

City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1. Background

The **Global Disability Summit 2025 (GDS 2025)** builds on the achievements of the two previous summits and is co-hosted by the governments of Germany and Jordan, together with permanent co-host the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The summit is planned as an in-person event (with virtual attendance possible) on 2-3 April 2025 in Berlin.

In preparation for GDS 25, the Latin American Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS) in coordination with the International Disability Alliance and the Global Disability Summit Secretariat proposes holding a Regional Disability Summit in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in December 2024. This regional summit will serve as a platform to discuss and address the specific challenges and opportunities faced by persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to consolidate a unified voice for the region at the global summit.

2. Goals

1. Promoting Inclusion and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - 1.1. Raise awareness among authorities and civil society about the importance of inclusion and the rights of people with disabilities.
 - 1.2. Promote the development and implementation of inclusive public policies.
2. Sharing Good Practices and Experiences
 - 2.1. Facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices among countries in the region.
 - 2.2. Promote collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector.
3. Preparing for Participation in the Global Summit
 - 3.1. Identify and prioritize the issues and challenges to be addressed at the Global Summit.
 - 3.2. Share good practices and lessons learned with the co-hosts of the Global Summit on Disability, to further contribute to and inform the global process.
 - 3.3. Develop a joint statement and recommendations representing the region's position.
 - 3.4. Mobilize to achieve specific regional commitments, to be presented before the World Summit on Disability.

This event is aligned with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, seeking to generate commitments and concrete actions that contribute to guaranteeing the full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of Latin American society, in accordance with the principles of equality, dignity and human rights.

Topics to be addressed

The Regional Disability Summit will bring together people with disabilities from different countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and other interest groups such as government, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, among others, who will reflect on 4 thematic areas that RIADIS has considered prioritizing based on the face-to-face consultations carried out with its members in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru in the years 2021, 2022 and 2023, the different reports that have been published as part of the projects that are currently being implemented and the virtual seminars held in the last 3 years.

These priorities are the following:

- Invitation to civil society, representatives of States, Agencies of the United Nations System, International Organizations and other key actors:

Civil society participation in the Regional Summit is essential to ensure that the summit reflects the real needs and concerns of persons with disabilities and their families. Inviting organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society organizations working on disability issues to participate in the summit would enrich the debate with their experience and expertise, as well as ensure the effective implementation of the measures and policies agreed upon during the event.

The Regional Summit on Disability in Latin America and the Caribbean is a unique opportunity to comprehensively and collaboratively address the challenges faced by people with disabilities in the region, and to move towards a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable society for all.

The participation of States, through their leaders and senior authorities, will allow for an open dialogue with civil society, promoting new initiatives for compliance and monitoring of existing agreements, as well as identifying other priorities and gaps to establish new commitments.

The participation of United Nations agencies and international NGOs as cooperation mechanisms will facilitate coordination between the different actors and contribute to the development of the capacities of States and civil society.

The presence of other key actors such as private companies and other civil society organisations will greatly contribute to achieving the objectives of the Regional Summit.

3. Event structure

The Regional Summit will take place over 3 days distributed as follows:

Day 1: Monday 09/12/2024			
Block	Hour	Issue	Activity format
Block 1	9:00 - 9:45 am	Participant Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible counters will be provided. • Registration will be possible in Spanish , English, Portuguese and Sign Language.
	9:45 - 10:00 am	Welcome, introduction, explanation of the summit agenda	Speaking rights before the plenary session
	10:00 - 11:15 pm	Opening ceremony (subject to confirmation of guest schedule)	Speaking rights before the plenary session
	11:15 - 11:30 am	Break	
Block 2	11:30 - 11:45 am	Thematic axis 1: Presentation on inclusive education.	Keynote speech
	11:45 - 12:00 am		Keynote speech
	12:00 - 12:15 pm	Thematic axis 2: Presentation on Climate impact and risk management.	Keynote speech
	12:15 - 12:30 pm		Keynote speech
	12:30 - 14:00 pm	Lunch break	

Block 3	14:00 - 14:30 Pm	Culture of accessibility	Keynote speech
	14:30 - 14:45 pm	Thematic axis 3: Decent and sustainable employment.	Keynote speech
	14:45 - 15:00 pm		Keynote speech
	15:00 - 15:15 pm	Thematic axis 4: Social protection.	Keynote speech
	15:15 - 15:30 pm		Keynote speech
	15:30- 15:45 pm	Break	
Block 4	15:45 - 16:05 pm	1. (Presentation of findings from the Regional SDG Report Update - 20 minutes)	Keynote Lecture
	16:05 - 16:20	2. Latin American experiences on methodology for preparing alternative reports. (15 minutes)	Keynote Lecture
	16:20 - 17:15	3. Experience in working in Networks: CCyGDR , Youth Network. GIRDD LAC Network (15 minutes each Network) and 20 minutes of questions and answers	Discussion forum

**Day 2: Tuesday
10/12/2024**

Block	Hour	Issue		Activity format
Block 1	8:30 - 9:20 am	Round 1 of presentations on thematic axes by representatives of the States		Keynote Lecture
	9:20 - 9:40 am	ROOM 1: Presentation on inclusive education.	ROOM 2: Presentation on Climate impact and risk management.	Keynote Lecture
	9:40 - 10:10 am	Discussion panel: Inclusive education: Policies and strategies to ensure equitable access to quality education for people with disabilities.	Roundtable discussion: Climate impact and risk management: Addressing the challenges of climate change, especially for populations with disabilities.	Discussion table
	10:10 - 10:30 am	Systematization and validation of agreements. Questions and answers by the moderator	Systematization and validation of agreements. Questions and answers by the moderator	Systematization and questions and answers
	10:30 - 11:00 am	Final presentation: Future vision, post 2030 agenda on Inclusive Education	Final presentation: Future vision, post 2030 agenda on climate impact and risk management	Keynote Lecture
	11:00 - 11:20 am	Break		
Block 2	11:20 - 12:30 pm	25th Anniversary of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities: Challenges Identified and Recommendations		Keynote Lecture
	12:30 - 13:00 pm	Accessibility		Keynote Lecture
	13:00 - 14:30 pm	Lunch break		
Block 3	14:30 - 15:20 pm	Round 2 of presentations on thematic axes by representatives of the States		Keynote Lecture
	15:20 - 15:40 pm	ROOM 1: Decent and sustainable employment.	ROOM 2: Social protection.	Keynote Lecture

	15:40 am - 16:10 pm	Roundtable discussion: Decent and sustainable employment: Programs and policies that promote sustainable employment for people with disabilities.	Roundtable discussion: Social protection: Strengthening inclusive and accessible social protection systems in the region.	Discussion table
	16:10 - 16:30 pm	Systematization and validation of agreements. Questions and answers by the moderator	Systematization and validation of agreements. Questions and answers by the moderator	Systematization and questions and answers
	16:30 - 17:00 pm	Final presentation: Future vision, post 2030 agenda on decent and sustainable employment	Final presentation: Future vision, post 2030 agenda on social protection	Keynote Lecture

Day 3: Wednesday
11/12/2024

Block	Hour	Issue	Activity format
Block 1	9:00 - 11: 00 am	Plenary: conclusions and recommendations for each thematic axis (30 min each axis)	To define the format of the activity
	11:00 - 11:20 am	Break	
Block 2	11:20 am - 12:00 pm	Presentation of GDS 2025 and Preparation of final report for GDS 2025	Keynote speech
	12:00 - 12:30 pm	Reading and validation of the Final Report: Summary of conclusions and recommendations for GDS 2025.	Presentation Questions and Answers
	12:30 - 14:00 pm	Lunch break	
Block 3	14:00 - 15:30 pm	Official Closing: Final Considerations and Presentation of Regional Report. Closing Remarks	Speaking rights before the plenary session

	15:30- 15:45 pm	Break	
Block 4	15:45- 17:00 pm	Cultural Proposal	To be confirmed

Expected results

- 1. Conclusions document:** A document containing the conclusions and recommendations of the regional summit to be presented at the Global Disability Summit 2025.
- 2. Regional Collaboration Commitment:** Strengthening collaboration among countries in the region to promote the inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities through the formulation of one or more joint/individual commitments.
- 3. Commitment to inclusive public policies:** Commitment by governments in the region to implement inclusive public policies based on the summit recommendations.
- 4. Regional Summit Report.** It contains the report of all the activities carried out during the 3 days, established commitments and results obtained from the negotiating tables. It will allow establishing the mechanism for monitoring the agreements, commitments and tasks.

4. Participants

The summit will offer a hybrid format that will allow for the full participation of all stakeholders, both in person and virtually. Remote participants will be able to interact in real time, expressing their opinions and contributing to the discussions on an equal footing.

The criteria established for participants are as follows:

Organizations of People with Disabilities:

- It is expected that representatives from organizations from 20 countries in the region will participate (depending on budget availability).
- Representation of all types of disabilities will be guaranteed, encouraging the participation of under- represented groups: deaf people, deaf-blind people and psychosocial disabilities.

- intersectional approach will be adopted through the participation of: young people with disabilities, organizations of women with disabilities, indigenous people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities.
- Participation of non-formal organisations and networks of people with disabilities will be encouraged.
- Participants must:
 - o Have a letter of endorsement from your organization for participation in the summit (if you belong to one)
 - o In the case of people with disabilities who do not belong to any organization, present the invitation letter sent by the Organizing Committee.
 - o Have a valid passport for at least 6 months after the event
 - o Valid identity documents according to your country of nationality or residence

Representatives of Governments and the United Nations

- A broad invitation will be extended to representatives of the governments of Latin America, the Caribbean and the offices of the United Nations System.

Other key players:

- Representatives of International Cooperation Agencies interested in establishing commitments regarding inclusion in disabilities.
- Non-Governmental Organizations with a focus on Development and Humanitarian Work with extensive experience in Latin America in the inclusion of people with disabilities in their programs and projects.
- Private company interested in contributing to the development of initiatives aimed at the inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Universities that have demonstrated contributions in the development of studies and research on the implementation of the rights of people with disabilities, technology and innovation in accessibility.
- Other key actors who can be identified with the capacity to contribute and establish short, medium and long-term commitments.

5. Accessibility and Language

The Regional Summit will adopt a **hybrid format** (in-person and virtual) and an inclusive facilitation methodology to ensure the participation of all attendees, regardless of their geographic location or linguistic needs. Simultaneous translation will be provided in Spanish, English, Portuguese and International Sign Language.

6. Logistical arrangements

The regional Summit is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Cooperation GIZ, and is organized by the International Disability Alliance IDA, the Latin American Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families RIADIS, the Reference Center for Inclusive Education CREI SESC, the Federal Government of Brazil, the Organization of American States, the Development Bank of Latin America, Grupo Social Once, ABRACA, and other allied organizations.

