



KEY MESSAGES FOR OPD REPRESENTATIVES

FOR GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2025



KEY MESSAGES

from representatives of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
at the 3rd Global Disability Summit

Role of OPDS at the Global Disability Summit

- The Global Disability Summit (GDS) is a unique global mechanism to unite diverse high-level stakeholders - including governments, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), multilateral agencies, the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations to discuss progress and challenges in disability inclusive development and international cooperation. At its core, GDS is a partnership between member states and OPDs, exemplified by the collaborative approach to co-hosting arrangements.
- The GDS commitments mechanism is a structured process to encourage concrete actions to implement the rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). These are essential to hold duty bearers to account to drive systemic shifts through direct action.
- The 2025 GDS comes at a pivotal moment in time. Since the adoption of the CRPD, there have been tremendous progress on disability inclusion in human rights, development and humanitarian action. This is evident from references to disability in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Political Declaration of the SDGs Summit, and the Pact for the Future, among others. **The International Disability Alliance (IDA), with over 1100 disability organizations in our network across 182 countries, has been at the forefront of all these key developments as a representative voice of the one billion persons with disabilities.**

- At IDA we continue to persist for a world where inclusion is the norm. But ***inclusion requires constant vigil from all of us***, most of all by OPDs themselves. IDA believes in the power of collaboration and the leadership of persons with disabilities. At the core of our work lies our belief that persons with disabilities know best about what it takes to create inclusive societies. Together we can dismantle discrimination and build a world of equity.

- OPDs have a role to play in the implementation of the GDS commitments, in particular to generate local ownership. During the GDS, it is important to amplify the message that OPDs must lead and shape disability inclusive development. A new paradigm of disability inclusion is the need of the hour, and it must be shaped and led by persons with disabilities. Towards this, ***join IDA to ensure that OPDs are visible, and their asks are at the forefront of the discourse at the GDS.***

Key priorities for the global disability movement: What OPDs want from the GDS

Overall goals – The ‘Big Picture’

*The larger message that OPDs must amplify at the GDS is to recognize that **OPDs are the true representatives of persons with disabilities** and that they must lead the agenda for disability inclusion. Tied to this is the call for **increased funding to disability inclusion** without which much of our ambition for transformative, systemic change to create a just and inclusive world will not be possible. Cutting across all our efforts is **collaborative action through partnerships** with allies, governments, NGOs, private sector among others.*

The messages below speak to this context.

- **When persons with disabilities lead, societies transform!** OPDs represent persons with disabilities, driving systemic change from the grassroots to the global stage. Support OPDs to be equal partners, only then commitment to lasting change will endure.

- **Join IDA in putting OPDs in the driver's seat of global advocacy for disability rights.** Systemic change requires sustained advocacy. But persons with disabilities are not to be perceived only as passive members in these efforts but as active contributors and technical experts.
- **Investing in OPDs across all levels** – global, national and local. Donors must mobilize resources to support OPD-led programmes, as well as increase access to core funding that allows OPDs to strengthen their organizational capacities building their resilience.
- **Support leadership pathways** for younger persons with disabilities. OPDs, governments, donors, must come together to prioritize capacity building initiatives for new generation of leaders to advance disability inclusion.
- **15% for the 15%!** It is evident that business as usual has not worked so far. It is now time for concrete actions. The disability movement calls for 15% of international cooperation and development aid programming to be oriented to advance the rights of persons with disabilities who comprise 15% of the global population.
- **Monitor and track disability-inclusive financing.** Countries must adopt and implement the OECD Disability DAC marker to ensure accountability in funding disability inclusion and measuring impact.
- **Collaborative action for disability inclusion!** IDA believes that partnerships are pivotal to creating a legacy of inclusion for persons with disabilities. Together we can transform the world.
- **Demonstrate how OPDs can be technical partners in implementing GDS commitments.** Governments, UN agencies, donors, foundations, etc. must promote collaboration with OPDs and demonstrate how they have included them in their actions to implement their GDS commitments.

Other thematic priorities:

- **Fund quality, inclusive education!** Governments must set medium and long term targets to reach learners with disabilities in all education programs recognizing that at least 10% of learners in any country are learners with disabilities.
- **Move away from merely placing persons with disabilities jobs towards a culture of inclusion across the organization.** Inclusive employment approaches must focus on creating all preconditions necessary for persons with disabilities to retain and grow in their workplace, such as accessibility, reasonable accommodation, equal pay, among others.
- **Prioritize universally accessible, disability-inclusive social protection systems.** This includes establishing targeted financial support to cover the additional costs faced by persons with disabilities, such as those related to assistive devices, healthcare, and accessible transportation.
- **Track universal health coverage outcomes for persons with disabilities.** Strengthen health systems to be inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities, ensuring affordable, accessible healthcare, including assistive technologies, mental health services, and sexual and reproductive health care.
- **Advance gender equality for women and girls with disabilities.** Ensure their access to justice, protection from violence, and eliminating all forms of exclusion, while promoting their full participation and leadership in society.
- **Accelerate deinstitutionalization** by adopting time-bound plans to accelerate transitioning out of institutions towards community living, together with building community-based support systems and services including for children, women and girls with disabilities.

- **Include persons with disabilities into climate adaptation plans, resilience-building efforts, and disaster response measures.** Policies and programs should be designed to account for the specific needs and vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities, ensuring access to early warning systems, emergency services, and safe evacuation procedures.

RESOURCES

Social Media Toolkit

Access ready to use posters and templates. All resources will be added to [this link](#).

Handles to tag:

LinkedIn:

[Global Disability Summit](#)

[International Disability Alliance](#)

[German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation \(BMZ\)](#)

[Higher Council of Persons with Disabilities \(HCD\), Jordan](#)

X (Twitter):

GDS: @GDS_Disability

IDA: @IDA_CRPD_Forum

BMZ (Germany): @BMZ_Bund

GIZ (Germany) @GP_Inclusion