Concept Note

Strengthening the Participation, Inclusion and Rights of Children and Young People with Disabilities

Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN) Side Event during the 12th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities being held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, Committee Room 11 on Thursday 13th June 2019 11.30am to 12.45pm

Purpose of Commonwealth Children & Youth Disability Network (CCYDN)

Strengthening the voices of children and youth with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth, so increasing and supporting their Rights, Inclusion, Participation and Representation.

CCYDN will assist within the Commonwealth to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the actions that are essential to foster the full and effective participation and inclusion of children and young people with disabilities across all sectors, in order to implement the Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights on the Child, the Global Disability Children and Young People’s Charter and inclusive delivery of the global Sustainable Development Goals.

Objectives of the CCYDN

The Commonwealth Children & Youth Disability Network (CCYDN), which is youth with disabilities led, aims to increase access to platforms for youth with disabilities as changemakers, and to influence positive change on issues that matter to them.

CCYDN is for and by youth with disabilities, and seeks to strengthen their rights, inclusion, participation and representation. It aims to increase access and opportunities for children and young people with disabilities, to discuss and share their narratives, highlight their achievements, realise their potential and provide access to mentors, resources and an inclusive tomorrow.

Rationale behind the event

Launching the Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN) aiming to increase the participation, inclusion, rights and the voices of children and young people with disabilities across the Commonwealth and increase their awareness of CRPD.

During the event the youth led working committee for CCYDN will share the aims and activities of the network for the year ahead. Providing an overview of the messages highlighted in the Global Disability Summit Children and Youth Report where children and young people with disabilities contributed representing 23 countries (20 of which were Commonwealth) resulting in the development of the Global Disability Children and Young People’s Charter 12 commitments underpinning the CRPD, UNCRC and SDG’s.

During this event discussions will include the importance of partnership working and collaborations to strengthen platforms and the inclusion for youth with disabilities to be changemakers and influencers. Topics will cover the following
The changes they wish to see and what matters to them the most
How they want to be included and can contribute
Inclusive Education
Economic Empowerment
Ending Stigma and Discrimination
Gender Equality - Safeguarding, ending all forms of abuse and harmful practices
Global Disability Children and Young People’s Charter
Global Disability Youth Summit focusing on Global Sustainable Development Goals - a partnership with World Merit

Global Disability Youth Summit Launch
World Merit in partnership with Include Me TOO are organising the first Global Disability Youth Summit to take place in Liverpool UK in 2020. The summit will build upon the messages and contributions received from children and young people with disabilities during the Global Disability Summit held in July 2018 and the Commonwealth Roundtable Youth led Roundtable event held during CHOMG in April 2018 with actions for the following sustainable development goals.

- SDG Goal 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING
- SDG Goal 4: QUALITY EDUCATION: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
- SDG Goal 5: GENDER EQUALITY: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG Goal 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- SDG Goal 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- SDG Goal 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The Global Disability Youth Summit will provide a space for young people with disabilities in their roles as changemakers creating a global platform to share their lived experiences increase their access to resources and networks to implement inclusive sustainable development goals through youth participation and youth led action.

Target Participants and Speakers:
Speakers: Young People with disabilities
Commonwealth Secretariat, Include Me TOO, International Disability Alliance, World Merit
UN Youth Envoy

Audience: NGO’s working with children and young people with disabilities, trusts and foundations who can support this work and are delivering work in the field

Event background information
1 billion people or 15% of the world’s population are persons with disabilities. Estimates suggest that there are somewhere between 180 and 220 million youth with disabilities worldwide. Nearly 80% live in developing countries. Furthermore, it is estimated that 93 million children with disabilities are among the most likely to be left behind and the least likely to be heard. On average, as a group, they tend to be poorer, experience more adverse socioeconomic outcomes and suffer more discrimination, exclusion and violence than the rest of the population.

In low and middle-income countries in particular, persons with disabilities and the family members who care for them remain among the most marginalised and stigmatised in the world and are often poorer than people without disabilities in nearly all socio-economic sectors. This includes education, healthcare, employment, income, justice, social support services, appropriate assistive technology and opportunities
for civic involvement. Disability exclusion is a core issue in reducing poverty and achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind.

Over half of the world’s population is under the age of 35. Children and youth need to be fully engaged and enabled to participate to be part of solutions. Their roles as contributors, changemakers, and influencers need to be recognised and supported. This is particularly important for children and youth with disabilities who tend to be marginalised, facing particular barriers and challenges to thriving and to accessing opportunities and choices. They need to share their narratives and be enabled to take up platforms to provide their insights to solutions for inclusion, equality and positive change.