

## **FINAL DRAFT Civil Society Declaration**

**April 1, 2025  
Berlin, Germany**

1. We, the representatives of civil society - Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), human rights defenders, family care and support-givers, and NGOs working in disability-inclusive development and humanitarian action - from diverse regions and backgrounds, convened in Berlin ahead of the 3rd Global Disability Summit. We come together in shared purpose: to protect hard-won gains, drive forward progress, call for accountability, and to reaffirm that full and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities is not a favor, but a matter of justice and rights.
2. We thank the co-hosts - The International Disability alliance, the Government of Germany and the Government of Jordan - for this crucial space for civil society. We recognize the contributions of regional summits across Asia, Africa, the Arab region, Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific, which collectively emphasized the need for radical change, not repetition of past patterns. In a moment where rights are under threat and civic space is shrinking, our resolve to lead from the disability movement has never been more vital.
3. While the inclusion of persons with disabilities has gained traction in global frameworks with the adoption of the CRPD, including in Agenda 2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Sendai Framework, implementation remains uneven, underfunded, and often symbolic. Persons with disabilities continue to live in poverty.
4. We are alarmed that even existing development agendas may no longer include persons with disabilities unless we actively protect what has been achieved and ensure a seat at the table in designing what comes next.
5. We stand at a tipping point: civic space is increasingly restricted, international cooperation funding is declining, and yet global crises - from conflict to climate to pandemics - require bold, inclusive responses. Persons with disabilities must not be left behind again. The human rights-based approach must be the compass guiding all international cooperation, especially under CRPD Article 32. Inclusion cannot remain optional, nor postponed.
6. Without funding, there can be no implementation of the CRPD. The Forum stresses that disability inclusion must be adequately and predictably financed across all levels, with explicit budget lines and targets, to end the gap between political will and lived reality.



We reiterate: disability rights are human rights and underfunding them is a breach of obligations to use the maximum available resources.

7. A lack of disaggregated data and poor uptake of tools such as the OECD DAC Disability Marker further obscures the needs of persons with disabilities and understanding of progress on inclusion. We urge all actors to collect and use disability-disaggregated data in planning, implementation, and evaluation - and to be held accountable for results.
8. We welcome the commitment of the co-hosts to establish concrete financing goals. This must be translated into specific, time-bound action by all actors to meet obligations under CRPD Article 32 and ensure that international development is inclusive, accountable, and sustainable. We stand ready to support efforts from governments to advance inclusive development financing, ensuring that persons with disabilities are meaningfully engaged and equitably benefitting from international cooperation
9. We welcome also the Amman-Berlin Declaration on Global Disability Inclusion, and encourage all States to endorse it and to work in partnership with OPDs to achieve its objectives. In a challenging global context, we appreciate the commitment to "15% for the 15%" – the goal of at least 15 percent of international development programs being implemented at the country level pursuing disability inclusion as an objective. This target must be followed-up by and monitored in partnership with OPDs and implemented through strengthened country-level action, leadership, and accountability.
10. Near universal ratification of the CRPD has not translated into universal access or dignity. Persons with disabilities still face poverty, exclusion including in health, education, employment, and ableism. We call for systemic change, using a twin-track approach: targeted support alongside mainstreamed disability inclusion in all policies, systems, and programs.
11. OPDs are active participants and equal beneficiaries of development. We are rightful leaders of the disability movement. As outlined in Article 4.3 of the CRPD, States must move beyond consultation to co-creation, accountability, and shared leadership with OPDs. This includes sustained funding, technical partnerships, and structural engagement in national and global development planning.
12. We call for a clear division of roles and responsibilities in disability inclusion. International cooperation must shift from "doing for" to "doing with", with OPDs in the lead. This requires rethinking how we work, who leads, who supports, and how we hold each other accountable.
13. The Forum urges the full inclusion of persons with disabilities across all policy areas - education, employment, healthcare, social protection - with clear indicators and enforcement mechanisms. Disability inclusion cannot be treated as aspirational; it must be measurable, traceable, and enforceable.



14. Institutionalization remains a widespread and systemic human rights violation. All governments must adopt and fund urgent, time-bound deinstitutionalization plans, replacing segregated systems with inclusive, community-based supports that respect autonomy and dignity.
15. Climate change, migration, and humanitarian crises have disproportionate impacts on persons with disabilities. We call for full participation of persons with disabilities in all related planning, as well as inclusive emergency systems, climate policies, and migration and asylum procedures.
16. Women, LGBT and gender diverse people, children, and youth with disabilities face compounded discrimination. Their leadership must be visible, supported, and structurally included - not symbolically, but as decision-makers. Interventions must be intersectional, gender-transformative, and inclusive of marginalized and underrepresented communities within the disability movement. The right to participate for children with disabilities must be ensured in order to shape their own inclusive future and the one of upcoming generations of children and youth with disabilities.
17. Human rights defenders with disabilities are at high risk of silencing, violence, and exclusion. Their protection and participation must be ensured, including in all human rights dialogues, monitoring mechanisms, and development processes.

**We therefore call on governments, donors, international organizations, and all development actors to:**

- i. Safeguard existing gains in disability inclusion while advancing new commitments, through a robust human rights-based approach grounded in the CRPD and UNDRIP, particularly Articles 4.3, 11, and 32.
- ii. Endorse the Amman-Berlin Declaration on Global Disability Inclusion, and take all appropriate measures to achieve the commitments therein.
- iii. Increase financial resources for disability inclusion, embedding disability inclusive budgeting and financing within processes and systems. Set specific targets for increasing the amount of financing that is disability inclusive.
- iv. Guarantee OPDs - particularly those led by and for women, youth, Indigenous persons with disabilities, and persons with high support needs - equitable access to flexible and sustained funding.
- v. Endorse the Youth Call to Action which has been developed by 100s of young people with disabilities worldwide and outlines the challenges and actions required by leaders.



- vi. Elevate OPDs as both technical partners and political advocates with distinct roles in shaping, monitoring, and leading international cooperation.
- vii. Establish transparent accountability mechanisms to track progress, including participatory monitoring led by OPDs at all levels.
- viii. Address the shrinking of civic space, protect the rights of disability advocates, and recognize their essential role in shaping inclusive, democratic societies.
- ix. Integrate disability across all SDG and post-2030 frameworks, ensuring that the next global agenda does not repeat the exclusion of the past.
- x. Promote intersectional, inclusive policies that recognize the complexity of identities and lived experiences within the disability community.
- xi. Center persons with disabilities in all efforts to localize the Global Disability Summit commitments, including through OPD-led monitoring of implementation and financing.
- xii. Reimagine power dynamics in international cooperation - centering local leadership, respecting self-determination, and recognizing that inclusion is not just a goal, but a right.

