

2012 Forum on the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities

Working Together to Achieve Equity: Bringing Children with Disabilities to the Forefront of Development

September 14-15, 2012
UNICEF House, Labouisse Hall

From September 14-15 UNICEF will host the first major gathering of the **Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GPCwd)**. For the first time, partners will come together to discuss and raise awareness about issues facing children with disabilities in development. They will call upon the child rights movement to increase attention to the needs of children with disabilities and likewise for the disability movement to pay more attention to the needs of children.

The partners recognize the importance to work closely to address the existing gaps and support governments in collaboration with UNICEF COs and other partners, towards full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Forum will review the situation at the global level, looking at the post-2015 environment and the integration of disability in particular thematic areas (education, nutrition and inclusive emergencies), as well as at the national level with discussions on collaboration in specific countries.

The 1.5 day Forum will immediately follow the **5th Conference of States Parties of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP)** which has children and women with disabilities as main themes for this year. Participants at the Forum will include Governments, UN Agencies, youth representatives, civil society organizations, the Inter-Agency Support Group on the CRPD, and the GPCwD partners themselves, which includes the 3 global disability networks (International Disability Alliance, International Disability and Development Consortium, and Global Partnership on Disability and Development) and more than 100 organizations, including Save the Children, World Vision, Plan International and other champions on children's rights.

Overview of the Sessions

Friday, September 14

OPENING SESSION (2:30-3:00PM)

UNICEF will open the Partners' Forum by welcoming the participants and provide an overview of the need for partnership to address the rights of children with disabilities today.

HIGH LEVEL PANEL (3:00-5:30PM)

With the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fast approaching, civil society, academics, governments and the UN system are already discussing what the next era of development should look like. There is recognition that there is still unfinished business and the MDGs, as originally designed, did not take into consideration children with disabilities. Therefore this panel will focus on realizing equity for children with disabilities in the post-2015 agenda and reflect on what an inclusive world would look like after 2015. The speakers will reiterate the linkages between the CRC and CRPD and discuss viable strategies to influence the post-2015 agenda towards an inclusive development approach.

This panel will be organized as part of the consultations around **UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report of 2013**, dedicated to children with disabilities and also the **Post-2015 thematic consultation on inequalities led by UN Women and UNICEF**.

Between 120-150 participants are expected to attend the session, including representatives from Member States and civil society. The panel will be moderated by the Editor of UNICEF's flagship publication *State of the World's Children* which is dedicated to children with disabilities in 2013, Mr. Abid Aslam.

RECEPTION (5:30-7:00PM)

Following the high level panel, UNICEF will host a special reception to acknowledge the contributions from the partners and advocate for the inclusion of children with disabilities in development cooperation. There will also be a special performance from Sidiki Conde (<http://tokounou.home.mindspring.com/>).

Saturday, September 15

The space for this meeting is limited.

WORKING SESSIONS (9:00-5:00PM)

Saturday will be a working session with partners and with UNICEF Country Offices that are engaging in programmes that include children with disabilities. The aims for the day are 1) to identify strategies to influence the mainstreaming of the rights of children with disabilities in global agendas focused on children where UNICEF is integrally involved or leading and 2) to discuss and identify common strategies for country-level collaboration.

The morning session will look at ways to advocate for the mainstreaming of disability in the Global Nutrition Agenda (including Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and REACH Movements), the Global Partnership on Education (GPE), and efforts to advance inclusive emergencies and humanitarian action for children with disabilities. The partners will work together to develop a 1 year strategy and report on progress during the High level Meeting on Disability (Sept 2013), when hopefully, the 2nd Forum will be organized and the partners can evaluate the work to date. The one year timeframe is strategic because of the High Level Meeting on Disability in 2013 and the activities to outline the post-2015 agenda.

With the aim to increase co-operation and effectiveness at the country level, the partners will spend the afternoon discussing strategies for collaboration based on current activities and opportunities. The focus will be on countries that are likely to have their child-focused proposals funded by the UNPRPD Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) in August. Additionally, other countries that have ratified the CPRD and where UNICEF and the Government have made disability a priority in the country programme will also be considered. This session will set a clear strategy for collaboration at the country level and ensure the work of the GPCwD will be highly interactive and operational in countries.

For further details on the programme, please see the enclosed agenda.

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AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

1. Draw attention to the issues facing children with disabilities in development.
2. Make a call to action for the child rights movement to increase attention to the needs of children with disabilities and for the disability movement to increase attention to the needs of children.
3. Promote CRPD ratification and implementation and an inclusive post-2015 agenda.
4. Promote collaboration in countries supported by the UN Partnership on Persons with Disabilities and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

Friday, September 14: HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION

Participants: Partners from the Global Partnership, UN Missions, Inter-Agency Support Group members, Youth Representatives, heads of major foundations

Time	Session Title	Description
2:30-3:00	Opening Remarks	Welcoming remark
3:00-5:30	Realizing Equity for Children with Disabilities in the post-2015 Agenda: <i>What does an inclusive world look like after 2015?</i>	A panel of experts will discuss the importance and potential impact of targeting the rights of children with disabilities in the post-2015 agenda and will be followed by a discussion with the audience
5:30-7:00	Reception in Danny Kaye Visitors Centre	

Saturday, September 15: WORKING MEETING

The space for this meeting is limited.

Participants: Partners from the Global Partnership, Inter-Agency Support Group members, Youth Representatives, Representatives from the individual countries being discussed in the afternoon

Time	Session Title	Description
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Remarks	Welcome & Introduction to main issues facing children with disabilities today

9:15-10:30	Influencing the Global Child Rights Agenda	Experts will discuss how to influence and ensure children with disabilities are considering in major global initiatives/agendas: 1. Global Nutrition Agenda 2. Global Partnership on Education (for All) 3. Inclusive Emergencies and Humanitarian Action
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-12:00	<i>Morning session continued</i>	<i>continued</i>
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Lunch will be provided.
1:00 – 3:30	Scaling up National Plans with an Inclusive Approach	The purpose is to promote and start to outline collaboration in regions, with attention paid to countries supported by the UN Partnership on Persons with Disabilities/ the Multi-Donor Trust Fund
3:30 – 4:00	Coffee break	
4:00-4:45	Where do we go from here?	Present consensus points and a roadmap for the Partnership leading up to the High Level Meeting on Disability 2013
4:45 – 5:00	Concluding Remarks	Inspiring comments and summary of the outcomes from the Forum