

Thematic Pre-Summit on Health equity for persons with disabilities

Leading up to the Global Disability Summit 2025

6 February 2025 | 13.00 - 14.00 CET

About the speakers



Ola Abualghaib //

Director, The Global Disability Fund

Dr. Ola Abualghaib was appointed Manager of the UNPRPD in August 2019. Ola led the organization's development and implementation of the Strategic Operational Framework (SOF) for 2020-2025, which positions the UNPRPD Fund as a key player in supporting countries advancing disability inclusion. Under her direction, the organization has successfully launched and implemented over 40 joint programmes across all regions. Ola has more than twenty years of experience working on gender and disability in development, including in fragile and crisis-affected settings in the Arab States, Africa and Asia. Before joining UNPRPD, she was the Director for Global Influencing and Research at Leonard Cheshire Disability in London, UK. Over the past 15 years, she has also worked with the UN system worldwide to promote disability-inclusive policies and programmes. Ola served as the Vice Chair of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and a board member of the Disability Rights Funds. Ola holds a PhD in Social Protection from the University of East Anglia, UK. Ola was featured in the [Gender Equality Top 100](#) list of most influential people in global policy.



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus // (tentative)

Director-General, World Health Organization

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017. In doing so, he was the first WHO Director-General elected from among multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and was the first person from the WHO African Region to head the world's leading public health agency. Prior to joining WHO, Dr Tedros served in Ethiopia's federal government for over a decade as Minister of Health and Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Permanent Mission of Sweden
Geneva



International Disability
and Development Consortium



Hans-Peter Baur //

Deputy Director-General & Commissioner for the Global Disability Summit 2025, Germany

On 15 May 2023, Hans-Peter Baur was appointed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) as Commissioner for the Global Disability Summit 2025 at the helm of the Global Disability Summit 2025 Task Force. On joining the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in 1992, Hans-Peter Baur represented the Ministry in various roles, notably dealing with issues of democracy, human rights, gender equality, health, and social development. As of late, from February 2021 to May 2023 he was Deputy Director-General at the BMZ for policy work within Germany; civil society; churches; federal states/local authorities.



Malin Ekman-Aldén //

Director-General, Swedish Agency for Participation, Sweden

Malin Ekman-Aldén holds the position of Director General of the Swedish Agency for Participation since 1 February 2017. She was previously working in the Government Offices (Regeringskansliet) for several years, specializing in issues related to persons with disabilities and the care of the elderly. She also has a background working in civil society organizations with development cooperation within these fields, both nationally and internationally. During the period 1994-2008 she was Secretary General for the Swedish Organisation of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (SHIA). On several occasions she has been head of delegation or appointed expert at human rights conferences, expert meetings and international dialogues. She was also a member of the board of International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) for a number of years. Ms Ekman Aldén was appointed as a Special Investigator of the Government Committee tasked with strengthening interpreting services with a focus on equality and participation during 2020-2022.



Mary Keogh //

Chair, International Disability and Development Consortium

Mary Keogh is the chair of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC). The IDDC is a network of over 35 civil society organisations coming working together around a common objective: promoting inclusive international development and humanitarian action with a focus on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by all people with disabilities.



Pearl Lüthy //

Disability Self-Advocate

Pearl is a self-advocate with [Insieme21](#). Pearl says “I like being a self-advocate because I like to speak up for people with Down syndrome. I believe that we need to be in our local schools, working in good jobs and living where we want with who we want.”



Mirriam Mutindi Nthenge //

Human Rights Adviser, International Disability Alliance

Mirriam supports IDA's engagement with UN and human rights processes, coordinates thematic submissions, and consolidates IDA's advocacy advancements in international disability rights. She has over 10 years of experience working to strengthen human rights standards of persons with disabilities in national laws and policies, and regional and international human rights instruments. She has previously worked at the Center for Reproductive Rights, advocating for sexual and reproductive health and rights. She has also worked with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights as a human rights officer, responsible for disability mainstreaming, and with the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She holds an LL.M. in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy. Mirriam is based in Nairobi, Kenya.



Jérôme Salomon //

Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage, Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, World Health Organization

Jérôme Salomon is the WHO Assistant Director General for UCN, overseeing the portfolio on Universal Health Coverage, Communicable and Noncommunicable diseases, and Mental Health. Prior to joining WHO, Jérôme occupied several academic and scientific roles, such as Director for International Projects at Institut Pasteur in Paris, Executive Director of Pasteur International Network, Full Professor at CNAM and in the Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases (Garches Hospital, APHP) and at Simone Veil medical school, Versailles Paris Saclay University.



José Viera //

Executive Director (interim), International Disability Alliance

As interim Executive Director, José is responsible for leading IDA through an important transitional period, including significant administrative and strategic reforms, deepening relationships with key partners and stakeholders, and ensuring financial sustainability and proper running of IDA's operations. José has spent the last 20 years working at all levels of the disability movement. He has a background in management and international development and has previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of the World Blind Union. Jose is currently based in Toronto, Canada.