



Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum
c/o World of Inclusion
78, Mildmay Grove South,
LONDON N1 4PJ

Relaunching Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum

We were pleased to be able to apply to the Commonwealth Fund of the Disability Rights Fund to start up the CDPF again, develop activities and move forward at this important time and be granted money to bring delegates to a launch event in New York during the 12th Conference of State Parties in June 2019

History

Following a meeting at CHOGM 2007 of disabled activists in Uganda, it was planned to have a launch meeting in London the following year. The International Committee of the UK Council of Disabled People supported this process. This organisation no longer exists.

The Commonwealth Disability People's Forum was set up at a meeting in London in 2008 supported by DFID and FOC funding. There was a meeting with representatives from 16 Commonwealth Countries which adopted a policy direction, adopted a constitution and elected an executive committee. There was a parallel Youth meeting at the same time which elected 2 representatives to the Executive Board. A training event was held in Kampala the following year organised by James Mwandah the Chair. Unfortunately, in the following year both the Chair and Vice Chair died. The remaining Executive members filled these posts from among their number. More activities and meetings were held through to 2012. These included training in the Commonwealth Islands of the Pacific for disabled organisation leaders, interventions at a number of international meetings in New York, Geneva and Sri Lanka and a presentation of these activities at Marlborough House. By this time 27 country National DPOs were full members and a number of individual or local DPOs were associate members. Illness (the Membership Secretary and the Acting Secretary's death) with failure to get additional funding, led to the organisation ceasing to function. However, a bank account was set up but not used and the CDPF was registered as a company in London. No audited accounts have been produced as any money we raised went through individual DPOs.

Since 2012 there have been a number of important developments which put disability equality, as a development issue, at the centre of the international development agenda. There is a lack of coordination and collaboration of Commonwealth DPOs on policy development, implementation, capacity building and leadership development across the 53 countries (Maldives, the 54th, is reapplying for admission). The Commonwealth Foundation has continued to hold occasional disability

event (2016 and 2018), but the Commonwealth Secretariat and member countries have not focused majorly on disability accepting some mentions in the 2018 CHOGM declaration. Now the Commonwealth Secretariat are fully supporting our efforts to relaunch the Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum

Recent Developments

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and their clear link with the articles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (152 of the 162 targets linked to Human Rights instruments including 11 links on disability) sets a strong agenda. This means collaborating and working to advance these across the Commonwealth. This is a vital priority with over 400 million persons with disabilities. The Global Disability Summit agreed to work in 4 priority areas

At the recent Global Summit on Disability held in London on 23rd and 24th July, a number of members of the previous Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum came together at a meeting with more than 20 representatives and agreed that the time was right to try and restart the Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum. It was decided that this should be carried out at the UN Conference of State Parties in New York 9th to 13th June. We have decided that this should be on Friday June 14th 2019.

At the Summit it was agreed, based on consultation, to move forward with two cross-cutting themes on humanitarian assistance and gender and four themes:

“1. Tackling stigma and discrimination – commitments could include greater legislation at national level; quotas on representation and visibility of people with disabilities; and high-profile media campaigns.

2. Inclusion in education - deliverables may include: minimum standards of accessibility in schools, and greater leadership and investment in teacher training and accessible learning materials/resources.

3. Routes to economic empowerment – commitments may include: anti-discrimination laws, social protection and training schemes, vocational rehabilitation and universal design.

4. Harnessing technology and innovation – this area has significant potential to change lives in low income countries: In terms of deliverables we will target reduced prices and expanded access of five assistive devices through new mass markets; and also improved access to cross the 'digital divide' through new technologies”

. These will be the areas of initial focus for the reconstituted CDPF. The method we shall use comes from the Civil Society Forum on 23rd July.

On 23 July 2018 (London) over 600 representatives from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities also referred to as DPOs, Civil Society, Governments, Multilateral Organisations, and the Private Sector met to support the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Agenda 2030.

“Collaboratively, we wish to convey the following Statement:

We commit to working with all stakeholders here at the Summit to ensure that all persons with disabilities can have full and equal enjoyment of their rights and fundamental freedoms, as set out in the CRPD.

Agenda 2030 is an important opportunity to promote the rights of persons with disabilities globally, and the CRPD should be its guiding framework.

We acknowledge the steps taken to realise the rights of persons with disabilities and their families, by Governments and organisations here today. However, there remains much more to be done.

Today, we call on those present to make measurable, ambitious and lasting commitments. Commitments which will be made a reality and not just stay on paper.

It is time to implement the CRPD in every corner of the world: in every city, in every train station, in every village, in every mountain and valley, in every refugee camp and in every school.

We all, you all, the World Leaders in this room, have a unique opportunity. But also a responsibility.

We call on you all here today to:

Increase the meaningful consultation and involvement of persons with disabilities, and their organisations, in all decision-making processes and follow up of the Summit.

Increase investment in, and partnership with, a diversity of DPOs and support the Disability Rights Movement to grow from the grassroots.

Commit to building the capacity of all stakeholders – government, multilaterals, and broader civil society - to implement the CRPD.

Create stronger partnerships at all levels with an emphasis on the four thematic and two cross-cutting areas of the Summit.

Put in place CRPD compliant policies and legislation, from the national level to overseas development, that are appropriately budgeted for and resourced, and ensures the systematic inclusion of reasonable accommodation as a budgeting principle.

In partnership with persons with disabilities, support the collection and use of appropriate, reliable and comparable data inclusive of persons with disabilities.

Finally, we wish to convey that we fully support the Charter for Change and its effective follow-up.

We thank you for the opportunity to be active participants here today and wish everyone a meaningful and productive Summit”.

These will be the structural and organisational focus of the CDPF.

What - the activities to be funded (meetings to be held, trainings, travel, etc.)?

We need funding for getting delegates from Commonwealth National DPOs to New York to take part in the CRPD and the event on Friday 14th June.

We envisage getting 50 delegates and personal assistants to New York to participate. We have grant money for travel, visas, expenses and accommodation. We think it very important to have a gender balance amongst delegates and represent a range of impairing conditions

The purpose of this one day meeting will be to agree to set up the CRPD, elect a new executive committee, agree key policy priorities in line with the Goals of the Global Summit and enhance participants capacity to get their governments to implement these policies. The International Disability Alliance are fully supporting this initiative as are the UK Department for International Development.

Further Capacity Building event in 2020. We would like to hold a further 5 day training and capacity building meeting in 2020 ideally in South Africa in the week before CHOGM with a representative number going on to the CHOGM People's Forum meeting in Rwanda to try and influence the outcome of the Government Communiqué to include an emphasis on disability goals and capacity building for people with disabilities and their DPOs. We aim to get 60 delegates half of whom are youth to this event. This would share experience and knowledge South-South and South –North and North-South

Why - what you hope to achieve by having this gathering (meeting goals)?

New York Meeting Goals

Reconstitute CDPF

Elect Interim Executive

Agree Work Program priorities

Develop capacity of delegate to hold their Governments to account on 2 cross cutting and 4 areas from Global Summit on Disability with commitments to specific actions from each DPO present.

African Training

Develop understanding of the UNCRPD, SDGs and Global Goals and how they interact

Learn to use different methods of campaigning and influencing Government

Understand methods of building DPOs at local, regional and national levels

Focus on influencing Commonwealth People's Forums(CPF) and Commonwealth Governments on an ongoing basis

Develop and test on peers a plan of action to take back to each participating country.

CHOGM Peoples Forum

Develop the understanding of disability rights issues amongst all participants

Influence significantly the Statement from CPF

Influence country leaders to be supportive of CDPF goals

Develop a strong network of contacts.

Who - a good estimate or idea of how many people and from where?

New York The following will be represented

Australia People with Disabilities Australia-Full member

Access Bangladesh Foundation- Associate member
Botswana Federation of the Disabled -Full Member
Cameroon – Platform Inclusive Soc Full Member
Canadians with Disabilities Council Full Member
Dominica Association Persons with Disabilities DAPD Full Member
Fiji Pacific Disability Forum
Ghana GFD Full
India NCPEDP- Associate
India Swarthinae Associate
Kenya United Disabled Persons of Kenya UDPOK- Full Member
Lesotho LNFOD Full Member
Malawi FEDOMA- Full Member
Malaysia Harapan OKU -Associate
Mozambique FAMOD Full Member
Nigeria JONAWPWD Full Member
Pakistan Special Talent Exchange- Associate
Papua New Guinea Assembly of Disabled Persons-Full
Rwanda NUDOR -Full Member
Rwanda UNABU Women- Associate
Samoa Nuanua Ol Alofa -Full Member
Sierra Leone Union on Disability Issues (SLUDI)- Full Member
Sri Lanka DOJF- Full Member
South Africa Disabled Persons South Africa -Full Member
Federation of Disabled Persons in Swaziland (FODSWA)- Full Member
Tanzania Association of the Deaf (CHIAVITA)- Associate
Tanzania SHIVYAWATA- Full member
Uganda National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda-NUDIPU Full Member
Uganda Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities- Associate
UK National Federation of the Blind- Associate
UK ROFA- Associate
Vanuatu -Full Member

South Africa 2020

30 newer representatives from Commonwealth DPOs in the South and Youth reps 25 of whom are from the South, up to 5 from the North.

CHOGM 2020 10 delegates -5 from capacity building and 5 Executive members.

Organiser

Build membership
Organise content and speakers at meetings
Set up electronic newsletter and website
Convene telephone conferences of executive
Produce and distribute minutes
Seek further funding.

Action on Disability and Development International have signed an agreement with the CDPF to Act as our fiscal partner in this venture and are being very supportive of the logistics. The Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation are supportive of these moves and look forward to

receiving an application for formal accreditation of the Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum in due course.

Rachel Kachaja, Malawi the acting Chair of CDPF is in full agreement with the above.

"As for me, I strongly think that it is very important to restart the CDPF to strengthen the voice of members in the Commonwealth, we really need to be united and to be part of the development agenda in the Commonwealth countries. We see a lot happening during the CHOGM meetings but persons with disabilities' voice is always in the minority. There is a lot that we need to do in order to bring this sensitization for them to understand disability and why no one should be left behind. I have life experience in the last CHOGM in Malta, where I observed a big gap, so for me restarting this CDPF is important and it needs to be supported".

Administration- Gemma White ADD Resource Manager Phone: +44 (0)1373 473064 Mobile: +44 (0)7910 248487 gemma.white@add.org.uk

Richard Rieser Interim Coordinator Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum

c/o World of Inclusion Ltd, 78 Mildmay Grove South, London N1 4PJ Tel +44(0)7715420727 or +44(0)207 359 2855 e mail rlrieser@gmail.com