

Civil Society CRPD Forum

Monday 9 June 2025, 10:00am – 6:00pm

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York

Format of the Civil Society Forum

The Civil Society Forum will follow a format of a “People’s Assembly” or a Townhall meeting. Following a brief opening, four substantive sessions will be held. The four sessions will be focused on specific pre-determined topics, namely mirroring the four COSP themes. This year’s CSF will also include a session on the global financial situations and how they are impacting the advocacy efforts of organizations of persons with disabilities. Each session will start off in a chat show style with the moderator very briefly laying out the outline of the topic. There will be no panel. Once the brief introduction is done, the moderator will invite organizations that have already been shortlisted through an open call for presentation to deliver a 3-minute statement, presentation or call to action on the topic in hand. Civil society organisations were invited to express interest in presenting during the CSF well in advance and short-listed applicants were informed. We will allocate 15 mins, per session, for any final interventions – these will be limited to one-minute reflections directly related to the discussion.

10:00–10:15 AM: Opening Session

Setting the scene, and explaining the format of the day

10:15–11:30 AM

Session 1 – The Impact of anti-diversity political narratives and the Global Financial Situation on the work of the disability community

Moderated by: Kirsty Smith, CBM UK

11:30–11:45 AM

Break

11:45 AM –1:00 PM

Session 2 – COSP theme 1: Empowering persons with disabilities and enhancing social development policies through innovative financing.

Moderated by: Frederick Ouko, ADD International

1:00–3:00 PM

Lunch Break

3:00–4:15 PM

Session 3 – COSP Theme 2: Leaving no one behind: using AI as a tool for supporting inclusivity to strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities.

Moderated by: Alejandro Moledo, European Disability Forum

4:30–5:45 PM

Session 4 – COSP theme 3: Recognising and addressing the rights of Indigenous persons with disabilities and their role in advancing disability inclusion.

Moderated by: Tahlia-Rose Vanissum, from People with Disability Australia.

5:45–6:00 PM

Reflections, Wrap up and Closing
