



# Call to Action on the Summit of the Future: don't leave youth with disabilities behind!

*This Call to Action has been developed by youth with disabilities through a consultative process. This was led by the International Disability Alliance Youth Committee supported by Sightsavers. We call on member states, international organizations particularly those led by youth, organizations of persons with disabilities, academia, foundations, and all allies and partners to support this call. If you would like to endorse this Call to Action or would like to support in other ways, please contact Rosario Galarza at [rgalarza@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:rgalarza@ida-secretariat.org).*

## Preamble

We, the undersigned, actors in the field of human rights, inclusive development and humanitarian action affirm our commitment to ensuring the participation of youth with disabilities at the global, regional and national levels, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We welcome the ongoing consultation process involving youth with disabilities, organized by the International Disability Alliance with the IDA Youth Committee, in collaboration with Sightsavers' Equal World campaign, supported by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities, to develop messages and demands that can be addressed to Member States during the negotiations on the outcome documents of the Summit of the Future, with a focus on SDG 17 and partnerships as a catalyst for global change.

We recognise that youth with disabilities and the organisations that represent them bring vital experiences – from the local to the global, and across multiple regions and languages – and can play a leading role in the disability rights arena and in the youth movement at large.

## The Call to Action

### **Sustainable development and financing for development (FfD);**

Action 1: Advocate for inclusive policies in participatory development agendas

Action 2: Promote access to financial resources and entrepreneurship opportunities

### **Science, technology and innovation development**

Action 3: Promote accessibility of infrastructure, physical spaces and technology for youth with disabilities and future generations.

Action 4: Promote research on assistive technologies and digital cooperation

### **International peace and security**

Action 5: Ensure that all youth, and in particular girls with disabilities, are safe, protected and also have the opportunity to contribute to peace processes and reconstruction programmes

Action 6: Meaningful participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding Processes, including youth with disabilities from underrepresented groups

### **Youth and future generations**

Action 7: Support youth with disabilities to develop skills in leadership, advocacy, and negotiation techniques.

Action 8: Promote platforms of dialogue and engagement and empower youth with disabilities by giving them visibility around the world.

### **Transforming Global Governance**

Action 9: Facilitate awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, by further advocating for the representation of persons with disabilities in policies

Action 10: Involving youth with disabilities in decision-making processes and accountability mechanisms.

### **Action 1: Advocate for Inclusive Policies in participatory development agendas**

We commit to actively engaging youth with disabilities in advocacy efforts to ensure that sustainable development agendas, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), prioritize inclusivity and accessibility. By advocating for inclusive policies, we contribute to build a more equitable and sustainable future for all. We call on Member States to take note of the Youth Charter for Change launched at the Global Disability Summit in 2022, and the Call to Action to on Disability Inclusive Transformation of Education, among others.

## **Action 2: Promote access to financial resources and entrepreneurship opportunities**

We commit to improving access to financial resources and entrepreneurship opportunities tailored to the needs and aspirations of youth with disabilities. By promoting financial inclusion and economic empowerment, we can contribute to the overall development and prosperity of our communities while breaking down barriers to financial independence and self-reliance.

## **Action 3: Promote accessibility of infrastructure, physical spaces and technology for youth with disabilities and future generations**

We reaffirm our commitment to working towards the removal of barriers—both institutional and environmental, including lack of access to information — faced by youth with disabilities. We aim to make online spaces accessible, inclusive, and safer to facilitate the full participation of youth with disabilities in technological advancements.

We are committed to collaborating with youth with disabilities and their representative organizations to enhance the accessibility of infrastructure and physical and civic spaces.

## **Action 4: Promote research on assistive technologies and digital cooperation**

We commit to promoting the full participation of youth with disabilities as active contributors in the science and technology sectors, aiming to enhance technology accessibility. We commit to ensuring the full participation and inclusion of youth with disabilities in technological advancements and their right to benefit from scientific progress.

We also reaffirm our commitment to advocating for research funding and innovation in technologies designed to address the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities, through the active participation of persons with disabilities.

## **Action 5: Ensure that all youth, and in particular girls with disabilities, are safe, protected and also have the opportunity to contribute to peace processes and reconstruction programmes**

We are committed to prioritize the safety, protection, and involvement of youth, and particularly girls in peacebuilding efforts and reconstruction programs, in line with the Security Council Resolution 2475.

We are committed to advocating for inclusive humanitarian programming and ensuring that job opportunities within humanitarian organizations, at headquarters, regional offices, and country levels, are accessible to youth with disabilities; in line with the IASC Guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

**Action 6: Meaningful participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding Processes, including youth with disabilities from underrepresented groups**

We are committed to enable youth with disabilities actively participate in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts at local, national, and international levels. This includes engaging in peace dialogues, mediation processes, and community reconciliation initiatives to promote dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation among conflicting parties.

**Action 7: Support youth with disabilities to develop skills in leadership, advocacy, and negotiation techniques**

We are committed to advocating for trainings that are accessible to all youth with disabilities, including those from underrepresented groups, allowing them the opportunity to apply the concepts they learn. We recognize that this is essential for their meaningful participation. This includes exposure to navigating political dynamics.

**Action 8: Promote platforms of dialogue and engagement and empower youth with disabilities by giving them visibility around the world**

We acknowledge the necessity of enhancing the participation and accountability of youth with disabilities in United Nations mechanisms. This entails assisting them in securing nominations from their respective governments, being elected to relevant positions, and receiving support to fulfil their mandates.

We acknowledge the urgency to meaningfully include youth with disabilities in discussions related to climate action, particularly those from underrepresented groups.

**Action 9: Facilitate awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, by further advocating for the representation of persons with disabilities in policies**

We commit to take meaningful steps to promote and strengthen awareness and education on the rights of persons with disabilities while strengthening the participation of youth with disabilities in political and public life at the local, national, regional and global levels, recognizing the prerequisites for their effective participation, addressing prevailing stereotypes and prejudices.

### **Action 10: Involving youth with disabilities in decision-making processes and accountability mechanisms**

We commit to take meaningful steps to strengthen the participation of youth with disabilities in events and discussions and to promote their participation in political and public life at the local, national, regional and global levels, recognizing the prerequisites for their effective participation, combating prevailing stereotypes and prejudices.