

Frequently asked questions on the GDS commitments process

The following are anticipated frequently asked questions regarding the GDS commitments process. The provided answers are intended to help pledgers understand the commitment process and encourage active participation in the GDS. This document will be updated with new questions as they arise.

Q1: What is the GDS commitments mechanism?

A1: The GDS commitments mechanism is a structured process through which stakeholders can make concrete pledges or commitments to implement the rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It provides a framework for governments, UN agencies, civil society including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), the private sector, academia, foundations and other stakeholders to outline specific actions, initiatives, or policies they will implement on disability inclusion.

Q2: Why GDS commitments?

A2: GDS commitments are essential because they help incorporate disability inclusion in development cooperation more systematically and drive action and accountability in contributing to collective efforts to promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities globally. The GDS commitments mechanism gives stakeholders an opportunity to announce their commitments on the occasion of the summit and demonstrate their dedication to translating legal obligations and political will into concrete action.

Q3: are there specific guidelines that I should follow when pledging commitments?

A3: We encourage stakeholders to follow the guidance note which spells out the criteria that the commitments should fulfill. Each stakeholder submitting a commitment for the first time will be required to register on the online portal (hosted by idata) using a username and password. This ensures ownership and transparency of commitments. Additionally, it provides the GDS Secretariat with a means to maintain communication with organizations that submit commitments over time.

Q4: How can I pledge GDS commitments?

A4: Pledging GDS commitments involves the following steps:

- Identify a specific action, initiative, or policy based on the criteria set in the guidance note for GDS commitments;
- Clearly outline your commitment, including the goals, timeline, and expected outcomes;
- Register your organization by filling the form at the online Portal or login if you already have your previous credentials;
- Submit your commitment to the GDS Secretariat.

Q5: I submitted commitments during GDS2022 or GDS2018. How can I update or add to them?

A5: The online portal allows you to add new commitments or modify existing ones. Determine whether the commitments are updates to previous commitments or new ones, and proceed with the appropriate process.

Q6: I have not previously made any GDS commitment. Where can I begin?

A6: You can begin by visiting the official GDS website,¹ to learn about the GDS. You can further find the previous GDS commitments,² progress reports,³ guidance note and other

¹ <https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/>

² <https://idata.tools/gds/portal>

³

https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/rails/active_storage/blobs/redirect/eyJfcmFpbHMiOnsibWVzc2F

instructions on submitting your commitment. Participating in pre-summit events or consultations in different parts of the world can also help you refine your commitment and identify collaboration opportunities with other stakeholders. The GDS Secretariat is available to answer any questions you may have. Please contact the Secretariat at summit@ida-secretariat.org.

Q7: Can I collaborate with others to make a joint commitment?

A7: We encourage state actors from the Global South and the Global North as well as UN agencies to submit joint commitments together with OPDs. Pledgers have the liberty to share their draft pledges with the GDS secretariat and other pledgers through the online portal, indicating that they are open to collaboration. Pledgers are also able to see each others draft pledges and look for partners to work with. This draft will not be open to public. The GDS Secretariat can then explore opportunities together with the co-hosts on how the partnership can be formed.

Q8: How can I directly engage with other pledgers or stakeholders to exchange ideas and collaborate?

A8: pledgers have the opportunity to communicate to all pledging bodies at once through a discussion forum on the portal. Here all pledgers discuss, ask questions, and look for collaboration. This way, pledgers will have the opportunity to create partnership in their region or in the same themes they are active on.

Q9: When will my commitments be made public?

A9: Your commitments will become public only after they have successfully undergone a validation process conducted by the GDS Secretariat and the GDS co-hosts. This validation process includes:

- Review of the submitted commitment by the Secretariat or a staff member from the co-hosts;
- Addressing action points and comments for improvement on the commitment through any available communication channel;
- Resubmission of the modified commitments on the portal.

Q10: How will my commitment be highlighted or featured at the Global Disability Summit?

A10: The GDS Secretariat and co-hosts conduct a selection process to identify the top 20 commitments. Commitments that demonstrate strong leadership, effective partnerships for implementation, connect government initiatives with civil society, private sector, and academic involvement, or involve multiple stakeholders in a regional approach will be showcased during a dedicated session at the Summit. The co-hosts highlight these best commitments to raise awareness, inspire others, and encourage accountability.

Q11: What occurs after my commitment is published? How do I report progress?

A11: The portal allows pledgers to report their progress annually within a six-week period between March and April. After the reporting period concludes, the GDS Secretariat, with the assistance of an external vendor, conducts both quantitative and qualitative analyses of the progress received. A progress report is then published based on this analysis. (See the commitments guidance note for further details).