

Civil Society Forum for COSP 18

June 9, 2025

Easy to Understand Agenda and Guide



This easy to understand guide was made
by Listen Include Respect Services.



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INCLUDE
RESPECT**

Background



This document is about the Civil Society Forum.

Some people call it by the short form “CSF.”



The Civil Society Forum is a meeting for organisations that happens in New York.



This document explains what will happen at the Civil Society Forum.

It explains what will happen at the meeting, and when.

What is the Civil Society Forum?



The Civil Society Forum is part of a bigger meeting called the Conference of States Parties.

Some people call it by the short name “COSP.”



COSP is a meeting to talk about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD).



The International Disability Alliance plans the Civil Society Forum. They are an organisation that represents people with disabilities.

Who goes to the Civil Society Forum?



“Civil Society” is what we call people and organisations who are not part of the government or businesses.

For example, people who work for disability organisations are part of civil society.



Civil Society organisations are important because they help make our communities better.

For example, these types of organisations do lots of work about human rights.

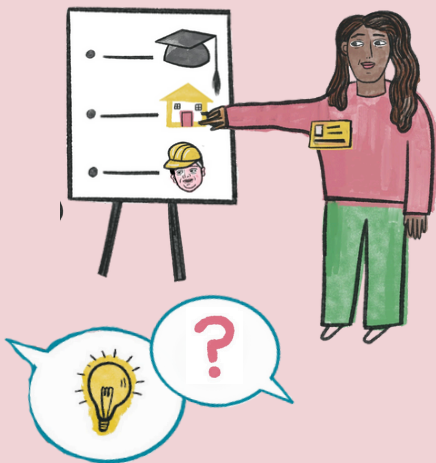
What happens at the Civil Society Forum?



The Civil Society Forum is a chance for people from Civil Society to talk about what they think is important.

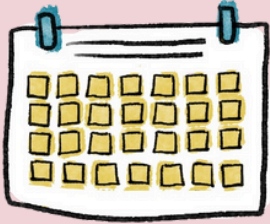


It is different from the other days of COSP because there are no governments there. This day is only for people in Civil Society.



At the Civil Society Forum, there are different topics to talk about. For each topic, speakers will talk and then everyone can ask questions and share their own experiences.

When is the Civil Society Forum?



The Civil Society Forum will happen on June 9th, 2025.



The Civil Society Forum happens in New York, in the United States. The meeting is at the United Nations building.



The Civil Society Forum starts at 10am, New York time.

It ends at 6pm.

There are breaks in between.

What will we talk about at the Civil Society Forum?



Schedule and Topics

10:00



The Civil Society Forum will start at 10am. There will be the speeches to open the meeting. They will explain the plan for the day.

10:15

Session
1



We will start Session #1. It will be about how there is **less funding for disability organisations.**



Countries are spending less money on disability inclusion. This is making it hard for organisations of persons with disabilities to do their work.

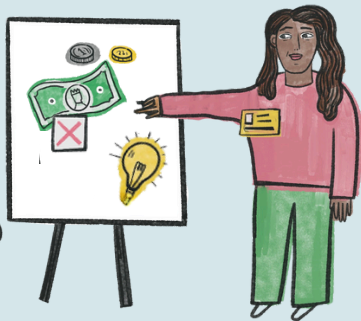
Schedule and Topics



Some speakers will talk about how having less money affects disability organisations.



Then everyone can share their experiences. This part of the meeting where anyone can talk is called a “town hall.”



A goal of this part of the meeting is also to hear about how organisations are finding ways to keep working with less money.

Schedule and Topics

11:30



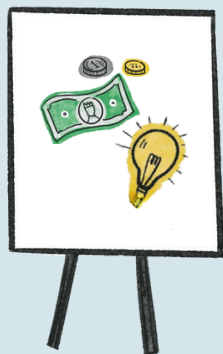
There will be a break for 15 minutes.

11:45

Session
2



We will start Session #2.
It will be about **better
funding to support
people with disabilities.**



It is about finding new and interesting ways to fund support for people with disabilities, which can make the support they get better.

Schedule and Topics



Session 1 and Session 2 are both about funding.

Session 1 was about how disability organisations are getting less money to do work, like advocacy.

Session 2 is different because it is money spent by governments on people with disabilities to have a better life and be included in their community.



Session 2 will also be discussed at COSP

Talking about funding for inclusion is important because people with disabilities are often left out.

Schedule and Topics

Session 2



Many people with disabilities can't get the support they need to live independently and equally in the community.



They don't have the same access to training, jobs, and other support services.



Even though many countries say they support disability inclusion, support services do not get enough money. They are not planned with advice from people with disabilities.

Schedule and Topics

Session 2



Many disability programs do not have enough money. Many need donations to run.

We need to find new funding ideas. We also need to make sure funding is used in the right way.



Some speakers will talk about the challenges for funding services. We will hear about new ways to pay for inclusion.

Schedule and Topics

1:00



There will be a break for lunch. The break will be for 2 hours. We will come back at 3pm.

3:00

Session
3



We will start Session #3. It will be about **using artificial intelligence (AI) for inclusion.**



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is about teaching computers how to think and learn, so they can help humans do different tasks.

Schedule and Topics

Session 3



The United Nations say that all types of technology should be accessible and inclusive. This means AI should be inclusive too.



There are still many problems with AI.

For examples, problems like:

- privacy and safety
- difficult to use
- not respect of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Schedule and Topics

Session 3



Some speakers will talk about how we can make sure that the ways we use AI still respect our rights in the CRPD.

4:15



There will be a break for 15 minutes.

4:30

Session 4



We will start Session #4. It will be about **indigenous people with disabilities.**

Schedule and Topics

Session 4



Indigenous people are people from communities who were the first to live on their land. They have a connection to the land they live on.



Indigenous persons with disabilities are some of the most excluded. They face many forms of discrimination.



Often policies, laws and services forget about indigenous people with disabilities. This makes them more excluded.

Schedule and Topics

Session 4



Many indigenous people live far from cities. This makes it hard for them to access services like disability support.



When they do get services, it isn't usually in their indigenous languages. Sometimes services also don't respect their culture.



For example, many governments and services think about disability in a medical way. This is not how Indigenous people think about disability.

Schedule and Topics

Session 4



Indigenous people with disabilities care about big topics like climate change, and making sure they have the right to say yes or no to things that affect them.



Some speakers from indigenous communities will talk about the problems they face. We will hear good ideas about how to fight against discrimination.

5:45



We will hear reflections from the day.

The hosts will close the meeting.



This easy to understand agenda was made by Listen Include Respect Services. Listen Include Respect Services supports organisations to use the Listen Include Respect Guidelines.

All work made through Listen Include Respect Services is done with expert advisors who have intellectual disabilities, who are paid for their work.

Listen Include Respect Services is managed by Inclusion International and Down Syndrome International.

For more information visit www.listenincluderespect.com.
