



Building a 'Better Inclusive Future shaped by the Power of Children and Youth with Disabilities their inclusion, advocacy and participation

Global Disability Summit 2022 Side Event – Wednesday 16th February 2022

The side event is led by youth with disabilities on the progress made towards the commitments asked by children and young people with disabilities during the Global Disability Summit 2018 and the importance of the GDS 2022 commitments to deliver on the inclusion and implementation of UNCRPD Articles 4 and 7 and UNCRC Articles 12 and 23.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about additional challenges and vulnerabilities, with wide ranging effects in the lives of children and youth with disabilities and their families. Therefore, including children and young people with disabilities' perspectives on education, social assistance and social protection, emergency preparedness, health access, particularly age-appropriate mental health, and humanitarian responses becomes very important in order to acknowledge specific vulnerabilities and promote participation.

The presentations will share youth with disabilities perspectives from Commonwealth countries regarding progress of children and young people's rights, persisting challenges and share solutions. Advocating that their voices do not go unheard, particularly those underrepresented, unseen not included. At country, global and political level commitments made towards disability inclusion and development include them as agents in their own empowerment and as architects building an inclusive society and a Better Inclusive Future.

The sharing of spaces, privilege and resources is required to enhance meaningful engagement and build the capacity of the youth with disabilities led networks and organisations beyond tokenism as both children and youth with disabilities future is now.

Aims:

1. Strengthening commitments to children and youth with disabilities on disability inclusion and inclusive development through combined implementation of both UNCRPD and UNCRC
2. Mobilising the power of children and youth with disabilities in disability, children and youth rights, advocacy movements
3. To discuss the (lack of) recognition of children and youth with disabilities as rightsholders under UNCRPD and UNCRC the challenges and solutions
4. Discuss culturally sensitive approaches for the implementation of the GDS 2022 themes and objectives across the global south

Background

Youth with disabilities from across the Commonwealth and Include Me TOO recognized during CHOMG 2018 and GDS 2018 that a Commonwealth Disability focused Children and Youth Network was needed. Children and young people with disabilities from across 23 countries shared issues that mattered to them and the importance of their rights and inclusion. It was important that they had an independent voice and access to platforms to share their views, experiences, share learning and be part of the solutions and decisions impacting on their lives.

The Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN) was launched alongside the Global Disability Summit Children and Young People's Report, and the [Global Disability Children & Young People's Charter](#) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during 12th Conference of State Parties CRPD. CCYDN is the first ever Commonwealth disability children and youth network driven by youth with disabilities and supported by Include Me TOO in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat. CCYDN's aim is to increase and create access to platforms for disabled children and young people as changemakers, advocates and right holders. To be recognised as key contributors in the disability, youth, children's rights movements to influence positive change on issues that matter to them at local, national and international levels. CCYDN has a membership of organisations and individuals representing 32 Commonwealth Countries and within the first two has had a reach to 42 countries via CCYDN's programme and events.