

Frequently asked questions on the GDS commitments

What is the GDS commitments mechanism?

The GDS commitments mechanism is a structured process through which stakeholders can make concrete pledges or commitments to implement the rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It provides a framework for governments, UN agencies, civil society including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), the private sector, academia, foundations and other stakeholders to outline specific actions, initiatives, or policies they will implement on disability inclusion.

Why GDS commitments?

GDS commitments are essential because they help incorporate disability inclusion in development cooperation more systematically and drive action and accountability in contributing to collective efforts to promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities globally. The GDS commitments mechanism gives stakeholders an opportunity to announce their commitments on the occasion of the summit and demonstrate their dedication to translating legal obligations and political will into concrete action.

Are there specific guidelines that I should follow when pledging commitments?

The GDS co-hosts encourage stakeholders to follow the guidance note which spells out the criteria that the commitments should fulfill. Each stakeholder submitting a commitment for the first time will be required to register on the online portal (hosted by idata) using a username and password. This ensures ownership and transparency of commitments. Additionally, it provides the GDS Secretariat with a means to maintain communication with organizations that submit commitments over time.

How can I submit GDS commitments?

Pledging GDS commitments involves the following steps:

- Identify a specific action, initiative, or policy based on the criteria set in the guidance note for GDS commitments;
- Clearly outline your commitment, including the goals, timeline, and expected outcomes;
- Register your organization by registering on the online Portal or login if you already have your previous credentials;
- Submit your commitment for the GDS2025.

What occurs after my commitment is published? How do I report progress?

The portal allows pledgers to report their progress annually within a six-week period between March and April. After the reporting period concludes, the GDS Secretariat, with the assistance of an external vendor, conducts both quantitative and qualitative analyses of the progress received. A progress report is then published based on this analysis. (See the commitments guidance note for further details).

I submitted commitments during GDS2022 or GDS2018. How can I update or add to them?

The online portal allows you to add new commitments or modify / update existing ones. Determine whether the commitments are updates to previous commitments or new ones and proceed with the appropriate process.

Can I collaborate with others entities to submit a joint commitment?

We encourage state actors from the Global South and the Global North as well as UN agencies to submit joint commitments together with OPDs. Pledgers have the opportunity to communicate to all pledging bodies at once through a discussion forum on the portal. Pledgers have the opportunity to share their draft pledges with the GDS secretariat and other pledgers through a forum on the online portal, indicating that they are open to collaboration. Pledgers looking for partners to submit a joint commitment are also able to see other stakeholders looking to draft joint commitments. The text of the draft commitment will only be visible to those working on it.

When will my commitments be made public?

The commitment portal will be publicly available on April 3rd, 2025.

How will my commitment be highlighted or featured at the Global Disability Summit?

The GDS Secretariat and co-hosts will conduct a selection process to identify the top 20 commitments. Commitments that demonstrate strong leadership, effective partnerships for implementation, connect government initiatives with civil society, private sector, and academic involvement, or involve multiple stakeholders in a regional approach will be showcased during a dedicated session at the Summit. The co-hosts highlight these best commitments to raise awareness, inspire others, and encourage accountability.