



## Regional Disability Summit for Africa

*within the context of 2024 African Disability Conference*

*“Persons with Disabilities in a Post-pandemic World: Redefining Inclusive Development & Humanitarian Agenda in Africa”*

**September 5, 2024 / Nairobi, Kenya**

### Concept Note

#### Background

The Global Disability Summit (GDS) is a unique global mechanism “[that invests in bringing long-lasting change to all persons with disabilities](#)”. It was created in 2017 to convene global, regional, and national stakeholders that share the same goal and vision for disability inclusive development and humanitarian action. Two Summits were already organized in 2018 and 2022. The summits aim to bridge the gap between two arenas that are still separate: disability inclusion and development cooperation. The GDS goes beyond a two-day summit: it is a mechanism that entails continuous advocacy with global disability development stakeholders and mobilization of the disability rights movement and its allies. Importantly, it is a partnership between member states and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs).

**The Global Disability Summit 2025 (GDS2025)** builds upon the achievements of the two previous summits and is co-hosted by the Governments of Germany and Jordan, alongside the permanent co-host the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The summit is planned as an in- person event (with the possibility for virtual attendance) on 2nd-3rd April 2025 in Berlin.

In preparation for GDS2025, the African Disability Forum, in coordination with the International Disability Alliance and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) will hold a Regional Disability Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Objectives

1. To build shared understanding of the current challenges and priorities of persons with disabilities in the African region and highlight such context within the GDS framework.
2. To bring together governments, development actors, civil society organizations (CSOs), along with the private sector, to share learnings and experiences from the previous GDS cycles and provide recommendations going into 2025.
3. To identify, within the thematic pillars of the GDS, what type of commitments are needed.
4. To promote, based on the needs identified, drafting, submission and implementation of joint commitments, made in partnership between OPDs and other stakeholders.

## Format

The Regional Summit will include panel discussions, interactive dialogues between participants, and thematic breakout sessions. These discussions will be contextualized to frame the Global Disability Summit within the African context, as well as to link it with the Regional Conference happening from 2 to 4 September 2024.

1. Opening Ceremony
  - Welcoming remarks by government representatives and OPD leaders.
  - Presentation of the objectives and agenda of the summit.
2. Interactive Dialogues and Panel Discussions
  - Understanding engagement of OPDs in previous summits and identifying good practices and shortcomings going into 2025
  - GDS as a catalyst for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Africa
  - Assessing the 2018 and 2022 commitments from an African perspective and framing desirable commitments for 2025.
3. Breakout Sessions on the GDS pillars. These sessions will be used to discuss potential commitments under each of the pillars and start a dialogue to promote the submission of joint commitments from the African region.
  - Non-discrimination, Equality & Participation
  - Accessibility
  - Situations of Crisis and Conflict
  - Social and Economic Rights



## Expected Outcomes

- A document compiling the conclusions and recommendations of the regional summit to be presented to the GDS co-hosts and send a signal to the GDS205.
- A plan for Region – specific commitments, submitted in partnership between African governmental entities, INGOs or multilateral entities and OPDs.

## Leveraging the convening power of the African Disability Forum

The African Disability Forum (ADF) was established in 2014, recognizing the need to amplify the voices of persons with disabilities through coordinated action across the African continent. ADF is a continental membership of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Africa. It was formally established in 2014 with its secretariat headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. ADF does not replace existing organizations; instead, it builds upon existing organizations and networks of continental, sub-regional and national federations of OPDs. ADF's membership currently includes eight continental OPDs, four sub-regional OPD federations, and 44 national OPD federations. The list of member organizations can be found [here](#).

ADF builds on the rich history of civil society organizations in the African continent, being at the forefront of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and implementing development programmes to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities that governments have not been able or willing to address. In most African countries, there are national OPDs and national federations of OPDs that have been influential in getting African countries to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, which makes provisions for the rights of persons with disabilities in Africa (2018).

For this Regional Summit ADF will leverage its extensive outreach to OPDs and disability organizations in the continent, as well as its international allies through its membership in the International Disability Alliance (IDA), to bring together a diverse group of representatives. In this regard, ADF seeks your support to make this conference a success.