

Celebrating 20 years of the International Disability Alliance
Side-event during 12th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN CRPD
Organised by the International Disability Alliance

Background and history

The [International Disability Alliance \(IDA\)](#) was established in 1999 as a network of global and, since 2007, regional organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and their families. IDA was instrumental in establishing the International Disability Caucus (IDC), the network of global, regional and national organisations of persons with disabilities and allied non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which was to become a key player in the negotiation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

Today, the aim of the Alliance is to promote the effective and full implementation of the UN CRPD worldwide, as well as compliance with the UN CRPD within the UN system, through the active and coordinated involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and international levels. IDA is working to ensure the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals are realized in line with the UN CRPD. IDA supports DPOs in engaging with UN human rights processes in Geneva and New York, including the Treaty Bodies, Universal Periodic Review and Human Rights Council. IDA supports DPOs at national and regional levels through trainings and disseminating resources and information. With member organisations around the world, IDA represents the estimated one billion people worldwide living with a disability.

Aim of side-event

In 2019, the International Disability Alliance celebrates its 20th year of existence. Recognising the progress that has been made to date in the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) is pleased to organise a side-event under the auspices of the 12th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Through the side-event, IDA aims to take stock of its progress over the past 20 years, including its key achievements and highlights, while also recognising the gaps in its work. The aim of the side-event will be to identify areas of further collaboration between the members of IDA and its partners and all relevant stakeholders, including donors and United Nations agencies.

Format of side-event

The side-event will recognise those leaders and individuals who have had an impact on the work of IDA over the past 20 years, through an award ceremony delivering plaques.

After introductions by IDA Chair, the following individuals will be invited to speak about the partnership of their organisation with IDA:

- A UN Agency
- International Disability and Development Consortium
- A donor from GLAD Network
- Global South DPO to speak on impact of the work of IDA on their work
- A presentation on the IDA global survey

This will be followed by an award ceremony, distributing plaques to a select number of individuals and/or organisations pre-identified. In addition, a two-pager history of IDA will be distributed during the side-event and online. CART and IS will be provided.

Co-sponsors

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), UK Department for International Development (DFID), Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Formin), Atlas Alliance, Sightsavers, UNICEF, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CBM, Humanity and Inclusion, Disabled Peoples Organisation Denmark (DPOD), ADD International, OHCHR, the World Bank.