

# Guidance Note on formulating commitments for the Global Disability Summit 2025

## 1. Introduction

The overall aim of the Global Disability Summit 2025 (GDS2025) is to significantly foster the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the United Nations **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD). With just five years left until the target year of the Agenda 2030, GDS2025 aims to fulfil the ambition to **leave no one behind** and incorporate disability inclusion more systematically in development cooperation and humanitarian action.

Disability inclusion is still not a priority in many countries of the world. It is time for change – it is time to recognize that disability inclusion is not a charity, but a fundamental human right! The first and second GDS have been very successful in establishing a commitment mechanism as being the essential part of the GDS process. On this basis, the third GDS aims at further increasing the significance and tracking of commitments. They are the major instrument in order to translate legal obligations and political will into concrete action.

This Guidance Note is intended for use by UN member states, UN agencies, civil society including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), the private sector, academia, foundations and other stakeholders.

## 2. Criteria and Ambition

### 2.1 Criteria for commitments

The GDS is a comprehensive process that wants to **motivate and inspire all stakeholders to implement the CRPD** and announce their commitments on the occasion of the summit. The co-hosts of the Global Disability Summit 2025 encourage you to submit commitments that will be:

1. **CRPD-ALIGNED:** Commitments should put the principles and goals of the CRPD and other relevant UN treaties at their core in order to ensure full alignment to internationally agreed standards and ambitions.
2. **OPD-INCLUSIVE:** Each stakeholder should strive to include Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in the process of developing the commitments as well as in their implementation and monitoring – applying the principle “nothing about us without us”. We particularly encourage state actors from the Global South and the Global North as well as UN agencies to submit joint commitments together with OPDs in the context of international cooperation (Art. 32).

3. **ADDED VALUE:** Commitments should envisage activities that provide additional value, for instance the promotion of the CRPD in innovative ways or the up scaling of approaches that have proven to be successful. They should be crafted specifically for the GDS, rather than being already under implementation or (fully or partially) achieved.
4. **MEASURABLE and QUANTIFIABLE:** Commitments should aim to be SMART (specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and time-related) in order to facilitate monitoring and reporting to the GDS Secretariat.
5. **ADDRESSING GAPS:** Commitments should address specific gaps in the implementation of the CRPD on local, national, or regional level (for example those identified by the reporting of state parties to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the concluding observations of the Committee or national country reports).

## 2.2 Raise Ambition

The co-hosts propose to raise ambition regarding the implementation of the CRPD. Therefore, the co-hosts will feature a selection of commitments on the **main stage** during the summit, which reflect the criteria named above the most and demonstrate a high level of ambition and/or innovation. Please join us in assembling ambitious commitments at international, regional and national level, for example commitments that: combine leadership with effective partnerships for implementation; link government efforts with civil society, private sector and academic engagement; or combine multiple stakeholders in a regional approach.

## 3. Process including technical implementation

Stakeholders are invited to register commitments on the [online Portal](#) (hosted by idata) by filling the form. The start of the commitments process for GDS25 will be announced at COSP 2024.

In addition, stakeholders can choose to update commitments made during prior GDS cycles by selecting "Update Existing Commitments"<sup>1</sup>.

Each submitting stakeholder will be asked to register themselves on the platform, with a username and password, to grant ownership and transparency of commitments, and to grant the GDS Secretariat a manner to be in touch with organizations submitting commitments over the years. The same credentials will be used by stakeholders to report on progress on commitments. Reporting progress on commitments happens yearly, in a six weeks timeframe between March and April.

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<sup>1</sup> Interestingly in the past, more than 95% of the commitments submitted were new commitments and not updates to previous commitments

The process is initiated by the GDS Secretariat and monitors commitments on 4 parameters: 1. In progress 2. Delayed 3. Completed 4. Discontinued. Stakeholders can also include attachments (images, reports, videos) to complement the progress being reported on. Once a reporting exercise is completed, the GDS Secretariat carries out, through an external vendor, a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the progress received, and publishes a progress report. Progress reported on will also be made public on the GDS Website.

Upon receiving the commitments, the GDS Secretariat in collaboration with the co-hosts will start a process of checking commitments against the criteria mentioned above. To do so, the GDS Secretariat will be supported by experts from the IDA team as well as colleagues from Germany and Jordan. The process will involve a critical revision of the substance of the commitments including a quality check of the language used to express the pledges. After verifying the commitments, the GDS Secretariat might contact the submitter in case there is a need or potential for improving the commitment, or matching them with other commitments.

The GDS Secretariat encourages stakeholders to develop joint and ambitious commitments in partnership with other stakeholders, in particular OPDs, which reflect national or institutional ownership. The deadline for commitments will be two months before the summit (1st February 2025). From all commitments received by the GDS Secretariat until this date, the co-hosts will select the Top 20 for presentation on the main stage during the GDS25. All commitments will be published on the GDS website before the Summit. After the Summit there will still be the opportunity for stakeholders to submit additional commitments or to cooperate/join existing commitments.

The GDS Secretariat will be available throughout the whole process to support stakeholders submitting and/or reporting on commitments. The Secretariat may be contacted at [summit@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:summit@ida-secretariat.org)

## Annex I: Examples of a good commitment

1. A UN agency/INGO commits to support X countries in strengthening disability-inclusive primary health care and health systems by YEAR;
2. Development agencies X and Y invest SPECIFIC AMOUNT in improving access to assistive technologies such as wheelchairs, prosthetics, eyeglasses and hearing aids over the next five year;
3. Country X invests SPECIFIC AMOUNT in capacity building of organizations or persons with disabilities
4. Country Y will provide SPECIFIC BUDGET over the next three years to support disability inclusive humanitarian action in response to a NAMED crisis, which includes...;
5. Country Z will establish national procedures to promote the right to work and create SPECIFIC NUMBER of decent jobs free from barriers for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labor market by YEAR;
6. Country X will invest in a transformational program on inclusive education led by a consortium of OPDs and INGOs.