

DRAFT

Concept Note

National Observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2025

Proposed Theme: *Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress*

Organizer(s): UN Agencies in collaboration with Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), Jatiyo Pratibandhi Unnoyan Foundation (JPUF), Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), UN Agencies, and civil society partners

Proposed Date: 4 December 2025 (TBF)

Venue: TBF

1. Background

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly to promote the dignity, rights, and well-being of people with disabilities. The day also aims to raise awareness on the benefits of including people with disabilities in all areas of public life — social, economic, cultural, and political.

Bangladesh has shown strong commitment through:

- Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- The Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act (2013)
- The National Social Security Strategy (2015)
- Ongoing work on the National Disability Strategy (2026–2030)

Yet, barriers to participation remain. Many persons with disabilities, including young people, continue to face limited access to education, employment, public services, and decision-making spaces. Ensuring inclusion requires coordinated action across government, OPDs, UN partners, civil society, and the private sector.

This year's IDPD observance is designed to be practical, youth-centered, and solution-oriented, focusing on how Bangladesh can accelerate progress through collective leadership.

2. Purpose of the Event

To bring together government, OPDs, UN agencies, civil society, and youth with disabilities to:

- Review progress and identify gaps in disability inclusion.
- Highlight lived experiences and leadership of people with disabilities.
- Co-create concrete, actionable commitments that will shape the next phase of national disability inclusive social protection system.

3. Objectives

1. *Strengthen national dialogue on disability-inclusive social progress grounded in rights and accountability.*
2. *Elevate the role of youth with disabilities as leaders in policy, advocacy, and community-building.*
3. *Facilitate coordination among government, OPDs, UN agencies, and CSOs to support the National Disability Strategy (2026–2030).*
4. *Agree on a set of shared commitments to advance inclusion across education, employment, social protection, accessibility, and gender equality.*

4. Participants

- Ministry of Social Welfare and relevant government ministries
- Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (national and grassroots)
- UN System Agencies
- CSOs and disability rights networks
- Private sector and inclusive employers' networks
- Youth-led disability initiatives
- Media representatives