

Side Event Concept Note

“**Meaningful Engagement of OPDs: Inclusive processes for reaching under-represented groups of persons with disabilities in programming”**

**Background**

While there has been a significant improvement in the inclusion of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in both disability-specific and mainstream programming in recent years, this increase in meaningful engagement has not benefited the disability movement equally.

Underrepresented groups, including OPDs representing people with intellectual disabilities, people with psychosocial disabilities, and people with deafblindness, still continue to be excluded from both access to official development assistance (ODA) and from programming partnerships. Funders, INGOs, and other actors have an opportunity to move the needle on the inclusion of underrepresented groups in development programming by taking steps to implement tested inclusive practices in their work.

Organisations including the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), Inclusion International, and Humanity & Inclusion have developed innovative practices and programme strategies that ensure that underrepresented groups of people with disabilities and the organisations that represent them are meaningfully included.

This side event will showcase concrete practices that organisations are using to ensure meaningful inclusion of underrepresented groups which can be replicated and will introduce an interactive discussion with the audience on good practice for ensuring meaningful engagement.

**Objectives**The objectives of the side event are:

1. To share examples of inclusive practices that meaningfully include people with intellectual disabilities, people with psychosocial disabilities, people with deafblindness, and other underrepresented groups.
2. To provide a platform for organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and their development partners to share their experiences of meaningful engagement and partnership.
3. To create a dialogue on best practices for meaningful engagement of underrepresented groups.
4. To present challenges and solutions to ensure meaningful engagement of underrepresented groups.
5. To provide actionable recommendations on inclusive practices for meaningful engagement.

**Format**

The event is hosted by the International Disability and Development Consortium.

The side-event will be held online via Zoom.

The side event will be in the form of a panel discussion and will last 1 hour and 15 minutes.

The event will include panellist presentations and interactive debate with the audience.

The session will be held in English. Live captioning and sign language interpretation will be provided (TBC).

**Speakers**

Opening Remarks:

* Representative from the International Disability Alliance

Moderator:

* IDDC Board Member

Panellists:

1. IDDC OPD Task Group – OPD Partner to present on the inclusive OPD Guidance Note Process
2. Inclusion International – A speaker with an intellectual disability will present on the inclusive Listen Include Respect programming methodology
3. Humanity & Inclusion – A speaker with a psychosocial disability from an HI partner organisation will present on meaningful engagement in programme partnerships
4. Sense International - An OPD representing people with deafblindness in Nepal will speak about meaningful engagement in the DID Programme.
5. CBM Global - A partner organisation representing an underrepresented group will present on meaningful engagement in programme partnerships

Closing Remarks:

* Representative from the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO)