

Influencing knowhow

Global platforms

The global shift towards recognising the rights of people with disabilities enabled many OPDs and their allies to positively influence a broad range of stakeholders and decision makers, not just in the UK but internationally.

We know that we cannot achieve genuine inclusion without involving the voices of people with disabilities, individually or through OPDs.

A couple of things to consider when thinking about OPDs in the international development context include:

- The involvement and participation of people with disabilities through ‘representative organisations’, or OPDs, is inherent to both Articles 4.3 and 33.3 of the CRPD.
- The CRPD is seen by the global disability movement as setting the tone on meaningful engagement of people with disabilities in the development and implementation of legislation and policies by UN member States. The disability movement has further adopted the language of the CRPD for other decision-making processes.

International Disability Alliance

A key international platform is the **International Disability Alliance (IDA)**, born out of Disabled Peoples International (DPI) – who coined the phrase ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’. IDA’s unique network of leading international disability rights organisations gives it unrivalled ‘authoritative representation of persons with disabilities on the global level, and is acknowledged as such by the United Nations.’ (IDA website) Established in 1999, IDA brings together over **1,100 organisations of persons with disabilities** and their families from across **eight global and six regional networks** and represents an estimated **one billion** people worldwide living with a disability.



The CRPD: The cornerstone of all global influencing on disability rights

The CRPD presents multiple opportunities for OPDs to engage in advocacy at all levels, including national implementation of the CRPD and with the human rights and sustainable development process at the UN.

CRPD Committee: This is a body of 18 independent experts which monitors the implementation of the CRPD. This committee reports on State progress and violations of the CRPD, and receives shadow reports and evidence from OPDs.



It was to this committee that UK OPDs sent their **shadow report** on welfare reforms in 2017 – providing an opportunity for people with disabilities to hold their government to account.

Conference of States Parties (COSP): This has been held annually since 2008 at the UN headquarters in New York, covering a range of themes and issues in roundtables, interactive dialogues and side events.



This is a key opportunity for engaging experts with disabilities and OPDs in developing **side event proposals** and organising side meetings with State delegates on specific issues relating to CRPD implementation.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities: This day is held every year on 3 December since 1992. It is an opportunity to celebrate how far people with disabilities have come in gaining recognition of their rightful place in society.



Support or co-host OPD and people with disabilities led groups in activities that highlight key developments and achievements. These can range from developing **social media content** to co-hosting/participating in live/remote events.

Civil Society CRPD Forum: This UN activity is held annually ahead of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) and is facilitated by IDA through the **Civil Society Coordination Mechanism**. The Forum gives space for open discussion and sharing of a huge diversity of experience and perspectives from across the disability rights community.



There is an opportunity to organise **side meetings** to enable OPDs to engage with government representatives, UN bodies and others from across civil society to share ideas, approaches to inclusion, find allies and future partners.

SDGs Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities: This globally recognised group was set up in 2016 to engage with the global reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

High Level Political Forum (HLPF): This is the UN platform for the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Each year a selected number of States report to the HLPF on their progress towards the SDGs through Voluntary National Reviews.



OPDs can be supported to gather evidence and content on nationally specific issues to contribute to civil society **statements to the HLPF**. See CBM/IDA's **Toolkit for DPOs on Voluntary National Reviews**.