

What is the Global Disability Summit

The GDS is the only global mechanism that keeps disability inclusion on the political agenda and turns commitment into action.

The GDS brings together governments, international actors, and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to commit to collective action across development, humanitarian and financing systems.



The GDS cycle

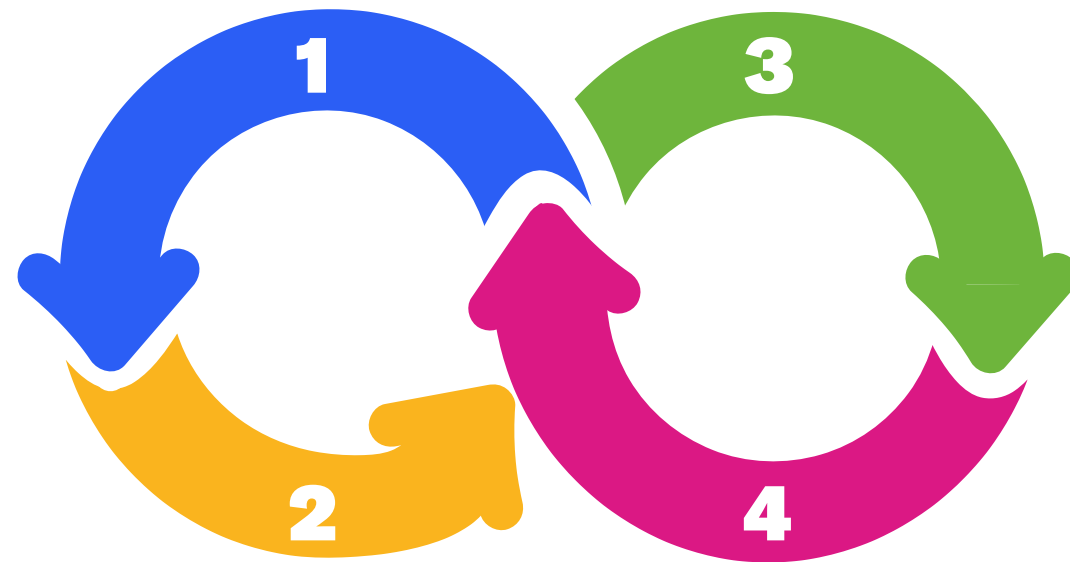


1 LEADERSHIP BY OPDS

The GDS is led by persons with disabilities: organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) set priorities, inform agenda-setting, influence the design of commitments, and participate in monitoring and follow-up across cycles.

3 STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

Within the GDS cycle, commitments help translate recognition of disability rights into policy reform, budgeting decisions, program design and institutional change.



2 POLITICAL CONVENING

The GDS is a multi-stakeholder model that brings together governments, OPDs, development partners, multilaterals, humanitarian organizations and the private sector.

4 FOLLOW-UP & ACCOUNTABILITY

The GDS helps turn commitments into real, lasting change by drawing attention to disability inclusion and following up between summits.

Why the GDS matters now

Despite strong global frameworks such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), disability inclusion is not consistently translated into policy, financing, or implementation.

Political attention is fragmented, and efforts remain uncoordinated.

In a time of climate crises, conflict, and shrinking development space, disability inclusion risks being sidelined. The GDS keeps it visible, aligned, and prioritized.



WATCH
the International Sign interpretation of this leaflet.

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The shift the GDS drives

FROM
PARTICIPATION
TO



LEADERSHIP

The GDS is led by persons with disabilities: OPDs shape priorities, commitments and accountability.

FROM
FRAGMENTATION
TO



COORDINATION

The GDS is a multi-stakeholder model through which governments implement, partners align and OPDs ensure accountability.

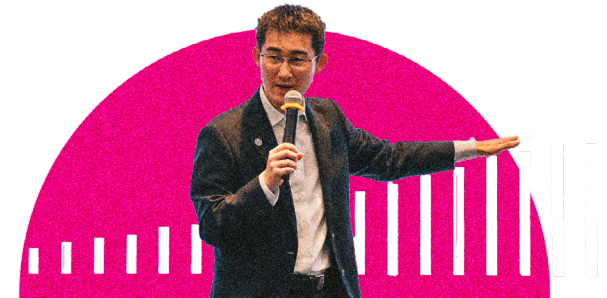
FROM
RECOGNITION
TO



IMPLEMENTATION

The GDS promotes commitments as political instruments, driving policy reforms, financing alignment and supporting real-world change.

FROM
COMMITMENTS
TO



SUSTAINED IMPACT

The GDS connects commitments to national priorities and funding systems through a continuous cycle, which maintains momentum.