

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## **CALLS TO ACTION FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND THE ROAD TO ACHIEVING COMMITMENTS**

### WHAT IS THE GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2025 (GDS2025)?

The 2025 World Disability Summit is a global event that seeks to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its objective is to accelerate the implementation of inclusive policies and ensure that no one is left behind. The key mechanism for achieving this goal is through **COMMITMENTS**, which translate legal obligations and political will into concrete, measurable actions.

### WHY ARE THE COMMITMENTS IN GDS2025 SO IMPORTANT?

Because through the commitments that will be possible:

- Ensure that progress toward disability inclusion is measurable and has a real impact.
- Promote a culture of responsibility and continuous improvement.
- Creating lasting change that improves the lives of people with disabilities around the world.

Commitments are not symbolic; they are tangible actions that must align with the CRPD and the SDGs. To ensure their quality, the GDS2025 co-hosts have developed a *Guidance Note*<sup>1</sup> detailing the key aspects a commitment must meet to be accepted.

### WILL LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BRING COMMITMENTS TO THE WORLD SUMMIT?

Yes! In preparation for the Global Summit on Disability 2025 (GDS2025), Latin America and the Caribbean organized the Regional Summit on December 11 and 12 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This event, led by RIADIS in collaboration with the

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Nota-orientativa-compromisos-GDS-2025\\_ES.pdf](https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Nota-orientativa-compromisos-GDS-2025_ES.pdf)

International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Regional Center for Inclusive Education (CREI), brought together 291 in-person participants, 70% of whom were people with disabilities, and recorded more than 1,200 views through live streams.

The main objective of the Regional Summit was to develop a set of calls to action that will guide the way toward achieving concrete and measurable commitments in the region. These commitments, based on the discussions and reflections generated during the event, will be presented at GDS2025, ensuring that the voices and proposals of Latin America and the Caribbean are represented in this important global forum.

### **WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE REGIONAL SUMMIT?**

Organizations of people with disabilities (77%), Government organizations (10%), Humanitarian agencies: (7%), Academic institutions: (4%), Private companies (2%) from 22 countries, including: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Belize, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Venezuela, Spain and the United States, demonstrating the diversity and commitment of the region.

### **WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE REGIONAL SUMMIT?**

The Summit focused on four key themes, selected through prior consultations with grassroots organizations:

- Inclusive education.
- Decent and sustainable employment.
- Social protection.
- Impact of climate change and risk management.

These topics were developed through 20 keynote presentations, accompanied by Q&A sessions, as well as subsequent contributions compiled digitally. All this information was analyzed and systematized to create a guiding document with **42 CALLS TO ACTION**, aimed at the region's various key stakeholders.

### **CAN COMMITMENTS BE BUILT ON THE 42 CALLS TO ACTION?**

Of course! However, to optimize resources and maximize impact, RIADIS prioritized twelve (12) calls to action based on criteria such as: 1) Historical and intersectional relevance; 2) Frequency and urgency at the Regional Summit; 3) Viability and feasibility; 4) Potential for impact and 5) Alignment with the CRPD and the SDGs.

The 12 priority calls are:

- Budget allocation for universal design and reasonable accommodations.
- Training of educators and professionals in educational settings.
- Accessible early warning systems.
- Inclusion of disability in risk management.
- Support for SMEs run by people with disabilities.
- Development of work skills.
- Coverage of additional costs related to disability.
- Promotion of dignity, autonomy and independent living.
- Data collection.
- Support for OPDs.
- Scientific research on disability.
- Building cultural citizenship.

The other 30 calls are also available for funding and development. The full document can be viewed and downloaded at: <https://www.riadis.org/>

**WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO BUILD COMMITMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN?**

- Identify key stakeholders: Governments, humanitarian agencies, private companies, universities, etc.
- Request technical meetings: To present calls to action and discuss possible commitments.
- Emphasize international obligations: Recall the commitments of the CRPD and the SDGs.
- Present a unified strategy: Involve several DPOs and adopt an intersectoral vision (children, women with disabilities, indigenous people with disabilities, people with disabilities belonging to the LGBTI+ community, people with disabilities of African descent, among other marginalized groups).
- Explain the registration process: Detail how to subscribe to commitments on the GDS portal.

#### **WHERE AND HOW ARE COMMITMENTS SENT?**

Commitments must be registered on the online portal: <https://gds.idata.tools/home> by March 31, 2025. Steps to subscribe to a commitment:

- Registration: Create a username and password on the platform.
- Form: Complete the details of the commitment.
- Review: The GDS Secretariat will review and may suggest improvements.
- Publication: The commitments will be visible on the GDS website.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SUMMIT?**

The commitments will be monitored annually, and stakeholders will be required to report on their progress between March and April of each year.