# ADDC Bulletin: September 2023 edition

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Welcome to our bulletin for September.

On Saturday 14 October 2023 Australians will have their say in a referendum about whether to change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. First Peoples Disability Australia, the peak representative body for First Peoples with disabilities and a part of ADDC, has information about the Voice to Parliament [here](https://fpdn.org.au/indigenous-voice-to-parliament/) to support Australians with disabilities to participate in the process. You can also access an Easy Read guide to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a document by First Nations people for the constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations Voice, [here](https://t.co/hnYRgfOOOW).

At ADDC we have now provided our submission to the International Gender Equality Strategy, available [here](#GenderEqualityStrategy). We thank those from our membership who have helped shape our input to this submission. Next month, we will be facilitating a [concurrent session](#ConcurrentSession) with CBM Australia at the ACFID conference. Join us at the conference as we hear from established and emerging disability leaders from the Indo-Pacific as they discuss progress in disability inclusion over the last decade. You can register for the conference [here](https://acfid.asn.au/learning/conference-2023/) – we would love to meet you in person.

On behalf of ADDC, we thank you for being with us on this journey to a #MoreInclusiveWorld,

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# ADDC NEWS

## Submission to the International Gender Equality Strategy

The Australian Government DFAT is developing a new International Gender Equality Strategy with the consultation process occurring in the latter half of 2023.

As such, ADDC welcomes the opportunity to provide input drawn from the experience and expertise of our membership to the formation of the Australian Government’s new International Gender Equality strategy.

Download our written submission in Word and PDF versions [here](https://www.addc.org.au/file/submission-to-the-international-gender-equality-strategy/).

DFAT’s call for written submissions, including in Easy Read form is linked [here](https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/gender-equality/new-international-gender-equality-strategy).

## From inclusion to equity: Accelerating progress toward realising disability rights

ADDC and CBM Australia will facilitate a joint concurrent session at this year’s ACFID conference on Thursday 19th October at 11:30 am.

Join established and emerging disability leaders from the Indo-Pacific as they discuss progress in disability inclusion over the last decade, the shift from inclusion to equity, and what’s needed now to accelerate progress to equity for people with disabilities, including in light of the reality of increased crises and instability.

Speakers include Abia Akram, National Forum of Women with Disabilities Pakistan; Nelly Caleb, Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association; and Jabis Manaika, Pacific Disability Forum Youth Committee.

Register [here](https://acfid.arinex.one/) for the ACFID conference, *Global Development 2.0 disruptive dynamics, inspired ideas.*

# ****IN THE NEWS****

## Beyond a seat at the table: towards disability equity in Asia-Pacific

People with disabilities were hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic – in terms of both impacts on health and on livelihoods. People with disabilities are more vulnerable to the growing effects of climate change. The scale of national budget investment to support people with disabilities remains stubbornly low across the region. And in 2021-22, just 2.5% of Australia’s aid expenditure was attributable as disability inclusion.

So – how do we shift the dial?

Read about this in [this DevPolicy blog article](https://devpolicy.org/beyond-a-seat-at-the-table-towards-disability-equity-in-asia-pacific-20230907/) by CBM Australia CEO Jane Edge and Pacific Disability Forum CEO Setareki Macanawai.

## Africa Disability Forum & CBM Global to strengthen disability inclusion

The Africa Disability Forum (ADF) and CBM Global are pleased to announce a new strategic collaboration, formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

ADF currently has members from 44 African countries, with a mission to “promote the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in Africa through empowerment and participation, unifying and amplifying their voices, and strengthening their organizations and partnerships.”

CBM Global works alongside people with disabilities living in the world’s poorest places to fight poverty and exclusion, transform lives, and build inclusive communities.

The two organisations have already been working together in a number of ways, including collaborating through CBM Global’s Inclusion Advisory Group in providing advisory services to the World Food Programme in delivering on its commitments to disability inclusion.

Read more [here](https://cbm-global.org/news/africa-disability-forum-cbm-global-to-strengthen-disability-inclusion).

## International Disability Alliance reaction to the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response

The International Disability Alliance deeply regrets that the political declaration on ‘Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response’ does not adequately reflect the disproportionate risks faced by persons with disabilities during pandemics and the need to respond to that risk. The declaration is a fundamentally inadequate response to the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and ignores the deep-seated structural, social, and health system factors that drive health inequities for persons with disabilities.

This is a matter of life and death - persons with disabilities were 2.8 times more likely than others to die from COVID during the COVID-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization has said that “The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a wake-up call for the health sector and highlighted the health inequities faced by persons with disabilities”. The World Health Organization has written extensively on this issue, providing analytical reporting and guidance, and it is concerning that the PPPR declaration did not respond to the wake-up call.

Read more [here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/international-disability-alliance-reaction-political-declaration-high-level-meeting-pandemic).

# ****NEW RESOURCES****

## Journal article: The Journey to Early Identification and Intervention for Children with Disabilities in Fiji

Early identification of developmental delay or disability and access to early intervention improves outcomes for children with disabilities and their families. However, in many low- and middle-income countries, services and systems to enable timely, co-ordinated care and support are lacking. The aim of this research was to explore the experiences of families of children with developmental disabilities in Fiji in accessing services for intervention and support across sectors.

This article was published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* and written by Fleur Smith, Sureni Perra and Manjula Marella.

Access the article [here](https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/18/6732).

## Disability-Inclusive Education: Policy Guidance

This Policy Guidance Document provides introductory information regarding inclusive education, to assist DFAT in supporting the design, implementation, and monitoring of inclusive education initiatives. It refers to the international ‘Framework for Disability-Inclusive Education’ and discusses the key elements of inclusive education identified within the Framework. The Guidance Document can be used to guide the assessment of inclusive education at the country and program level.

Download the document [here](https://www.did4all.com.au/Resources/DFAT_Disability_Inclusive_Education_Policy_Guidance_Final.pdf).

## Fostering Disability Inclusion and Business Integrity in ASEAN

Disability inclusion is instrumental to the Sustainable Development Goals and its central pledge to leave no one behind. “Fostering Disability Inclusion & Business Integrity in ASEAN” examines case studies in six ASEAN countries – Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam – to illustrate promising practices in disability-inclusive business integrity through innovative policies and practices that give precedence to high ethical standards, trust, transparency, and accountability, thereby supporting stronger and inclusive economic growth and societies.

Access the report [here](https://www.undp.org/publications/fostering-disability-inclusion-and-business-integrity-asean).

## The transformative role of persons with disabilities in peacebuilding processes

In this report, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities highlights the agency of persons with disabilities in rebuilding broken societies in post-conflict contexts. Using concepts such as moral repair and transitional justice, he points to the need to include the voices of persons with disabilities in peacebuilding processes.

Access the report [here](https://srdisability.org/news/the-transformative-role-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-peacebuilding-processes/).

## Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023

“Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023” is the latest edition in the annual series produced by UN Women and UNDESA. The report presents the latest evidence on gender equality across all 17 Goals, including prevailing trends and gaps on the road to 2030.

There are a few references to women with disabilities including older women with disabilities, reduced inequalities, and a paragraph related to sustainable cities and communities.

Access the report [here](https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2023).

## Just released: 2023 GEM Report

The new 2023 GEM Report on Technology in education: A tool on whose terms? addresses the use of technology in education around the world through the lenses of relevance, equity, scalability and sustainability.

It argues that education systems should always ensure that learners’ interests are placed at the center and that digital technologies are used to support an education based on human interaction rather than aiming at substituting it. The report looks at ways in which technology can help reach disadvantaged learners but also ensure more knowledge reaches more learners in more engaging and cheaper formats. It focuses on how quality can be improved, both in teaching and learning basic skills, and in developing the digital skills needed in daily life. It recognizes the role of technology in system management with special reference to assessment data and other education management information.

Download the report [here](https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en).

## 2022 Annual Report CBM Global just launched

In 2022, CBM Global achieved several significant milestones and partnerships while continuing its mission to support people with disabilities. They successfully completed their transition into a new Federation, welcoming distinguished members from the disability movement to their federal Board. They also strengthened their collaborations with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), increasing the number of funding relationships by 45% and setting partnership commitments for the Global Disability Summit in February 2022.

To empower local leadership, CBM Global established a Localisation Steering Group comprising OPD representatives, focusing on adapting their structures and systems. They implemented routine partner feedback surveys, generally receiving positive feedback. CBM Global engaged in strategic collaborations with global and regional OPDs and other international NGOs.

In addition, CBM Global participated in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) to emphasize the impact of climate change on people with disabilities and advocate for their inclusion in climate discussions and adaptation efforts. They also organized their first Global Gathering in Kenya in June, strengthening their dedication to breaking the cycle of poverty and disability among the communities they serve.

Access the report [here](https://cbm-global.org/annual-report-2022#our-achievements-2022).

## Disability Debrief’s library of disability resources

In the past couple of years, Disability Debrief has linked to thousands of stories, articles, and pieces of research. There’s a catalogue of almost 3,200 links hand-picked since the start of 2022, covering the majority of the world's countries and an extensive range of tech, social and economic issues. They are proud to share:

• A library with [disability news and resources](https://www.disabilitydebrief.org/r/0f6a2020?m=d6b2024e-a76c-4c67-90da-a10bdaee4f70) from 145+ countries and regions

• A hub on [climate and disability](https://www.disabilitydebrief.org/r/52566f3e?m=d6b2024e-a76c-4c67-90da-a10bdaee4f70) with a resource guide and Áine Kellu-Costello's reporting.

Please share [these resources](https://www.disabilitydebrief.org/debrief/growing-library/?ref=disability-debrief-newsletter) to help others discover them.

## General comments and IDA’s submissions to mainstream rights of persons with disabilities

Throughout the past years, the International Disability Alliance has advocated for mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the work of UN Treaty Bodies different from the CRPD Committee, including among others the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

This work has included seeking to influence UN Treaty Bodies general comments which elaborate on the content of the rights recognized in human rights treaties and contributed for increased visibility of persons with disabilities. IDA submissions implied legal and social science research and drafting and are part of the core work of IDA on UN Treaty Bodies, together with supporting national OPDs to engage in State reviews by those different committees.

You can find the different general comments and IDA written contributions submitted to highlight relevant issues of persons with disabilities in the processes of their adoption [here](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/general-comments-and-ida%E2%80%99s-submissions-mainstream-rights-persons-disabilities).

# WEBINAR RECORDINGS

## Together towards a disability-inclusive future: From the SDGs Summit to beyond 2030 (SDG Action Weekend, Side Event) (16 Sep 2023)

This [side-event](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1h/k1hrmj121i) aims to raise the urgency to not miss the chance to meaningfully include persons with disabilities, including from the lens of multiple intersecting forms of discrimination, as we approach 2030 and plan for beyond.

## Breaking Barriers: Disabilities and Human Rights - SDG Media Zone at the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly (18 Sep 2023)

This [session](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k13/k13iu1zgt6) talks about the power of inclusivity, the impact of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and how we can collectively champion human rights for everyone, including persons with disabilities. When applied to people with disabilities, leaving no one behind means ensuring that they have equal access to opportunities, support services, and resources, and that their rights and needs are fully recognized and addressed.

# ****YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED****

## Make Your Voices Count! Calls for Input from Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

In line with Article 4(3) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), persons with disabilities and their representative organisations should be closely consulted and actively involved in matters concerning them. This includes persons with disabilities in all their diversity- children, women, older persons, persons with diverse SOGIESC, Indigenous peoples, migrants and others, as well as persons representing different disability constituencies.

The unique perspectives offered by persons with disabilities draw on their own expertise and experiences and can help shape and inform programmes, policies and practices – including beyond disability-specific matters- to strengthen inclusion for everyone.

Disability Rights Fund have created [this page](https://disabilityrightsfund.org/make-your-voices-count-calls-for-input-from-organizations-of-persons-with-disabilities/) to provide current opportunities for input. This page will be updated regularly.

## 2023 WFDB Survey on Older Persons with Deafblindness

WFDB has launched a survey on the global situation of older people with deafblindness. The purpose of this survey is to gather information for WFDB’s 1st Global Report on older persons with deafblindness, which will be published by the end of 2023. A research consultant working for WFDB will process and analyze the data. This survey and report are organized as part of the SHAPES Project, an EU-funded program that addresses the needs and expectations of older people. WFDB is a consortium member of this project, which will end in October 2023.

[Read about the project here](https://wfdb.eu/shapes-project/).

[Access the survey here.](https://idata.tools/survey/-NZVfcbdAsTJ1HZll9c3/welcome)

# ****UPCOMING EVENTS****

## 2023 ACFID National Conference: Global Development 2.0

The Roundhouse, University of Sydney | October 18-19, 2023

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://acfid.asn.au/learning/conference-2023/).

# ****OPPORTUNITIES****

## Senior Program Manager

CARE Australia

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://careaustralia.connxcareers.com/Job/Details/eb9846515d144dccbfd885182a578991).

## Senior Disability and Inclusion Advisor

CBM Australia

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://www.cbm.org.au/career/senior-disability-and-inclusion-advisor).

## Program Manager – DFAT Partnership

CBM Australia

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://www.cbm.org.au/career/program-manager-dfat-partnership).

## Consultant (Assistive Technology)

International Disability Alliance

[LEARN MORE HERE](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/opportunities?fbclid=IwAR0n7ZGhfUOBVtv_VFco8bfUOKg1KvTtaAj1rHYYmQ2wMBkny0-1jhKPD7Y).

# ABOUT US

ADDC is an Australian, international network focusing attention, expertise and action on disability issues in developing countries; building on a human rights platform for disability advocacy. To join ADDC (membership is free) or find out more, please visit our [website](http://www.addc.org.au).

This bulletin aims to provide information on Disability Inclusive Development across organizations working to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities both here in Australia and across the world. Generic disability and domestic information will be included in our Bulletins when possible as part of our commitment to disability advocacy and strengthening partnerships; however, our focus remains on disability and development issues.

**Acknowledgment of Country:**ADDC recognizes the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We acknowledge their resilience, contributions and connection to land, culture and water. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future. 45 per cent of Aboriginal Australians live with a disability or a long-term, restricting health condition. They are 2.1 times more likely to live with a disability than non-Aboriginal Australians, and 5 times more likely to experience a mental health condition. Aboriginal people with disabilities participate in cultural activities at the same rates as those without disabilities. We pay our respects to their enduring spirit and inclusivity.

**Disclaimer:** This bulletin is a compilation of other organizations’ articles and material. While every effort made is to validate content, ADDC does not endorse all opinions and views contacted within the Bulletin.