International Disability Alliance’s Global Survey Recommendations

**International Disability Alliance:** this is a group of 14 organisations around the world of persons with disabilities. They push for the inclusion of persons with disabilities at the **United Nations.**

**United Nations:** this is a group of countries which work together to push for peace and safety.

**Global Survey:** here, this is our questionnaire which we sent to organisations of persons with disabilities from over 165 different countries.

**Recommendations:** in this document, this means suggestions made by the International Disability Alliance about how to make sure organisations work well with decision makers.
This document looks at how organisations of persons with disabilities take part in making changes to plans and policies that affect their lives.

It also looks at how they work with decision makers to push for real change?

**Decision Makers:** in this document, this means groups that are responsible for making important decisions that affect the lives of persons with disabilities. In this document, we are talking about the government, the United Nations and funding organisations.

This document can be used for advocacy and to push for the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Advocacy or advocates:** this means people or organisations that support people to understand their rights and support them to speak up and be heard.
It’s really important that persons with disabilities can take part in making decisions that affect their lives. It’s important that they do this through organisations of all different persons with disabilities.

Decisions makers must work with organisations in a way that respects them and understands their import roles. Decision makers must support them to push for change. Organisations must have a fair chance to take part in making decisions.

Organisations of persons with disabilities are making their voices heard more and more. However, there is still a lot of work to do.

They expect to be part of making decisions at the highest levels. They must have a say about issues in their own countries and across the world. They must have a say about issues that might lead to human rights emergencies.

It’s not just about looking at how much organisations of persons with disabilities are taking part. It’s also about how much change their work is leading to and how they are treated by decision makers. For example, persons with disabilities must have a fair chance to share their ideas.
Reasonable accommodations must be made to support all persons with disabilities. Their access needs must be met too.

**Reasonable accommodations:** this means making changes to get rid of barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

People who are often forgotten, should be part of making decisions too. For example, **persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities** or people with learning difficulties.

**Persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities:** one of the different groups of persons with disabilities.

Organisations of persons with disabilities don’t have lots of **resources** and taking part in making decisions uses lots of time and resources. Decision makers must work with organisations in a way that leads to real change.

**Resources:** this means money, staff, services or anything else that is needed.
Organisations of persons with disabilities are getting more and more chances to work with decision makers. Now they need support to get resources such as skills, information and ideas. This will help them look at the best ways to take part, to make sure their work leads to the best changes possible.

We have written this document based on the findings from our **global survey**.

**Global Survey:** here, this is our questionnaire which we sent to organisations of persons with disabilities from over 165 different countries.

We listened to what people think needs to happen. We also used our own experiences of working with organisations of persons with disabilities all over the world. We also used some studies that happened recently.

In this report, we have written recommendations to three main decision makers. Governments, the United Nations and funding organisations. We want to make sure that persons with disabilities can take part in their work.
A. Our recommendations to governments

Governments must:

1. Get rid of all laws that stop persons with disabilities from being equal. Get rid of all laws that stop persons with disabilities from taking part and being **consulted**. This means people with all types of disabilities.

   **Consulted, Consult or Consultation**: this is when people who might be affected by a change or decision are asked for information about how it will affect them.

2. Build a way of working with governments on laws and decisions, so that all Organisations of persons with disabilities can take part. Governments must support them to be in control and to be able to run in the long run.

3. Make sure organisations can access funding. This should be through government funding and funding across the world. Governments must make sure applications are accessible. They should make sure that the rules to apply for funding are fair and realistic for organisations of all different sizes.

4. Make sure organisations can access support with things such as building up organisations and learning the best ways to take part in making decisions.
5. Use a way of working that respects that persons with disabilities have a right to take part in making decisions. There must be a clear plan about how decision makers should consult organisations.

This should happen at a local level and across the country. This should happen at all stages of decision making. It should happen for all issues that affect people’s lives.

It should happen for issues across the world and issues that might lead to emergencies too.

6. Respect organisations of persons with disabilities and see their very important role. Make sure all information is accessible and is given out early so that people have time to read it.

Give organisations of persons with disabilities a fair chance to take part. Give them enough time to prepare and take part in meetings.

Governments must recognise that these organisations are in the best position to make decisions about policies and programmes that affect their lives.
7. Make sure organisations can access consultations. Make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who are taking part in making decisions.

Make sure people can access buildings, technology and information. There should be captions, national sign languages and formats that are easy to understand. Ways of working must be clear and open.

8. Make sure all different persons with disabilities can take part in making decisions.

This is especially important for people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, people with learning difficulties, deaf people, people with deafblindness.

As well as other groups of people, such as women with disabilities, indigenous people with disabilities.

**Indigenous people:** this means people from a traditional culture who often face discrimination in their own countries.
9. Hire persons with disabilities to train government staff about the rights of persons with disabilities. Train staff about how to talk to and work with persons with disabilities.

Listen to their opinions. They are people with **lived experiences** of disabilities. Support organisations to run trainings.

**Lived Experience:** in this document, this means when a person has used services for disabled people. It is important that these people give their views about services because they know the most about them.

10. Put systems in place to make sure all areas of governments meet their responsibilities under the **UN Convention**.

**UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:** this is an international agreement that the government signed up to, to bring about the full rights of persons with disabilities in the world.

The government must support organisations to lead the way in this **monitoring**.

**Monitoring:** this is how an organisation checks how well something is going. They look to see what needs to be changed or made better.
B. Here are our recommendations to the United Nations. The United Nations must:

1. Support organisations of persons with disabilities to work with governments on long term plans. They must make sure organisations have access to the right information, data and evidence.

For example, they must have access to data and statistics and information about the budget.

**Budget:** this is a plan of how money will be spent.

The United Nations must give organisations information about changes that are being made to policies and projects. The United Nations must tell organisations about opportunities to take part in making decisions and to talk with decision makers.

2. Support organisations to grow. The United Nations should support advocacy. They must also support groups that are often forgotten about, such as women and girls with disabilities.
The United Nations should make sure that organisations can consult with decision makers in a way that respects their ideas and listens to their views. The consultation should be clear and decision makers shouldn’t ask for too much.

3. Give organisations of persons with disabilities information about the work that the United Nations does. They must reach out to organisations. They must spend time and resources to meet up and understand their work and ideas. This should happen at a local level too.

The United Nations must share information about the work they are doing, often. This information should be in a format that is easy to access. Organisations of persons with disabilities and the UN should work very closely together.

Organisations of persons with disabilities should have clear roles in projects and programmes. They should give trainings too.

The United Nations should work with organisations over a long period of time instead of running projects that only last for a short time.
4. Make sure that the **UN Disability Inclusion Strategy** is being put into place. The United Nations must put policies in place which support organisations of persons with disabilities to take part in making decisions.

**UN Disability Inclusion Strategy**: this means the plan made by the United Nations to push for the rights of persons with disabilities to take part in making decisions that affect their lives.

This should happen in all areas of the United Nations. There should be a clear plan for consultation at every stage of making decisions.

This should happen at a local level and across the country. This should happen at all stages of decision making. It should happen for all issues that affect people’s lives. It should happen for issues across the world and issues that might lead to emergencies.
5. Make sure that organisations of persons with disabilities can access all of their consultations. The United Nations must give reasonable accommodations to people from organisations of persons with disabilities.

For example, they must make sure that buildings, technologies and information are accessible. Captioning and sign language must be used when sharing information. Ways of working must also be clear and open.

6. Make sure that organisations of persons with disabilities can access opportunities to get funding. This means funding from United Nations agencies and projects too. The United Nations must make sure applications are accessible.

They should make sure that the rules to apply for funding are fair and realistic for organisations of persons with disabilities of all different sizes.

The United Nations must use their budget to support organisations to take part in making decisions about projects.
The budget should be used for things like making sure they can access consultations. The budget must be used to make reasonable accommodations.

The United Nations must use funding to support projects that organisations of persons with disabilities are taking part in.

7. Hire persons with disabilities and train United Nations staff about the rights of persons with disabilities. Train staff about how to talk to and work with persons with disabilities.

Listen to their opinions and experiences as people with lived experiences of disabilities. The United Nations must support organisations to run trainings.

8. Make sure all different persons with disabilities can take part in making decisions.

9. Look at the changes being made by using the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. The United Nations must share the things they have learnt and share ways of working that went well.

They must make sure the inclusion strategy is being used across the whole of the United Nations.
C. Here are our recommendations to funding agencies. Funding agencies must:

1. Give more funding to support organisations of persons with disabilities to grow. Make sure they have enough funding to be independent and have control over their work.

Make sure they can reach out to the people they are aiming to support.

Funding organisations must make sure applications are accessible. They should make sure that the rules to apply for funding are fair and realistic for Organisations of persons with disabilities of all different sizes.

If small grants are difficult to give out, funding agencies should think about **partnerships** and **fiscal sponsorships** with bigger organisations. This will support members to move around and work with other organisations.

**Partnership:** this means when people or organisations work together.

**Fiscal sponsorship:** this is when an organisation of people with disabilities works with a company to work towards the goals that they share.
2. Make sure persons with disabilities don’t face discrimination when they apply for funding. Funding should be given to support them to push for their rights.

**Discrimination:** this means being treated unfairly. This could be because of a person’s race, age, sex or because of another part of who a person is.

Funding agencies must fund projects where decision makers are working with organisations of persons with disabilities.

They must use the budget to make sure organisations can take part in projects. They must use the budget to make reasonable accommodations and to make services accessible too.
3. Work often with organisations of persons with disabilities. They must support organisations to work with decision makers all over the world. They must reach out at a local level too. Spend time and resources to find out what is important to them.

Funding agencies must give organisations information about:

- **Donors** plans and what areas of work are important to them.

  **Donors**: these are people or organisations who give money to organisations.

- Changes to policies
- Big projects
- Opportunities to take part

Funding organisations should talk to organisations of persons with disabilities often. For example, they could have consultations every year to listen to their views and make sure this can be a part of donors plans.
4. Work on a clear plan about how to consult with organisations about issues that affect the lives of persons with disabilities. Funding agencies should work together with organisations on issues that might lead to emergencies too.

Consultations must be clear and respect the views of persons with disabilities. Funding agencies must listen to their ideas and not ask for too much.

If a donor is giving donations to two countries, funding agencies should talk with organisations from both countries.

5. Make sure organisations can access consultations. Make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who are taking part in making decisions.

Make sure they can access buildings, technology and information. There should be captions, national sign languages and formats that are easy to understand. Ways of working must be clear and open.
6. Support organisations of persons with disabilities to take part in working on grants. Organisations should take part in making decisions about funding.

   They should have a say about plans for funding. They should decide about the rules around applying for and getting funding.

   Organisations of persons with disabilities are in a great position to make sure that funding is useful for persons with disabilities.

   Funding agencies must be responsible and ask for feedback from them. This is one way to make their work better.

7. Funding organisations must hire persons with disabilities to train government staff about the rights of persons with disabilities. They must train staff about how to talk to and work with persons with disabilities.

   They must listen to their opinions and experiences as people with lived experiences of disabilities. They must also support them to run trainings.
8. Make sure all different persons with disabilities can take part in making decisions.

9. Monitor funding to make sure enough funding is being used to support persons with disabilities to take part.

Funding agencies should look at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation’s Development Assistance Committee. This sets out the best ways to make sure persons with disabilities can take part.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation’s Development Assistance Committee: this is a group that pushes for different countries to work together on polices around the world.

10. Work with the Global Action on Disability network. They can share good ways to make sure organisations can take part in donors’ work.

Global Action on Disability: this is a group of donors that push for the inclusion of persons with disabilities around the world.