**UK GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT**

**Update from Civil Society**

**Monday 16 April 2018**

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# Introduction and background information to the Summit

**Aim:** DFID’s vision for disability inclusion is*: ‘to ensure people with disabilities are consistently and systematically included in international development and humanitarian assistance’*.  We will host a Global Disability Summit in July this year to galvanise the global effort to address disability inclusion in the poorest countries in the world and act as the start point for major change on this neglected issue.

The objectives of the Summit will be to:

* Raise global attention and focus on a neglected area;
* Bring in new voices and approaches to broaden engagement;
* Mobilise new global and national commitments on disability; and,
* Showcase best practice and evidence from across the world.

**Event details:**The Summit will be held in London at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 24 July 2018.

**Partners:** In line with the principle of ‘*nothing about us, without us*’, DFID will co-host the Summit with the International Disability Alliance (IDA).  This will ensure people with disabilities are central to the planning and delivery of the summit. The Government of Kenya will also co-host the Summit.

**Participants:** The event will be led by people with disabilities from the UK and the global community.  Attendance will be high-level: Government Ministers, heads of donor agencies and civil society organisations and CEOs of private sector companies.

**Themes and priorities**: In consultation with IDA, the UK Civil Society BOND Disability and Development Group, the IDDC, UN agencies, the World Bank and other important stakeholders – DFID have undertaken a process of consultation on the Summit themes and priorities. A number of building blocks have been identified which will underpin the approach to catalysing change throughout the Summit:

1. Catalysing political will towards change and building collective responsibility;
2. Improving data and evidence to raise awareness of the scale of the problem and learning on how to address barriers and;
3. Supporting the leadership and representation of people with disabilities to increase voice, choice and control.

Based on this consultation, the programme for the day itself will be built around these four themes, *with two cross-cutting themes on humanitarian assistance and gender*:

1. Tackling stigma and discrimination – commitments could include greater legislation at national level; quotas on representation and visibility of people with disabilities; and high-profile media campaigns.
2. Inclusion in education - deliverables may include: minimum standards of accessibility in schools, and greater leadership and investment in teacher training and accessible learning materials/resources.
3. Routes to economic empowerment – commitments may include: anti-discrimination laws, social protection and training schemes, vocational rehabilitation and universal design.
4. Harnessing technology and innovation – This area has significant potential to change lives in low income countries: In terms of deliverables we will target reduced prices and expanded access of five assistive devices through new mass markets; and also improved access to cross the ‘digital divide’ through new technologies.

**Commitments**. As well as showcasing best practice, the Summit will aim to generate sustainable commitments from developing country governments, donors, civil society, foundations and the private sector.  We envisage these to focus on inclusive education, employment and livelihood opportunities, technology / innovation and tackling stigma and discrimination.

**Country engagement:** The Summit will focus initially on 13 countries:  Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Uganda, Zambia, Bangladesh, Jordan, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

# Role of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities & the International Disability Alliance

IDA will use their representative role for international organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) to consult and embed the voice of people with disabilities in the design and delivery of the summit to ensure it complies with the UN CRPD. As such, IDA is mandated to lead and coordinate summit engagement with organisations of persons with disabilities, people with disabilities and the wider global Civil Society, and in this regard, is facilitating the civil society reference group to the Summit. This group will ensure active support and involvement in the summit, and to generate concrete commitments from civil society. The current membership of the civil society reference group is: IDA; Bond Disability and Development Group, International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), Disability Rights Fund, Disability Rights UK, and representatives of the UK Disability Movement.

IDA, through its Members, has also joined the thematic working groups that DFID has set up. The participation of IDA alongside civil society organisations will ensure the voice of DPOs and civil society to the Summit. The groups are already at capacity and have participation from DPOs, NGOs, bilateral and multi-lateral agencies, Foundations and the private sector.

IDA, as co-host, had made an open call to all DPOs globally to attend and participate in the Summit. The civil society reference group is undergoing a detailed process, alongside DFID and the Government of Kenya to identify the representatives to attend the Summit in London.

# Updates from the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)

* **Roles**: The CSRG has been established to ensure collaboration and co-ordination amongst the different civil society actors, including DPOs; ensure the full participation of DPOs in the Summit; provide strategic input and direction during the planning of the Summit; share information amongst the different networks and organisations involved in the Summit; fully support the planning, co-ordination and delivery of the Civil Society Forum which will take place the day before the Summit; and after the Summit play a key role in line with the accountability mechanism established, among other roles.
* **Membership**: The current membership includes IDA, the Bond Disability and Development Group (DDG), IDDC, Disability Rights UK and the Disability Rights Fund.
* **Methods of working**: primarily through regular calls, working groups and on-going communications.
* For the full description of the roles, membership and methods of working, [Download the Terms of Reference to the Civil Society Reference Group](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/tor_gds_civil_society_reference_group.docx)
* Since early March the CRSG has formed two working groups. The first focused on defining and carrying out the DPO nomination and selection process. The review process is still on-going. The second is focused on the Civil Society Forum and has begun to put together the programme.

## Civil Society Forum

* The Civil Society Forum will take place 23 July, a prior to the Summit, in the same venue. Everyone invited to the Summit will also be invited to the Forum. If space is available, additional DPO representatives from the UK and surrounding countries will be invited to attend. That will become clearer in early to mid-June. The aim is to provide a platform for civil society to come together and agree on key messages to bring to the Summit.
* A concept note and draft programme will be shared with the next update.

## Co-moderators to the main Summit

* DFID has asked civil society to provide proposals for co-moderators to the main summit
* The CSRG provided DPO proposals for co-moderators to UK DFID. The decision by the co-hosts for the slot of co-moderator will be shared when confirmed.

# Regional Consultations

* DFID country teams have been asked to organise national coordination mechanisms ahead of the Summit in the 13 target countries (see list under the first section of this update). They should be a small group of civil society and other interested actors that come together to reach a shared understanding on the country context of disability and identify priorities and commitments that can be delivered in the run up to or during the Global Disability Summit.
* The scope and structure of each national consultation varies according to country and where capacity allows, for example, some consultations have more numbers of DPOs and civil society organisation participants than others. The timeline for the meetings in countries varies.
* If you would like to get involved in one the best thing is to try to find a local contact. Since these activities are led at the country level, we do not have a full overview of when they are happening or who is leading, however if you are in one of the priority countries and are not able to find a contact, please email summit@ida-secretariat.org and we will do our best to get a contact person for you.

# Updates from the Thematic Working Groups

## Inclusive Education Working Group

The Inclusive Education working group met on 27 February. This meeting allowed us to share the emerging plans and ideas for the GDS, consulting with attendees to generate potential outputs/deliverables of the event in this thematic area. The meeting was strongly attended with encouraging levels of engagement. Participants were given sight of the Theory of Change guiding the GDS and ideas for Inclusive Education were sought along these lines, although overlap was made with the 3Rs (Rights, Resources and Research) Conceptual Framework which has been developed by REAL, Cambridge University to pursue Inclusive Education.

## Stigma and Discrimination

There have been two meetings conducted by the working group on Stigma and Discrimination. The group is focusing on four thematic areas to influence stigma and discrimination.

1. Political and Institutional will
2. Evidence and Inclusive Data
3. Leadership, representation and empowerment
4. Stereotypes, attitudes and behaviours

The last meeting focused on developing specific activities and concrete outcomes around these thematic areas. Upcoming priorities include identifying speakers and panelists as well as focus areas for the Spotlight sessions.

Technology and Innovation

The Innovation + Tech working group met on 16th March.  This meeting allowed us to share the emerging plans and ideas for the GDS, consulting with attendees to generate potential outputs/deliverables of the event in this thematic area. Tech and innovation is a broad area, so we also sought guidance on if our approach to focus this area mostly on assistive tech was the right one. There wasn’t much input on outputs/deliverables during the meeting. After the meeting, we reached out to the group to seek a “lead” for each of the three outputs to develop outcomes/ deliverables, but so far, only Motivation has volunteered to lead on the “demand side constraints” outcome.

## Routes to Economic Empowerment

*In the next update*

## Humanitarian Action (cross-cutting)

There has been one meeting of the humanitarian working group, which took place on April 12. The first meeting was a general introduction to the planning for the Summit and discussion on focal areas for the working group to engage on. A smaller working group will be established and a read-out of the meeting will be circulated by DFID shortly.

# Coming up

* Next meeting of Technology and Innovation working group: 27 April 2018
* Next meeting of Inclusive Education working group: 3 May 2018
* Civil Society Reference Group will share a concept note and proposed agenda for the Civil Society Forum that will take place on 23 July with the new update in two weeks

# For more information

The persons listed below may be contacted for general information on the thematic Working Groups only:

* Stigma and Discrimination: IDA, Megan Smith, msmith@ida-secretariat.org
* Inclusive Education: IDA, Diane Richler, dianer@cacl.ca
* Routes to Economic Empowerment: *volunteers welcome!*
* Technology and Innovation: *volunteers welcome!*
* Humanitarian: *volunteers welcome!*

**For general information, please contact:**

* Email summit@ida-secretariat.org
* Updates will be posted on: <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/summit>