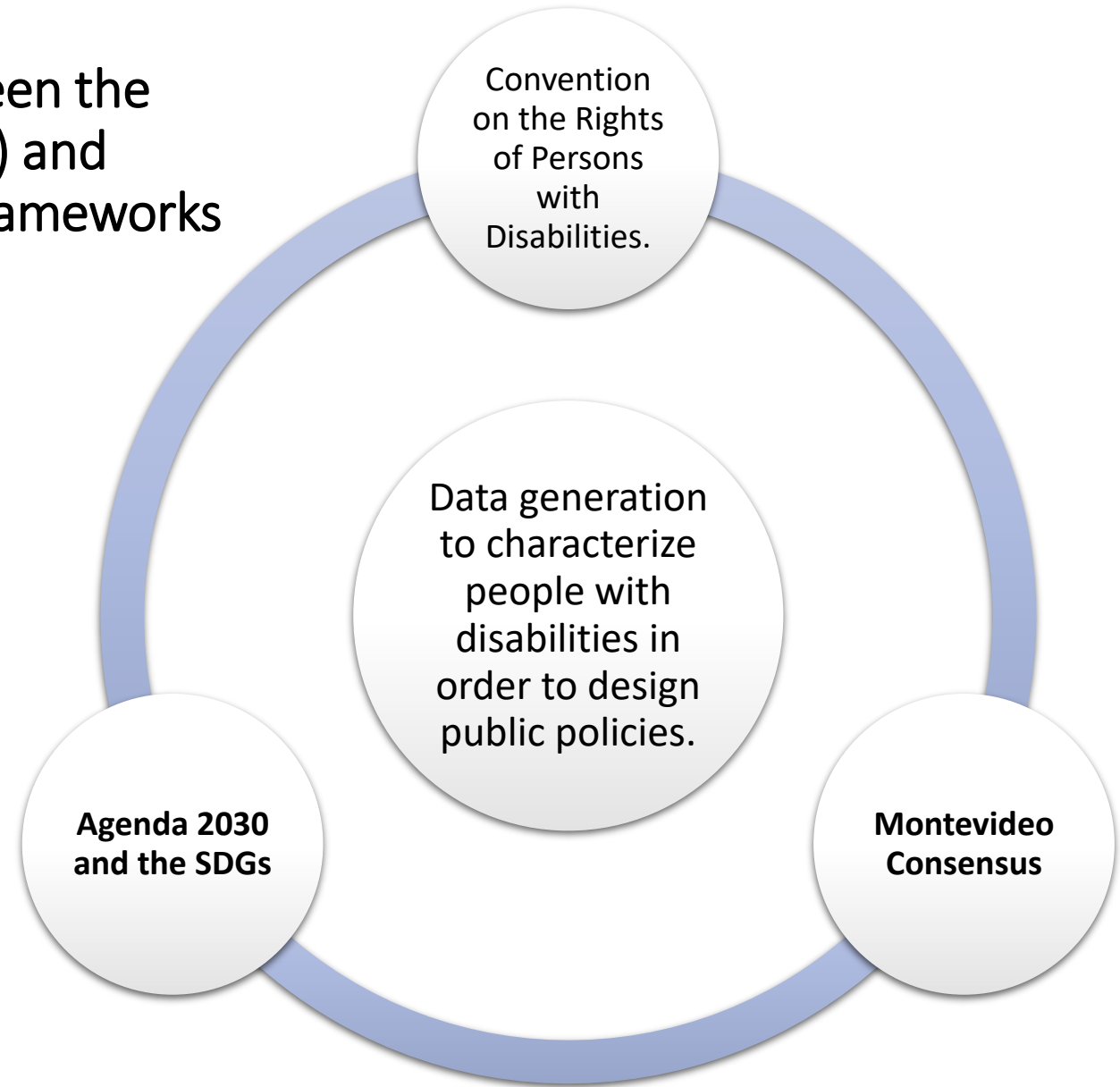
It is acknowledged that “disability” is a concept that evolves over time.

It is accepted that society—and the views held by its members—are not static.

The Convention adopts a dynamic approach that allows for adaptation over time and across diverse socioeconomic contexts.

It emphasizes the significant impact that societal attitudes and physical barriers can have on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities.

Synergies and interconnections between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international, regional, and national frameworks



The 2030 Agenda, the SDGs, and Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and challenges.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to move forward together, leaving no one behind, including persons with disabilities.

In addition to being a human rights issue, as highlighted by the Convention, it is integrated into the path toward sustainable development, undoubtedly thanks to the work of internationally organized disability groups.

Persons with disabilities are **explicitly mentioned** in **seven** goals related to **education, decent work, inequality, sustainable cities and communities, and partnerships to achieve the goals.**

Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean



- The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was the result of the First Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from August 12 to 15, 2013.
- The broad support garnered by the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the region has enabled Latin American and Caribbean countries to unite around shared positions in international forums, showing a path to align the global agreement on achieving the ICPD goals.
- The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development helps to lay the foundations for sustainable development in the region, focusing on people, equality, and a human rights perspective.
- It presents 130 priority measures, distributed across 9 thematic chapters.

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics

The Buenos Aires Group

- It creates a methodology that provides a shared conceptual platform, easy to understand and relatively simple to apply.

Its objectives are:

- Standardizing instruments,
- Obtaining data on the number and living conditions of persons with disabilities that is comparable across countries and regions.
- The criteria for using the disability question battery are where the current paradigm of functioning and disability becomes operational.
- These elements will enable the collection of statistical data that meets the characteristics already outlined.

In summary

- It is crucial that the social and human rights approach to disability be recognized and promoted in the region.
- If governments, academia, and civil society adopt this paradigm when conducting disability studies, public policy actions aimed at people with disabilities will place them at the center of these initiatives.
- This is also important for the review and accountability in monitoring regional and international agreements such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, among others.