

**GLAD Terms of Reference[[1]](#footnote-1)**

The Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network was launched in London in December 2015, by a group of like-minded partners who recognise that to realise the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to leave no one behind, and to further the principles reflected in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the international community needs to work together to share expertise, coordinate actions, and raise the profile of disability across a broader range of organisations contributing to international development efforts.

# Vision

Cooperative international development and humanitarian action that is inclusive of persons with disabilities.

# Mission

To support bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, the private sector, foundations and others contributing resources to work together, in collaboration with disabled people’s organisations and partner governments, to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action.

# Goals

Consistent with Article 32 of the CPRD, GLAD members will collectively:

* 1. Increase coordination of their disability-inclusive contributions
  2. Learn from each other by sharing knowledge and resources
  3. Amplify their common and united voice for maximum influence
  4. Expand and diversify the community of partners contributing resources to disability-inclusive development and humanitarian action
  5. Strengthen existing partnerships and disability inclusion within existing global development initiatives

# Background

Persons with disabilities often face stigma, exclusion and discrimination. Consequently, they are over-represented amongst the people living in persistent poverty, and are less likely than others to be able to lift themselves out of poverty. About 80% of people with disabilities live in developing countries.

Attainment of the SDGs will substantively improve the lives of persons with disabilities. The SDGs are the first global development agenda that clearly includes persons with disabilities in a universal and ambitious plan of action to ensure no one is left behind, and reflect in part the guiding principles of the CRPD. In emergency contexts this is complemented by the Agenda for Humanity adopted at the World Humanitarian Summit. Under the CRPD, states have an international obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities. While Official Development Assistance remains important, it alone cannot achieve social inclusion and active participation of persons with disabilities. The private sector and foundations also play an indispensable role.

# Ways of Working

GLAD Network members will work together to take actions consistent with the goals defined in Section 3. The work of the GLAD Network will be guided by the GLAD Network Strategic Plan, to be developed and agreed by the GLAD Network biennially. The GLAD Network will meet annually.

A Steering Committee will govern the Network, set priorities and agree on Network events. The Steering Committee will meet at least annually, including during the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CPRD in New York (usually in June).

The Steering Committee may establish working groups, and GLAD members may convene other meetings, to take forward GLAD’s action agenda on specific technical, geographic and advocacy issues.

The GLAD Network co-chairs (see ‘Governance’) will establish and maintain a Secretariat to support the work of the Steering Committee and the Network.

# Membership

The GLAD Network welcomes, as members, international stakeholders (bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, the private sector, foundations and others) contributing resources to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action. Resources are primarily financial, but may also include technical expertise, provided internationally, either directly or through a partnership, to support disability inclusion in developing countries.

A majority of members of the GLAD Network will agree membership of the GLAD Network. The Steering Committee will determine the process for considering and agreeing membership, and for admitting advisors and observers.

The GLAD Steering Committee will be comprised of not more than 20 GLAD Network members. A majority of members of the Steering Committee will agree provisional membership of the Steering Committee, pending endorsement by Network Members.

Consistent with the principle of ‘nothing about us without us’, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations from developing countries/regions and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be invited to every meeting.

Members and participants in GLAD meetings are responsible for covering their costs of attendance.

# Governance

The GLAD Network and Steering Committee will have up to three co-chairs. The co-chairs of the GLAD Network are also the co-chairs of the Steering Committee. The permanent co-chair is the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The second rotating co-chair is a GLAD Steering Committee member agreed by a simple majority of Network members. When a new co-chair is agreed, the previous rotating co-chair becomes the outgoing co-chair, for a term as agreed by the co-chairs. The rotating and permanent co-chairs, with appropriate support from the outgoing co-chair, are responsible for:

* 1. Providing Secretariat support, including to plan and conduct all Network and Steering Committee meetings, and capture and disseminate meeting outcomes
  2. Leading GLAD’s collective efforts to achieve its goals, consistent with the GLAD Network Strategic Plan
  3. Representing the GLAD Network

# Changing the Terms of Reference

A two-thirds majority of GLAD Network members may change the Terms of Reference.

1. Last amendment made December 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)