**Civil Society Forum**

**23 July 2018**

In consultation with civil society partners, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) called for the Civil Society Forum, as an addition to the Summit, to leverage the opportunity to amplify the voice and participation of persons with disabilities, through their individual participation and that of representative organizations (DPOs). The Forum is an opportunity to highlight current issues relevant to the global disability movement and realization of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, that will not specifically be addressed at the Summit. The Forum will also set the stage for the more in-depth dialogue at the Summit on specific thematic areas.

The Forum will take place Monday, 23 July 2018, one day prior to the Global Disability Summit in the same venue. All attendees to the Summit are encouraged to attend the Forum as the discussions will influence the overall outcomes of the event.

The Civil Society Forum will strive to achieve the following objectives:

1. To heighten attention to the importance of actively involving persons with disabilities, and their families through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation, policies and programmes to implement the CRPD, as well as in all decision-making processes that affect their lives and full participation and inclusion in society.
2. To provide a platform for Civil Society to influence the outcomes of the Summit through a unified statement that will be read during the opening of the Summit on behalf of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. The Statement will be heavily influenced by the proceedings at the Forum and online consultations in advance of the Forum.
3. To provide an opportunity for people with disabilities, their representative organisations and other actors working in support of disability inclusion, to engage with each other and with other stakeholders who will attend the Summit, to develop new relationships, partnerships and Summit commitments.
4. In line with the spirit of article 4 (3) of the CRPD, the organization of the Forum by IDA and the Civil Society Reference Group[[1]](#footnote-2) will seek to ensure the voices of persons with disabilities are raised and the panel composition duly include mainly representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities of all constituencies on the basis of parity, including those more marginalized such as, but not limited to, women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, deaf-blind persons, etc.

The programme of the Forum has been developed in consultation with a Civil Society Reference Group including members of the UK Civil Society BOND Disability and Development Group, the International Disability and Development Consortium, the Disability Rights Fund and UK based DPOs.

**Proposed Agenda**

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| From  08:30 | Registration Open |
| 10:00 | Opening Session |
|  | Plenary Session I – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: What Civil Society sees is needed to achieve full and effective implementation  Plenary Session II – The 2030 Agenda: Providing an impetus for implementation of the CRPD |
| 13:30 | Lunch |
|  | Plenary Session III - The key role of capacity building at national and grassroots levels to advance the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities |
|  | Plenary Session IV – Looking Ahead after the Summit |
|  | Closing Session |
| 17:45 | Event Close |
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1. IDA also set up a Civil Society Reference Group to inform civil society participation in the Summit and ensure that the civil society engagement and participation meets the current needs of the wider Disability Movement. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)