



# MORE BINDINGNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## Civil Society Expectations for the Global Disability Summit 2025

By hosting the Global Disability Summit in 2025, the German Government intends to send a clear signal for the rights and equal participation of people with disabilities. Co-hosts are Jordan and the International Disability Alliance. The first Global Disability Summit was held in London in 2018 and the second one in Oslo and online in 2022.

People with disabilities constitute one of the most marginalized and disadvantaged groups in the world. According to the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report (2019), they are particularly affected by globally increasing inequalities. According to the report, an estimated 80 percent of people with disabilities worldwide live in poverty. The report comes to the sobering conclusion, 13 years after the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, that progress in its implementation has been too slow.

Crises and conflicts exacerbate the situation of people with disabilities. The effects of the Corona pandemic hit them harder than people without disabilities. The same applies to the consequences of the

climate and food crisis, which are becoming increasingly evident. As a result of the rise in food and energy prices, the living conditions of millions of people, especially of those who are structurally discriminated against, are deteriorating dramatically worldwide.

At the Global Disability Summit 2022, an impressive number of political commitments were made by the participating countries. These are not binding in nature. In view of the insufficient progress in realizing their rights and the current global challenges, the next Global Disability Summit in 2025 in Berlin – as well as efforts by states until then – should make a significant contribution to implementing the rights of persons with disabilities in a binding manner.

VENRO (Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs), the League of Self-Representation and the German Council of People with Disabilities (DBR) formulate the following expectations:

## Joint efforts at the international level

At the Global Disability Summit, a final document is to be adopted, which will be developed in a participatory process between civil society organizations, including self-representation organizations, and the participating states.

We expect the German Government to advocate the following points in the final document:

- States recognize the inclusion of persons with disabilities, in particular accessibility and participation, as an obligation in international cooperation and emergency humanitarian aid. Participating countries from the Global North have a special responsibility in bilateral cooperation with partners.
- States commit to systematically and demonstrably fulfilling the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through concrete implementation plans. These plans must include monitoring mechanisms and increased data collection.
- States shall promote cooperation and networking among relevant stakeholders, such as government institutions, civil society organizations, including self-representation organizations and human rights institutions, and academic and research institutions.
- A UN fund will be created as an additional instrument for implementing the inclusion of people with disabilities. Its purpose will be to provide financial support for countries in the Global South to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities systematically and in a binding manner through concrete implementation plans. Goals can include making infrastructure barrier-free, investing in education and vocational training, and supporting the

participation of people with disabilities. In order to be able to apply for funding from this fund, governments should take stock of their existing measures and inform each other and the public about them. This inventory should comprise existing policies, existing forms of participation and budgets, as well as information on the national availability of data.

- States address global issues such as climate change, inequality, digitization, flight and displacement, and sustainable development (2030 Agenda and Post-2030 Agenda) in relation to persons with disabilities.
- States strongly adhere to an intersectional approach, with special attention to women and girls with disabilities.

## Great responsibility of Germany as co-host of the summit

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the common basis that sets standards. The German Government plays a special role as host of the summit. Other states may gain orientation from Germany's self-commitments.

We expect the German Government

- to include measures for an inclusive design of international cooperation with countries of the Global South in a new edition of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- to use the time until the Global Disability Summit to systematically and bindingly anchor the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in state development cooperation in a concrete implementation plan and to back it up with resources;

- to anchor the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in the new humanitarian strategy and implement it through consistent application of existing markers;
- to provide capacity-building funds to improve the participation of self-representation organizations in development cooperation, as provided for in Article 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## Taking participation in the process seriously as a human rights principle

We welcome the German Government's approach to date of involving civil society in a participatory manner.

We expect the German Government

- to continue the current approach of involving civil society organizations in preparation of the summit in a participatory manner and to involve them at the content level;
- to advocate for the inclusion of German and Jordanian civil society - each represented by self-representation organizations - in the Steering Committee of the Global Disability Summit;
- to develop the content of the final document in a participatory process, similar to that applied in the drafting of the 2030 Agenda, and to negotiate it with participating civil society from the Global South and the Global North prior to the summit.

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