



# GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2022 REPORT



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# Introduction

The Global Disability Summit 2022 Report focuses on the Global Disability Summit ([GDS](#)), an international mechanism that galvanises global efforts to address disability inclusion around the world. The GDS offers a concrete mechanism for collecting new, ambitious, and widespread commitments that are critical to achieving real change for persons with disabilities.

**The first-ever Global Disability Summit**, held in 2018 ([GDS2018](#)), was a historic event in international development. It inspired unprecedented engagement on disability matters, generating 968 individual commitments around seven themes by 171 national governments, multilateral agencies, donors, foundations, the private sector, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). Over 300 organisations and governments had signed the [Charter for Change](#), a framework for action on implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). 87% of the commitments made at GDS2018 are on track to be achieved, based on a survey conducted by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) in 2021<sup>1</sup>.

**The Global Disability Summit 2022** ([GDS2022](#)), hosted by the Government of Norway, the Government of Ghana, and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), virtually on the 16 and 17 of February 2022, took the mechanism higher and further and galvanised more than 1,400 new commitments that promised to change the lives of persons with disabilities. In addition to this, five regional summits, four thematic workshops, 2 roundtables, a Global Disability Youth Summit 2022, the Civil Society Forum (CSF), and 91 side events established GDS2022 as the world's biggest gathering of global leaders and disability rights activists and organisations dedicated to committing to change for people with disabilities.

During the Summit, new policies and funding and ground-breaking initiatives to support people with disabilities in education, inclusive health care, the job market, and gender rights were announced. The pledges came from a diverse array of 190 stakeholders including governments, multilateral agencies, donors, foundations, the private sector, CSOs, and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs).

**More than 100 global leaders** (and over 50 representatives of States) attended the summit, including H.E. Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister, Norway; H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana; Yannis Vardakastanis, President, IDA H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations; Gerard Quinn, UN Special Rapporteur on Persons with Disabilities; Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of World Health Organisation; Inger Ashing, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children International; Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Sigve Brekke, President and Chief Executive Officer, Telenor Group; and Andrew Parson, President, The International Paralympics Committee.

Through this report, **we will provide key information** from the preparatory phase of the GDS2022 relating to the regional and national consultations, how we selected the GDS agenda, the mechanisms in place that allowed us to take stock of the progress made since GDS2018, and what we have been doing to monitor the implementation of the commitments. One of the report's main goals is to investigate and analyse the commitments received at GDS2022, highlight some good examples of commitments we have received in line with the CRPD and underline the emerging trends and issues that can be improved as we look ahead at GDS2025.

<sup>1</sup> International Disability Alliance. (2021). GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT +2 YEARS: Progress on Implementation of Commitments.

Therefore, our Global Disability Report 2022 has the following objectives:

1. **Explain the key steps** taken to ensure persons with disabilities and their organisations remain at the heart of the GDS process, including a look at the GDS Regional and National Consultations.
2. **Present up-to-date information** on the various events and initiatives that took place in the run-up to and as part of the GDS2022: Global Disability Youth Summit; [Civil Society Forum 2022](#); [Regional Summits](#); [Thematic Workshops and Roundtables](#); [Side Events](#); [GDS Annual Monitoring Reports](#); [Discussion Paper on OPD Engagement](#).
3. **Analyse the commitments** collected during the Summit based on the type of stakeholder submitting the commitments; their timeframe; their geographical scope; the themes they contribute to, among others. In addition, we also focus on quantitative and qualitative components and how commitments perform on six parameters: i) Influence on Policies and Schemes; ii) International Cooperation and Disability Inclusive Development; iii) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Data and Evidence Generation; iv) Intersectionality and Under-Represented Groups; v) Financial Implications and Resource Mobilisation, and vi) Meaningful Engagement of OPDs.
4. **Understand commitments** garnered during GDS2018 and GDS2022 and underline emerging trends and issues.

**GDS 2022 in numbers:**



# 1 | Part 1: Overview of the mechanism and related events

## GDS REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Persons with disabilities and their representative organisations often remain missing from decision-making tables, with decisions continuing to be made on their behalf<sup>2</sup>. While progress has been made and OPDs are more consulted than ever before, their levels of participation remain insufficient<sup>3</sup>. To challenge this and ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations remain at the heart of the GDS2022, IDA and its members organised 27 national and 1 regional workshop between October 2020 and April 2021 that brought together 850 participants from across 26 countries.

These regional and national consultations served as a mechanism to both assess the progress made against the national commitments adopted during the GDS2018 and to prompt persons with disabilities, OPDs, national government representatives, United Nations agencies, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), and the private sector organizations to discuss thematic priorities and brainstorm and design an engagement roadmap ahead of the main GDS2022 event.

By using these consultations as spaces for dialogue, the community evaluated the implementation of the previous commitments made at GDS2018, identified milestones that had been achieved in their respective countries and regions, and marked out areas that needed further work, highlighting the need for multistakeholder collaboration and financial investments to drive further progress on commitments.

In some cases, the consultations afforded new opportunities for dialogue between OPDs and their governments to take place. For example, in Indonesia, government officials participated in a dialogue about the GDS for the first time<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Comment No. G. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention. Adopted on 9 November 2018. UN Doc CRPD. C/GC/7.

<sup>3</sup> International Disability Alliance (2020). Increasingly Consulted but not yet Participating: IDA Global Survey on Participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Development Programmes and Policies, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> International Disability Alliance (2021). Global Disability Summit: Regional and National Consultations Report, October 2020 – April 2021. Pg 16

**Figure 1:** quote by Representative, Ministry for Human Development and Culture of Indonesia at the Indonesian Consultation in March 2021.

*Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs (PMK) is ready to coordinate with all ministries and institutions as well as domestic and foreign organisations, so that the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities can be done properly. Collaboration from all sectors and stakeholders is important in this matter.*

Consultation Indonesia, March 2021.

Participants also used consultations to bring attention to issues that affected them. Many shared the challenges brought forth by COVID-19, sharing how it affected the progress achieved over the course of the two years following GDS2018, as governments and other stakeholders reallocated funds to manage the ongoing health crisis.

As a result of these consultations, diverse voices discussed and clearly demanded the thematic areas they wanted to see prioritised, setting the GDS mechanism and ensuring the Summit reflects the priorities, aspirations, and concerns of persons with disabilities, including those from the very grassroots.

Recommendations emerged from each of the consultations. OPDs identified thematic areas they would like to see prioritised, including education, employment, economic empowerment, health, citizenship, and participation, overcoming stigma and discrimination, and disability and COVID-19. Figure 2 mentions the key issues and trends which emerged from the consultations held in different countries. These issues and trends informed the GDS vision of 'Promoting Equality', including fighting against stigmatisation and discrimination and its two overarching themes.

One of the key features of the GDS is its participatory character; these consultations form the very backbone of this aspect, ensuring that persons with disabilities and their organisations remain at the very heart of the discussions, taking ownership, and setting their agendas and priorities.

**Figure 2:** the key issues and trends which emerged from the consultations held in different countries during IDA consultations held between October 2020 and April 2021.

**Access to communication and information**

**Access to justice**

**Accessible transportation systems**

**Active citizenship and political participation**

**Deinstitutionalisation and access to community-based support**

**Economic, social, and cultural rights**

**Inclusive budgeting**

**Independent living and inclusion in society**

**Involvement of local communities and access to community-based services**

**Legal capacity**

**Right to land and property**

**Sport and cultural events**

## GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2022: EVENTS

The GDS2022 was the world's biggest gathering of global leaders and disability rights activists and organisations dedicated to committing to change for people with disabilities. In this section, we highlight the various events which took place as part of the GDS2022 that made it a pivotal moment for the world to commit to change and do more to include people with disabilities.

### Global Disability Youth Summit 2022

IDA, UNICEF, and the Atlas Alliance, represented by Youth Mental Health Norway, co-hosted the first Global Disability [Youth Summit](#) on 14 February 2022 to ensure the inclusion of youth in GDS. The Youth Summit, showcased the innovations of organizations led by youth with disabilities and saw the participation of more than 2,000 people across the world, thanks to its **24-hour online livestream format**. The goal of the Summit was to **recognise youth with disabilities as active contributors and agents of change in the disability rights arena** and the larger youth movement and to invite them to raise ideas and concerns of the estimated 200 million youth with disabilities worldwide.

With all planning and decision-making around the Summit being led by youth with disabilities, the Summit uniquely involved **the participation of youth from around the globe, from local to global**, including through the design of a novel format of a 'virtual 24 hours world tour' having 2 hours sessions per region, consecutively, and thematic discussions as breakout discussions in between the regional sessions.

Regional working groups of youth with disabilities were formed by the co-hosts that proposed thematic areas of particular importance to youth in their relevant region. Accordingly, each regional session was organised by youth with disabilities from the relevant region and entailed panel discussions on themes chosen by the youth in the regional committees and different cultural contributions.

**A working group** consisting of co-hosts and selected partners was responsible for developing a Youth Call for Action - summing up and challenging the commitments. It was handed over to the hosts of the GDS22 High-level Meeting on the first day of the GDS2022 on the 16 of February 2022.

An important part of the Youth Summit was the presentation of this 'Youth Call for Action': **'Youth with disabilities: From holding rights to exercising them'**. The Call for action identifies Action priorities set by youth with disabilities – who are active, dynamic agents of change, and forward-looking subjects of their human rights.

**The Youth Summit strengthened the movement of youth with disabilities at the national, regional, and global levels.** It also showcased progress and good practices on inclusion and empowerment of youth with disabilities, specifically including showcases from underrepresented groups, such as girls and women with disabilities, people with intellectual, and psychosocial disabilities, people with deafblindness, autistic people, and minority and indigenous youth with disabilities, among others. In addition, **it engaged participation of diverse stakeholders including states representatives, UN Agencies, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), agencies for development and cooperation, youth CSOs and other interested parties**, including at country and regional levels in discussions led by youth with disabilities and sent a strong message about the need to recognize youth with disabilities in all matters concerning them.

**Figure 3:** quote by Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth.

*“Young people with disabilities remain one of the most excluded populations with little to no representation at national, regional, and international levels, particularly in the Global South. This is a violation of their rights and hinders their contributions to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Agenda for the benefit for all of us...”*

Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

## Civil Society Forum 2022

The Civil Society Reference Group ([CSRG](#)) in consultation with other relevant partners, hosted the [Civil Society Forum](#) (CSF) in 2022, to amplify the voices and the participation of persons with disabilities, through their participation and that of representative OPDs.

Over 1,100 participants took part in the CSF, seizing the opportunity to highlight the current issues relevant to the global disability movement and the realization of the UNCRPD, and to set the stage for more in-depth dialogue at the Summit on specific thematic areas. A [Civil Society Declaration](#) was drafted ahead of the CSF, and was presented during the event; it called upon those present to make measurable, ambitious, and lasting commitments across a wide range of themes including

- **Engagement** with and promoting leadership of OPDs.
- **Recognising** the diversity of disabilities.
- **Protecting** children and adults, especially women, girls, and young persons with disabilities from violence, exploitation, and abuse; and
- **Promoting** inclusive employment, inclusive education, and skills, among others

**Figure 4:** quote by Abia Akram, Disability Rights Activist.

*“We cannot wait for another decade to see that change, because we believe disability rights are human rights.”*

Abia Akram, Disability Rights Activist and CEO, National Forum of Women with Disabilities, Pakistan.

## Regional Summits and Thematic Workshops

To build upon the momentum created by GDS, IDA facilitated the organization of [Regional Satellite Summits](#) in connection with the GDS2022. The Regional Satellite Summits aspired to entrench the GDS mechanism at the regional level, through channels such as the African Union, the European Union, etc. to facilitate the organization of summits in the future.

The Regional Summits were designed to promote participation, and networking, galvanise the collection of commitments and create a platform for discussion of issues relevant to specific regions. In addition, since the nature of GDS is global it also allowed for a space where voices from the different regions could be elevated within disability-inclusive development efforts globally.

### The Regional Satellite Summits had the following objectives:

- **Generate additional regional and national commitments.**
- **Increase the visibility of inclusive development** at the regional level.
- **Gather a range of stakeholders working on disability rights in the region,** in preparation for the GDS - reaching government, donors, UN agencies, CSOs and OPDs.
- **Ensure these stakeholders have full information about the GDS,** including what happened at the previous GDS and the level of progress which has since been achieved.
- **Present the 5 themes of the GDS2022,** while exploring their relevance for each of the regions.
- **Highlight any additional disability concerns for the region** in question to present/bring forward at the GDS.

Accordingly, five regional summits were organised from 8 – 16 February 2022 with different stakeholders that brought together around 1200 participants.

## 1 – [High-Level European Regional Disability Summit: Perspectives on Pan-European International Cooperation](#)

The high-level European Regional Disability Summit on international cooperation took place on 8 February 2022 and discussed how international cooperation in the broader European region can become inclusive of all persons with disabilities.

With 1008 registrations and 637 actual attendees from all parts of the world and in particular Europe, it welcomed 20 high-level speakers and three moderators, covering the European Union, the UN, OPDs and other important stakeholders who presented their political commitments towards the GDS2022. The discussions focused on disability-inclusive development across health, education, employment, humanitarian situation and civil society strengthening, including on women's rights and speakers underlined the need for targeted, concrete, and high commitments for disability-inclusive development in the world, and the importance of reaching out and supporting the disability movement in larger Europe.

In advance of the Summit, the European Disability Forum and IDA organised a series of consultation meetings with OPDs from Europe and Central Asia to inform, consult and involve them in the GDS2022. These consultations and the recommendations coming out of the discussions at the European Regional Disability Summit were presented in the [Outcome Document](#). The document proposes a way forward to advance the rights of all persons with disabilities in the broader European region in the coming years.

## 2 – [High-Level Latin America and the Caribbean Summit](#)

To strengthen the objectives of the GDS2022 in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, IDA, the Latin American Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS), the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities of the Organization of American States (CEDDIS-OAS) and the ONCE Social Group, co-organized the Satellite Summit on 10 February 2022.

The Summit had the following objectives: i) Generate regional and national commitments; ii) Know the prevalence of disability at the regional level; iii) Bring together stakeholders from the region working in the field of disability rights, to prepare for the GDS2022, reaching out to governments, donors, UN agencies, CSOs and OPDs; iii) Ensure that stakeholders have full information on GDS, from inception to the level of progress that has been made since then; iv) Present the 6 themes of GDS2022, exploring their relevance for the Latin American and Caribbean region; and v) Consider additional disability issues for the region and present or raise it at the GDS.

### **3 – African Regional Satellite Summit**

The African Regional Satellite Summit was organized by Africa Disability Forum, Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations, Sightsavers, United Nations, UNICEF Ghana, and the National Council on Persons with Disabilities Ghana on 14 February 2022. The Summit, which was organized on the theme of “Barriers and potential solutions to the challenges of Inclusive Development in Africa” was attended by 164 participants.

### **4 – High-Level Regional Summit for Asia: Sustainable and Inclusive Employment of Persons with Disabilities after COVID-19**

Disabled Peoples, International Korea held the online High-Level Asian Regional Disability Summit on Sustainable and Inclusive Employment of Persons with Disabilities after COVID-19 together with IDA and ASEAN Disability Forum on 16 February 2022. The objective of the Summit was to share the policy and practices regarding the employment of persons with disabilities. It provided a forum for discussion and showcased opportunities and challenges to inclusive employment in the region, paving the road to reducing employment gaps and overall stigma around the employment of persons with disabilities.

The event had 130 registrations and 67 actual attendees from all parts of the world and in particular Asia, including representatives of the disability movement, civil society, donors, governments, UN agencies, and their country teams in the region. In addition, the event welcomed 10 high-level speakers and moderators, covering the Regional Disability Summit in Asia, the UN, organizations of persons with disabilities, and other important stakeholders. The discussions focused on disability-inclusive development across education and work and employment.

### **5 – High-Level Pacific Regional Summit**

Australia and New Zealand, with Pacific regional partners the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), organized the Pacific Satellite Summit on 16 February 2022 that brought together key regional disability inclusion stakeholders including governments, OPDs, multilateral organisations, CSOs, and others to advance disability inclusion in the Pacific region. The key objectives of the Pacific Satellite Summit were to i) Elevate the Pacific voice at the GDS2022; ii) Ensure people with disabilities and their representative organisations are actively involved, including in advancing disability inclusion in the Pacific; and iii) Reaffirm commitment to, and mobilise support for, disability inclusion in the Pacific.

Due to the remote geographic location, the Pacific can be underrepresented in global disability inclusion discussions and efforts. Recognising this, as well as the unique context and experiences of people with disabilities in the Pacific, the Satellite Summit provided a platform through which the voice of the Pacific could be elevated within disability-inclusive development efforts globally.

In addition to this, [four thematic workshops](#) and 2 roundtables were organised at GDS2022. These include:

## 1 – Thematic Pre-Summit: [Disability Inclusion in the Health Sector](#)

The Government of Norway, the Government of Ghana, and IDA, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), co-hosted a Thematic Pre-Summit on Disability Inclusion in the Health Sector on 12 January 2022.

The crucial Pre-Summit highlighted that Disability Inclusion in the Health Sector is fundamental to achieving health and wellbeing for all. Key speakers at the event include several prominent global figures, who will use this opportunity to leverage their profiles and call on leaders and organisations across the world to make firm commitments toward disability inclusion. The Summit featured talks by WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; Prime Minister of Norway Honourable Mr Jonas Gahr Støre and Ghana's Minister of Health, Honourable Mr Kwaku Agyemang-Manu.

Helping to represent Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) from across the world were Dom Haslam, Chair of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDCC), Yannis Vardakastanis, Chair of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and Dr Vladimir Cuk, Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). Human rights activist Ashura Michael provided a specific voice for young people with disabilities.

## 2 – Thematic Workshop on Assistive Technology

The workshop by ATscale was held on 14 January 2022 and brought over 500 people from 94 countries together to join key stakeholders and decision-makers to discuss how to better work together to enable people to live more healthy, productive, independent, and dignified lives through access to Assistive Technology.

The event called Mainstreaming Assistive Technology Provisioning Across Development and Humanitarian Systems brought together experts and users of assistive technology, to build a common understanding across a diverse set of stakeholders regarding the need for mainstreaming of AT to expand access widely enough and sustain provisioning long enough to meet GDS commitments and relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## 3 – [Inclusive Education Thematic Workshop](#)

In advance of the 2022 Global Disability Summit, global partners organized the Global Disability Summit: Inclusive Education Thematic Workshop on January 20, 2022, which recognized the numerous barriers to education for learners with disabilities. The workshop highlighted the strategies that world leaders, policymakers, international organizations, civil society organizations, funders, and other advocates are taking to ensure inclusive quality education for all, including learners with disabilities.

The speakers emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly revealed and exacerbated systemic inequities in education access for learners with disabilities, particularly for the most marginalized groups, including displaced children and youth in emergency, crisis, and refugee settings. Presenters from around the world shared ideas to accelerate progress and overcome challenges including a lack of awareness surrounding disabilities; limited funding and capacity for implementing inclusive curricula; and a lack of training for learners with disabilities, their parents, and educators.

## 4 – Thematic Workshop on Community Inclusion: What Can We Do to Build Back Better for Community Inclusion?

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, UNICEF, OHCHR, IDA, and IDDC co-organized a Thematic Workshop on Community Inclusion on 27 January 2022. The workshop focused on the ongoing efforts of a diversity of countries to promote community inclusion, build effective support and care systems and provided concrete examples of the type of actions that government and civil society can take to promote community inclusion.

### 1 – WeThe15 Roundtable, Key Learnings to Date and what Comes Next

WeThe15 launched on 19 August 2021 just ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games to critical acclaim reaching 6.2 billion people, equivalent to 80% of the world's population. For the first time in history 18 international organisations, spearheaded by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and IDA, joined forces with a single goal: to create the biggest ever human rights movement to represent the world's 1.2 billion persons with disabilities.

By bringing together the biggest coalition ever of international organisations from the worlds of sport, civil society, human rights, policy, business and arts, and entertainment, WeThe15 increased awareness that 15% of the world's population are persons with disabilities to record levels, provoking global conversations at all levels of society. On 16 February 2022, WeThe15 hosted a roundtable to hear from some of the key protagonists behind the WeThe15 movement who discussed their highlights, key learnings, and what comes next.

### 2 – Private Sector Roundtable, Disability is Everyone's Business

The Private Sector Roundtable was held on 17 February 2022 and organised by Sightsavers, The Valuable 500, International Labour Organization, and business disability international. The roundtable witnessed leaders from the private sector and leaders of the disability movement come together to highlight examples of innovative partnerships with businesses in Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America. It also included a particular focus on the role disability-confident businesses can play in enabling economic empowerment.

Panelists included Kaushal Mendis, Human Resources Director, Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka Private Limited, Sri Lanka, Hital Muraj, Corporate Affairs Manager, East, and Southern Africa, Cisco, Tabie Kioko, Senior Manager, Diversity & Inclusion, Safaricom PLC, Kenya, Ravi Viswanathan, Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, Accenture, India, Paulina de la Colina, Latin America Equality & Inclusion Director and Maria Anaiz Maldonado, IT Director & Latin America Accessibility Leader, Procter & Gamble. The roundtable will be moderated by Stefan Tromel, Senior Disability Specialist, International Labour Organization Global Business & Disability Network.

## Discussion Paper on OPD Engagement

IDA and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) launched the GDS [Discussion Paper on OPD engagement](#). The Paper serves as a contribution to unpack, frame, guide and incentivize engagement of OPDs in development and humanitarian action through the [GDS2022](#).

At the heart of this Discussion Paper are concrete examples and case studies of what has worked so far to advance OPDs' participation in development and humanitarian action. These were collected and documented through a call for good practices and/or case studies launched in August 2021. Illustrating the growing interest in this topic and the traction of the GDS itself, IDA received a total of 92 case studies in response to this call, covering examples from over 40 countries, including 34% submitted by OPDs, 29% received from INGOs, 20% received from others, which included those from associations, consortia, education institutes, 11% practices identified by their organisations as belonging to more than one category and 7% practices were received from donor agencies. Case studies were screened with the support of an external advisory group, and after a process of quality assurance, 12 case studies were included in the Discussion Paper.

Acknowledging the efforts made by all organizations that submitted a case study, the GDS webpage entails a [link](#) to all 92 case studies received as they were sent (unedited)<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Please note that this does not mean that case studies posted here are endorsed by IDA, NORAD, the GDS Secretariat nor by the advisory group who supported the selection.

# 2 | Part 2: GDS Commitments

## COMMITMENTS

### GDS Annual Monitoring Reports

IDA published two annual reports to monitor the implementation of the commitments and check in with stakeholders on how the implementation of commitments was progressing. In this regard, the '[Global Disability Summit: One Year On Accountability Report \(September 2019\)](#)' was published in 2019 and presented an independent analysis by Equal International. It launched a self-reporting survey, giving stakeholders who made commitments an opportunity to reflect on the progress they have made. OPDs in three focus countries (Kenya, Nepal, and Jordan) provided case studies of their country's progress on disability inclusion since the Summit, best practices, and lessons learnt.

In 2021, the second report, '[Global Disability Summit +2 years: Progress on Implementation of Commitments 2021](#)' was launched that provided critical information on the progress made by national governments, multilateral agencies, donors, foundations, private sector and civil society organisations in the almost 1000 commitments adopted in 2018. It provided examples and case studies that indicated the breadth of work that the GDS process contributed to galvanising. Some of these examples included the adoption of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) Disability marker by national development agencies such as Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Sweden's Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Canada's Global Affairs Canada (GAC). In addition, it showcased UNICEF's success in implementing programmes that are inclusive of children with disabilities in 53 countries, far surpassing its original target of 35 countries, among many others.

## GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2022: COMMITMENTS

### Vision, Overarching Themes, and Six Themes of GDS2022

The vision for the GDS2022 was 'Promoting Equality', including fighting against stigmatisation and discrimination. The 2022 Summit had two overarching themes. The first overarching theme of the 2022 Summit was 'Meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations and the second overarching theme was 'Building back better and more inclusive after COVID-19'.

In addition to these overarching themes, the following five themes were selected based on input from different stakeholders, as well as an analysis of elements from GDS2018 that should be strengthened:

- **Strengthening engagement with OPDs in particular in the Global South**
- **Inclusive education**
- **Inclusive livelihoods and social protection**
- **Inclusive health**
- **Inclusion in situations of conflict and crisis, including a focus on climate change**

Gender was selected as a cross-cutting theme.

## Menu of Commitments and Procedure for Collection of Commitments

The Menu of Commitments was developed in consultation with the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) network, and disability experts including OPDs, and was meant to inform, inspire, and incentivise ambitious commitments contributing to a successful GDS2022.

In this regard, once the five themes for the GDS were identified, a cover note for each was produced by the Government of Norway, with inputs from IDA and the Atlas Alliance. The notes were then shared with the Global Action on Disability Network, as a first step in the consultative process to create a menu of commitments for the Summit. With inputs received from GLAD Members, the Government of Norway and IDA facilitated the formation of 7 working groups, which worked on a menu of commitments for each of the themes. The working groups which had a diverse composition ensured different perspectives in the drafting of the menu for example from FCDO, Sightsavers, UNICEF, NORAD, USAID, IDDC, ILO, Valuable500, etc. Once the “menus” were received from the different working groups, they were revised by the co-hosts, compiled in the final menu of commitments and shared widely.

The suggested commitments ranged from overarching commitments to specific thematic commitments and were developed based on broad consultations with various stakeholders. Each commitment proposed was accompanied by an explanatory text of proposed actions. Stakeholders were then invited to register commitments by selecting from the menu and were provided with the option of also registering their commitments by choosing “other” and filling in the form. In addition, stakeholders could choose to update commitments made in GDS2018 by selecting “Update Existing Commitment”. Interestingly, more than 95% of the commitments submitted were new commitments and not updates to the GDS2018 commitments.

Upon receiving the commitments, the GDS Secretariat, with the support of IDA, underwent a process of checking commitments to ensure compliance with the UNCRPD. To do so, the GDS Secretariat was supported by experts within the IDA team, for the following topics: i) Health; ii) Climate iii) Education; and iv) CRPD principles.

The process did not involve a critical revision of the substance of the commitments, but more so a revision of the language used to express the pledges. If the IDA Secretariat, in its revision, encountered non-CRPD compliant language, it flagged so to the GDS Secretariat.

The GDS Secretariat, as the only repository of contacts for the submitting stakeholders, proceeded to contact the stakeholder submitting the commitment, suggesting a change in the language. All modifications proposed were accepted by the submitting stakeholders.

## Overview of Commitments for GDS2022

GDS2022 took place from 16 to 17 February 2022 and saw Governments and other stakeholders come together to pledge their support to improve the lives of people with disabilities. The 2022 Summit created history as the world's biggest gathering of global leaders and disability rights activists and organisations dedicated to committing to change for people with disabilities. Hosted by IDA, the Government of Norway, and the Government of Ghana, the 2022 Summit was held on a digital platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to improve efforts towards ensuring inclusive participation.

The GDS2018 held in London had garnered commitments by 171 National Governments, multilateral agencies, donors, foundations and private sector and CSOs that resulted in 968 individual commitments. The 2022 Summit further built on the GDS2018 success and took the engagement higher with more than 7000 participants, 49 updates, and 1412<sup>6</sup> new individual commitments by 193 stakeholders. These stakeholders included governments, multilaterals, donors, the private sector and foundations, CSOs and OPDs, among others.

Out of the total number of organisations that made commitments at GDS2022, 42 were governments and donors<sup>7</sup>. If we look at the regional representation among this group, the highest number of countries, 13, were from the African region<sup>8</sup>, 11 were from Europe<sup>9</sup> in addition to the European Union (EU) representing the union of 27 member states, 9 were from the Asia-Pacific region<sup>10</sup>, 5 from Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>11</sup>, and 3 were from the Middle East region<sup>12</sup>. Interestingly, 19 new governments and/or donors pledged commitments at GDS2022 compared to GDS2018<sup>13</sup>. In addition, 26 multilateral agencies, which include 17 UN Agencies, 8 foundations, 4 private sector organisations, 66 CSOs and 29 OPDs put forward their commitments. 16 organisations categorised themselves as 'Others', which included academic institutions, and networks and 2 categorised themselves as 'Local Authority'.

**6** Note: At the time of analysis the total number of commitments on the portal were 1412, which is what the report took as baseline.

**7** Donors also include National Government Cooperation Agencies like Japan International Cooperation Agency

**8** Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

**9** Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Kosovo, Latvia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom

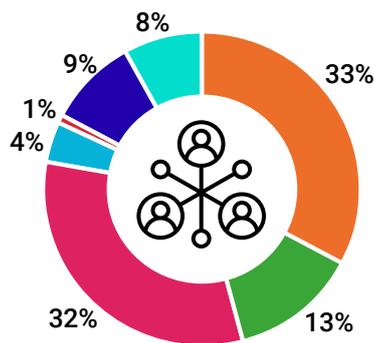
**10** Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, New Zealand, Singapore, United States of America

**11** Argentina, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Venezuela

**12** Cyprus, Iran, Jordan

**13** These include Argentina, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Kosovo, Latvia, Myanmar, Norway, Venezuela, Panama, Peru, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America

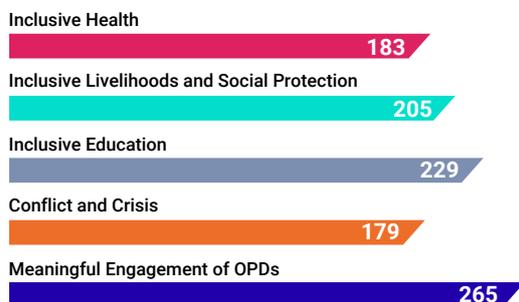
Overall, more than 95% of the commitments submitted were 'new commitments'. Among these 1,412 new commitments, 65% of the commitments were made by governments and donors and CSOs. The engagement from these two stakeholder groups is similar to their engagement in GDS2018 where they contributed to the largest share of commitments. 13% of commitments were made by multilateral agencies like the last time and 9% were made by OPDs. The private sector and foundations constituted 5% and the remaining were made by organisations categorized as others (among which were academia, inter-agency mechanisms, etc.). Figure 4 presents the percentage of commitments by stakeholder type.



**Figure 5:** Percentage of Commitments by Type of Stakeholder

Governments and Donors:	<b>33%</b>
Multilaterals:	<b>13%</b>
Civil Society Organisations:	<b>32%</b>
Foundations:	<b>4%</b>
Private Sector:	<b>1%</b>
Organisations of Persons with Disabilities:	<b>9%</b>
Others:	<b>8%</b>

As explained in the chapter above, the vision for GDS2022 was 'Promoting Equality' and the Summit had two overarching commitments. In addition, five themes were selected and proposed for the GDS Menu of Commitment. While the majority – 351 – of commitments fell under the category of 'Overarching commitments', thematically<sup>14</sup> the highest number of commitments were received in relation to 'Meaningful Engagement of OPDs' (265), true to the importance of the overarching theme, constituting 19% of the total commitments. However, it is important to note here that CSOs contributed the highest number to this category making up 40% of the total commitments. Among governments and donors, this was 26% and among multilaterals this was only 5%, showing scope for more engagement with OPDs in the future.



**Figure 6:** Number of Commitments by Themes

Inclusive Health:	<b>183</b>
Inclusive Livelihoods and Social Protection:	<b>205</b>
Inclusive Education:	<b>229</b>
Conflict and Crisis:	<b>179</b>
Meaningful Engagement of OPDs:	<b>265</b>

14 Percentages are calculated out of 1061 commitments without overarching commitments.

This was followed by 'Inclusive Education', which received 229 commitments making up 16% of the total commitments and 'Inclusive Livelihoods and Social Protection' following closely behind with 205 or 15% of the total commitments. There was a marginal difference between the commitments received in the category of 'Inclusive Health' and 'Situations of Conflict and Crisis', including a focus on 'Climate Change' with the former receiving 183 and the latter receiving 179 commitments, both at 13% each. In addition, Gender was explicitly referenced in 99 commitments and the COVID-19 pandemic was mentioned in 21 commitments. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the commitments received by the stakeholder groups and Figure 6 presents the number of commitments received as per each thematic area.

If we look at the scope of commitments in relation to their geographical regions, 42% of commitments were Global in nature, 30% were in relation to the African region, 6% were concerning the Asia – Pacific region, 4% were in relation to Europe, and another 4% were in relation to the Latin America and the Caribbean region<sup>15</sup>.

**Table 1:** Stakeholder Commitments Per Themes

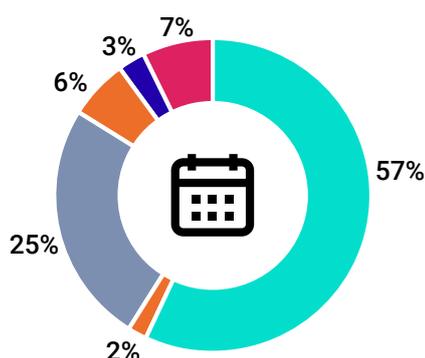
STAKEHOLDER TYPE	TOTAL	OVERARCHING COMMITMENTS	MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF OPDS	CONFLICT & CRISIS	INC. EDU	INC. LIVELIHOODS & SOCIAL PROTECTION	INC. HEALTH
Governments And Donors	467	101	69	61	83	82	71
Multilaterals	183	66	13	35	23	25	21
Civil Society Organisations	447	115	103	54	64	54	57
Foundations	53	8	16	7	9	5	8
Private Sector	19	5	4	1	1	7	1
Opds	135	23	41	9	28	18	16
Local Authority	14	7	3	-	2	2	-
Others	94	26	16	12	19	12	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>183</b>

<sup>15</sup> In total 165 commitments or 12% did not specify the region they cover.

## SCREENING OF COMMITMENTS

The commitments by the stakeholder groups (Governments and donors, multilaterals, CSOs, Foundations, Private Sector, OPDs, Local Authority and Others) were analysed from a UNCRPD lens to see if they contributed to inclusive development. This was done to provide a deeper analysis<sup>16</sup> to assess how they contribute to the following categories: i) Influence on Policies and Schemes; ii) International Cooperation and Disability Inclusive Development; iii) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Data and Evidence Generation; iv) Intersectionality and Under-Represented Groups; v) Financial Implications and Resource Mobilisation; and vi) Meaningful Engagement of OPDs. In addition, the sections also present examples of some of the commitments received across these stakeholder groups.

When we look at the timeframe of the commitments, about 59% of the commitments have a timeline of being implemented within the next 8 years. Within this, 57% have a timeline of the next 5 years. In addition, about 10% of the commitments were more long-term in nature, 7% were categorised as continuous or ongoing whereas the remaining 3% mentioned were part of a more continuous process, which would be annually tracked or reported on<sup>17</sup>. 25% of the commitments did not propose a timeframe or were unspecified<sup>18</sup>. Figure 7 presents an analysis of the commitments as per their timeframe.



**Figure 7: Stakeholder commitment by timeframe**

Within next 5 years:	<b>57%</b>
Within next 8 years:	<b>2%</b>
Unspecified:	<b>25%</b>
Others:	<b>6%</b>
Annual Tracking:	<b>3%</b>
Ongoing or continuous engagement:	<b>7%</b>

## Influence on Policies and Schemes

One way in which we can understand the contribution of GDS2022 towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities is to assess how the level of ambition shared in commitments by stakeholders, especially governments and donors, translates into changes at the level of policies and schemes at the national level. This is important as persons with disabilities and their representative organisations continue to operate within power symmetries and out of socio-economic and political circumstances that are unique to them and that shape their everyday lives. Although the formulation of policies on disability inclusion or revision of existing policies from a disability lens does not automatically translate into or guarantee change, it formalises the intent and political commitment of governments, allowing for their accountability.

<sup>16</sup> Note – The commitments were screened qualitatively to assess whether they contributed to these categories. This means that the text was read and qualitatively assessed. In certain sections like meaningful engagement of OPDs the numbers identified may be different from the commitments mentioned on the portal which quantitatively assess their contribution to various themes.

<sup>17</sup> Remaining 6% under 'others' include those that have multiple timelines or those that are uncategorized.

<sup>18</sup> Unspecified commitments include those that either did not provide any value or stated that their commitments did not have a specific timeframe.

When we examined the commitments that influence policies, we also looked at other stakeholders to understand whether the commitments made by them provided for changes in their organisational policies and disability-inclusive strategies and mainstreaming within their programmes. We find that 28% or 396 commitments addressed policy-level changes.

When we look at commitments from individual stakeholder groups, we find among all commitments submitted by governments and donors (467) and CSOs (447) 31% each address policy level change. Of all commitments by multilaterals (183), 32% address the dimension of disability mainstreaming and policy level change. Among foundations (53), this is 25% and among the private sector (19), this is 16%. Within the category of others (94), 21%; among local authorities (14), 14%; and among OPDs (135), 12% address policy level changes.

In the section below we present some clear examples. The list is however not exhaustive and does not state endorsement of the commitments by the co-hosts. Overall, in this section, we find a variety of commitments. These range from disability mainstreaming in organisational policies, harmonisation of national legislations with the UNCRPD, and establishing new schemes, to developing and implementing policies that further advance disability inclusion.

One good example of a stakeholder's commitments (we have reproduced 8 of the 10 commitments) in this section comes from the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian Government**. This has been selected due to several concrete reasons: i) it has an emphasis on disability inclusion in its new strategic partnerships across stakeholder groups; ii) it adopts an intersectionality lens and invests in engagement with under-represented groups; iii) it provides for meaningful engagement of OPDs, including strengthening the capacity of local organisations; iv) it addresses structural barriers among its commitments; and v) it includes multi-year core funding for OPD led priorities and provides the flexibility to use the funds where they are most needed.

## Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian Government:

➔ **Australia** commits to advancing disability inclusion in its new strategic partnerships, including with UN system entities, development banks, and relevant international organisations. Australia commits to working with partners to implement the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, the Charter of Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and/or other relevant organisational strategies consistent with the UN CRPD. This commitment includes partnering to engage women and girls with disabilities in policy development and implementation, as well as the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and operations. Where possible, Australia will seek to embed an intersectional approach.

➔ **Australia** will develop a successor policy to its Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program (extended to 2021). The policy will outline Australia's commitment to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people with disabilities, including through its development cooperation program. The policy will consider intersectionality, exploring the opportunities and challenges that arise from an intersection of identities, including gender and age; and will be underpinned by our core principle of supporting an active and central role for people with disabilities.

→ **Australia** will fund a scoping study into establishing a regional body of key partners to enhance and coordinate support for increased inclusion of persons with disabilities in development and humanitarian action. The study will assess the value and purpose of establishing such a body, and clarify objectives, scope, membership and alignment with existing global and/or regional coordinating mechanisms, including those related to gender equality and other cross-cutting commitments and issues. The study will include inclusive consultations. Australia will use the study to consult with regional partners and inform a decision on future support for such a mechanism.

→ **Australia** commits to disability inclusion in its support for social protection programs. It will support the design and delivery of comprehensively accessible programs that remove barriers to people with disabilities accessing income support, whilst also addressing the additional costs related to disability. Australia will promote income security, skills training and disability-specific support to enable economic participation and protection against poverty. It will engage OPDs in program planning, design, implementation and evaluation and provide support to strengthen their skills and knowledge to confidently contribute to discussions with governments and other duty bearers and provide technical input on issues that affect them.

→ **Australia** will support the Government of Timor-Leste and Timorese organisations of people with disabilities to implement the National Action Plan for People with Disabilities 2021-2030. This will include supporting the involvement of peak organisations such as Asosiasaun Defisiensiia Timor-Leste and Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan in overseeing and advocating for implementation of the plan by relevant ministries. Australia will also support relevant ministries to implement several specific commitments under the plan, including advancing gender equality, inclusive education, inclusive social protection and inclusive health.

→ **Australia** will work with partners in six Pacific island countries to address barriers people with disabilities face in accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. We will work with UNFPA, in partnership with Women Enabled International, the Pacific Disability Forum and local organisations of people with disabilities, to help ensure SRH and rights policies, procedures, training, guidance manuals and information, education and communication tools are disability-inclusive and consistent with international good practice to drive systemic service improvements, particularly for young people. This will include strengthening the capacity of local organisations through training on disability-inclusive service provision.

→ Recognising the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 and other health emergencies on people with disabilities, especially women and girls, Australia commits to strengthen the mainstreaming of disability inclusion across our health security programming. In particular, we will focus on working in partnership with, or supporting, organisations of people with disabilities, with attention to diversity; addressing barriers to accessing information and services (e.g. screening, vaccinations, and prevention and control measures); and

contributing to the evidence base on disability within the health security sector.

- **Australia** will increase its multi-year core funding to the Pacific Disability Forum and International Disability Alliance to support OPD priorities. Core funding supports PDF and IDA to deliver on their strategic objectives and provides the flexibility to use the funds where they are most needed. This is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic where circumstances can continue to change rapidly and negatively impact persons in vulnerable situations. Attention will be given to strategies to advance gender equality and persons facing intersectional discrimination.

**A few other examples from this section include:**

- **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP):** Building on ESCAP's publication 'Disability at a glance 2021: the shaping of disability-inclusive employment in Asia and the Pacific', UNESCAP committed to strengthen advocacy and providing technical assistance to Asia-Pacific countries for improving disability-inclusive employment policies, taking into account latest developments in the world of work.
- Through Community 2030, **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** is committed to supporting human rights-based mainstreaming and disability-specific policy development.
- **UN Women** committed to developing an Action Plan (2022-25) in 2022 to update and implement the UN-Women Global Strategy on Disability Inclusion for mainstreaming disability inclusion throughout its work in policy, programme, normative and intergovernmental support based on lessons learned and new developments such as UN Women's Strategic Plan (2022-25), UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, (UNDIS), UNSG's Our Common Agenda.
- Given the vital importance of tourism as a source of national income for Jordan, the **Government of Jordan** is committed to develop and implementing a national strategy on inclusive tourism to make its tourist sites and facilities accessible
- The **Government of Rwanda** committed to put in a place strategy to protect persons with disabilities from violence, exploitation and abuse by 2025.
- **FHI360** committed to continuing to strengthen its organisational approach to inclusive development through inclusive programming, which ensures

meaningful engagement and participation of a diversity of people with disabilities, and their representative OPD organisations, across all thematic areas.

Raising awareness and understanding on disability through campaigns, through the media and in the education systems, as well as by including persons with disabilities in public and social activities is crucial to combat attitudinal barriers and negative stereotypes about persons with disabilities<sup>19</sup>. This is important because prejudices regarding OPDs' or persons with disabilities' capacity to contribute may perpetuate paternalistic approaches whereby persons with disabilities are only viewed as recipients of aid<sup>20</sup>.

In this regard, the commitments of the **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** serve as good examples in this category and focus on addressing attitudinal barriers:

- **IOM** committed to support campaigns and initiatives within IOM and partner organisations which aim to raise awareness and change negative behaviours towards persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the CRPD, empowering persons with disabilities and OPDs to lead on advocacy and developing adapted messages.
- **WHO** committed to reduce discrimination and stigmatisation by promoting attitudinal change in communities and across all development cooperation, and addressing intersectionalities, for example through the global launch and implementation of the WHO QualityRights e-training on Mental health, Recovery and Community Inclusion.
- **IFAD** committed that its upcoming Disability Inclusion Strategy will promote attitudinal change at the institutional level and in its operations, and address intersectionalities.
- **ADD International** committed to working with OPDs and other disability movement actors to help reduce discrimination and stigmatisation through activities that promote attitudinal change in communities in which it works as well as across all its development activities.
- **Sense International** will reduce discrimination and stigmatisation of people with deafblindness by promoting attitudinal change.

<sup>19</sup> World Health Organization. (2011). World report on disability 2011. World Health Organization.

<sup>20</sup> IDA. (2022). Promoting Engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Development and Humanitarian Action. IDA.

One concern underlined in a recent report by Atlas Alliance (2022) in “[Nothing without us: Global Disability Summit Oslo 2022](#)” is that some countries did not provide commitments but references and reports of things that are already being done. In some cases, the commitments are not specific, measurable, achievable, or relevant (SMART)<sup>21</sup>. This was also observed in our analysis and is an area which needs strengthening.

## International Cooperation, Disability Inclusive Development and Joint Cooperation

The UN Disability and Development Report (2019) notes the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for realising the rights of persons with disabilities. It shares that partners can collectively ensure that all programs and development-related activities comprehensively consider the perspective of persons with disabilities<sup>22</sup>. Article 32 of the UNCRPD also recognises the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts for realisation. One of the measures included specifically asks to “ensure that international cooperation, including International Development programs, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities”<sup>23</sup>.

International cooperation can contribute to levelling the playing field between stakeholders in terms of access to information, ultimately facilitating cooperation and participation between OPDs and government but also between OPDs and other actors. It can facilitate the building of a common platform between OPDs for collective advocacy. At the same time, given that international cooperation actors tend to face less local political constraint overall than local actors, they can set standards and examples of meaningful participation that can contribute to greater trust between national stakeholders and stimulate coordination between international cooperation actors. While government finance is important for OPDs functioning, international funding support at the national and local level for OPDs also can build their independence and autonomy, mitigating risks of co-optation<sup>24</sup>.

The critical role of international cooperation and development assistance in implementing GDS Commitments was stressed throughout the GDS consultations. In this regard, several recommendations called upon development partners to support national governments in implementing the GDS commitments through funding and offering technical support. At the same time, the need for development partners and INGOs to involve persons with disabilities in designing, implementing, and monitoring programmes at the national and grassroots levels was also underscored<sup>25</sup>.

<sup>21</sup> The Atlas Alliance. (2022). “Nothing without us”: Global Disability Summit Oslo 2022. Oslo: The Atlas Alliance.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations. (2019). Disability and Development Report: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities. United Nations.

<sup>23</sup> General Assembly (2007). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, A/RES/61/106

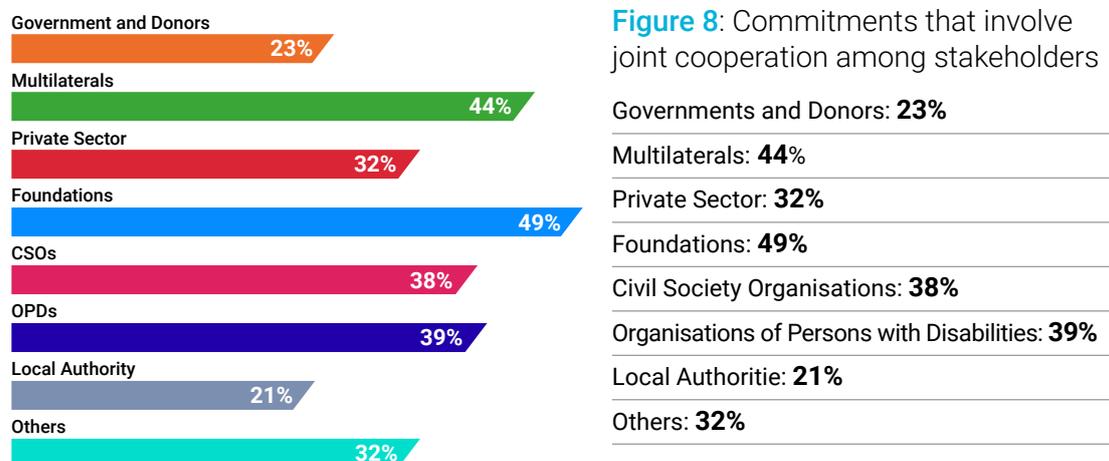
<sup>24</sup> Cote, A (2020). The unsteady path: Towards meaningful participation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in the implementation of the CRPD and SDGs. <https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/The-unsteady-path.-A-pilot-study-by-BtG.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> IDA. (October 2020 - April 2021). Global Disability Summit: Regional and National Consultations. International Disability Alliance.

About 254 or 18% of the commitments contributed to International Cooperation and Disability Inclusive Development category. 60 commitments from multilaterals, 65 commitments from governments and donors, 80 commitments from CSOs, 10 commitments from foundations, 21 commitments from OPDs, 17 commitments from others and one commitment from the private sector were made towards this. The element of international cooperation and disability inclusive development was highest among multilaterals' commitments, with 33% of its total commitments contributing to this category. It points to the unique place the stakeholder group enjoys especially in terms of its convening ability to bring different stakeholders together onto the same platform.

In addition to this, the commitments were also analysed to assess if they involved joint cooperation by one or more stakeholder types. Overall, 476 commitments or 34% of all commitments contributed to this category, the highest among all themes. When looked at individually, the element of joint cooperation was highest among foundations (49% of all its commitments contributing to this category), followed by multilaterals (44% of all its commitments contributing to this category).

In addition, if we analyse the commitments by CSOs and OPDs, we find that joint cooperation received the highest percentage of commitments in both stakeholder groups, 38% of all CSO commitments and 39% of all OPD commitments, showing perhaps an increased demand for joint cooperation towards inclusive development. Figure 8 presents the percentage of commitments by stakeholders involving joint cooperation.



While many examples highlight international cooperation and disability-inclusive development, the section below shares some examples from the stakeholders' groups. Overall commitments range from partnerships with other stakeholders, an element of using policy and political dialogue space to advocate for a disability-inclusive approach to joint action plans, and funding support for initiatives that foster disability-inclusive development.

## European Union:

- The **EU** will increasingly raise the rights of persons with disabilities in dialogues with its partner countries, support the implementation of UNCRPD and foster its ratification globally.

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- The **European Commission** will continue to uphold the human rights of persons with disabilities and support their social inclusion in the framework of the EU's enlargement and neighbourhood policies. Through the policy and political dialogues with partner countries, the Commission will support reforms of public policies to make these more inclusive of persons with disabilities.

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- The **European Commission** intend to make available EUR 5 million in dedicated financial support to **UN Partnership on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD)** from the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument thematic programme - Global Challenges

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## World Health Organization:

- We commit in partnership with **UNICEF, ATscale** and other global, regional, and national actors to increase the availability of and access to appropriate assistive technology. This includes working for in-country systems strengthening to ensure better service provisioning as well as a global advocacy and awareness raising.

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- We commit to work with **UNICEF** and other UN agencies as part of the Joint Action Plan to facilitate the inclusion of priority assistive products in **WHO/UNICEF** product catalogues to ensure countries can procure affordable and quality assistive products.

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- We commit in partnership with **UNICEF, Global Disability Innovation Hub** and **ATscale** to launch the Global Report on Assistive Technology, working with Member States to implement ten overarching recommendations of the Global Report; as well as collecting data on access to assistive technology from another thirty Member States.

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- (We commit to) Reduce discrimination and stigmatisation by promoting attitudinal change in communities and across all development cooperation, and addressing intersectionalities, for example through the global launch and implementation of the WHO QualityRights e-training on Mental health, Recovery and Community Inclusion.

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## Finland:

- **Finland** renews its long-term commitment to the implementation of the UNCRPD and inclusive development Agenda 2030. Finland will provide and advocate for support to the **UNPRPD**.

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- **Finland** will champion disability inclusive and gender transformative policies, strategies, and programmes as well as accountability mechanisms in its policy influencing in the **EU** and with bilateral and multilateral partners. Promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including the rights of women and girls with disabilities, is a long-standing priority in Finland's human rights-based foreign and security policy, human rights-based development policy as well as in humanitarian assistance.

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- **Finland** will promote the right to education for persons with disabilities by supporting systemic transformation towards inclusive education systems in cooperation with partner countries and through international partnerships.

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## International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC):

**IDDC** will continue to advocate for the promotion of disability inclusion as a precondition for the achievement of universal health coverage. Over the next two years, it will:

- Work closely with WHO to support the preparation and dissemination of the global report on health and disability.

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- Advocate for the implementation of the World Health Assembly Resolution EB148.R6 on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities, both through direct advocacy interventions and as part of its co-chairing role within the GLAD Inclusive Health Working Group.

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- Collaborate with at least two strategic mainstream health partners and contribute to at least five mainstream health events, with a view to promoting disability inclusion as part of universal health coverage and addressing multiple and intersecting discrimination in the health sector, including sexism and ageism.

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## Disabled People's Organisations Denmark:

- **DPOD** will advocate with Danish organisations and institutions engaged in international development cooperation and humanitarian actions on taking actual steps towards inclusion of persons with disabilities in their programmes and organisation. This will be achieved through continuous dialogue and initiation of cooperation on disability inclusion.

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As different stakeholders go forward in implementing their respective commitments, there are three particular areas which would be important for this section. Firstly, there is scope for

further research to understand whether the commitments address both dimensions of the twin-track approach, which means evaluating whether in the commitments there is a focus on disability-specific measures or disability mainstreaming measures. Studies point out that when applying the twin-track approach, the balance is tipped to disability-specific services<sup>26</sup>. Even though mainstreamed initiatives may take more effort and time they have the potential to capacitate the governments (duty-bearers) in providing long-term and sustainable results by removing barriers to inclusion and universal access<sup>27</sup>. In recent times there is growing recognition that the twin-track approach can lead to successful outcomes for people with disabilities only if emphasis is put on both tracks, as they complement each other<sup>28</sup>.

Secondly, while many stakeholders have already identified or mentioned the partners that they will jointly work with, there is an opportunity to further facilitate cooperation and partnerships among stakeholders working on similar goals. One way to do this may be to encourage partners to use the [commitments portal](#) maintained by the Global Disability Summit Secretariat and available for browsing on the [Global Disability Summit website](#), to see whether they can find partners working on issues aligned to their commitments. Efforts would also need to be made to ensure that OPDs are included in partnerships and that when partnering necessary preconditions are maintained to ensure they can meaningfully participate (more on this in the meaningful engagement of OPDs section).

Finally, as highlighted in the section on financial implication and resource mobilisation, tracking of financial aid, including by having monitoring and accountability measures where not already specified in commitments, would be critical to track aid and investments and evaluate the extent to which it trickles down to reach persons with disabilities and affects their lives.

**Figure 9:** quote by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Opening Comments, GDS2022

***“We need broader and deeper cooperation. We must take a whole-of-society approach to ensuring disability inclusion. Only by working together – across governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector – can we effectively implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for persons with disabilities.”***

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Opening Comments, GDS2022



<sup>26</sup> Al Ju'beh, Kathy. Disability inclusive development toolkit. CBM, 2017, [www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/CBM-DID-TOOLKIT-accessible.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/CBM-DID-TOOLKIT-accessible.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> Norad. (2012). Mainstreaming disability in the new development paradigm. Norad.

<sup>28</sup> Al Ju'beh, Kathy. Disability inclusive development toolkit. CBM, 2017, [www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Publications/CBM-DID-TOOLKIT-accessible.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/CBM-DID-TOOLKIT-accessible.pdf).

## Data and Evidence Generation

Reliable data and evidence are central to gaining the confidence of decision-makers and the greater community and allow policymakers, programme staff and researchers to ensure better outcomes for persons with disabilities<sup>29</sup>. The importance of data is highlighted in Article 31 of the UNCRPD and in Goal 9 of the [Charter for Change](#)<sup>30</sup>. A lack of data and research on the other hand not only can influence the ability of people with disabilities to access mainstream social services, but it also has the potential of ‘invisibilising’ the concern of persons with disabilities, further marginalising the group.

**Figure 10:** goal 9 of Charter for Change

*“Gather and use better data and evidence to understand and address the scale, and nature, of challenges faced by persons with disabilities, using tested tools including the Washington Group Disability Question Sets.”*  
Goal 9, Charter for Change

A recent study notes that a lack of reliable and disaggregated data both on the prevalence of disability and on the extent and quality of participation of persons with disabilities exacerbates their lack of participation. Even when data is available, most focuses on the quantitative aspect rather than the qualitative side, which may miss capturing the discrimination experienced by the diversity of persons with disabilities<sup>31</sup>, especially of under-represented groups.

The need for reliable data and evidence as well as regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms formed an important part of the discussions held at the 2022 Summit. Data and evidence have a critical relationship with and enhance monitoring and evaluation, which in turn leads to better accountability of decisions. Our analysis shows that commitments by governments and across other stakeholder groups contributed extensively (maximum under the six verticals reviewed) to this theme.

29% or 407 of the commitments involved attention to M&E and/or data and evidence generation as part of their commitments, the second highest category to receive commitments after joint cooperation. Among government and donors, 104 commitments; among multilaterals 93, among CSOs 123; among foundations 21; among private sector 10; among OPDs 24; among local authorities 3; and among others 29 commitments addressed M&E and/or data and evidence generation. When looked at individually among stakeholders’ commitments, 53% of all commitments by private (highest) and 51% of all commitments by multilaterals involved an element of M&E and/or data. For foundations, this figure was 40%. The contribution to this category was lowest among OPDs with 18% of their commitments addressing this theme. One reason for this could be limited organisational capacity. Overall, this is an area for OPDs which can be developed further.

When we look at data disaggregation more specifically, it was addressed 68 times. Government and donors made 22 commitments, CSOs made 20 commitments, and multilaterals addressed disaggregation of data in 17 commitments. It was addressed four times by others, twice by OPDs, twice by foundations and once by the private sector. In addition to the collection of data, stakeholders also made commitments on building more knowledge on the issues concerning persons with disabilities and undertaking studies that would inform their actions and strategies.

<sup>29</sup> World Health Organization. (2011). World report on disability 2011. World Health Organization.

<sup>30</sup> General Assembly (2007). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, A/RES/61/106

<sup>31</sup> International Disability Alliance. (2022, July). Applying CRPD standards to programmatic processes: A look at inclusive programming in practice. International Disability Alliance.

One of the most comprehensive set of commitments under this category comes from UNICEF which provides 8 specific commitments (Figure 11). This serves as a good example because of: i) its focus on the creation of inclusive data collection tools; ii) an emphasis on building the capacity of national statistical offices and other stakeholders in all aspects (analysis, interpretation, dissemination, and use of data); iii) its focus on joint cooperation and advocacy for systematic disaggregation and reporting of data inclusion; and iv) most importantly, strengthening OPD participation in research. Figure 11 provides UNICEF's commitments on Data.

**Figure 11:** UNICEF's commitments on Data

**UNICEF** commits to generate new evidence through research, evaluation and data for better policies and increased investment for inclusion of children with disabilities (8 commitments):

1. **Develop inclusive data collection tools that address the critical issues affecting children with disabilities.**  
 .....
2. **Provide financial and technical support to at least 40 countries for the collection of statistical data on children with disabilities across several indicators of child-wellbeing, including through the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys.**  
 .....
3. **Support strengthening of administrative systems to generate data on children with disabilities, by providing financial and technical support for the integration of relevant questions into Education Child Protection and Social Protection Management Information Systems (MIS) as well as advocate for inclusive Health MIS.**  
 .....
4. **Support capacity development of national statistical offices, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in analysis, interpretation, dissemination and use of data on children with disabilities.**  
 .....
5. **Advocate for the systematic disaggregation and reporting of data on core indicators of child wellbeing, including child-related SDG indicators.**  
 .....
6. **Support new and innovative projects to foster the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of data on children with disabilities through the Centre of Excellence on Data for Children with Disabilities, by providing funding, coordination, quality oversight and technical assistance.**  
 .....
7. **Through a joint effort between UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti and Programme Group, establish in consultation with the disability research community, OPDs and other development partners, a Global Research Agenda for children with disabilities to generate, communicate and use new research and evidence to guide investment in effective interventions to support the inclusion and rights of children with disabilities.**  
 .....
8. **Progressively mainstream disability and strengthen OPD participation in research undertaken by the organization in both development and humanitarian settings.**  
 .....

In addition to this, we also find concrete examples of the theme from the **EU, USAID, The Government of UK, The Government of Bangladesh, Global Partnership for Education, World Food Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Asian Development Bank**, among others.

While it is acknowledged that OPDs can play a critical role in addressing evidence gaps and take on monitoring and evaluation roles that positively impact the program design and implementation, in IDA's recent survey, OPDs reported low levels of engagement in monitoring and evaluation. 26% of OPDs reported on average that they are never invited for monitoring and evaluating public policies and programs (regional decision-makers seem to show a slightly more systematic engagement)<sup>32</sup>. Given this, we believe it is important to also highlight the following examples as good examples that do put OPDs in a monitoring and evaluation role:

→ **Switzerland** commits to increased consultation and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national policies and systems and in international cooperation

→ **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian Government:** Australia commits to disability inclusion in our support for social protection programs. We will support the design and delivery of comprehensively accessible programs that remove barriers to people with disabilities accessing income support, whilst also addressing the additional costs related to disability. Australia will promote income security, skills training and disability-specific support to enable economic participation and protection against poverty. We will engage OPDs in program planning, design, implementation and evaluation and provide support to strengthen their skills and knowledge to confidently contribute to discussions with governments and other duty bearers and provide technical input on issues that affect them.

→ **Disability Rights Watch** commits to contribute to increasing the capacity of OPDs, through training, in strategic advocacy skills (including strategic litigation) in order to enhance their full and effective participation in government consultation and other processes in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national policies and systems, and in international cooperation.

As highlighted in the recent study by Atlas Alliance, "what is not counted and measured is less likely to be done". The stakeholders would need to monitor and track their efforts to ensure they're accountable for their commitments<sup>33</sup>.

<sup>32</sup> International Disability Alliance (IDA). "Not Just Ticking the Disability Box? Meaningful OPD Participation and the Risk of Tokenism." IDA, 10 Jun. 2022, [www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/%E2%80%9Cnot-just-ticking-disability-box-meaningful-opd-participation-and-risk-tokenism%E2%80%9D](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/%E2%80%9Cnot-just-ticking-disability-box-meaningful-opd-participation-and-risk-tokenism%E2%80%9D)

<sup>33</sup> The Atlas Alliance. (2022). "Nothing without us": Global Disability Summit Oslo 2022. Oslo: The Atlas Alliance.

## Intersectionality and Under-Represented Groups

Persons with disabilities are not one homogenous group and their disability experience resulting from the interaction of health conditions, personal factors, and environmental factors can vary greatly. At the same time, while disability correlates with disadvantage, not all people with disabilities are equally disadvantaged. Some groups like women with disabilities experience the combined discrimination associated with gender as well as disability<sup>34</sup>.

This is reflected in IDA's recent survey which notes that persons with deafblindness, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and hard of hearing persons are involved to a much lesser extent in decision-making. At the same time, groups who are the least involved are persons affected by leprosy, persons with a chronic disease, persons of short stature, and persons with epilepsy, albinism or vitiligo. The report notes there is no evidence for greater involvement in decision-making for many groups of persons with disabilities between the first and second survey<sup>35</sup>.

IDA and DFID's ['Global Disability Summit: One Year On Accountability Report \(September 2019\)'](#) had noted that 'Intersectionality' was only mentioned once directly (by the Ford Foundation) and indirectly once (by UN Women in referring to mainstreaming gender, age and disability perspectives) in the [GDS2018](#) commitments<sup>36</sup>. This was significant as it reflected the gap in stakeholders' understanding of and engagement with the concept of how multiple identities intersect and often result in compounded experiences of discrimination and marginalisation. This issue of intersectionality and lack of understanding of how it often doubly discriminates against several persons with disabilities due to their other identities also emerged as a crucial issue during the GDS regional and national consultations. Participants shared that the discrimination often includes those who identify as LGBTIQ+, indigenous, and women with disabilities.

**Figure 12:** quote on Intersectionality from Nepal Consultation, 2020

*"There is a huge gap in understanding the issues, concerns and rights related to disability, indigenous, women and intersectionality at the national and local levels."*  
Consultation Nepal, December 2020

The [GDS2022](#) commitments were reviewed for their contribution to the 'Intersectionality and Under-represented Groups' category. IDA understands the term "under-represented groups" to be those among persons with disabilities who enjoy less visibility in decision-making processes. The disability movement, like other social movements, is not homogenous. Some groups have traditionally been less included in participatory processes, harder to reach or face higher barriers to participation such as persons who are deafblind, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and persons with autism or deaf people. It can also include those who may be less engaged in decision making such as women, children, older people and indigenous persons, as well as people from diverse faith, ethnicity, caste, class, sexual orientation or gender identity minorities. This understanding may differ in different countries, cultures, and contexts.

<sup>34</sup> World Health Organization. (2011). World report on disability 2011. World Health Organization.

<sup>35</sup> International Disability Alliance (IDA). "Not Just Ticking the Disability Box? Meaningful OPD Participation and the Risk of Tokenism." IDA, 10 Jun. 2022, [www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog)

<sup>36</sup> International Disability Alliance. (2019). Global Disability Summit: One Year On Accountability Report (September 2019), page number 32

The analysis found that compared to only 2 references in the GDS2018 commitments, in GDS2022 24% of all commitments or 341 commitments formed part of this category. If looked at individually, this category was most acknowledged in the commitments by CSOs 31% (of all commitments by CSOs), followed by those by OPDs with 27% of all commitments by OPDs involving an element of intersectionality and/or addressing under-represented groups. This shows a much better understanding of intersectionality and under-represented groups among these two stakeholder groups at one level, and on the other level, it underlines the need for other stakeholders to work closely with them for addressing disability inclusion, in all its diversity. It also shows further scope for engagement on this theme by other stakeholders.

Among governments and donors, it was 17%; among multilaterals it was 29%; among foundations it was 26%; among local authorities it was 21%; among others it was 15%; and among the private sector it was 11% (lowest), showing further scope for strengthening. Overall, there was a much better understanding of intersectionality, which reflected a growing recognition of the diversity of experiences faced by persons with disabilities among different stakeholder groups.

Many commitments mentioned that they would consider intersectionality and under-represented groups thus addressing different identities including gender. In addition to that many commitments also specifically mentioned women and girls with disabilities and/or addressed gender equality. Some of the examples highlighted in this category include:

➔ **The Government of Sierra Leone** will provide technical and material support to women and youth with disabilities to enhance their participation in decision-making processes through mainstream women and youth organizations. It will also engage Political Parties Registration Commission to foster integration of women and youth with disabilities issues in constitutions and manifestos of political parties in the country.

➔ **Denmark** will work to combat gender-based violence in crises. As the global lead of Call to Action on Protection Against Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies 2021-2022.

➔ **The Government of Malawi** will promote inclusive access to financial services and products for all persons with disabilities, particularly women and youths with disabilities by ensuring that public financing institutions put in place enabling policies and guidelines by 2026. It also committed to reviewing the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by women and girls with disabilities to ensure full realization of their right to sexual and reproductive health, respecting bodily autonomy and informed consent.

➔ **FCDO 2022 Women and Girls Strategy and Implementation Plan** will ensure that women and girls with disabilities are meaningfully embedded across key priorities and mutually reinforce the 2022 **FCDO Disability Inclusion Strategy**. It will also contribute to more effective, concerted global efforts to tackle violence against women and girls with disabilities under its 'What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale' programme.

➔ **Programa Iberoamericano de Discapacidad** will celebrate exchanges of best practices among organizations of women with disabilities to strengthen them in the Ibero-American region.

→ **UN Women** will strengthen its engagements and partnerships with diverse social movements by promoting coalition building and strategic partnerships OPDs and mainstream organisations to promote the leadership of women and girls with disabilities. It will also develop an Action Plan (2022-25) this year to update and implement the UN-Women Global Strategy on Disability Inclusion for mainstreaming disability inclusion throughout its work in policy, programme, normative and intergovernmental support.

→ **Light for the World** takes an intersectional approach that integrates gender and disability perspectives in complementary and inclusive ways. In the next four years (2022-2025), a) it aims to develop tools to measure competence on gender equality in the organisation, invest in structured capacity development on gender equality, and monitor and improve gender balance and disability percentage of staff and the board, b) it aims to ensure a gender responsive communication strategy and to share best practices of gender and disability inclusion with various audiences and partners, c) it aims to address, involve and empower women and girls, men and boys with disabilities in all their diversity equally in both its programmes and advocacy, apply Gender markers to its programmes and track progress to more Gender Marker II programmes and document best practices on gender equality in programmes.

→ **Sightsavers** will increase programming for people with disabilities in all their diversity with a specific focus on the rights of women and girls with disabilities. It will promote women and girls with disabilities as agents of change in shaping the decisions that affect them, particularly within OPD structures.

## Financial Implications and Resource Mobilisation

The UN Disability and Development Report (2019) notes that government spending on disability can reflect a political commitment to promote an inclusive society in which persons with disabilities can fully participate<sup>37</sup>. It also underlines data on these expenditures is often not tracked on a systematic level. In its analysis of data on public expenditures on disability benefits, the report found that public spending on social programmes for persons with disabilities is on average 1.34% of GDP. Other studies also note similar trends within international development. According to one estimate, OPDs receive only 3% of human rights funding globally granted to disability initiatives, despite people with disabilities representing 15% of the population<sup>38</sup>. Similarly, less than 0.5% of funding to global aid was found to be inclusive in a recent study<sup>39</sup>.

The importance of funding cannot be overstated. While commitments promise change, there is a need to back words with actions, and actions require resources, including financial resources.

<sup>37</sup> United Nations. (2019). Disability and Development Report: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities. United Nations.

<sup>38</sup> Creating A New 'Business As Usual' - DID4All, reflections and lessons from the Australian aid program on engaging with disabled people's organisations in development programming and humanitarian action - <https://did4all.com.au/Uploads/CreatingANewBusinessAsUsualDPOEngagementInDevelopment.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> Walton, D. (2020). Disability-inclusive ODA: Aid data on donors, channels, recipients. Development initiatives. [https://devinit.org/documents/755/Disability-inclusive-ODA\\_IF.pdf](https://devinit.org/documents/755/Disability-inclusive-ODA_IF.pdf).

Even though GDS2022 did see many commitments promising to fund for scaling up disability-inclusive development, overall resource mobilisation and/or commitments with an element of financial bearing remained low in number, with the theme receiving the least number of commitments and showing scope for further strengthening. Overall, 259 commitments were received in this category (18% of all commitments, second lowest). Among government and donors, 28% of all commitments or 130 commitments contributed to this category. When looked at individually, the highest contribution was by foundations that contributed 43% of all their commitments to this category.

One concrete commitment under this theme is that provided by the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian Government**. This is a good example because: i) it focuses on multiyear core funding; ii) it has a dimension of providing flexibility for the use of funds as per OPD-led priorities; and iii) it incorporates an intersectional approach.

**Figure 13:** commitment by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government

*“Australia will increase its multi-year core funding to the Pacific Disability Forum and International Disability Alliance to support OPD priorities. Core funding supports PDF and IDA to deliver on their strategic objectives and provides the flexibility to use the funds where they are most needed. This is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic where circumstances can continue to change rapidly and negatively impact on persons in vulnerable situations. Attention will be given to strategies to advance gender equality and persons facing intersectional discrimination.”*

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark**

Another good example of a commitment which we find in this section includes that by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark**. This is a good example because of i) its focus on strengthening local leadership, including transfer of funds, ownership and decision-making power to local partners; ii) its strategic partnerships; iii) a time-bound actionable plan; iv) adequate funding to back the commitment; and v) an intersectional approach.

➔ Denmark will work to provide a voice for people with disabilities as outlined in the strategy for development cooperation, the World We Share. Denmark will place a special focus on strengthening local leadership, including transfer of funds, ownership and decision-making power to local partners through the close partnership with the Disabled People’s Organisations Denmark (DPOD) and through the strategic partnerships with 18 Danish CSOs. The strategic partnerships from 2022-2025 have a strong, increased focus on strengthening local leadership, with a special emphasis on participation for youth, girls and women, and groups in marginalised and vulnerable contexts

➔ Denmark will join the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) to support multi-stakeholder coordination and to strengthen the knowledgebase across the Danish MFA and in Danish development cooperation.

In our analysis, we also find commitments which are more implicit or indirectly influence funding and resource mobilisation by creating policy imperatives and systemic changes within their agency. For instance, the **European Commission** notes that it “will track disability inclusive investments for a targeted monitoring of EU funding by systematically using the OECD-DAC Disability Marker”.

Similarly, the **UK Government Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** committed to funding the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network, a coordination body of key international stakeholders with a common interest to progress disability-inclusive development until March 2024. In addition, it will embed Disability Inclusion in its new Policy of Responsible Investing (PRI) which include a list of key recommended practices and promoting and starting relevant discussions on disability inclusion with investees. It also aims to use its voice as a leading donor to the **Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait**, to call for accelerated action to promote the rights of children with disabilities across our multilateral investments, so they are disability-inclusive.

Another good example in this category is that by **Ford Foundation**. This constitutes a good example for several reasons: i) it addresses the organizational capacity building of OPDs; ii) it allows for a multiyear and general operating support that gives OPDs and partners the time to acquire skills to engage meaningfully; iii) it backs its commitment with adequate financial resources; and iv) it incorporates monitoring and evaluation tools within its commitment to ensuring that across the institution there is prioritization of inclusion of OPDs.

## Commitments by Ford Foundation

- ➔ **Ford** will further prioritize funding that deepens the organizational capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities, including an emphasis on multi-year, general operating support with resources to support operations and organizational development, and allow organizations to acquire skills to engage meaningfully in policy monitoring and evaluation, and to influence policy through the use of data, statistics and budget analysis.

- ➔ **Ford** will prioritize the inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities in its \$1 billion Building Institutions and Networks (BUILD 2.0) initiative, which provides grantees with five years of general operating support, combined with targeted organizational strengthening support aimed to equip organizations with the strategic clarity, people, knowledge, and resources they need to achieve impact and advance systems change over the course of years and decades. Ford has explicitly allocated \$10 million for our US BUILD Disability Program and our global program areas will be encouraged to set and meet targets for disability-inclusive and specific BUILD grants which we will track in terms of % allocations in order to ensure that across the institution we are prioritizing the inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities.

## Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to 2025, there are three **key challenges** which will need to be addressed under this section.

- ➔ **The impact of Covid** on OPD and disability-inclusive funding: OPDs experienced dramatic reductions in funding and operational capacity, and access to sustainable funding continues to be a critical priority. It has a particular effect on the participation of underrepresented groups. When considered within the context of COVID-19-induced budget cuts, it meant OPDs had to realign program priorities with limited financial resources<sup>40</sup>.
- ➔ **How funding or lack of funding** has a direct bearing on ensuring meaningful participation of OPDs and persons with disabilities: Unless there is adequate funding, OPDs face strong opportunity costs at the risk of being pushed to engage in issues that are funded for rather than their priority issues. While 40% of respondents to the second IDA Global Survey reported that their funding increased (as compared to 32% in the first Global Survey in 2019), about 30% still report decreasing in their funding, which undermines OPDs' independence and autonomy as well as their ability<sup>41</sup>.
- ➔ **How we track investments**, which can also provide a glimpse into larger funding patterns: In this regard, the recent report by Atlas Alliance (2022) found several of the countries that have the largest financial resources, i.e. the OECD-DAC countries, have given few if any, commitments and their willingness to commit to expenditure tracking is almost non-existing. Given that OECD-DAC donors spend more than 1.8 billion USD per year on development and humanitarian assistance, it will become critical to address this dimension<sup>42</sup>.

## Meaningful Engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

The [IDA Global Surveys](#) notes that there are significant barriers to OPD participation in decision-making across stakeholders such as governments, the UN or funding agencies. These barriers include lack of accessibility of the physical environment and information and communication, significant opportunity costs combined with limited financial organisational resources, and limited technical and organisational capacity of OPDs to engage with stakeholders to share a few.<sup>43</sup> IDA's larger work in the sector and its [Discussion Paper on OPD Engagement](#), which was launched at the [GDS2022](#), also reflect these issues. The Paper notes that initiatives often fail to engage and consult with persons with disabilities and OPDs resulting in a lack of relevance of interventions to the real concerns and priorities of persons with disabilities<sup>44</sup>.

<sup>40</sup> International Disability Alliance. (2022, July). Applying CRPD standards to programmatic processes: A look at inclusive programming in practice. International Disability Alliance.

<sup>41</sup> IDA. (2022). Promoting Engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Development and Humanitarian Action. IDA.

<sup>42</sup> The Atlas Alliance. (2022). "Nothing without us": Global Disability Summit Oslo 2022. Oslo: The Atlas Alliance.

<sup>43</sup> IDA Global Survey on Participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Development Programmes and Policies, 2020.

<sup>44</sup> IDA. (2022). Promoting Engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Development and Humanitarian Action. IDA.

Against this background, the three co-hosts had set OPD engagement as one of the overarching themes for the GDS to recall the importance of rights-based approaches to disability-inclusive development that require more systematic and meaningful engagement with OPDs.

The GDS collected 324 commitments or 23% of all its commitments across stakeholder groups on this theme<sup>45</sup>. Overall, this theme was most acknowledged among commitments by foundations with 34% of all its commitments contributing to this theme. This was followed by CSOs which contributed 27% or 121 of all their commitments to this theme. Among government and donors, 90 commitments or 19% of commitments acknowledged they would ensure OPDs engagement. Among multilaterals, this was 23%, the same as for OPDs. Among local authorities it was 21% and among others, it was 19%. Among the private sector, it was the lowest with only 5% contributing to the theme, showing scope for further strengthening from the group. The commitments received on this theme ranged from capacity development of OPDs, building partnerships with them to implementing disability-inclusive development, to engaging them in policy design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

In addition to this commitment, we also find good examples that advocate for flexibility in timelines, a focus on OPD-led priorities in programmes, and a focus on capacity building of OPDs in the commitments by the CSOs and OPDs.

Some further examples of commitments submitted under this theme include:

- **Ford** will prioritize funding that deepens the organizational capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities, including in its \$1 billion Building Institutions and Networks (BUILD 2.0) initiative
- **The Nippon Foundation** will support publishing a guidebook for government representatives in the Asia Pacific region with the active participation of deaf organizations to raise their awareness of deaf people and sign language and to promote legal recognition of sign language.
- **Global Partnership for Education** committed to providing funding to CSOs and OPDs through **Education Out Loud**
- **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)** will establish meaningful operational and strategic partnership with OPDs, including those led by women and under-represented groups of persons with disabilities at national, regional and global levels.
- **UN Women** will strengthen engagements and partnerships with diverse social movements by promoting coalition building and strategic partnerships between OPDs and mainstream organisations to promote the leadership of women and girls with disabilities.

<sup>45</sup> Note, this number is different from that on commitments portal because i) the commitments were qualitatively reviewed ii) because it does not consider commitments by CSOs and OPDs, both groups which contributed extensively to this theme.

- ➔ **The Government of Kenya** committed to increase funding to support the capacity strengthening of OPDs
- ➔ **Finland** will strengthen disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction through improved representation and participation of OPDs, including organizations of women with disabilities.
- ➔ **International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)** committed to collect information on barriers to political participation experienced by Indigenous persons with disabilities and developing recommendations to be shared with relevant government stakeholders. IFES will also use the information to conduct outreach and build partnerships with and between Indigenous Peoples organizations and OPDs to promote the leadership of Indigenous persons with disabilities.
- ➔ **CBM Global** will ensure that OPDs actively shape and contribute to the development and monitoring of CBM Global country strategies, including identifying key legal, social and other barriers to participation which need addressing in the country context

As we look forward to GDS2025, one critical aspect of this theme would be to understand how we build the capacities of both sides to meaningfully engage. This includes not only ensuring that donors/funders and governments understand what inclusive programming can look like, but it will also include ensuring that OPDs' capacity for contributing towards and meaningfully engaging with governments is built. Even though donors/multilaterals are familiar with funding OPDs, the knowledge of how to engage with the group to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate programs and portfolios of programs can be less common<sup>46</sup>.

At the same time, increased awareness and demand for disability-inclusive development will present good opportunities for OPDs to strategically partner with stakeholders but there are also risks that OPDs could be overwhelmed with requests and demands from development partners or diverted from their policy and advocacy objectives by engaging which may not necessarily contribute to sustainable policy change<sup>47</sup>. It would be important to create spaces of reflection that allow both sides to reflect on whether the engagement was genuine and to adapt and further engage.

<sup>46</sup> Creating A New 'Business As Usual' - DID4All, reflections and lessons from the Australian aid program on engaging with disabled people's organisations in development programming and humanitarian action - <https://did4all.com.au/Uploads/CreatingANewBusinessAsUsualDPOEngagementInDevelopment.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> International Disability Alliance. (2022, July). Applying CRPD standards to programmatic processes: A look at inclusive programming in practice. International Disability Alliance.

## Selected Key Initiatives and Commitments Made During GDS2022 by Civil Society Organizations and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

- ➔ **ADD International** committed to make its applications processes for funding inclusive and equitable. Among its 9 commitments, it promised to increase the amount and flexibility of the funding it offers to support disability movement actors including OPDs' priorities, supporting them to access core funding and resources to support their operations, organisational development and self-identified priorities. It will develop both strategy and practices that centre the priorities identified by OPDs, activist and other disability movement actors and meaningfully engage persons with disabilities and OPDs in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its programmes.

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- ➔ **Leonard Cheshire** submitted 10 commitments. Among its commitments, the organization pledged to change attitudes and create an enabling environment within the private sector to increase the number of people with disabilities accessing employment. It will do this by rolling out its 'disability means business' training across the UK and internationally, upskilling employers to support them to build inclusive workforces. It will also work with Global Business and Disability Network members and capitalize on its role as a solutions partner for Valuable 500.

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- ➔ **Light for the World International** submitted 22 commitments. Some of the organization's key commitments include directly reaching 9,000 young people and adults with disabilities with economic empowerment in the next 4 years and working with OPDs to ensure and advocate for inclusive eye health services with a focus on Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, and Uganda. Between 2021 and 2023, it will have directly reached 2.5 million people in need of eye care services. Within the next four years, Light for the World will also financially and technically support OPDs to engage in the preparation of Civil Society reports to national UN Treaty reviews.

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- ➔ **CBM Global** committed to ensure OPDs actively shape and contribute to the development and monitoring of CBM Global country strategies. It will revise its existing partner assessment processes, moving beyond only compliance requirements associated with specific projects to an overarching focus on long-term organizational sustainability and effectiveness and more considered approaches to understanding risk and opportunity. It will advocate to donors for flexible and longer-term funding to OPDs that facilitates organizational strengthening. Among its other commitments, it will build on existing and bring new Pacific partnerships to scale up its program investment in the Pacific region from 2022.

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- ➔ **European Disability Forum** will advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities and the promotion of the UNCRPD in global policies, programmes and EU dialogues. It will continue to advocate and track the use of the OECD DAC marker within EU aid and track the implementation of EU aid budgets and how it includes the rights of persons with disabilities. It will follow-up on the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan III and ensure that the voices of women and girls with disabilities are included. Further, it will monitor deinstitutionalization and promote community-based living for all persons with disabilities in EU external actions and work with European civil society organisations and networks to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in their work.



# Conclusion and way forward

**At the [GDS2022](#), participants reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that political will and leadership generate lasting and meaningful change for persons with disabilities. While [GDS2018](#) was an ambitious and dynamic milestone for disability-inclusive development, GDS2022 further established the mechanism and took the engagement even higher. In this regard, the positive impact of GDS2022 is perhaps best demonstrated through the strong and concrete commitments it mobilized.**

The GDS2022 built on GDS2018's results with more than 7000 participants, 49 updates, and 1,412 new individual commitments by 193 stakeholders. 19 new governments and/or donors pledged commitments at GDS2022 compared to the last summit. 351 overarching commitments, 265 commitments on meaningful engagement of OPDs, 179 commitments related to conflict and crisis, 229 commitments on inclusive education, 205 commitments on inclusive livelihoods and social protection and 183 commitments on inclusive health demonstrated the breadth and scope of these commitments.

In addition to these, the last chapter analyses the contribution of commitments to UNCRPD and inclusive development, sharing concrete examples across stakeholder categories. 28% or 396 commitments addressed policy-level changes. 476 commitments or 34% of all commitments contributed to the category of joint cooperation, the highest among all themes. 29% or 407 of the commitments involved attention to M&E and/or data and evidence generation as part of their commitments, the second highest category to receive commitments after joint cooperation. There was a marked improvement in the acknowledgement of intersectionality and/or under-represented groups with 24% of all commitments contributing to it, showing much better understanding and recognition of the diversity of experiences faced by persons with disabilities. 324 commitments or 23% of all commitments across stakeholder groups contributed to the theme of meaningful engagement of OPDs. The analysis also showed an acknowledgement of the twin-track approach to development, with commitments showing attention to both adoption of disability-specific measures as well as mainstreaming approaches for furthering disability rights.

However, while there is much more engagement, the analysis also points out gaps that exist. With only 19 commitments from the private sector, there is considerable need and scope for more engagement from the stakeholder group, even as the commitments received are strong and contribute the highest to ME and data generation. The contribution to the category of data and M/E was lowest among OPDs with 18% of their commitments addressing this theme, showing scope for further organisational and data-specific capacity and advocacy-building measures. Even though there is a marked improvement in addressing intersectionality and under-represented groups, the theme is addressed most by CSOs and OPDs which shows scope for further improvement among other stakeholder groups. OPD engagement was the overarching theme of GDS2022, and there was a focus on the theme across GDS activities, the maximum number of commitments received in this category were from foundations and CSOs, with engagement among other stakeholder groups being low.

Among the private sector, it was the lowest with only 5% contributing to the theme, showing scope for further strengthening from the group. In addition, even though many stakeholders committed to funding or had commitments that included resource mobilization or attention to budgeting for the commitments, overall, this category received the second least number of commitments. This shows more scope for improvement but also marks an important issue that requires further analysis into the possibility of innovative approaches like public-private partnerships, resource pooling, joint action across stakeholder groups etc. In addition, our screening of commitments from the stakeholder groups points to critical challenges under each category which would need to be addressed if we are to achieve meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities.

The GDS Civil Society Consultation report noted that a substantive part of the enthusiasm around the GDS process is its ability to allow participants to **question, experience, and reflect** on how international advocacy and these grand commitments adopted by their governments translate into their daily lives, at the community level. We believe this is significant. At the same time, it is important to recognize that securing tangible results will require sustained effort from organisations to deliver their commitments and from stakeholders to hold organisations accountable.

The next GDS will be held in 2025. GDS2025 will be hosted by the Government of Germany, the Government of Jordan and IDA as the permanent co-chair. As the GDS Secretariat prepares for GDS2025 and supports and leads efforts towards achieving disability-inclusive development and monitoring commitments, we hope these spaces for questioning, experiencing, and reflecting will ensure that meaningful participation remains not only an outcome but also a process and that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations remain at the heart of this.



# GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2022 REPORT

