

Annual Report 2025



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Foreword

Message from our Chair, Mary Keogh



“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”
– African proverb.

2025 was a year of challenges, global shifts in development funding, push back on inclusion, and a world that has become increasingly fractured. Many members of IDDC and partners of our members were affected firsthand by the cuts in development assistance. These challenges have continued in 2026 and will do so for the foreseeable future. As a network, IDDC believes in the need to continue to advocate to hold the line while also reflecting on the new realities many members find themselves in.

We also had positives in 2025 which are important to celebrate. Whether it was the rallying call at the Global Disability Summit in Berlin, where many IDDC members attended and we made our commitments to ensure a more equitable world, to launching new workstreams, or simply supporting each other through the ups and downs, every member of our consortium played a vital role.

This report is more than a record of activities, it's a celebration of our collective energy, creativity, and resilience as a network. From championing inclusive education and health, to pushing for inclusive climate action and safeguarding, we've shown that when we work together, we can get things done.

Our partnerships, especially with the International Disability Alliance, have grown stronger with a newly signed Memorandum of Understanding and our membership of the Global Action on Disability Network steering committee and other networks have given us the opportunity to work with a wider network of allies. Working collaboratively with governments, development partners and other civil society networks is how we build lasting change.

As we move closer to 2030, let's keep holding the line on human rights and disability inclusion. Let's keep sharing, learning, and supporting each other because that's what makes IDDC a great network. Thank you to our members for their dedication, their energy, and their belief in a world where no one is left behind.

Here's to another year of progress, solidarity, and good collaboration.

Warm wishes,

Mary Keogh

Mary Keogh
Chair, IDDC

IDDC in numbers

36 

members working
with partners in over
150 countries

3 

publications

18 

policy
statements

17 

major events

6 

consultation processes

1 

call to action
ongoing

6 

commitments

11 

learning and
sharing sessions

10 

dedicated task groups

1 

new workstream

2 

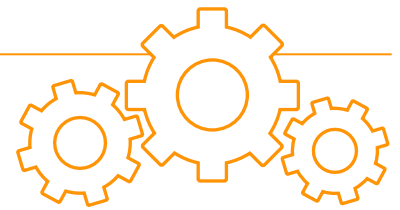
new members

1 

renewed MoU

- **36 members** operating in over 150 countries globally, demonstrating the breadth and reach of our network in advocating for disability inclusion.
- **3 new members** joined the Consortium in 2025, Keystone Human Services International, TAF Africa Foundation and individual member Ingrid Lewis, while we said goodbye to Until No Leprosy Remains and FHI 360.
- **A new workstream** focusing on gender-related issues expanding further the network's expertise.
- A renewed **Memorandum of Understanding** with our long-lasting partner, the International Disability Alliance.
- **3 publications** contributing to the body of knowledge on disability and development.
- Circulation of **18 policy statements** and briefings and contribution to six consultation processes, reflecting our active engagement in shaping policies for disability inclusion.
- Organisation of and/or participation in **17 major events** and 11 learning sessions for members, facilitating dialogue, learning, and advocacy on disability inclusion.
- Engagement in a **call for action**, on the participation of children with disabilities around the Global Disability Summit.
- Becoming a member of the **WHO Disability Health Equity Network** to reaffirm our commitment to inclusive health.
- Co-chairing of **3 Global Actions** on Disability Network working groups: Disability-Inclusive Climate Action, Inclusive Education, and Inclusive Health, underlining our leadership in these critical areas.
- **6 commitments** made at the 2025 Global Disability Summit, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to tangible actions for change.

Our task groups



IDDC comprises several task groups, each dedicated to a specific area of disability inclusion within international development and humanitarian action. These groups work collaboratively towards the realisation of a world where no person with disabilities is left behind, in alignment with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Who Are the Task Groups?

Child Rights Task Group

Purpose: To advance the inclusion of children with disabilities in policies and programmes and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

Objectives:

- Advocate for the inclusion of children with disabilities in development efforts, and prioritisation of the rights of children with disabilities in key global initiatives, both within development and in humanitarian.
- Work with people with disabilities and Organisations of People with Disabilities to support the inclusion of children with disabilities and parents' groups.
- Promote the collection of accurate data by Governments on children with disabilities.

Community-Based Inclusive Development Task Group

Purpose: To promote a bottom-up approach for realising the UNCPRD and the inclusive development agenda, ensuring community inclusion of persons with disabilities through sustainable support systems.

Objectives:

- Lead initiatives like the Community2030 to foster collaboration among key stakeholders in disability inclusion.
- Highlight promising practices that contribute to achieving community support which are gender transformative, age sensitive, and disability inclusive.

Climate Action Task Group

Purpose: To advocate for disability-inclusive climate action, bringing together members active in or interested in climate issues to influence policy and share best practices for mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Objectives:

- Share knowledge and experiences about climate crisis impact and inclusive climate action.
- Advocate for inclusive climate action, coordinating with global disability and climate action networks.
- Influence those involved in the wider climate action discussion and response to recognise the need for the full participation, engagement and representation of the disability movement in climate policies, practices and action.

European Union Task Group

Purpose: To advocate for the systematic application of the European Union's commitments regarding disability rights in its external action, influencing policies and legislative proposals to ensure they are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Objectives:

- Monitor and influence the European Union's implementation of the CRPD, particularly in its external actions.
- Collaborate with the European Disability Forum to strengthen disability rights and inclusion within European Union policies and programs.

Our task groups

Inclusive Education Task Group

Purpose: To accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 by promoting inclusive and equitable quality education for all, especially learners with disabilities.

Objectives:

- Influence global education debates, policies, strategies, and financing for disability-inclusive education.
- Share knowledge and best practices, encouraging collaboration and providing technical advice to stakeholders to promote disability inclusive education.

Inclusive Health Task Group

Purpose: To advocate for disability mainstreaming in health systems towards achieving universal health coverage and health equity for persons with disabilities.

Objectives:

- Formalise partnerships with global health organisations like the World Health Organization to advance disability inclusion in healthcare.
- Provide technical inputs and support to inclusive health programmes, promoting health equity for persons with disabilities.

Inclusive Safeguarding Task Group

Purpose: To promote disability-inclusive safeguarding policies, procedures, and programmes, ensuring the protection of children and adults with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and harm.

Objectives:

- Engage with influential actors and build capacity in the sector on inclusive safeguarding practices.
- Share learnings, tools, and best practices to encourage inclusive safeguarding within IDDC and more widely.

Livelihoods Task Group

Purpose: To exchange knowledge on livelihood programming and influence policy where possible, with a focus on in-country programming experiences.

Objectives:

- Facilitate knowledge exchange sessions on financial inclusion and employment for persons with disabilities.
- Contribute resources and representation to inclusive employment initiatives within the working group of the Global Action on Disability Network.

OPD Partnership Task Group

Purpose: To foster dialogue about the meaningful engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in international cooperation work.

Objectives:

- Create opportunities for exchange and sharing of resources about the meaningful engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.
- Advocate for improved engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in international cooperation within and beyond IDDC.

United Nations Task Group

Purpose: To influence United Nations international development and humanitarian policies and processes to be more inclusive of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

Objectives:

- Coordinate with United Nations and civil society partners to influence relevant processes and policies for disability inclusion.
- Engage in key United Nations events and processes to advocate for the inclusion of disability rights in international development and humanitarian action.

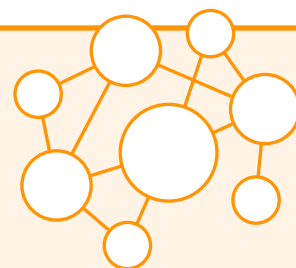
2025 introduced a new workstream on gender

During the course of 2025, IDDC members also developed a new workstream promoting the rights of women, girls and gender diverse persons with disabilities, in all their diversity, in an international context by bringing a range of perspectives from members' different organisational and geographic spread.

Objectives:

1. Advocate for the inclusion of women, girls and gender diverse persons with disabilities in international development, humanitarian and human rights frameworks that shape disability and gender policy.
2. Enhance the capacity of IDDC members to integrate gender and disability considerations into their work with an intersectional lens, through exchanging learnings and best practices.

Global Action on Disability Network: a multilateral approach to disability inclusion



In 2025, the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network continued to embody the spirit of collaboration and shared ambition that lies at the heart of achieving truly inclusive international development and humanitarian action.

As a coordination body of bilateral and multilateral donors, agencies, public and private foundations, and key coalitions from the disability movement, the GLAD Network's ethos is to ensure that the promise of leaving no one behind is not just an aspirational goal but a practical reality in global development initiatives.

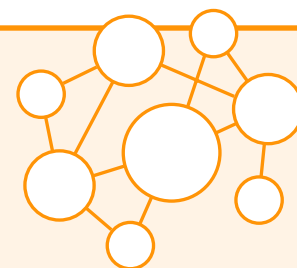
This year, with the International Disability Alliance, the United Kingdom's government and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office as co-chairs, the network has grown to encompass 51 members and 3 advisors creating a unit platform for exchange, advocacy and collective action.

The IDDC's role in the Steering Committee but also in co-chairing two of GLAD's Working Groups – the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Working Group and the Inclusive Health Working Group – and participating actively in the Working Groups on Inclusive Education and Financing for Development underscores our commitment to steering the conversation and actions towards more inclusive practices across these critical areas of development.



Fred bravely underwent surgery 15 years ago to correct his cleft lip and palate with support from CBM. Now 22 years old, Fred's quality of life has dramatically improved

The Conference of State Parties



The Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP) is a pivotal mechanism within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

This annual conference serves as a forum for State Parties to the Convention to discuss and exchange experiences and strategies for implementing the CRPD's provisions. The COSP aims to enhance the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities across the globe, by promoting full and equal participation in society. It facilitates collaborative efforts among member states, civil society organisations, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, and disability rights advocates to monitor, promote and ensure the comprehensive realisation of the Convention's goals. The conference is crucial for reviewing progress, setting future priorities and fostering international cooperation to address challenges in the protection of disability rights. Through its decisions, election of CRPD committee members and action plans, the COSP contributes significantly to advancing the inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities worldwide.

At COSP18, IDDC highlighted the need for States to uphold their binding obligations under the CRPD and ensure disability inclusion remains central to global development efforts, including the Sustainable Development Goals and other international frameworks. IDDC stressed the critical role of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in shaping policies, especially amid shrinking civic space, and called for stronger foundations for inclusion through sustainable financing, better disability data, including citizen-generated data, and inclusive approaches to emerging issues such as artificial intelligence. IDDC also underscored the importance of addressing intersectional discrimination and ensuring persons with disabilities are meaningfully included in upcoming global processes, including the World Summit for Social Development. More information can be found on the [IDDC's website](#).



13 IDDC members were present at the 18th session of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Global Disability Summit 2025

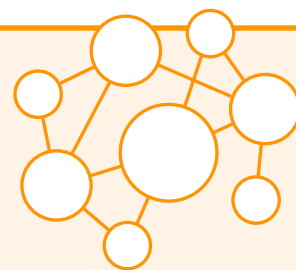
Launched in 2017, the Global Disability Summit gathers global actors to advance inclusive development action.

It is co-hosted by one or more governments and the International Disability Alliance as the permanent co-host. This collaborative approach includes both government representatives and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, ensuring that disability inclusion remains a central focus.

Co-hosted in 2025 by Germany, Jordan, and the International Disability Alliance, the third Summit was held from 2 to 3 April 2025 in Berlin. It brought together over 4,700 participants from 160+ countries in Berlin.

With a strong focus on national ownership and inclusive international cooperation, the Global Disability Summit 2025 concluded with the adoption of the Amman-Berlin Declaration and 800 new commitments by Governments, private sector and development partners to accelerate disability inclusion across sectors.

More information on IDDC's engagement in the Global Disability Summit can be found on pages 16 and 17.

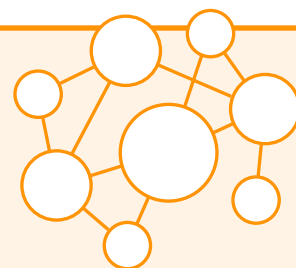


Moderators and Speakers at the Opening Ceremony of the Civil Society Forum on the eve of the Global Disability Summit. From left to right: Charlotte Young (Youth Ambassador – International Disability Alliance), Nawaf Kabbara (Chair and President, International Disability Alliance), Muhannad Alazzeah (Secretary General, Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Jordan), Hans-Peter Baur (Deputy Director-General BMZ), Mary Keogh (Chair, IDDC) and Janet Charchuk (Ambassador, Down Syndrome International)

GLOBAL
DISABILITY
SUMMIT



Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development



The International Conferences on Financing for Development builds on a long history of discussions on financing for development at the United Nations that started more than two decades ago in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002.

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development aspired to build a renewed global financing framework to deliver an investment push on the Sustainable Development Goals and to reform the international financial architecture to enable the transformative change that the world urgently needs.

The Conference took place in Sevilla, Spain, from 30 June to 3 July 2025, and concluded with 130 initiatives turning the Sevilla Commitment into action through concrete steps to boost investment in sustainable development, address the debt crisis afflicting

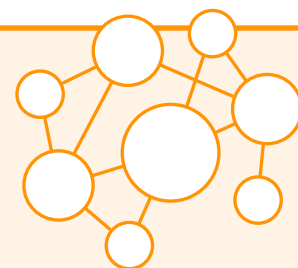
many of the world's poorest countries, and give developing countries a stronger voice in the international financing architecture.

IDDC had the opportunity to coorganise and speak at one of the side events 'Financing for Disability-Inclusive Development: From underinvestment to social justice and growth' calling for a full democratisation of financial processes that ensures that people with disabilities are at the heart of establishing just, fair and fully inclusive global financial mechanisms.

Members of an inclusive beekeeping co-operative in Rwanda, made up of VSLA (Village Saving and Loan Association) members and young people



UN Climate Change Conferences



UN Climate Change Conferences (or Conference Of the Parties – COP) take place every year, and are the world’s only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change. In 2025, COP30 took place in Belém, Brazil.

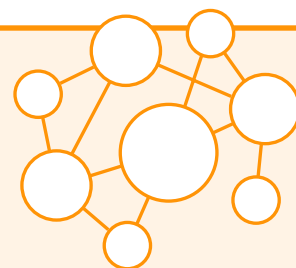
COPs bring together world leaders and negotiators from the member states (or Parties) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to further global progress, with business leaders, young people, climate scientists, Indigenous Peoples, and civil society sharing insights and best practices to strengthen global, collective and inclusive climate action. In November 2024, IDDC officially received observer status with the UNFCCC.

Non-governmental organisations admitted by COP as UNFCCC observers have formed themselves into loose groups with diverse but broadly clustered interests or perspectives called “constituencies”. There are currently nine recognised constituencies each with their own focal points facilitating the exchange of information between the secretariat and the 3,000+ admitted observer non-governmental organisations. IDDC and its partners advocated for the creation of a disability constituency that would give persons with disabilities equal opportunities to participate and inform climate debates and policies.

“Gender-Just and Disability Inclusive Climate Action”. The panel is made of eight people, all smiling and signing the word “inclusion”



World Summit for Social Development

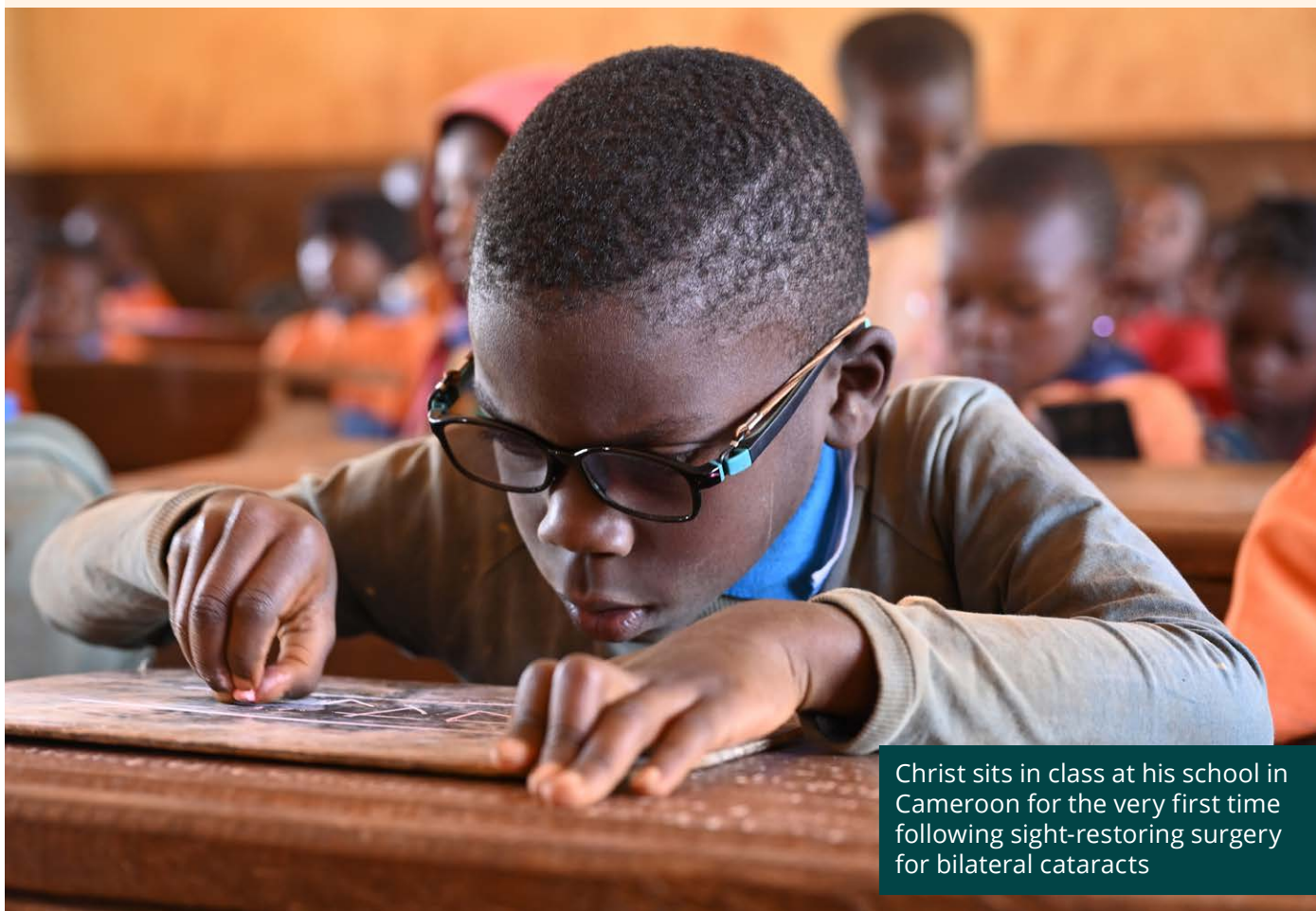


Thirty years after the landmark 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, the global community gathered in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 November 2025, for the Second World Summit for Social Development.

In a world facing growing inequalities, demographic shifts, and rapid technological transformation, the need for a renewed commitment to social progress has never been more urgent.

Building on the 10 Commitments of the 1995 Summit and the Copenhagen Declaration, the Second Summit aimed at accelerating action on poverty eradication, the promotion of

full employment and decent work, and social inclusion, ensuring that no one is left behind in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. It aimed to address persistent gaps, reaffirm global commitment to social development, and give new momentum to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Christ sits in class at his school in Cameroon for the very first time following sight-restoring surgery for bilateral cataracts

Because we fight – we hold the line

2025 has been a year of seismic shifts by governments on their commitments to international development and humanitarian assistance.

The cuts in Official Development Assistance across many members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the rise of anti-diversity and exclusionary narratives, and a shrinking civil society space has put significant strain on the partnerships that work together under international development and humanitarian frameworks.

The climate crisis, increasing conflicts, increasing debt and macroeconomic challenges place many governments at risk for not meeting their targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Now more than ever, there is a need for collective action to ensure the SDGs are put back on track as we get closer to 2030.

Ahead of the Global Disability Summit and other key global events in 2025, such as the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit for Social

Development, the International Disability and Development Consortium shifted the initial programme of its General Assembly held in March 2025 to address the drastic changes that threaten sending disability rights back decades.

From taking to the streets in Berlin to reaffirm our unfading support to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion to dedicating our General Assembly workshop to Funding and budgeting for disability inclusion in international cooperation, the network mobilised to ensure that obligations from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are adhered to.

The report 'United We Stand – Funding and budgeting for disability inclusion in international cooperation' can be found on the [IDDC's website](#).



Participants at the IDDC General Assembly 2025 gathered in front of the Volksbühne in Berlin (Germany) wearing white t-shirts with inscriptions on them, including “Hold the Line”

Because we fight – we hold the line

IDDC released a statement visible on the [IDDC's website](#) calling on governments to take decisive action on disability-inclusive international cooperation. IDDC also issued a call to action to the 90+ governments and agencies who have signed up to the Amman-Berlin Declaration to:

- Ensure inclusive funding is available.
- Uphold Article 32 of the CRPD and its obligation for all aid to be inclusive and accessible.
- Guarantee effective engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.
- Facilitate meaningful participation of children and youth.
- Have a strong national level focus.
- Genuinely recognise intersectionality.
- Strengthen the focus on humanitarian assistance and climate change.
- Establish a clear accountability mechanism inclusive of Civil Society Organisations and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.
- Strengthen the collection, use, and dissemination of data on persons with disabilities.

The call can be found on the [IDDC's website](#).

IDDC maintained its engagement around Financing for Disability Inclusive Development well beyond the Global Disability Summit. The topic was core to our advocacy efforts, especially at the 18th session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and at the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development.



Highlight:

Mobilising IDDC for the Global Disability Summit 2025



With the third Global Disability Summit taking place on 2 and 3 April 2025, IDDC and its members continued mobilising in early 2025 to support our partner, the International Disability Alliance, in organising the event co-hosted together with the Government of Germany, and the Government of Jordan.

As a member of the Civil Society Reference Group, IDDC contributed to the organisation of the Civil Society Forum that took place on the eve of the Global Disability Summit 2025. The Civil Society Forum is organised to give space to the disability community to unify their voice, share experience and create partnerships ahead of the Summit.

IDDC co-organised the thematic session “Funding and Budgeting for Disability” with the International Disability Alliance while the Child Rights task group supported the planning of the thematic session “Youth and Children with Disabilities”. Various IDDC Board members and task group coordinators participated as speakers and/or moderators in the different sessions of the Civil Society Forum.

At the Summit itself, IDDC Chair participated in the plenary session “Unlocking Maximum Available Resources: Inclusive and Innovative Financing to Advance Disability Rights” that explored the power imbalances that need to be addressed to fully realise the potential of disability-inclusive financing and development.

Coordination across the network and with our partners unfolded at all levels to advocate for concrete and robust commitments.

The European Union task group met with the disability focal points of the European Commission’s Directorate Generals for International Partnerships (INTPA), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the European Commission official who is also an elected member of the CRPD Committee to discuss the Global Disability Summit (GDS) commitments of the European Union and endorsement of the Amman-Berlin Declaration.

The inclusive health task group produced and widely disseminated the joint advocacy briefing ‘making health equity for persons with disabilities a priority’ in advance of the summit with the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network and the International Disability Alliance. The briefing, which can be found on the [IDDC’s website](#), received support from 27 organisations and helped secure over 70 commitments on health at GDS from governments, donors, non-governmental organisations and other sectors.

(Continues over)

Since the close of the Summit, the task groups on child rights, inclusive health and the gender workstream analysed the commitments made in their respective thematic areas. In October, the inclusive education task group together with the International Disability Alliance and the GLAD Working Group on Inclusive Education hosted a webinar on GDS education commitments to ensure their implementation.

IDDC also supported the making of the Global Disability Inclusion Report: Accelerating Disability Inclusion in a Changing and Diverse World that was developed specifically for the Global Disability Summit 2025. The report is the result of a collaborative effort of several UN agencies, the International Disability Alliance, IDDC and our members, and academia.

It has been funded mostly by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), with co-funding from the London Stock Exchange Group and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

It provides an overview of how the profound changes shaping our world impact the diversity of persons with disabilities and pathways to address these changes and drive inclusion across all aspects of life.

IDDC Delegates and EU Representatives at the Global Disability Summit 2025



Global Disability Summit: IDDC's commitments and progress

Walking the talk: IDDC did not limit itself to advocate for concrete and robust commitments from governments and multilateral organisations, we used the Global Disability Summit 2025 as an opportunity to revise our own pledges made at the 2022 Global Disability Summit and submitted six new commitments, including two joint commitments.

Commitment “Donor rules and regulations”

In an age of growing rhetoric towards localisation in a donor world increasingly dominated by large donor funds, we commit to the following:

- Advocating for donor rules and regulations to include time and financial resources needed to allow for meaningful participation of people with and without disabilities who are most marginalised in prioritisation and project planning processes and preserving this meaningful engagement across the project cycle.
- Advocating for donor rules and regulations which enable Organisations of People with Disabilities in low and middle income countries to access core funding.
- Advocating for greater flexibility in donor rules and regulations that thwart quick response in emergency situations, for example by pushing for all donor fund mechanisms to allow for project planning using crisis modifiers.

Advocacy efforts will be supported by the generation of new data: we commit to contributing to mapping existing practices among donors and documenting good practice case studies from development practice by 2027.

Outcomes and recommendations will be widely disseminated in campaigns, side-events and any relevant fora. By 2030, a follow-up report will be designed to measure the evolution in donor rules and regulations.

Commitment “OECD DAC disability marker”

By the end of 2030, on the marker of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), IDDC commits to advocating:

- For DAC members not using the marker to adopt the marker, and for those using the marker to work to improve the quality of their reporting and set targets for the percentage of their Official Development Assistance which is marked as inclusive;
- For the OECD to introduce a purpose code that would track funding going to organisations representing persons with disabilities (in line with the purpose code to the gender marker).

In 2025, IDDC engaged with consultations with the OECD on an update of the guidance document for the Disability DAC Marker and the introduction of new minimum criteria to help strengthen reporting under the marker.

Global Disability Summit: IDDC's commitments and progress

Commitment “Universal Health Coverage and Inclusive Health”

Until the next Global Disability Summit 2028, the IDDC Inclusive Health Task Group commits to deepen our engagement with governments and other health stakeholders and to step up our partnership with organisations of persons with disabilities to make disability inclusion a priority within Universal Health Coverage, in all health system strengthening efforts, and across the continuum of care. We will:

- Work with the World Health Organization and IDDC members to contribute to establishing a strong and effective global platform on health equity for persons with disabilities to support collective and coordinated action towards disability inclusive health, with the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations at its centre.
- Work with IDDC member organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities and mainstream health stakeholders to create new opportunities for persons with disabilities and their representative organisations to participate meaningfully in at least two mainstream health policy processes or events at global level and at national level in at least four countries.

In 2025, IDDC, through its inclusive health task group, supported the development and launch of the new WHO disability health equity initiative and became a member of the network in October, joining governments, donors, academics, NGOs, and OPDs. IDDC promoted disability inclusive health at key global events, including the World Health Assembly and the World Health Summit, collaborating with 18 health partners to co-host side events at both and supporting the participation of persons with disabilities at the World Health Summit. IDDC continued supporting connections and developing opportunities on national level progress with the “Health equity for persons with disabilities: guide for action”, a WHO tool designed to help health ministries integrate disability inclusion into health systems. In particular, Sightsavers and Humanity & Inclusion continued to work on the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in Guide for Action processes in Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Kenya, sharing learning and opportunities with the members of the IDDC inclusive health task group.

Global Disability Summit: IDDC's commitments and progress

Commitment “Meaningful participation of young people and children with disabilities”

To advocate to increase meaningful participation of young people and children with disabilities in decisions that affect them, through to the 2028 GDS we will:

- Advocate for the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in three or more global events.
- Conduct three or more activities to listen to and share the views of children and youth with disabilities on matters related to the CRPD and SDGs.
- Develop three or more learning documents or events to share resources and positive practices in participation of children with disabilities.

In 2025, IDDC through the child rights task group advocated for the inclusion of children with disabilities at the 2025 Global Disability Summit, including through a call to action and a presentation at the Civil Society Forum. We also developed a learning document on child participation around the Global Disability Summit.

Joint commitment “Participation of children and youth with disabilities”

Together with Able Child, Liliane Foundation and SPOON, we commit to increase meaningful participation of young people and children with disabilities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies by:

1. Advocating with youth and children on meaningful participation in decision-making spaces; and
2. Advocating with youth and children on the prioritisation of the rights of children with disabilities in the implementation of the CRPD and Sustainable Development Goals.

Joint commitment “A Partnership to Champion Progress in Disability Inclusive Education”

Together with the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Norway, UNICEF, Education Cannot Wait, the Global Education Monitoring Report, the Global Partnership for Education and the International Disability Alliance, we reaffirm our commitment to championing disability-inclusive education to drive progress and accountability.

At a time when gains in inclusive education are at risk of reversal, we remain steadfast in our leadership and collective action to ensure children with disabilities are not left behind. We will continue to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and use our collective influence to protect and expand progress and ensure inclusive education remains a priority.

Now more than ever, we must act with urgency to keep disability-inclusive education at the forefront of the global agenda – because every child deserves the right to learn and thrive.

Our strategic priorities and task group highlights

Students at an inclusive school in Ethiopia



Our strategic framework

Adopted in 2023, the IDDC Strategic Framework 2023+ identifies three priorities to guide our work.

- 1 The first priority recognises the importance of the Agenda 2030 and any future framework as an important vehicle for global development.



- 2 The second priority speaks to where we feel we can positively impact disability rights at national, global and international levels.



- 3 The third priority sets us on a track to unpack our relationship with the broader disability rights movement and how IDDC can fully embrace the call for 'nothing about us without us'.



- ✓ Underpinning all these priorities is a commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and General Comment 7.



Priority 1

Support disability inclusiveness in the sustainable development goals



The climate action task group

- Attended the United Nations June Climate Talks (SB62) held in Bonn and co-hosted a side-event on “Gender Just and Disability-Inclusive Climate Action” exploring how data and accessible finance interlink to enable a truly intersectional approach that provides innovative climate solutions for all. The recording and report can be found on the [IDDC’s website](#).
- Attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) and organised together with the European Disability Forum, Disability Rights Fund and HelpAge International a side-event on “Solidarity and Collaboration that empowers Gender, Age and Disability Inclusive Climate Action”.
- Endorsed the COP30 briefing paper by the Disability Caucus highlighting five priority areas where disability inclusion should be embedded in climate policy negotiations, implementation and monitoring. The briefing can be found on the [IDDC’s website](#).
- Continued advocating for establishing a disability constituency within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Contributed to the Gender Action Plan workshop including a submission for SB62 to the UNFCCC for Disability Inclusion.

The inclusive education task group

- Continued working to influence global education debates and maintain inclusive education on the agenda.
- Continued co-chairing the GLAD Working Group on Inclusive Education (IEWG) alongside UNICEF and GPE to seek joint opportunities to advance inclusive education.
- Provided input to UNESCO on the concept note for the 2026 GEM Report Countdown to 2030: Access and Equity to make the case for inclusion to be appropriately mainstreamed across different parts of the report.
- Engaged with Human Rights Watch on the joint campaign on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on free pre-primary and secondary education. Given the importance of the early years for child development, especially for identification and support for children with disabilities, work started to develop a set of messages on disability inclusion and early childhood and secondary education.

Support disability inclusiveness in the sustainable development goals

The United Nations task group

- Coordinated with the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to provide feedback from a civil society and development perspective.
- Influenced relevant United Nations processes in New York and Geneva as they relate to IDDC's strategic objectives.
- Presented an IDDC statement at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Participated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Committee meetings and influenced Member States and Committee Members where relevant.
- Coordinated with IDDC members to prepare for the 18th session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the civil society forum to influence Member States.
- Delivered a statement at the 18th session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that can be found on the [IDDC's website](#).
- Influenced background papers, presenters, and themes of the 18th session of the Conference of States Parties.
- Coordinated IDDC members' engagement at the World Summit for Social Development.
- Co-organised the side-event "Financing for Disability-Inclusive Development: From underinvestment to social justice and growth" at the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development.

Fredrick Ouko, Vice-Chair, representing IDDC at a COSP18 side-event



Priority 2

Influence the implementation of disability rights at various levels



The climate action task group

- Published with BOND the report “Unequal climate justice for people with disabilities. Insights and evidence from communities and civil society organisations”. Read the report on the [IDDC's website](#).
- Participated in the [Wilton Park event](#) “Achieving scale and sustainability: an action plan for implementing Locally Led Adaptation”.

The European Union task group

- Contributed to the second CRPD review of the European Union by participating in exchanges with the CRPD Committee ahead of the dialogue with the EU institutions, attending the dialogue between the CRPD Committee and the European Union (EU) institutions in Geneva, and submitting, together with the European Disability Forum (EDF), [joint input](#) focusing on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the European Union external action beyond Europe. The Concluding Observations from the EU's CRPD review were published on 31 March 2025 and can be found on the [OHCHR's website](#). The CRPD Committee has substantially integrated IDDC-EDF recommendations, especially about the participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, intersectionality, data disaggregation, disability-inclusive funding and the international cooperation frameworks.

- Provided input in the European Commission's consultation on the chapter regarding Global Europe as part of the discussion of the future EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework and pointed that current funding does not adequately support human rights, inclusion, or tackling inequalities and that despite EU obligations under the CRPD, disability inclusion remains underfunded in EU external action.
- Supported the European Parliament's Development Committee for its exchange of views on 'Global Partnerships for inclusive employment and ending segregation of persons with disabilities' as part of the 2025 Disability Rights Week. The recording of the session can be found on the [European Parliament's website](#).

The inclusive education task group

- Hosted together with IDA and the GLAD IEWG a webinar on GDS education commitments and how to maintain the pressure to ensure their implementation. The webinar had almost 100 attendees and brought together the Head of the Girls Education Department from the UK Government, as well as representatives from UNESCO, UNICEF and Education Cannot Wait to share their key commitments to inclusive education and how they would take them forward.

Influence the implementation of disability rights at various levels

The inclusive health task group

- Continued to co-chair the GLAD Inclusive Health Working Group together with the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The focus of 2025 was updating the members on a regular basis on ongoing processes, reports and guidance (e.g. The WHO Disability Health Equity Network, Lancet Commission on Disability and Health, Washington Group question set development, reports on health equity for persons with intellectual disabilities, etc.) and our joint advocacy and call to action towards more health commitments at the Global Disability Summit.
- Attended the 78th World Health Assembly and co-hosted a side event on integrated primary health care with the Infectious Disease Alliance, Sightsavers, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), Amref Health Africa, PATH, International Youth Health Organization, WaterAid, International Hepatitis Alliance, PMNCH, UNICEF, NCD Alliance, Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization, to raise awareness of disability health equity among mainstream health actors.
- Helped secure strong references to disability inclusion in the final political declaration of the fourth high level meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and mental health and psychosocial wellbeing through influencing activities. These included developing and widely disseminating an [IDDC briefing](#) on 'Prioritising health equity and rights for persons with disabilities in NCD and mental health policies and services' available on the [IDDC's website](#), meetings and advocacy engagements, influencing the drafting process of the political declaration and developing a joint statement with the International Disability Alliance for the High-Level Meeting itself, which secured over 20 signatures. The joint statement can be found on the [IDDC's website](#).
- Continued engaging in the World Rehabilitation Alliance.

Cross task group activities

- **Community-based inclusive development and child rights groups:** Provided a response to the OHCHR call for input on Care and support for children with disabilities within the family environment and its gendered dimensions.
- **Child rights task group and the gender workstream:** Submitted inputs to the CRPD Guidelines on multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities. Complete recommendations can be found on the [OHCHR's website](#).



Priority 3

Prioritise meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities



The child rights task group

- Partnered with Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland e.V. to organise a session on children and youth at the Civil Society Forum of the Global Disability Summit 2025.

The European Union task group

- Provided input in the European Commission's consultation on the new EU Civil Society Strategy. Recommendations included the systematic and meaningful involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities – from the European Union and its partner countries – in all EU external action policies and programs, including the Global Gateway, and for all EU funding processes to be accessible to organisations of persons with disabilities, with dedicated funding streams for grassroots civil society organisations and flexible funding mechanisms to reach them in challenging contexts.

The inclusive health task group

- Supported the development and successful launch of the new WHO Disability Health Equity Initiative and Network and joined as a member to shape its future work, including on the engagement and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- Engaged in the World Health Summit, facilitating representation and participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs).

- Co-hosted a successful session on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities at the World Health Summit with Sightsavers, the World Health Organization, Special Olympics, CBM Christian Blind Mission and Humanity & Inclusion and ATscale.
- Collaborated with the World Health Summit to further improve reasonable accommodation for speakers, accessibility of the event and commitments to support the mainstreaming of the topic within the summit further. In follow-up, BMZ Health Development published the article “Beyond the Gap: A Health System for All – Healthy Developments” on the International Day for Person with Disabilities highlighting the importance of Health Equity for Person with Disabilities with an excellent summary of the session, available on the [BMZ's website](#).
- Mapped partner activity at national levels, and advanced conversations on how to take more targeted approaches to joint IDDC partner influencing around the Guidance Note on the Meaningful Engagement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities within the IDDC network in selected countries in 2026, aligning with work of the WHO Disability Health Equity Initiative. The guidance note can be downloaded from the [IDDC's website](#).

Prioritise meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities

The OPD partnership task group

- Developed a survey to collect feedback from various OPDs within the IDDC network (including networks of IDDC member organisations and OPDs that do not directly collaborate with IDDC) to find out which kind of topics the OPDs would be interested to learn more about when it comes to collaboration between OPDs and international non-governmental organisations (iNGOs).
- Launched a series of OPD-led webinars on strengthening the engagement of OPDs in OPD-iNGO collaboration. The first webinar focused on Reshaping Equity in OPD-iNGO collaboration. The event spotlighted the experiences of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Uganda with practical insights and reflections on building equitable partnerships with iNGOs. The dialogue explored key themes including 'equity and power-sharing in collaboration', 'inclusive funding practices and sustainability', 'collaboration models from idea development up to impact' and 'intersectionality and reasonable accommodations'.
- Collected inspiring practices on meaningful engagement of OPDs. Work is ongoing to build a validation process engaging OPDs to screen the proposed good practices from iNGOs by actual OPDs which collaborate with them.



Highlight:

Reaffirming our long-lasting partnership with the International Disability Alliance



In March 2025, at the margins of the Global Disability Summit 2025, IDDC and the International Disability Alliance reaffirmed their long-lasting partnership with the signature of a renewed Memorandum of Understanding.

The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a framework for the collaboration on efforts to optimise both networks joint impact in promoting and monitoring the effective implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. It also looks to future similar frameworks for all persons with disabilities, with a focus on low and middle-income countries and fragile contexts.

Setting out several shared strategic objectives, the Memorandum of Understanding focuses on how a deeper collaboration between both networks can influence relevant international human rights, development and humanitarian action stakeholders, including: the UN system/UN agencies, international finance institutions and regional intergovernmental bodies. It also includes commitments to advance joint capacity development initiatives for persons with disabilities and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities to promote the understanding of human rights and sustainable development frameworks and methods for advocating for their implementation. This includes the sharing of information and material regarding the initiatives.

The foundation of this agreement is the common commitment of the IDDC network and the International Disability Alliance to the rights of people with disabilities and their families and the central role of representative Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities. IDDC members work in over 150 countries and the IDA network in 182 countries.

IDDC ways of working: learning and sharing

Because a network's vitality is not measured solely by the yardstick of joint activities and programming, IDDC also acts as a catalyst for its members to learn and share genuinely from one another about their experiences and to exchange views.

2025 saw the launch of two new exchange and learning spaces for members and their OPD partners: the IDDC LS² (Learning Sharing Session) and the IDDC Brews & News. Throughout the year via these two channels:

- EU-CORD facilitated an exchange on the shift in the European Union approach to international development and how these developments impact our collective work.
- CBM Christian Blind Mission organised a learning session focusing on the Global Disability Inclusion Report with the participation of Alexandre Cote, GDIR coordinator at UNICEF, Jose Viera, Director of the International Disability Alliance and Dr Morgon Banks, Associate Professor in Disability Research.
- Kupenda for the Children and ILEP Federation presented on stigma, dignity, and inclusion in a session that enabled participants to explore root causes of stigma, learn from community-driven approaches, and engage in peer reflection to advance inclusive development.

Task groups also acted as key spaces for a thematic community of practice sessions. NAD presented its experience in CBID networking in Zambia and Zanzibar with the CBID task group members.

The inclusive health task group continued to share learning and support connections on national level progress with the WHO Disability Inclusion Guide for Action process. Sightsavers and Humanity & Inclusion shared learning with the group on activities in Cote d'Ivoire and Tanzania. The United Nations task group held a webinar focusing on the UN80 Initiative that aims at reshaping how the United Nations' system works. The inclusive education task group organised four learning sessions:

- Inclusion International presented a new Self-Assessment Tool for inclusive education standards in humanitarian action.
- External guests from UNESCO presented the key findings of their 2025 GEM report on leadership and implications for inclusive education.
- External guests from Human Rights Watch gave an introduction on the new draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to guarantee free pre-primary and secondary education.
- Light for the World shared about successes and challenges of their Multi-Use Resilience Project in South Sudan, which aims to improve educational access for vulnerable groups, particularly children with disabilities.

About us



IDDC is a global network of civil society organisations gathering around a common vision: a world that leaves no persons with disabilities behind.

For the past 30 years, this vision has driven our action, and our mission is to promote disability-inclusive international development and humanitarian action in lower and middle-income countries.

Composition of the Board

Executive Board

Mary Keogh, Chair
Karen Heinicke-Motsch, Vice Chair
Kimber Bialik, Vice Chair
Fredrick Ouko Alucheli, Vice Chair
Kavita Prasad, Treasurer
Lauren Watters, Secretary
Elie Bagbila
Ulrike Last
Marit Sørheim

Secretariat

Angélique Hardy, Executive Officer
Geneviève Piron, Finance and Administration

IDDC Member Organisations

The full membership in 2025 is shown on the next page.

Partners

International Disability Alliance



As a network, IDDC is fully committed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and applies its principles in our actions.

Membership

The Global Action on Disability Network
The Global Disability Fund
The WHO Disability Health Equity Initiative



Official relations

World Health Organisation
United Nations Economic and Social Council
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Financial Perspectives

In 2025, the network was fully supported by its membership fees and accounts were audited by Boekhoudkantoor Bladrand Comm. V.

IDDC member organisations



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