



## ► Bangladesh: Observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024

THEME: *Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for An Inclusive and Sustainable Future*

### Background

Bangladesh is deeply committed to ensuring equality, human dignity, and social justice for all citizens, as reflected in its Constitution. Article 15 underscores the state's duty to provide essential services, such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare, ensuring a foundation of social justice. Article 28(2) guarantees equal rights for women in all areas of public life, and the 2011 Amendment introduced Article 19(3), reinforcing the state's role in promoting equal opportunities, especially for marginalized groups.

#### Leadership of persons with disabilities

The 'nothing about us without us' slogan embodies the core principle of the global disability rights movement: individuals with disabilities must be actively involved in shaping their own lives. This necessitates participation, representation, and inclusion.

A key goal of the global disability agenda is to empower individuals with disabilities and their organizations (OPDs). In recent decades, OPDs have been instrumental in driving change, leading community initiatives, and advocating for their rights and well-being. These efforts have contributed to inclusive development, such as ensuring universal access to essential services. OPDs have achieved this through various strategies, including consultation, data collection and analysis, and support for advocacy and accountability initiatives.

#### Global leadership: Breakthroughs achieved

The leadership of individuals with disabilities in global forums has led to significant advancements in human rights, peace, and development. A prime example is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), a landmark treaty that incorporates disability rights into international human rights frameworks. The drafting process of the CRPD involved extensive participation and leadership from the global disability community, working alongside governments. This collaborative effort is recognized as a significant milestone in human rights treaty development, with individuals with disabilities, particularly from the Global South, playing crucial roles.

Building on the CRPD and the UN's commitment to inclusive development, the 2015 Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and subsequent efforts have highlighted the importance of disability inclusion in crisis management. Moreover, UN Security Council Resolution 2475 marks a historic moment by specifically addressing the situation and protection of individuals with disabilities in peace and security.

The recent UN General Assembly resolution on 'Inclusive development for and with persons with disabilities' calls for increased efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the CRPD. It emphasizes the need to mainstream the rights, well-being, and perspectives of persons with disabilities across all areas of UN work, making disability inclusion a central issue in the global agenda.

#### Opening the corridors of power: opportunities for leadership of persons with disabilities

The observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 (IDPD 2024) takes place against the backdrop of pivotal global developments, most recently the Summit for the Future. The Pact for the Future, alongside the **Global Digital Compact and the Declaration for Future Generations**, aim to reinvigorate the multilateral system, renew commitments under the 2030 Agenda and transform global governance to better meet the challenges of today to safeguard a resilient future.

These frameworks are aligned with inclusive and sustainable development goals and present opportunities to strengthen disability rights. Notably, there are several cross-cutting areas where concrete actions Member States have committed to, promoting the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, including in the areas of armed conflict; science, technology and innovation; young people and social inclusion and integration; youth participation; and accessibility and disability inclusion within the UN system.

## Theme

The theme for the IDPD in 2024 is 'Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for An Inclusive and Sustainable Future'

### Key Goals and Call to Action

- ▶ Promoting the leadership of persons with disabilities in all areas of life.
- ▶ Ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.
- ▶ Increasing the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.
- ▶ Raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Celebrating the achievements of persons with disabilities.

## Objective

This joint event aims to:

- ▶ **Amplify:** Highlight the leadership and contributions of persons with disabilities.
- ▶ **Educate:** Raise awareness about disability rights and inclusive development.
- ▶ **Empower:** Inspire and empower persons with disabilities to become active agents of change.
- ▶ **Advocate:** Promote policies and practices that promote inclusion and accessibility.

## Expected Outcomes

- ▶ **Increased Public Awareness:** A significant increase in public awareness about disability rights and inclusive development, as measured by social media engagement, media coverage, and survey results.
- ▶ **Empowered Disability Community:** A measurable increase in the number of persons with disabilities participating in leadership roles and advocacy efforts, as evidenced by increased membership in disability organizations, participation in decision-making processes, and the number of disability-led initiatives.
- ▶ **Policy and Practice Change:** The adoption of practices (disability module in the LFS, development of SP framework for person with disabilities, CRPD concluding observation) that promote inclusion and accessibility, as evidenced by government documents, organizational policies, and media reports.
- ▶ **Strengthened partnership and collaboration.**

## Date and venue

**Date:** 4 December, Wednesday, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**Venue:** BICC

**\*\*Event will be delivered in Bengali (Live English Language Interpretation and sign language interpretation will be available)**

## Target Audience

Representatives from

- ▶ Relevant ministries from Government of Bangladesh
- ▶ OPDs
- ▶ UN agencies, NGO/INGOs, CSOs, SDG Alliances, SightSavers
- ▶ Any other relevant organization, media

## Programme schedule

Time	Programme
09:00	Registration
9:30	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Welcome address by Sightsaver</li> <li>▶ Introduction to the theme and objectives of the event.</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: MC (Kathy -proposed name)</p>
9:45- 10:15	<p><b>Thematic presentation 1 and Q/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Presentation of the National Social Protection Framework for Persons with Disabilities</li> </ul> <p>Presenter: Mr. Aminul Arifeen, SSPS, UNDP Moderator: MC</p>
10:20	AV: Success story
10.25 – 11:10	<p><b>Panel Discussion 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Breaking Barriers: Leadership and Empowerment</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri, Founder, Impact Foundation A successful person with a disability who has overcome challenges and achieved significant milestones.</li> <li>▶ Ms. Mohua Paul, ABF A disability rights activist who has led impactful campaigns and advocacy efforts.</li> <li>▶ <b>Mr. Vashkar Bhattacharjee, a2i</b></li> <li>▶ Mr. Azmul Haque, Director (Joint Secretary) JPUF, MOSW (A policymaker or government official who has championed disability inclusion in policy and legislation.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion Topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Overcoming societal barriers and stereotypes</b></li> <li>▶ <b>The importance of self-advocacy and peer support</b></li> <li>▶ <b>The role of education and employment in empowering people with disabilities</b></li> <li>▶ <b>The impact of assistive technology and digital accessibility</b></li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Khandoker Jahurul Alam (TBC)</p>
11:15	<b>AV</b>
11:20 -11:50	<p><b>Thematic Presentation 2 and Q/A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Development of UN Country Team Bangladesh Disability Inclusion Strategy 2025-2030</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Presenter: Mr. Mosharraf Hossain,</b> <b>Moderator: Mr. Ayon Debnath (TBD)</b></p>

11:50-12:30	<p><b>Panel Discussion 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Roadmap of Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for An Inclusive and Sustainable Future</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Country Director, ILO</li> <li>2. Representative from UNW</li> <li>3. Ms. Salma Mahbub, BSCAN</li> <li>4. Mr. Bijoy Krishna Debnath, Managing Director, JPUF</li> <li>5. Any other UN agency</li> </ol> <p>Moderator: Farjana Reza, NPO, ILO (TBF)</p>
12:30	<b>Speech By Chief Guest</b> Advisor Sharmin S Murshid, Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW)
12:45	<b>Speech by special guests/ Guest of Honor/ FCDO</b>
12:50	<b>Speech by RC</b>
1:00-2:00	<b>LUNCH and NETWORKING</b>
AFTERNOON SESSION	
2:00 – 3:00	<p><b>Thematic Presentation 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 'Towards Inclusion of Rights of Women with Disabilities: A Legal Analysis in the Context of Bangladesh'.</li> </ul> <p>Presenter: <b>Dr. Taslima Yasmin, Associate Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka</b></p>
<b>AV/SENSORY BREAK</b>	
3.00 – 3.30	<p><b>Panel Discussion 2: "Leadership and Advocacy for an Inclusive Future"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Panellists: name will be finalized</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Nasima Akhter, NCDW Prominent disability rights activist</li> <li>▶ Representative from a disability organization</li> <li>▶ Director DSS</li> <li>▶ A young woman with disability who has led a successful social movement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Discussion Topics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The role of leadership in advancing disability rights</li> <li>▶ Strategies for effective advocacy and policy change</li> <li>▶ The importance of intersectionality in disability rights</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Moderator: TBD</p>
3:30-4:00	<p><b>Speech by chief Guest Lamia Morshed (TBD)</b></p> <p><b>Speech by Special Guest DG DSS (TBC)</b></p> <p><b>Remarks from UN</b></p>
4:00- 4:15	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Closing remarks by a prominent disability rights advocate.</li> <li>▶ Closing remarks by guest of Honor and UNW</li> <li>▶ Vote of Thanks and future outlook.</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: TBD</p>
4:15	Wrap up