

The following Outcome Document has been adopted by representatives of national, sub-regional, and Pan-African organizations of persons with disabilities on the 5th of September 2024 during the African Regional Summit organized by the African Disability Forum and International Disability Alliance co-hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Outcome Document

The Signal to the Global Disability Summit 2025

Preamble

We, representatives of national, subregional, and pan-African organizations of persons with disabilities from 38 countries across Africa, gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, on September 5th, 2024, for the Africa Regional Summit to contribute to the Global Disability Summit 2025 (GDS 2025) and shape Africa's priorities for GDS 2025.

- a. Recognizing that approximately 80 million persons, or almost 1 in 10 people on the African continent, are persons with disabilities,*
- b. Welcoming the [Nairobi Declaration](#), which outlines the regional priorities and calls on States to prioritize ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the African Disability Protocol), invest in inclusive data, address poverty and inequalities, ensure inclusive education, inclusive employment, inclusive health, promote community inclusion and address adverse impacts of conflict displacement, humanitarian and climate change,*
- c. Acknowledging the near-universal ratification of the UN CRPD on the continent, with all but one¹ African country having ratified the convention,*
- d. Welcoming the entry into force of the African Disability Protocol, already ratified by 16 countries,*
- e. Affirming the central role of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), as recognized in the CRPD, emphasizing their unique position as representative organizations and advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities, and accelerating efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities through their representative organizations can actively and meaningfully participate in GDS process, including by allocating appropriate and sustainable resources to organizations of persons with disabilities,*
- f. Acknowledging the renewed commitment of governments to accelerate the implementation of the CRPD, including through strengthening disability-inclusive international cooperation during the Global Disability Summit co-hosted by Norway and Ghana on February 17-18, 2022,*
- g. Welcoming the Global Disability Summit 2025 and particularly the commitment of the co-hosts, Germany and Jordan, to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are fully integrated into efforts to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda,*
- h. Noting that despite the progress made in the implementation of the GDS 2018 and GDS 2022 Commitments, persons with disabilities continue to face several barriers in exercising and enjoying their rights as outlined in the Nairobi Declaration,*

¹ Eritrea has not yet signed the Convention. https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&clang=en.

- i. *Drawing on the lessons learned in the GDS 2018 and GDS 2022 cycles, we reaffirm our commitment to collaborate across sectors, regions, and communities to ensure full implementation of the GDS Commitments,*

We appeal to African Countries to:

- I. *Submit concrete commitments reinforcing human rights and prioritizing actionable pledges to achieve real progress, addressing gaps from GDS 2018 and GDS 2022*
- II. *Ensure that persons with disabilities, including youth and older people, children, and their families, are fully consulted and actively involved through their representative organizations in the design of the GDS2025 Commitments.*

More specifically,

Non-Discrimination, Equality, and Participation

We urge States to commit to:

1. *Develop comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that explicitly recognize denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination*
2. *Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*
3. *Establish effective and accessible complaint mechanisms to address disability-based discrimination.*
4. *Repeal all discriminatory laws, including mental health laws, that deny persons with disabilities the right to legal capacity.*
5. *Document and analyze disaggregated data on measures taken to end discrimination, including cases investigated, prosecuted, and concluded*
6. *Periodically report to regional human rights mechanisms on steps taken to end discrimination and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in drafting these periodic reports.*
7. *Ending harmful cultural practices such as profiling of persons with albinism, female genital mutilation, and child marriage.*

Participation

We call on States to commit to:

8. *Develop structured mechanisms for consultation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, paying attention to underrepresented groups, including women, children, youth, Indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with high support needs, persons with albinism, refugees, and internally displaced persons with disabilities.*
9. *Build and enhance the capacities of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to effectively and meaningfully participate in decision-making processes.*
10. *Generate and disseminate disaggregated data on measures taken to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities*
11. *Guarantee meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, ensuring that election processes are accessible, voting materials are accessible and support is provided to candidates with disabilities to vie for political positions*

Accessibility

We ask States to commit to:

12. *Adopt comprehensive national accessibility legislation and strategy that includes accessibility standards, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms in all areas, including the physical and built*

environment, housing, transportation, information and communications technology, and facilities and services open to the public, with necessary budget allocations

13. *Recognize sign language as an official language and adopt and harmonize different sign languages existing in the region.*
14. *We call on the African Union to commit adopt, promulgate, and monitor regional Accessibility Standards and on Governments to enforce it,*

Social and Economic Rights

Poverty and Inequality

We call on States and development partners to commit to:

15. *Adopt inclusive budgeting processes to make the most of domestic and international resources for inclusion across all sectors and levels of government, to prioritize inclusion of persons with disabilities across sectors and programs and improve coordination and collaboration among sectors and stakeholders*

Inclusive Social Protection

16. *We call on States to commit to allocate specific funding to strengthen the development of shock-responsive and inclusive social protection systems, including by expanding national coverage of disability management information systems, progressively increasing the coverage and adequacy of social protection support through a combination of cash transfers, concessions, and community support services for the survival, escape from poverty and inclusion of children, working-age adults, and older persons with disabilities*

Inclusive Employment

We urge States to commit to:

17. *Provide supportive environments, focusing on housing, reasonable accommodation, assistive technologies, social protection, and career progression with emphasis placed on the needs of women, youth, and those in rural areas to ensure equal access to employment and transportation,*
18. *Enforce inclusive employment policies, with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in monitoring progress,*

Inclusive Education

We urge States to commit to:

19. *Prioritize, protect and increase domestic finance for inclusive education including allocating at least 4-6% of GDP and/or at least 15-20% of total public expenditure to education.*
20. *Develop a monitoring framework including specific indicators to measure the effectiveness of programs aimed at improving access to education for children with disabilities.*
21. *Prioritize inclusive education for learners with disabilities in humanitarian settings, those in rural areas and other hard to reach areas.*

Community Inclusion, Care and Support

22. *We urge States and development partners to commit to data collection and consultation with OPDs to document the diversity of needs for care and support of children and adults with disabilities and their families, as well as the existing informal community support practices.*
23. *We urge States to commit to invest in innovative programs building on social protection and community-based inclusive development to provide adequate support, especially to persons with high support needs, while reducing gender inequalities in the provision of paid and unpaid care and support.*

Inclusive Health

We call upon States to commit to:

24. *Ensure accessibility, availability, affordability, and adequacy of health care, including access to sexual and reproductive health services and mental health services, and include health services for specific impairments and health conditions in packages of care for Universal Health Coverage (UHC).*
25. *Provide the full spectrum of health services along a continuum of care for persons with disabilities, including access to rehabilitation services.*
26. *Establish a human rights-based approach to health paying attention to the intersectional aspects such as age and gender. Specifically, we urge governments to pay attention to youth with disabilities and access to sexual and reproductive health services and information.*

Situations of Conflict and Crisis

Conflict Displacement

We ask States to commit to:

27. *Adopt a comprehensive strategy and plans, with timeframes, targets, and budget allocation, to ensure the safety and protection of all persons with disabilities in situations of risks and emergencies, regardless of the type of impairment, including measures to prevent risks, address vulnerability, early warning, accessible information and evacuation plans responsive to persons with disabilities.*
28. *Strengthen mechanisms for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans at the national and local levels, at all stages of the process, and in its COVID-19 recovery plans.*
29. *Roll out nationwide campaigns to raise awareness about the needs of persons with disabilities in crises in all their diversity to enhance social support mechanisms. In partnership with development partners, and Civil Society Organizations to commit to strengthening the media's capacity to report the unique challenges experienced by persons with disabilities in humanitarian crisis.*
30. *Roll out evidence-based cash transfer top-ups for persons with disabilities to enhance their resilience during humanitarian response and at all stages of conflict.*

We ask development partners and multilateral to commit to:

31. *Prioritise funding to Organizations of Persons with Disabilities for Disaster and Risk management and mainstream disability inclusion in their resilience programs.*
32. *Strengthen the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities on the Humanitarian infrastructure to enhance their participation.*
33. *In partnership with organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations to strengthen the media's capacity to report the unique challenges experienced by persons with disabilities during disasters.*
34. *We ask UNICEF to commit to adapting existing data collection tools, such as the Washington Group of Short Set of Questions (WGSS), to make them relevant for conflict settings through its data center of excellence.*

We call on States and humanitarian organizations to commit to:

35. *Include assistive technology in conflict response packages to enhance the resilience of persons with disabilities across all stages of conflict and disaster.*

36. *Roll out psychosocial support structures for persons and refugees with disabilities to enhance their resilience across all stages of conflict and disaster.*
37. *Design and roll out accessible and inclusive conflict resilience trainings for persons with disabilities and their families to promote resilience.*

Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction

We urge States to commit to:

38. *Review data collection tools to capture the unique needs of persons with disabilities and their support needs in situation of risk and disaster.*
39. *Explore the use of Artificial Intelligence to enhance the identification of persons with disabilities during risk and disaster management efforts.*
40. *Protection of civilians with disabilities in situations of risk and disaster management.*
41. *Provide uninterrupted social services during disaster and risk situations.*

We urge States, humanitarian, development and non-state actors to commit to:

42. *Ensure disaster risk reduction, mitigation and response systems are accessible to persons with disabilities.*
43. *Map the unique support needs of persons with disabilities in situations of risk.*

Inclusive Climate Action

44. *We call on States, the World Bank and other international donors to commit to ensuring, including through targeted funding, that communities planning relocations (away from climate harms) can move in a disability-inclusive, rights-respecting manner, including measures for people with disabilities who wish to stay to adapt in place. This means that people with disabilities enjoy their rights to equality, dignity, participation, housing, living independently in the community and health, and are ultimately protected in situations of risks.*

Inclusive Data

45. *We call on States to commit to establish/ harmonize a central disability management information system and adopting its use across sectors to enhance humanitarian/ development response.*
46. *We call on humanitarian and development organizations to commit to integrating disability-disaggregated data into their planning and monitoring systems.*
47. *We call on INGOs and international organizations to ensure that all evidence gathered from their research, particularly on critical issues such as conflict and climate change, is systematically disseminated to local partners, including OPDs.*

Nairobi the 5 September 2024

