

Multi-Regional Global Disability Pre-Summit Report November 13-14, 2024

Amman, Jordan

Overview

As part of the Kingdom of Jordan's preparations to co-host the Third Global Disability Summit in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), scheduled to take place in Berlin in April 2025, Jordan convened a multi-regional preparatory conference from November 13 to 14, 2024. This conference brought together stakeholders from the Middle East and selected countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, with Jordan serving as a representative voice for the Global South. The event was attended by high-level dignitaries, including ministers, ambassadors, and representatives of international organisations, Arab, regional, and international government bodies, civil society institutions, academics, disability rights experts, and activists, as well as organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs).

The conference aimed to promote international cooperation, foster the exchange of expertise and best practices, and advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life. It sought to support the development of qualitative and actionable commitments that address regional priorities for submission at the Third Global Disability Summit.

Key objectives included enhancing stakeholder engagement in the preparatory process, highlighting regional perspectives to influence the themes and priorities of the Global Disability Summit, and empowering OPDs and civil society organisations to shape the summit's outcomes. The conference also aimed to demonstrate Jordan's leadership in disability-inclusive policymaking and its commitment to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in partnership with Germany and the IDA.

The conference was preceded by two virtual preparatory seminars involving representatives from international organisations, civil society groups, OPDs, the Jordanian Disability Alliance, and various UN agencies operating in the region. These seminars focused on promoting international cooperation, addressing regional needs and priorities, and identifying key topics for inclusion in the summit agenda.

Additionally, a series of consultative sessions were conducted in partnership with the Jordan Disability Coalition and the Shamil Project, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). These sessions engaged 235 representatives from OPDs, civil society organisations, and disability rights activists across Jordan's three regions. Recognising the importance of meaningful consultation with OPDs, these sessions aimed to ensure that the views, requirements, and priorities of persons with disabilities were effectively reflected in the agenda of the Third Global Disability Summit.

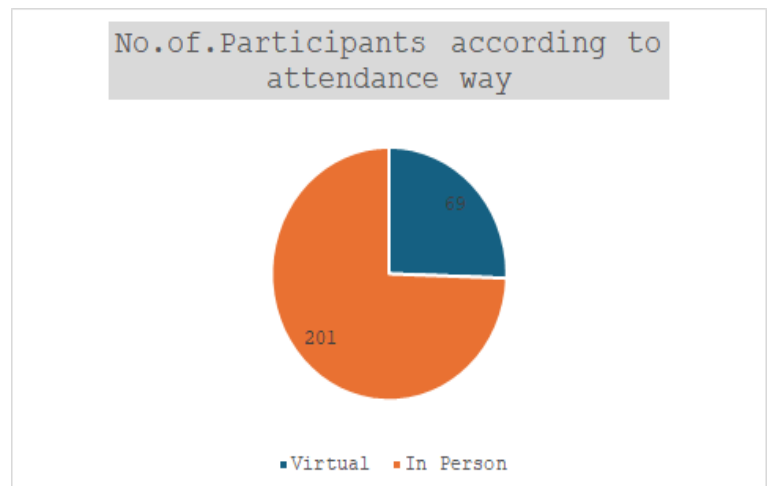
The consultative process encouraged OPDs to collaborate with governments, the private sector, and international donors to develop commitments that would advance the rights of persons with disabilities and promote inclusive policies and practices in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



Keynote sessions and highlights

First Day 13/11/2024

The opening session of the conference brought together more than 500 participants from international organisations, Arab, regional, and international government agencies, civil society organisations, academia, disability rights experts, activists, and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) from across the globe.

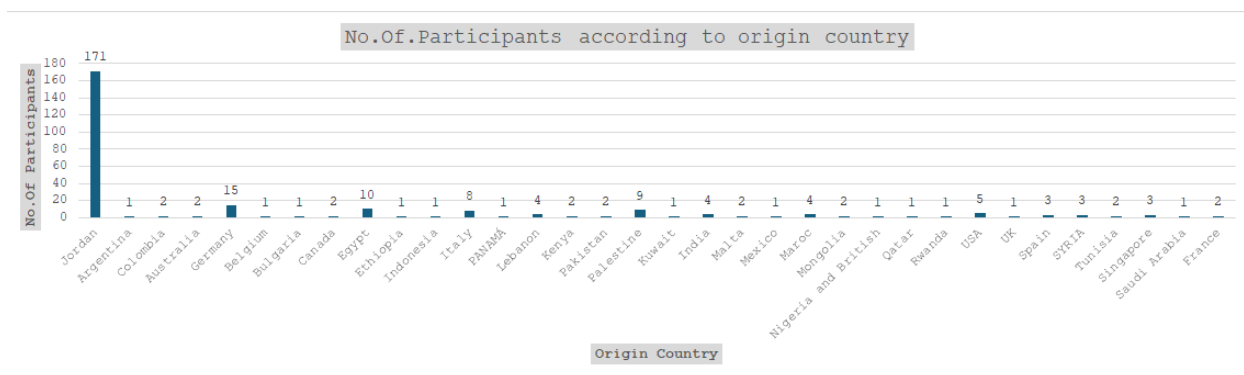


The session featured a series of keynote speeches delivered by distinguished speakers, including HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, President of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Jordan); Mr Jochen Fasbarth, the State Secretary from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany; Dr. Annette Tabbara, Head of

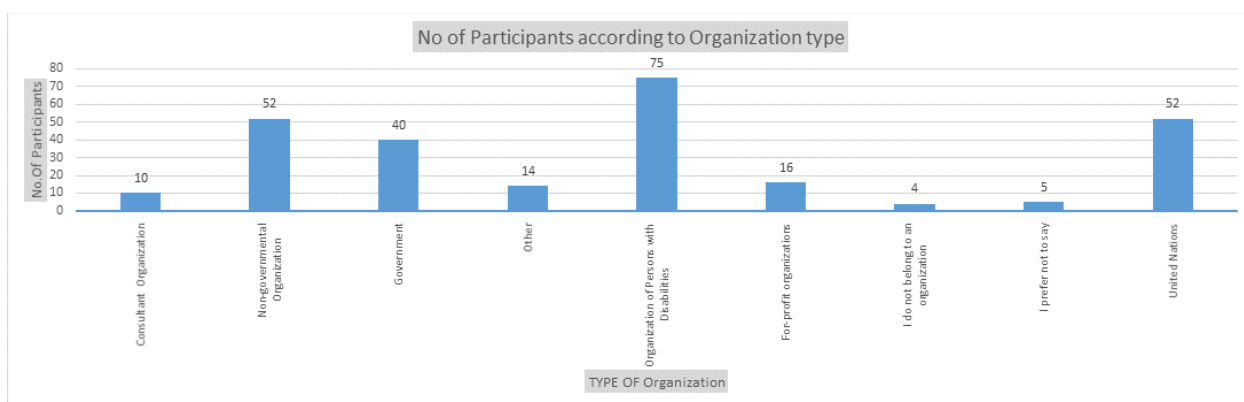
Directorate General V Participation Matters Concerning Persons with Disabilities, Social Compensation and Social Assistance at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Germany); Dr. Nawaf Kabbara, President of the International Disability Alliance; H.E. Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu-Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Affairs Sector at the League of Arab States; Heba Hagra, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Sherry Ritsema-Anderson, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Jordan; and Wafa Bani Mustafa, Minister of Social Development for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Several Arab Ministers of Social Development were also present, reflecting the strong regional commitment to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in alignment with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Graph No. (2) shows the number of attendees and their distribution by country



Graph No. (3) shows the number of attendees and their distribution by type of organization



During their speeches, the speakers underscored the critical role of the upcoming Global Disability Summit in ensuring that disability rights remain a priority for state leaders, policymakers, and decision-makers worldwide. They highlighted the importance of mainstreaming disability rights into national and international sustainable development agendas to ensure that inclusive development becomes a core global commitment. The summit was presented as a vital mechanism to promote inclusive policies and voluntary commitments from countries, organisations, and key stakeholders across various sectors to ensure an equitable and inclusive future for all.

The speakers further emphasized the importance of building the capacity of social development institutions to better respond to the requirements of persons with disabilities. This includes fostering institutions that can swiftly address the needs of persons with disabilities, turning challenges into opportunities to drive positive change and achieve full rights. The discussions also stressed the need for supportive systems that ensure persons with disabilities have access to essential services and information, particularly during crises and emergencies.



The first day of the conference featured a series of panel discussions, beginning with the session titled “The Third Global Disability Summit: Where Have We Been and Where Do We Want to Go?”

Moderated by Ms. Ghadeer Al-Haris, Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Affairs at the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), the session included contributions from Mr. Raphael Teck, Deputy Commissioner of the Global Disability Summit 2025 (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany); Dr. Muhannad Alazzez, Secretary-General of the HCD; Mr. Jose Vera, Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance; and Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi, President of the Jordanian Coalition for Persons with Disabilities.

The session focused on the progress and preparations for the upcoming summit, highlighting the efforts of host countries to engage states, governments, and civil society in discussions about disability rights. Participants discussed key international conferences and events, including the Conference of States Parties to the UNCRPD and the Zero Project and Mine Ban conferences in Cambodia. The session also reviewed regional preparatory conferences, such as the one held in Africa in September 2024, the multi-regional conference in Jordan, and upcoming conferences in Berlin, South America, and Asia.

The second session, titled “Inclusive Financing and International Cooperation Programs: One of the GDS2025 Priorities and the Content of the Amman-Berlin Declaration,” explored the concept of inclusive budgeting, how countries can achieve it, and how these budgets can be transformed into actionable commitments at the Global Disability Summit.

Moderated by Mr. Mowaffaq Al-Khafaji, Vice President of the Arab Organization for Persons with Disabilities (Iraq), the session included contributions from Ms. Nafisa Babu, Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Expert and Senior Global Consultant in Inclusive Education at CBM International (South e Africa); Mr. Amjad Al-Omari, Specialist in Gender-Responsive Budgeting at the United Nations; and Mr. Tino Clemens, Senior Policy Officer, Human Rights Division, Ministry of Development and Economic Cooperation (Germany).

Panellists underscored that inclusive commitments are essential for sustainable development. By allocating financial resources to meet the diverse requirements of persons with disabilities, inclusive budgets improve access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and employment, fostering meaningful participation in economic and social life. The session also discussed the role of OPDs in promoting inclusive budgets and the significance of the Amman-Berlin Declaration as a milestone for mainstreaming inclusive budgeting into national sustainable development strategies.

Dr. Khalifa Al-Shraidah, Director of the Directorate of Shelter Alternatives and Disability Affairs at the Ministry of Social Development (Jordan), and Ms. Wafa Al-Kilani, Minister of Social Affairs of the Government of National Unity (Libya), led the session on “Independent Living: One of the GDS2025 Topics, and the Need for Commitments”. This session explored the CRPD Committee’s General Comment on Article 19, which outlines a roadmap for achieving independent living and the need to dismantle institutionalised care models that infringe upon the rights enshrined in Articles 12, 14, 15-17, 19, and 25 of the UNCRPD.

The session showcased examples of transitioning from institutional care to community-based support, drawing on experiences from Moldova and Jordan. Panellists also discussed the Arab

League's Independent Living Initiative, which aims to promote technological innovations that enhance the autonomy of persons with disabilities and support entrepreneurship projects that create dignified employment opportunities.



The fourth session, titled “Families of Persons with Disabilities: Experiences, Rights, Requirements, and Duties,” focused on the situation of families of persons with disabilities in disadvantaged areas, highlighting the roles of governments and local communities in addressing their needs. It explored how these roles can be translated

into commitments at the 2025 summit, with insights drawn from Morocco’s experience. The session also featured the experience of the Sana Association for Families of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan, discussing its key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. The role of families in the commitment-making process at the Global Disability Summit and their follow-up on implementation was also examined, with an emphasis on the importance of economic empowerment for families of persons with disabilities.

The session was moderated by Ms. Reem Franji, entrepreneur and founder of Habayibna (Jordan). The panellists included Mr. Abdelrahman Madani, trainer on the rights and issues of persons with disabilities (Morocco), Ms. Serene Qubain, Secretary and Board Member of the Sana Association (Jordan), and Ms. Reem Aslan, Gender Technical Specialist and Director of Decent Work for Women Programs at the ILO, Regional Office for Arab States.

The first day of the conference concluded with a panel discussion on “Inclusive Education: A Priority and a Commitment for Countries in the Global South.” This session examined global and regional best practices in inclusive education, including the experience of the Arab Episcopal School in Jordan and the ten-year strategy for inclusive education in the country. It addressed the achievements, challenges, and role of assistive technology in inclusive education, as well as proposed commitments for governments on this issue.

The session was moderated by Ms. Shereene Eldaly, Program Manager of the Systems Strengthening Portfolio at UNESCO (Jordan). Panellists included Ms. Brenda Haiplik, Regional Education Advisor at UNICEF (Jordan), Ms. Sabah Zureiqat, Principal of the Arab Episcopal School (Jordan), Dr. Mohammad

Rahamneh, Director of the Special Education Directorate at the Jordanian Ministry of Education, and Ms. Nafisa Babu, Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Expert and Senior Global Inclusive Education Consultant at CBM International (South Africa).

Second Day 11/14/2024

The second day of the conference featured a series of main discussion sessions, alongside several breakout sessions. Over 370 representatives from international organizations, Arab, regional, and international government agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, disability rights experts and activists, as well as organisations of persons with disabilities from across the globe, participated in the main discussions.

Social Protection: How To Translate it into Commitments at the GDS2025: This session explored the concept of social protection, examining its variations across countries, the different models in use, and the challenges faced by developing nations in this area. It addressed the importance of ensuring persons with disabilities have access to social security and social protection services. The session highlighted the role of social protection systems in fostering independent living, promoting community inclusion, and reducing reliance on institutional care or other forms of social exclusion. This is achieved by enhancing the autonomy of individuals and providing the necessary health care and social support. The session also discussed Jordan's National Strategy for Social Protection (2019-2025), which focuses on strengthening the labour market to ensure decent and equitable employment opportunities for all, including persons with disabilities. It aims to enhance government spending efficiency in work-related programs, expand work-related social protection to contribute to family self-sufficiency, prioritise employment for persons with disabilities, and enhance their role in local economic growth.

The session was moderated by Mr. Ahmad Awad, Director of the Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies (Jordan). The panelists included Mr. Stephen Kidd, CEO and Technical Director of the Shamil Project (Jordan), Mr. Nasser Al-Sharida, Assistant Secretary-General at the Ministry of Social Development (Jordan), Mr. Sam Muradzikwa, Regional Director for Social Protection in the Middle East and North Africa at UNICEF, Mr. Luca Bleroni, Social Protection Specialist at the ILO, Mr. Mohammed Al-Obeidi, Executive Office of the GCC Council of Social Affairs and Labour Ministers, and Mr. Federico Mei, GCC Council of Ministers for Social Affairs and Labour.

Risk Situations, Natural Disasters, and Wars: This session focused on the situation of persons with disabilities in the context of armed conflicts and natural disasters, particularly in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. It discussed risk reduction mechanisms for natural disasters, climate change, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mobility and disaster management plans. The session highlighted the barriers preventing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction strategies in the Arab region, and the steps needed to ensure their inclusion at all stages—before, during, and after catastrophic events. It emphasised the positive impact of incorporating persons with disabilities into comprehensive development strategies to mitigate disaster risks. The session also called on states to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their protection during

emergencies, disasters, and crises, including armed conflicts, in light of the lack of essential services for them and the failure to prioritise their needs by limited aid providers.

The session was moderated by Dr. Muhannad Alazzeah, Secretary-General of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Participants included Mr. Alexander Kuttah from UNRWA, Dr. Mustafa Attia, International Consultant on Disability Inclusion at the UN Arab Regional Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Elham Al-Youssefi from Facilitating Asylum International, and Dr. Nawaf Kabbara, President of the Arab Organization for Persons with Disabilities and President of the International Disability Alliance.

Breakout sessions

The breakout sessions addressed a range of key topics, including:

1. The Role of the Private Sector in Making Commitments at the Third Disability Summit and Promoting Rights (Inclusive Tourism, Partnerships, and Economic Empowerment as Models).
2. Women with Disabilities, Gender-Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and the Right to Family.
3. Participation in Public Life, Decision-Making Processes, and Elections: The Role of Youth with Disabilities in Promoting Inclusion.
4. The Role of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and Civil Society Organizations in Submitting Commitments and Monitoring Their Implementation.

The first breakout session: The Role of the Private Sector in Making Commitments at the Third Disability Summit and Promoting Rights (Inclusive Tourism, Partnerships, and Economic Empowerment as Models)./ Summary of the session is Annex No. (1) in the report



The session was moderated by Mr. Raafat Al-Zeitawi, Director of Accessibility and Universal Design at the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), Jordan. The session focused on the theme of inclusive tourism and emphasised the importance of collaboration between governments, the private sector, and organisations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure accessible tourism experiences. It highlighted the need to enable persons with disabilities to access archaeological and cultural sites and addressed the significant economic opportunities missed by not attracting tourists with disabilities globally.

Mr. Abdelfattah Al-Adani from Morocco shared insights on Morocco's experience in promoting inclusive tourism. He presented the "Mark Accessible" application, which provides accurate

information on tourist sites across Morocco, including detailed accessibility features that align with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The session also discussed the economic benefits of inclusive tourism, particularly the increased revenues that hotel and restaurant owners and investors can achieve by implementing accessibility measures. It stressed the need to mandate tourism institutions to reclassify tourist sites and ensure that all tourism service providers adopt accessibility standards. These include providing adapted rooms, designated parking spaces, and accessible services at tourist facilities to accommodate persons with disabilities.

In the same session, Dr. Bernd Schramm from Germany discussed the role of private sector initiatives in creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. He highlighted the importance of promoting innovation, assistive technologies, and accessible workplaces to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities in the labour market. Dr. Schramm underscored that inclusive work environments benefit organisations by fostering diversity, which leads to greater innovation and a broader range of skills and ideas.

Ms. Rawan Barakat delivered a presentation on the economic empowerment of women with disabilities and the significance of inclusive entrepreneurship. She stressed the urgency of advancing change to address the low economic participation rate of women in Jordan, currently at 13%. This rate is even lower for women with disabilities, who face numerous challenges, including environmental barriers, lack of accessibility in workplaces, public transportation, and infrastructure. Ms. Barakat also highlighted the impact of social barriers, particularly the limited access to education for girls with disabilities, which further hinders their chances of securing employment and achieving economic empowerment.

The session concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to prioritise accessibility and inclusion in tourism and employment sectors, ensuring that persons with disabilities can fully enjoy their rights and contribute meaningfully to society.

Key recommendations from the first breakout session

- The need to develop joint programmes between the public and private sectors aimed at the economic empowerment of women with disabilities. These programmes should provide reference materials and knowledge resources to guide the private sector and civil society on how to adapt their initiatives to include women with disabilities. Encouraging entrepreneurship programmes, establishing mentoring networks, and ensuring environmental adaptations were identified as essential components. The discussion emphasised the importance of promoting flexible and remote work opportunities and addressing the lack of accessible public transportation by providing adapted transportation solutions.
- To incentivise private sector engagement, the session proposed recognising companies that employ women with disabilities through awards and positive public acknowledgment. It also stressed the importance of capacity-building programmes for women with disabilities to

facilitate their inclusion in the labour market. Financing entrepreneurial projects led by persons with disabilities, fostering innovation within companies, and offering tax benefits and financial rewards to inclusive businesses were additional recommendations.

- The session also underscored the necessity of establishing unified standards for inclusive tourism and granting certifications to institutions that meet these standards. Participants highlighted the importance of conducting research and studies on inclusive tourism and promoting digital accessibility standards for tourist destinations and services.

The second breakout session: Women with Disabilities, Gender-Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and the Right to Family./ Summary of the session is attached as Annex No. (2) in the report

The session on addressing gender-based violence was moderated by Dr. Manal Benikirane from UN Women Jordan. Ms. Yara Al-Deir from the United Nations Population Fund in Jordan presented mechanisms to address gender-based violence experienced by women with disabilities, highlighting the various barriers they face in realising their rights. The discussion focused on the intersection of gender and disability, noting that women with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to exclusion, discrimination, and violence. It was emphasised that women with disabilities experience multiple forms of violence, including violence from partners or spouses and from caregivers. Alarming statistics were shared, indicating that 40-68% of girls with disabilities are subjected to sexual violence before the age of 18, and that early marriage is often used as a means to transfer caregiving responsibilities to someone outside the family.

The session highlighted the challenges women with disabilities face in accessing protection mechanisms. At the legislative level, there is a lack of comprehensive laws addressing gender-based violence and violence against women with disabilities. Additionally, existing legislation often lacks effective implementation mechanisms. Barriers to accessing protection services further prevent women and girls with disabilities from seeking assistance. The absence of reliable data on the prevalence and types of violence faced by women with disabilities also limits the ability to design targeted interventions and services. Furthermore, there is a shortage of adapted support services, particularly for women with intellectual disabilities, and a lack of capacity among service providers to address their specific needs.

Within the framework of initiatives aimed at supporting survivors of gender-based violence with disabilities, the session referenced a guideline developed in Jordan in collaboration with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This guideline outlines how to include women and girls with disabilities in protection programmes against gender-based violence and adapt national procedures and tools to ensure inclusiveness. The goal is to improve the national response to protecting women and girls with disabilities and to facilitate the work of service providers in the field of gender-based violence.

The session also addressed the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing sexual and reproductive health services in Jordan. These challenges include the lack of environmental adaptations in most healthcare centres, the absence of necessary accommodations to access health

information and guidance, and a lack of trained personnel to assist persons with disabilities. The discussion also noted the lack of awareness among families of girls with disabilities, as well as harmful stereotypes, such as the practice of hysterectomy to protect girls with disabilities from sexual violence.

In response to these challenges, inclusive models have been developed to ensure women and girls with disabilities can access comprehensive health services and rehabilitation. One such model is the single-service station, which provides a range of care services for all family members in one community centre. These centres offer sexual and reproductive health services following inclusive protocols, gender-based violence support services, child protection services, diagnostic services, and rehabilitation services. Another model is the establishment of centres of excellence that provide specialised services and referrals to other facilities.

The session concluded with insights from Mr. Fadi El-Halabi from Lebanon on the right of persons with disabilities to form a family, emphasising the importance of recognising this right across the region.

Key recommendations from the session included:

- Reviewing and updating laws and regulations on sexual and reproductive health to ensure inclusivity.
- Allocating budgets and directing funding sources to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence programmes.
- Ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services for women and girls with disabilities.
- Incorporating the concepts of sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence into school and university curricula, using innovative and interactive tools to provide accessible information and services.
- Developing a national information system to offer reliable data and indicators on available sexual and reproductive health services and improving the infrastructure of service centres.
- Raising community awareness and challenging harmful stereotypes that hinder support networks for women with disabilities.
- Reviewing and adapting national protection procedures and policies to be inclusive and strengthening oversight mechanisms for institutions working in the field of gender-based violence and protection.

The third breakout session: Participation in Public Life, Decision-Making Processes, and Elections: The Role of Youth with Disabilities in Promoting Inclusion. / Summary of the session is attached as Annex 3 to the report.





Moderator

The session was chaired by Dr. Muhannad Alazzeah, Secretary General of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan. The discussion focused on how persons with disabilities can shape the political landscape and influence decision-making. During the session, Mr. Floyd Morris, a professor, political communication expert, and disability advocate from Jamaica, emphasized that persons with disabilities and their families represent a significant voting bloc. By exercising their right to vote and actively engaging in political and public life, they can influence the decision-making process and ensure disability-related issues are prioritised by political parties.

Ms. Katherine Henrichs, Chairwoman of the Youth Union and Deputy Chairwoman of the Network of Persons with Disabilities North Rhine-Westphalia (CDU) in Germany, shared Germany's experience in political advocacy and practical strategies for inclusion within political parties. She highlighted how these strategies could be adapted to support organisations of persons with disabilities in Arab countries, particularly given the significant gaps in access to political information and life, due to the inaccessibility of information for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

Ms. Suzanne Abdullah, Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), discussed how an inclusive electoral environment increases the participation of persons with disabilities in elections. She shared IFES' experiences from various

countries, stressing the importance of providing accessibility-related requirements for the voting process, including access to polling stations. She also noted the challenges persons with disabilities face during elections, such as stigma and stereotypes that may reduce their likelihood of being selected as candidates. Additionally, the lack of accessible information, such as audio recordings, simplified formats, and sign language interpretation, limits their ability to make informed decisions. Ms. Abdullah presented recommendations to improve access and participation for persons with disabilities at all stages of the electoral process: before, during, and after elections.

Ms. Gerelle Dondovidorj, President of the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind, Executive Committee member of the World Blind Union, and Member of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Committee, discussed the General Comment on Article 29 of the CRPD, offering a broader explanation and interpretation for States Parties on how to implement this article.

The session also explored how youth with disabilities perceive their role in enhancing political participation within decision-making processes, and identified key challenges, particularly around political and financial empowerment. International experiences were shared on improving access to voting for persons with disabilities, including examples from Jamaica, Germany, and Mongolia. These experiences focused on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in parliamentary work, local councils, and political parties, with particular attention to the experiences of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

Key Recommendations of the Third Breakout Session:

The session emphasized the importance of advancing commitments in the following areas:

- Enacting and implementing laws, policies, and legislation to combat all forms of discrimination based on disability.
- Ensuring that persons with disabilities can fully access their right to political participation in all its forms.
- Raising awareness among political parties and elected councils about the human rights approach and the right of persons with disabilities to participate.

Fourth Breakout Session: The Role of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and Civil Society Organisations in Submitting Commitments and Monitoring Their Implementation
Summary of the session is attached as Annex No. (4) in the report.

The session was moderated by Mr. Abdulqader Suleiman, CEO of the Jordanian Coalition of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (Jordan). Mr. Samuel Kabu, a Member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from Kenya, presented on the role of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in developing commitments for the Global Disability Summit. He emphasised addressing the rights of persons with disabilities from a human rights perspective, as well as clarifying the process for submitting commitments, their requirements, and mechanisms for following up on their implementation. He highlighted the importance of informing DPOs about these processes to activate their role, and the role of persons with disabilities more broadly, in decision-making.

The session also reviewed Kenya's experience as the host of the first Global Disability Summit in London (2018), which included the submission of four commitments and the monitoring of their implementation.

Dr. Heba Hegres, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from Egypt, outlined the role of DPOs and civil society organisations in ensuring that all individuals, particularly persons with disabilities, can live with dignity, independence, and equal opportunities. She also discussed the role of the UN Special Rapporteur in supporting DPOs and ensuring the effective implementation of commitments in alignment with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Mr. Abdelmajid Mekni, President of the Moroccan Collective of the Advancement of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Secretary of the Arab Organisation for Persons with Disabilities, presented Morocco's experience in collaborating with the UN Committee and its experts. He discussed the role of civil society in influencing the process of drafting concluding observations and following up on their implementation and promotion.

Ms. Saja Al-Kazemi, a member of the Disabled People's Caucus from Iraq, presented on the role of young men and women with disabilities in submitting commitments, with a focus on the role of women with disabilities. She stressed the importance of raising awareness about their rights and responsibilities regarding disability issues and the need to integrate the provisions of the CRPD into these efforts.

Key Recommendations of the Fourth Breakout Session:

The session highlighted the importance of advancing commitments in the following areas:

- The critical role of civil society organisations and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.

- The importance of continued engagement with the UN Committee in drafting and following up on the implementation of concluding observations, as this is an essential tool for operationalising the CRPD.
- Emphasising inclusive and holistic thinking in the development and implementation of commitments.

Closing Session:

The Multi-Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit represented a significant step towards strengthening regional and international cooperation to support the rights of persons with disabilities and create tangible positive changes in their lives. The conference facilitated the exchange of experiences that contribute to improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their full inclusion in society. The conference offered an opportunity to:

1. Highlight regional priorities by familiarising participants with key issues from a regional perspective.
2. Formulate actionable commitments to be presented at the Summit.
3. Build capacity by empowering DPOs and other stakeholders to lead advocacy and monitoring efforts.
4. Foster strategic collaboration by strengthening partnerships between governments, civil society, and the private sector.

The Amman-Berlin Declaration, presented during the conference, is anticipated to guide inclusive policymaking and budgeting, setting a global standard for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development cooperation programmes.

Commitments Resulting from the Conference: Attendees shared ideas for commitments on “tree stickers,” which the HCD team rephrased as follows:

1. **Education:** Engage experts to design curricula that include health awareness and sex education.
2. **Economic and Social Empowerment:** Support initiatives that strengthen the capacity of persons with disabilities to run and manage sustainable digital media organisations.
3. **Disasters and Crises:** Protect persons with disabilities from the effects of climate change, natural disasters, and wars, and develop comprehensive contingency plans to ensure their safety during crises.
4. **Awareness of Rights:** Launch specific campaigns to promote the inclusion and support the rights of persons with disabilities.
5. **Social Protection:** Amend the social security law to include persons with disabilities and establish a fair mechanism for them to access all their rights.
6. **Health and Healthcare:** Establish comprehensive clinics that include reproductive health services.

Main Recommendations and Commitments Submitted to the League of Arab States:

1. The League of Arab States and its member states will continue to implement the Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities Initiative periodically. They aim to enhance its international utilisation and will present necessary Arab commitments during the summit to consult on the possibility of implementing this proposal.
2. Efforts will continue to implement the Arab classification of persons with disabilities at the national level. This will serve as the first classification, in addition to the medical classification, which considers the social, societal, and environmental factors affecting persons with disabilities. This will help create accurate databases to enable the formulation of successful policies that best serve persons with disabilities.
3. Member States, the League of Arab States, and the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs and Labour of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will develop and submit detailed commitments on inclusive education, social protection, health, and other issues impacting the lives of persons with disabilities.

Media Coverage:

TV and press:

Entity	Title	Link
Roya	Preparatory Conference for the Third Global Disability Summit 2025: Special Meetings	Link
Jordan TV	Jordan Hosts the Multi-Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit	Link
Jordan Times	Jordan Hosts Multi-Regional Global Disability Pre-Summit	Link
Open University of Arab States	Multi-Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit - Germany (2025) Sponsored by Prince Mired bin Raed	Link
UN/Jordan	UN Resident Coordinator's Speech at the Multi-Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit	Link
Jordan TV	Jordan Hosts the Multi-Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit	Link
Roya TV	Conclusion of the Multi-Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit	Link
Alghad	Regional Consensus to Adopt the Declaration of the Global Disability Summit	Link
Blog	Conclusion of the Multi-Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit 2025: A Step Toward an Inclusive World	Link
Alghad	Prince Mired: Jordan Exemplifies Political Will in Achieving a Transformation in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Link

Entity	Title	Link
Roya TV/Dunya Ya Dunya	Activities and Events - Preparatory Conference for the Third Global Disability Summit 2025: Special Meetings	Link
Al-Mamlaka TV	Regional Preparatory Conference in Amman for the Global Disability Summit in 2025	Link

YouTube:

1. **The Role of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and Civil Society Organizations in the Process of Presenting Commitments and Monitoring Their Implementation**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
2. **The Role of the Private Sector in Presenting Commitments at the Third Global Disability Summit and Ensuring Rights in the Field of Inclusive Tourism**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
3. **Women with Disabilities, Gender-Based Discrimination, and Sexual and Reproductive Health**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
4. **Session on Key Agreements on Commitments That Can Be Presented**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
5. **Participation in Public Life, Decision-Making Processes, Elections, and the Role of Young Persons with Disabilities in Stimulating and Enhancing It**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
6. **Seventh Discussion Session: Crisis Situations, Natural Disasters, and Wars**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
7. **Sixth Discussion Session: Social Protection—How Can It Be Translated into Commitments at the Summit?**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
8. **Opening Session - Multi-Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
9. **Fifth Discussion Session: Inclusive Education in Early Childhood—A Priority and a Commitment**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
10. **Fourth Discussion Session: Families of Persons with Disabilities—Experiences, Rights, Requirements, and Responsibilities**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
11. **Third Discussion Session: Independent Living—A Key Focus of the Summit and a Necessity for Presenting Commitments**
[Watch on YouTube](#)
12. **Inclusive Budgets and International Cooperation Programs—A Priority of the Summit and the Content of the Amman-Berlin Declaration**
[Watch on YouTube](#)

13. First Discussion Session: Third Global Disability Summit—Where Are We Now and Where Do We Want to Go?

[Watch on YouTube](#)

14. GDS Podcast:

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Pictures:

Watch on HCD Website: [Link](#)