

So firstly, welcome to all of you to this COSP16 side event. My name is Dom Haslam chair of the international disability development consortium. Firstly for me some housekeeping notes to share. So, during this event, we will have international sign interpretation and captioning and. Any of you who would like to use the captioning please click the button bottom of the screen that says "CC" to see the captions.

If you have a question, for our panelists, and opening speaker today, we will have time for questions, and answers at the end of the presentations, and we'll collect those questions throughout the session. And panelists will respond together at the end of the call, and it's my job as moderator to try and ensure we keep some time for that Q&A session at the end. So here is a reminder to panelists to please stick to the time allocated into the interventions. Please click on the Q&A button in the bottom menu bar, and enter your questions there. Thank you [recording in progress].

>> The webinar is now being recorded as you may have just heard, if you would like to review anything you heard, or share the side event with the a colleague, we will be sharing the recording with everyone who registered for the session over email within the week.

Finally from me, would like to remind all speakers to speak slowly during presentations, and during the Q&A. And to aim to use words that are easy to understand, so everyone can follow the conversation and helps ensure that our interpreters and captioners stay caught up. So the topic we're here to discuss today, why is meaningful engagement of under represented groups important?

I think we can all agree it's a critical issue for the disability movement, and for allies, and one that is now rightly getting increase attention.

And so I'm delighted we have such a group of experts with us today to speak on the issue. And without further ado I would like to hand over to our first speaker for opening remarks, and I will then introduce each panelists before they speak.

So very pleased to welcome Jose Maria Viera, from the International Disability Alliance as our opening speaker. Jose is Director of Advocacy at the International Disability Alliance, or IDA, IDA made up of 14 global regional

organization of persons with disability and works to advocate at United Nations for more inclusive global environment environment for everyone. And Jose will be joining us now to share some opening remarks on the inclusion of under represented groups of persons with disabilities, please Jose the floor is yours.

>> **JOSE:** Thank you, Dom, good morning, good afternoon, friends and colleagues. First of all, on behalf of the international disability alliance, we are delighted to be part of this panel. And I would start by mainly, acknowledging this side event as a good example of meaningful participation.

And what do I mean by this?

I think we have enough examples... and enough experiences where we have seen that still meaningful participation remains more a "desire" than a "good practice". When I look around the virtual room, and from the organisers of the side event, and the panelists joining us today, we clearly see that we are in good track. We are putting on the table what really means "participation" and in particular for under represented groups. The first reflection I would like to share is that even when we are sometimes simply forgetting about COVID and the impact of it, on persons with disabilities, even when we wake up every day and we see that humanitarian crisis and conflicts, and wars and climate action consequences are hitting more and more persons with disabilities we still ask ourselves what else we can do to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities. We are living in difficult times, and living in situations in which participation is not prioritised.

I can just share very recent example, and that is the political declaration process of the SDGs where participation of civil society has been somehow restricted, or at least less available than before. That means we need to do more when it comes to meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and second thing, I think we emphasize, that we make unintentional mistake, by not realizing how important meaningful participation is as a precondition for inclusion. Clearly, we see and that goes from the climate action agenda to the humanitarian agenda, that if we're not facilitating meaningful participation there is no possibility of including persons with disability and including person with disabilities in the most effective way. So I think we really

need to understand meaningful participation is precondition along with accessibility for inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Of course we know that participation is not easy. Meaningful participation is even more challenging sometimes, but that shouldn't be an argument, or excuse for not putting all our efforts ensures person with disabilities are at the centre of the rep sensitive or organizations. I would like also to bring some concrete recommendations, because we can always continue providing diagnosis of what it means and consequences for not meaningful participation, and always try from the disability alliance to be proactive and bring meaningful participation. The first one is, we really need to ensure that for underrepresented groups, we try to secure, safe, and participatory spaces, especially for those groups that are yet under formation, and our yet, under understanding how they would like to be represented, : We really need to ensure, and our experience tells us the more we can invest and reaching out to the furthestest behind, and making sure they feel safe and ensuring they participate in the way they want to it's always more effective and more positive than trying to push for some certain standards, that we understand from our perspective is what we need when it comes to participation.

The second recommendation is:

We can not do thi alone. And the idea I would like to leave with in the room is partnership, and understand that from the International Disability Alliance OPVs cannot do this alone And when we say that we cannot do this alone, we're basically looking at our partners, and we all know the closest partners are IDC members, and we rely on IDC, and IDC members to ensure the meaningful participation is done through partnership. Where we as OPDs bring the perspective of persons with disabilities, and members can bring your experience and knowledge, and accumulative work around different agendas. And last recommendation I want to share here, is that we really need to understand that when we talk about "meaningful participation" and in particular under represented groups, we are also by default including intersectionality approach or intersectionality perspective. We are trying to push for more participation of under represented groups, we must consider issues like

gender, Indigenous, age, etc, etc.

And if we can combine providing preconditions for inclusion, plus participation and partnership, plus intersectionality when it comes to meaningful participation, I can say we are going to be much closer to ensure that all persons with disability -- in particular under represented groups can be part of the discussions we all need to be part in order to advance the implementation of the convention, and rights of persons with disabilities and the SDGs, the journey is long. We have achieved a lot. But this is invitation to do more, do it in partnership, and recognising what all we can contribute with. And what are the differences, and also the common agenda. Thank you, Dom and over to you.

>> Thank you, very much Jose, and Thank you for the opening remarks, and in particular, as always, Thank you for the practical approach and guidance provided within them, and very welcome.

I would now like to introduce the first of panelists: Esmá Gumberize, who is a board member at the Georgian network of women with disabilities, which is a cross disability Federation, made up of 14 disabled women's organizations. A member of the IDP's new organization of persons with disabilities steering group speaking on behalf of today, the OPD steering group is group of 10 representatives advising the partnership group on the development of their new guidance note on meaningful engagement of op eds. As my will be speaking about the practices that IDC users to ensure the members of the steering group can fully participate. The floor is yours.

>> Thank you very much, hello, good morning, and good evening everyone, glad to speak on behalf the international disability and development Consortium. I will describe myself, female in my late 20's, wearing a black blouse, and brown jacket -- light brown, and some earrings.

And so today I will speak about the Consortium surprised of more than 30 organisations that not only work on disability but different human rights issues including disability. Some of them are organizations of persons with disabilities. some work on disability issues and some work on broader concerns, such as international fund for systems for example. And because of this wide representation, and wide membership of the organization, it needs more input and more consultants on how to meaningful engage

organizations of persons with disabilities, and this is why, the steering group was designed. So that we would provide input, and help to design this guidance note for the consortium members. The members also work with different task forces, For example, one that works with the United Nations so like thematic groups that work on different topics. This is why we're here. And the principles, the steering group is first of all accountability. IDC made a commitment they would not publish the guidance note before we as disabled people don't approve it fully, and they will not publish it until all the recommendations are duly put in. Another important thing is representation. That IDC really try to include as many under represented groups as possible, such as women with disability and persons with dual disability and Deaf blindness and nonverbal persons, as well as youth with disabilities and I want to say here, youth with disabilities have the right to engage just because we're human beings, and that alone justifies the reason why we should be at the table. We have meetings every few weeks. ... I would say. And these meetings first of all are very much stick to the agenda, that is in materials being sent 2 weeks in advance, so everybody has time to review it. We never go over time, so that everybody is on the schedule. We use plain language, so the language is simple and easy to understand for everyone.

We try to speak slowly so that the interpreters are able to do their job. And also our visual descriptions.

They provide documents in different accessible formats. For example, for blind persons, it's important to have it non-scanned, and with image descriptions if there are any images or any data that is graphic being verbalised. We try to -- yeah -- also, the supporting persons -- the personal assistants being paid for assisting persons with disabilities on these calls. And we have also some language interpretation. First of all sign language interpretation, captioning and also have speakers of Spanish and Arabic and also translators for them, they can also meaningfully participate. Another important thing is we follow-up with... they set up the notes after we are done the discussions, so that people who have missed the meeting are able to know what has gone on. And also participants with disabilities are being paid for our work. Which again, also very rare. Because there are a lot of patronising attitudes that are

saying we are doing this for ourselves and therefore should volunteer our time. And this is being addressed and taken care of at IDC at this point. I think I should stop here. I thank you for your attention, and looking forward to any questions. And of course, yeah, I will also briefly explain what meaningful participation is. According to your attendees of the meetings, because we discussed this already. And few things, are that, of course the language barrier should be overcome. There has to be an accountability, so our propositions have to be taken seriously, or if they're not being implemented we should know the reasoning behind it and rationale why. And then, the schedule should be adjusted. And we actually are also notified the time of the meeting in our time zones, which is very important. I would say as I change timezones sometimes, and have to travel around.

And then, that we are not only, the organisers flexible, and not only from our side, that nobody is being overpowered or interrupted. And that your opinions are taken into consideration. Thank you very much. Thank you, Esma, Thank you again for focusing on the process through the IDC and practical steps everyone can take into their future efforts to be more inclusive. Very much appreciated Thank you. Next I would like to introduce two panelists, from an organization called Chosen Power. Simon, and... both directors of Chosen Power also known as people first Hong Kong. And there is self advocacy organization representing people with intellectual disabilities.

They were the first organization run by people with intellectual disabilities in Asia. Chosen power is a member of inclusion international. And as an expert on inclusive organizations, they were involved in creating the listen, include, respect guidelines. They will be speaking about how organizations can include people with intellectual disabilities. Please, the floor is yours.

>> Hi, everyone, I'm Simon from Hong Kong. Can you all hear me.

>> We can hear you loud and clear Simon, Thank you.

>> Okay, got it.

>> Thank you! So just now introduced myself and Simon, and this is Ki my partner. So in 2020 inclusion international, and International Down Syndrome association organised project, about listen, include, respect, and easy read guide

production, and it has questionnaire and guideline. Me Simon as one of the member consultant. This is an International Collaboration Project. It has two parts... one is: Idea collection. It includes questionnaire, and workshops both on site and online.

The second part is about production of the content. The project has invite different self advocate representatives from the world together for information.

>> This project can be regard as good practice for how to include persons with disabilities to participate meaningfully. Our meeting format includes the first one, we have easy read agenda. And then, during the meeting we have reminders of how self advocates, and the supporters to participate in the meeting. And the third one: Would be some warming up exercise for the participants to get to know one another.

Of course, we need to moderator to explain and present the discussion theme for us.

And the key part of course all self advocates have time each one to present their ideas and questions.

And at the end, like, every meeting, we can have the conclusion, and note for preparation for next meeting. We are being fully respected as all the self advocates and supporters are being paid for the sessions.

And secondly, for the time of the meetings, we always schedule it in 1.5 hours. That is very appropriate, not over work us.

And the third one, of course it needs some improvement because, inbetween the meetings we do not have sufficient time to read all the heaps of documents. How account international collaboration be effective. A vote of thanks to COVID. Because of COVID we need to be online to discuss and share our ideas.

What is the benefit of this international cooperation: It is that friends all over the world can meet online and make acquaintances, and because every one of us can widen our perspective and get to know what happens in different parts of the world. As person with intellectual disability, attending the project meeting only me attending the meeting and always go back to the chosen path members, for the chosen power easy read inclusive team. And I consult all the parents and self advocates for their ideas and contribution to the project. We are very happy to be in

collaboration with inclusion international. Say for example, in 2019, the social security guideline information for persons with disability is easy-read document and also the videos, we are also being invited to be part of the international audit consultant to talk about how the Social Protection information can distribute to us. And of course the most recent ones, 2023 moving people out of institution guidelines, we also contribute our ideas for their production of the easy read materials.

So... what is Chosen Power then, now it's Kit's turn.

>> **KIT:** So what is meaningful participation?

The founding of Chosen Power is the key for us to have meaningful participation in our lives. So actually we are a group of friends participation in leisure recreation centres back in the 90s. So... in order to have meaningful participation we register as an organisation way back in 1995. And then in 2007 we even registered as company limited by guarantee, and for meaningful participation we also become member of inclusion international recently in 2019.

>> So for meaningful participation and other way of doing it is that between 2012 and 2015 we also participate in the human rights treaties lobbying that include convention of rights of disability and convention for children convention and for the women, and convention -- these treaties we have meaningful participation. So for these lobbying we provide easy read information and documents for United Nations.

>> I, Simon, myself, also prepare easy-read illustration for NGOs and also NGOs from overseas. This is all my personal projects, and therefore, I got paid from this easy-read illustrations.

>> And our participation in easy-read movement actually can be counted way back in 1992. Over the 20 years of experience, we also design easy-read guidelines and workshop materials, and we conduct easy-read workshops to our friends, and also, for the staff. And therefore we got the chance to participate in the governments easy-read production education materials for ageing persons with disabilities.

We are one of the members in the production. We also take the initiation to create accessibility check questionnaires in easy read format to help our self advocates to check on the

polling stations accessibility. So during the period of 3 years of time -- [COVID period] we introduce COVID prevention book let, and distributed online. And last here had the chance to collaborate with City University for public health emergency research project. The Survey Report -- we have the chance to take part in the production of the survey project easy-read version, and also do the audit. Not only for the policy issues we participate in the easy-read movement, and also for art learning we tried to produce easy-read notes for our art learning.

>> And of course, in order to have full protection of our lives in the city, in 2015 we also collaborate with Hong Kong university faculty to put all the projects to have all the easy-read training materials in different aspects of rights issues. So what is good practice, then?

We think that no one size fits all; just keep on practicing, and learning from one another; and have the courage and creativity and what works for you is the best. That's all for our sharing, Thank you!

>> Thank you!

>> **Dom:** Thank you so much Simon and Kit sharing really good examples of ways in which we can all be more inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities, in particular with the experience from Chosen Power.

And also Thank you very much, this is the first COSP I heard the word friendship used as much in presentation, and think we can do more of that. Thank you for bringing that in particular.

>> And next is Rose from the representative of the Pan African network of people with psychosocial disabilities and also leads the National organisation of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, The Pan African network of people with psychosocial disabilities is a project partner of humanity, and inclusion and Rose will speakspeak about what actions takes that people with psycho social disability are meaningful included in programme. Rose good to see you the floor is yours.

>> **Rose:** Thank you, dear moderator. As mentioned I'm Rose Umutesi, and heading the pan African network and sewer viveers of psychiatry African region. We have been in partnership with HI, since 2020. In project called Harazia -- and it's meaning, education and liveli hood in Africa. And means sustainable inclusion approach.

We have been involving ourselves in political participation inclusive services at local and national, and even at regional level. In this project OPD, in our OPDs we did capacity building, and regional advocacy. That was held in different countries, whereby we had Mozambique SXESHGS Madagascar, and... original OPD partner, OPD supporting our national and grass roots members. And both HI and... OPD, persons with psycho social disability in Africa. And various operations.

HI has been supporting us, and acknowledge that OPD as specialists in psycho social disability issues tend to take leading role designing and executing activities that are to the members, and number of activities within different countries in Africa. And so my question is what does HI do meaningful include OPD as equal partner. What can other organisations learn from inclusive partnership.

First of all, personally, I can say that "HI" is my mentor. I can take an example that I wouldn't even speak in front of you without through the training of "HI" which I feel like I'm proud of being involved in the skills development, and capacity building through "HI" they started engaging with different trainings, and where we share our ideas and learn how to self advocate.

We have hired capacity building in guiding ability training, and approaching other teams.

And we also had a chance of networking through "HI".

So I can tell you that through "HI" partnership we had made achievement whereby I can say "HI" really supportive and very important. PANPPD have included members from 7 to 23 countries, and resulted in increase regional approach. Went to African countries to the regional movement and developed best practices. And this document was as a result of research on mental illness issues, across Africa. And document provided basis for comparison, learning group, and movement.

We did mapping, and analysis of results show that majority of percent of African countries have updated policies since 1978. And members on accountability safe guarding advocating, we trained 22 trainers of trainers in Mozambique and advocate on mentors with new members. And made submission to the UN CRPD Committee on the initialization of people with mental disability. More than 10 government have been engaged with

PANPPD.

And also to highlight on what the "HI" has been doing to us with PANPPD, first and foremost, it's more of cooperate between partners, of trustee and respect. And way of consultation, and codesigning, or co-production. HI played a role of a mentor, as we worked together. By that I mean, it was a bottom-up approach. Which I feel I can share that in working with "HI" is like... (?) Where we codesign and coproduce. And here, the participatory approach jointly from the start of the project, to evaluation. Designing solution where all the sides,'s as partners, and we design everything together, right from the start of the project, up to the evaluation project. We had different trainings, whereby we feel that we as a category who is undermind, and who have stigma. I mean, persons with psycho social disability, we feel like this was a great partner poet partner with us, where we are well equipped to do what we're supposed to do. And do our self advocacy.

To raise our voice through the trainings, and through capacity-building. With "HI".

Even now... when I'm talking in New York, Monday was my presentation, presenting on how to include under represented groups. It was the support of HI that I think was more supportive of persons with psycho social disability, and under represented groups. I can say they are more selective. And because the staff, feel that we are the same people as they are, because of their friendly environment contributing to us. That's all I can say, maybe I'm waiting for other questions. Thank you so much.

>> Dom: Thank you so much Rose. And really pleased you felt you had the capacity and ability to speak to us today, because I think we all benefitted from hearing from your experience, much appreciated from all of us, Thank you! Without further ado, because we're running slightly behind on time, apologise for the brevity of responses to each panelists, but I really want to ensure all panelists get a chance to speak, so please as much as possible, if we can stick to time that would be greatly appreciated.

And now like to introduce KB Adhikari, from national federation of Deaf in Nepal, and and international as part of FCDO funded inclusion future project. And KP who is the president of the National Federation, we'll be speaking about how sense International, and other project partners,

make sure people with Deaf blindness are meaningfully included in project, and KP has prerecorded his presentation, and unfortunately unwell today, will not be able to join us live. But colleague, Sanu, who is project manager at NDFN is also joining us to participate in the Q&A following the video presentation. I'll pass over the administrative support to press play, please. Thank you.

[Captioned video]

While working in the deaf sector, we realise that the number of deaf people.

Gradually losing their vision and becoming deafblindness is quite high so,

During the starting phase, we had lots of confusion about deafblindness,

its definition, and its types.

We managed to work with the parents association of people with deafblindness.

And deafblind people organisation to bring clarity.

We started working with Sense International in 2017.

And we are linked with DID Inclusive Future program from 2018 onwards to work on people with deafblindness and complex disabilities.

We work on advocacy, enhancing the capacity building of the deafblind.

People and their network and enhancing the parents network.

Some positive changes have been observed due to our collaborative effort in the country.

One of the good news is the latest census has incorporated the data of the.

People with deafblindness in the Country.

Where we focus on the education of children with.

Deafblindness and complex disabilities.

We collected the data and established resource centers in the project area.

We are also providing home-based education along with therapy services.

Parents' awareness and empowerment is one of the major works.

We are doing under the project.

Parents' involvement increase in demanding their children's.

Rights is a key achievement in terms of engagement.

We really do think that to accelerate the right-based advocacy and campaign.

It's important to have a clear definition and identification process, and awareness of requirement of equal meaningful participation in under represented group like Deafblindness. It is important that parents have greater awareness and are

Equipped with skills to do advocacy.

Another major aspect is networking and capacity building of the people.

With Deafblindness themselves

We are coordinating with the Deafblindness network on this. With the disability movement itself, some group of people with disabilities have better representation than other. We realize, there is need to improve investment in the capacity building programme of those in the group. We talk about inclusive development, but often hesitate to make the investment required to insure underrepresented groups have investment and meaningful participation.

Participation shouldn't be limited to a tokenistic approach

What I really think requires investing in technological development, and advancement, ensure underrepresented groups can fully participate. Make the environment for them. I would like to thank the organizer of the COSP 16 side event.

For providing me with this opportunity.

Thank you.

>> Dom: Thank you so much KP, and Sanu of course, please share our well wishes with KP and all hope he gets better soon. And next would like to share another video presentation, this is from Mary who leads self hope group with OPD representing women in Turkana counseltry, northwest Kenya, and chair across disability OPD, and a project partner of CBM global. And Mary will be speaking about how CBM global ensures women with disability s and OPDs that represent them are fully included in programming. Due to internet connectivity issues in Turkana county not able to join on but recorded her presentation, and will hear from the video now. Thank you. I'm from Kenya, as the chair lady etiakara Disabled Self Group.

Of they are learning in the group, and taking their disabled children to school. And they do awareness to the

community to identify people, those who are living with disability there, and to take them to the hospital to get assistance from there. And me as the chairlady, this is what I'm doing. I'm coordinating with the county government to get the support, so that I may bring it back to my group, and also to get from the NGOs, for my group, and whatever we know. This is how CBM looks: Open, and I am able to freely share my ideas views, with CBM global. Able to come down to ask at our level, and share with us train us, and also share with us -- share with us, and get our experiences and involve us at various levels. And meaningfully include OPDs by promoting our aspect equality, and valuing every person in our OPD. By sharing openly their views, and also allowing us to share our values, thoughts and experiences. The other organisation should do. That every stakeholder in the community is part of. For our projects, and their contribution is value.

Of value. And building good and open partnership makes project successful. And the one who is benefitting fully satisfied and valued.

As I conclude, persons with disabilities in Turkana county are facing this, some of them they were not accessing education. Some of them are poor and they were not able to access anything in the community.

And also, some of them, they were were a... to be supported, budget, more capacity building, organisation to strengthening them, to access information and communication. I would like to thank the organisation, those that have supported us persons with disability, and also the county government for what they have done for us. Thank you.

>> **Dom:** Thank you very much for Mary for the video presentation, and again, sorry you weren't able to join us due to the internet connectivity, I experienced myself in Turkana perhaps unsurprising, but glad to hear your experiences shared in the video. And last but not leastly, our final panelist is Daniel Rubin, who is the Secretary General of smile with disability generation, which is an OPD representing indigenous youth with disabilities in Tanzania. Smile is partner of ADD international, and will be speaking about how ADD ensures youth with disabilities are meaningful included in project and is partnership, and Daniel delighted you could join in person, and please the

floor is yours.

>> Thank you very much! My name is Daniel Ruben. We are partnered with ADD International, based in Tanzania and today going to talk about meaningful engagement. And so smile disability generation ADD International. Next slide. So first of all, I would like to take you to know about two organisations starting with smile. And also see about how does OPD partnership with ADD look like. And also what does ADD do to meaningful include our OPD as an equal partner, and at least, will see: The learnings on how other organisations will learn from inclusive partnership you have with ADD.. next: So all about SMILE so Indigenous group of youth with disabilities based in Tanzania. Tanzania and Some OPD constitutions/bye-laws did not consider nurturing Youth With Disabilities.

Within their structures

So getting youth in leadership mentoring and focus on youth, and disabilities. And so youth and girls, with disabilities to look at horizons, and have a happy inclusive society. Next slide. So SMILE response 2023. We are investing in young people, so it's critical, in solving the challenges within OPDs. So it's all about young tree strengthen the forest, and facing skills development for young people with disabilities and ensure young trees in the forest. Next slide.

And so ADD international disability right organisation, disability right movement, to thrive through full participation of OPDs to fight for independent equality opportunities. So ADD new strategic direction comprises 3 components. Before that I would like to talk about the ADD vision. So ADD vision and mission, is world in which ablism no longer exist and disabled people can fully participate in society. Mission to strengthen rights activist and organisation through resourcing and leadership skills. So components of ADD strategy right now. Next slide. And so about participatory grant making and becoming a grant maker. And this means, that people with disabilities from the global South, who will have more say on how the money is used and have the power to decide which organisation project or area should receive funding. And number 2, young leaders: So ADD supporting young leaders those with disabilities and establishing the leadership academy, and leadership of those with lower opportunities. And number

3. Movement building. Encouraging collect action, movement building, and collaboration and learning among organisation leaders in Asia region. Next slide. So we're going to see how does my OPD partnership with ODD look like. So first of all, based on mutual respect, that every organisation respect each other, and also have shared values, that we think is very basic, to put on the same table and work together. And also, centre the power of agencies of persons with disabilities, trust them with resource and decision-making power. Ive.

And can witness, on the ADD new model of disability grant making.

And also, stand for equal rights for all persons with disabilities especially the most marginalized including girls, women, and young people with disabilities.

And so, also cultivate dynamic action, learning between all partners. Next. So what does ADD do to meaningfully include my OPD as equal partner, first of all, all about participatory decision making consensus. So here we're talking about ADD involving OPDs in decision making to see what means for them. And so various discussion, and all designing, each and everything, concerning people with disability.

So ADD do to meaningful engagement, and involve OPDs, and people with digability in decision making. And tools of integration, and to meaningfully include OPDs, and provide tools, that would be very, very useful to affect the level of inclusion, and how ADD is including people with disabilities or OPDs in their works.

And also collaboration. And so collaboration of learning, and sharing, workshops, seminars and online, and offline meeting and sharing important information and action. And leadership building, a good example is the leadership to establish future readings and take part in disability movement and will be leading our Indigenous OPDs, say in the global South.

And now in certain phase of young leaders -- started in January 2022. And also about another point -- about meaningful engagement. Here we're talking about full engagement, it's what ADD is doing to fully engage the partner of OPDs to take part in the work they are doing. So, what could the other organisations learn from the inclusive partnership I have with ADD. Oh, yeah, supporting the

lasting phase, and so they put the phase, and minority groups those facing challenges and... at first, and have space to advocate for their own issues. And fighting spirit of activism, among OPDs to verdict for inclusive society, that does not leave anyone behind. Number 2. People with disability know their issues. Yes, so this is call to all partners, who are a part of supporting disability inclusion, that they must support people with disability in the centre of decision making what deciding for them, and look into the areas, and where are they still facing challenges.

And rather than deciding for them. And availability of role models within the organisation, so role models are good example where OPDs to grow. And you see how fellow individual with disability is working in an organisation, and same time supporting them, and so, advice and direction and technical assistance, and so ADD has the young leader programme, and having young leaders adviceor, having disability, and has been supporting young people with disabilities, in many areas, since one of the programme.

And next. Conclusion. In mainstreaming disability inclusion across the world, shall mean a lot when OPDs are well engage and having full participation, and organisation supporting PWDs, must centre the decision power to PWDs, themselves to realize the area they need to put much effort in exercise their right through the OPDs.

They stand as call to all partners to revise, and review their strategies and oversee the under represented groups to build a mutual linkage with OPDs and work together in reization of disability right, to ensure that: Everything about us is done by us.

Next.

Oh, yes, Thank you very much. You can find some information about me. Details on how we can communicate in the near future. For any inquiries. Thank you very much.

>> **Dom:** Thank you so much Daniel, and that brings us to the end of our panelists interventions. I don't know why I keep being asked to moderate COSP side events, I fail in my duty as moderator every time to ensure we have time for all the questions and answers raise, apologise for that. And do have time to take one question from the Q&A box. So what I would like to ask any panelists that would like to answer this question: If you can share with us, one, just one key skill or capacity which you feel desizively helped you both to

participate more meaningfully, and also support the participation of others. And I'll hand over to Olivia to close the session. Esma I see you have come on video. Would you be able to go first?

>> **ESMA:** Yes, sure. I think it's just like, the belief that you by your actions, just can change things. And it has value. I think belief in this, and strong motivation is important, and that's what keeps, you know, keeps you there asking for help and self advocate and all that. And of course, English language skills, I would say. Knowing languages that are widely spoken around the world is an important part.

>> **Dom:** Thanks, Esma. Great answer to kick us off with. Any other panelists to share your views on that question? Rose?

>> **Rose:** Thank you so much moderator. I got a question, how we can engage other organisations, to include persons with psycho social disability. I think not only the organisation but, even in our community we have still a lot of work to be done in advocating and... on mental illness conditions.

All we can do is to get different support from international NGOs, so that we can sensitize and education on persons with psycho social disability conditions.

We can't do it alone. But we need different support from different international NGOs, and also, to the community as well.

It can be an ambassador. Who understands more about the conditions of mental health conditions can be our ambassador, it's me and you to support by sensitizing, Thank you so much.

>> **Dom:** Thank you so much. Makes my job as moderator much easier to panelists decide what question to answer, very appreciative of that. Any others for final comment, question about particular capacity that has been useful for you. Sanu over to you.

>> I think working with under represented groups, it's very important that there is OPDs as well, and OPDs of under represented group have that collaboration and synergy and very or not important to have the support and communication, and have the needs taken into consideration.

>> **Dom:** Excellent point, Sanu and Daniel see your hand is raised.

>> **Daniel:** Yeah, I want to answer the question on... leadership skills ADD has establishing platform for women and girls in Tanzania and through this, girls are getting some time to discuss their own matters through their own platforms, and ADD has been providing the platforms, resource, equipment on how they do the work, and sometimes in order to support them in doing work... they like to do. Also, capacity building. Women with disabilities in Tanzani.

Let's say having fear this in how they compare other leadership positions, and OPD has viewed leadership skills, so they can be confident, and compare for some leadership positions in OPDs in other areas.

And so that's all I can say about that. Thank you very much.

>> **Dom:** Thank you so much Daniel, and lastly see Kit and Simon have our hands up from chosen power, please go ahead.

>> Hi... so personally with intellectual disabilities very difficult for us to take time to acquire skills for our capability and capacity is very different from one another. And yet, for every presence, our presence in every occasion. It signifies our presence and also we share, or we tell everyone what our needs are, and it can enable us, or help us to have meaningful engagement and participation.

>> And our presence in different activities and events actually can empower or widen our perspective, just like tonight's events. That is our sharing.

[Laughter] Simon has gone, because he needs to wake up early for work.

>> **Dom:** We very much appreciate you joining us so late in the day, Thank you Kit for sharing that experience right at the end of the day, hope you sleep well.

>> Thank you!

[Laughter]

>> **Dom:** Great and finally my pleasure to introduce Olivia ah-Noah, disability inclusion at the UK commonwealth development office. Which is a leading partner for many organizations looking to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development, Olivia pleased over to you and my apologies for coming to you so late. No worries, and thanks for the panelest as well. I know we are short on time, and Thank you for sticking wuss, just want closing remarks to highlight the partners, and others

making sure reaching those with disabilities particularly those under represented groups.

As you probably probably know. FCDO, focusing on implementation and disability inclusion right strategy, publish last year, and part of this, emphasize continued leave no one behind agenda. And reprioritise furthest behind and most colluded and commit to continue prioritise the inclusion of marginalized and under represented groups in all the work on disability inclusion, this includes people with intellectual disability and families historically excluded from the vast majority of mainstream and disability intervention. As part of our strategy we also provide continued support to the formation and function of representative organisation and actively seek to include those led by marginalized and under represented groups in the development of policy and programmes and also committed to work to involve full and diverse range of people with disability and go beyond disability specific consultative bodies and mechanism to include those historically under represented in the disability movement. Our UK aid funded disability inclusive development, DID for short we call it. In the FCDO, really great a space for IDC members and partners to collaborate on disability inclusive developing, programming and development of dissemination of research, and what works and doesn't work, and capitalize on the opportunities to influence the aim of the CRPD commitments.... The did program committed to ensuring OPDs are meaningfully engaged in its projects, and throughout the project cycle. In everyday project, international burped role in project design, and governance implementation, and learning and dissemination. Meaningful engagement is key. For example, as part of the programme, OPDs consortium partners, priorities and cocreative proequity ges and meaningful representation of OPDs project governance, and OPD participation resource, in two way capacity building, and supported OPD advocacy and national and local government, for example, in Nepal projects enhancing inclusive sexual and reproductive health rights and opportunities for young people with disability address various barrier and is challenges experienced by youth with disabilities and OPDs work along side project staff on the gaps and capacity and knowledge of SRH, and young people

with disabilities and OPD actively involved in project assessment design and implementation, and monitoring, and critical link between the project, and local authority services and young people with disabilities, including women and girls with disability as well. Another example from Nepal, is inclusive education systems and support for early childhood development projects. This is promoted access and quality basic education for children with disabilities. In and out of school. And project team, consulted with OPDs for local municipality to drop new framework for inclusive education, and local government and authorities and family how to enhance learning experience for children with disabilities. More broadly the programme focused on the engagement of groups of persons with disabilities for under represented in the disability right movement, this includes girls and women with disabilities and psycho social disability and intellectual disability and Deaf blind persons autistic persons as well as Indigenous persons and refugees. Most projects include path ways include under represented groups, and intervention strategies, for example, as we heard earlier, the are partnership with national Deaf federation in Nepal, cuts across several projects in the pool on sexual and reproductive health, and inclusive education. This strategic partnership really demonstrates the program's commitment to resourcing OPD participation. So as you can see really positive examples and we want to make sure utilize global diplomatic foot fingerprint to do more on this. The disability inclusion team, recently published internal document how staff can better engage organisations with of persons with disability this includes principles of meaningful engagement and policy, programme development, and also more practical advice on hosting accessible meetings, it all, it also highlights the importance of international intersectional perspective and specifics for under representative groups. So thank you very much for inviting me to close the session today, I think whilst there's a lot of good work going on on reaching out representative groups. There's still a lot for more for us to do, and my colleagues and I, look forward to continuing work closely with our partners and ensure bring perspective of those with disability in our work, and reach those most under represented groups as well.

Thank you very much for that and hand back to you Dom.
>> Thanks very much Olivia and remains for me slightly over time my apologise to say Thank you to the panelist and is Jose opening and Olivia for closing for us, I know this is the beginning of us, a conversation that will continue for a long time, but not right now. So with that, I will say good bye to you all, and good rest of the day those of us joining from further east, I hope you do sleep well, particularly Simon, and all wish colleagues that weren't able to attend, get well soon, and Thank you very much all of you and enjoy the rest of COSP16. Bye for now.
[Recording stopped]