Terms of Reference for
AT user network and microgrant coordinator

Background

Today, 2.5 billion people need to use at least one type of AT, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, prostheses, eyeglasses, or digital services, but in low-income countries over 90% do not have access to it. AT can make a significant difference in a user’s ability to participate fully in social, economic, political, cultural, and family life. From supporting persons with disabilities to find meaningful employment, to ensuring children with disabilities have access to quality and inclusive education, to safeguarding the right of persons with disabilities to adequate healthcare, AT is crucial for a just, inclusive, and productive future for all. On the other hand, lack of access to AT can result in exclusion from education, work, family, and community life; poor health outcomes; and increased risk of poverty.

Since the 2018 Global Disability Summit (GDS) and the subsequent creation of ATscale, work on AT and how to increase access to it has been gaining momentum. ATscale was established to realize the goal of providing 500 million more people with the AT they need by 2030. Since then, there have been important steps forward, such as the 2018 World Health Assembly resolution on improving access to assistive technology; WHO and UNICEF’s recent “Global Report on Assistive Technology;” and the inclusion of accessible, gender and age-sensitive AT as the second most pressing priority at the recent Global Disability Youth Summit (GDS Youth).

As this progress around AT continues and translates into action, it is imperative that the requirements, concerns, and priorities of AT users always remain at the center. The International Disability Alliance and ATscale have partnered on the project Boosting AT User Engagement and Knowledge, Globally and Locally under which there are three core areas of work:

1. Creation of an ATscale Technical Advisory Group
2. Creation of a Global Network of AT Users
3. Capacity building and advocacy work to build technical capacities and raise awareness about AT in global spaces

Under the third area of work, capacity building, ATScale and IDA created the microgrants cycle for organizations of persons with disabilities and other AT users to conduct local and national initiatives advancing assistive technologies in focused countries.

Over the years, IDA has developed a “Microgrants” Program to support initiatives of our member organizations and networks to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the Global South, particularly of women with disabilities and other underrepresented groups, including indigenous

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1 The International Disability Alliance understands the term “underrepresented groups” to identify those among persons with disabilities who enjoy less visibility in decision-making processes. The disability movement is not homogenous, much like other social movements. Some groups have traditionally been less included in participatory processes, are harder to reach, or face higher barriers to participation, such as persons who are deafblind, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities,
peoples with disabilities and youth with disabilities. It articulates an intervention by, for and with persons with disabilities, building solidarities from national to regional and global levels.

**Microgrants objective**

The IDA-ATScale grants aim at supporting initiatives to advance assistive technologies for persons with disabilities and other users in focus countries, such as Kenya, Cambodia, Senegal, Georgia, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Rwanda, DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, and Honduras. The activities financed by those micro-grants can cover the following areas or actions:

- Advocacy to enhance access to and use of assistive technology,
- Media campaigns, including social media, to raise awareness on AT of persons with disabilities and other identified AT users,
- Production of reports, case studies and other sources of evidence on assistive technologies for persons with disabilities and other identified AT users, covering the underrepresented groups. Such reports should include innovative tools and good practices for policymakers, development actors and others on the practical implementation and realization of assistive technologies initiatives,
- Capacity building around the legal frameworks, policies, financing, and other issues related to access Assistive Technologies, including initiatives towards positive contributions to national policy-shaping, decision-making, and implementation,
- Initiatives considering the impact of Assistive Technologies,
- Initiatives promoting access to Assistive Technologies in a specific sector, such as education, employment, health, independent living, among others.

**Role and Responsibilities**

The selected consultant will support IDA with following tasks:

1. Mentoring the four micrograntees under this project on their project deliverables and reporting,
2. Supporting a closing webinar for the microgrants featuring project presentations,
3. Supporting the moderation of the AT User Network and sharing of latest developments around AT,
4. Drafting a report on the microgrants project and overseeing its design, translation, including into accessible formats.
5. Drafting a position paper for IDA on Assistive Technology based on the learnings from the overall project.

**Timeline and budget**

autistic people, deaf people, and hard of hearing people. It can also include those who may be less engaged in decision-making, such as women, children, older people, indigenous peoples, and people from diverse faith, ethnicity, caste, class, sexual orientation or gender identity minorities. This understanding may differ in different countries, cultures, and contexts; and remains an evolving concept.
The consultancy is expected to last 30 working days, in the period from approximately 15 June 2024 until 15 August 2024. The daily rate for this consultancy will be USD 200, which in total would amount to **USD 6,000**.

**Qualifications**

1. Expertise in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its linkages to the development agenda,
2. Proficiency in CRPD approaches to Assistive technology,
3. Previous experience in managing microgrants,
4. Previous experience in mentoring organizations of persons with disabilities,
5. Excellent communication skills in English.

**Contracting and Remuneration**

- A consultancy contract (as per Swiss law) will be signed between the selected consultant and IDA.
- Only applicants with valid commercial and/or consultant registration and/or tax numbers will be considered. In case this is not applicable, we will require a copy of the passport.
- Payments will be made in several instalments as per agreement.

**To apply**

If interested, please send your CV and Letter of interest, to consultancy@ida-secretariat.org. The subject line of the e-mail should be “AT user network and microgrant coordinator”. **The deadline for submitting the application package is 10 June 2024.**

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