



Civil Society Declaration for the GDS2022

Yesterday, representatives of civil society met during a Civil Society Forum, to support the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Collaboratively, we wish to convey the following Statement:

Since London 2018, the world has been hit by a devastating pandemic which has shone a spotlight on the inequalities and discrimination persons with disabilities face, leading to the loss of lives and the creation of additional and unnecessary barriers. COVID has been a "wake-up" call on the need for inclusion.

We have been here before. We know from the pandemic that the human rights of persons with disabilities were not realized. We lost brothers and sisters because of inadequate policies, systems and structures. We, like many others, were failed by our policy makers and political leaders.

The world we live in has immeasurably changed since the first Global Disability Summit in London in 2018. We are facing problems that require innovative solutions in partnership, guided by persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

All of us, all of you, the World Leaders in this room, have an opportunity. But also, a moral, legal and ethical responsibility. No corner of the world should be immune from the principles of human rights.

Today, we call on those present to make measurable, ambitious, and lasting commitments. Commitments which will not just stay on paper.

We call on all of you here today to:

- 1. Promote the leadership of organizations of persons with disabilities in partnerships and actively seek such partnerships in order to accelerate commitments into change**, including ensuring OPDs are supported to engage each stage of policy processes, at local, regional and international levels.

2. **Collect and use appropriate, reliable and comparable data that is inclusive of the full diversity of disabilities** in close collaboration with persons with disabilities and their respective organisations.
3. **Build the capacity of all stakeholders** to implement the CRPD. This means committing to being guided by OPDs and contributing to building capacity of OPDs as well as other stakeholders
4. **Invest in OPDs in long-term plans and projects.** Ensure reporting systems capable of tracking inclusive funding are put in place. Strengthen the organisational structure of OPDs to ensure good governance including responsibilities for human and financial resource management.
5. **Recognise the diversity of disability, through all life stages, and across the world.** We are the World's largest minority group and also the most diverse. **Make all aspects of emergency preparedness and response accessible** to children and adults with disabilities, including those with physical, sensory, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. Secure that all development aid and humanitarian assistance is inclusive and traceable all the way, from the funding sources all the way down to implementation. **Protect children and adults, especially women, girls and young persons with disabilities** from violence, exploitation and abuse, including through inclusive child protection and safeguarding interventions and gender based violence risk mitigation, including sexual and reproductive health services
6. **Recognise the enabling role of assistive technology and invest in assistive technologies.** Adopt inclusive policies to promote the development and use of assistive technologies by persons with disabilities in an increasingly digitalized world.
7. **Promote Human Rights and combat Ableism,** by actively working to eliminate stigma and discrimination through legislation and policies that make a difference, consistently challenging harmful attitudes and practices, such as institutionalisation, exclusion and violence.
8. **Prioritize Inclusive Health and vaccinations for all, in the South and the North,** in order to attain the SDGs. The pandemic has revealed the discrimination persons with disabilities face in accessing healthcare. Our lives ARE NOT less important for vital life saving interventions.
9. **Promote inclusive employment, inclusive education and skills,** paying attention to where there has been a backward slide on progress in these areas due to the effects of COVID, for example, in the informal job sector/impact of livelihoods/commitment to mitigate poverty.

We thank you for the opportunity to be active participants here today and wish everyone a meaningful and productive Summit.
