



التحالف الدولي للإعاقة



المنظمة العربية
للأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة

Concept Note

**For the High-Level Side Event titled
"Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship: Supporting
Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities"**

Date: April 3, 2025

Time: 09:00 – 10:00 AM

Location: Hall (1) (at the STATION venue in Berlin)

As part of the Global Disability Summit GDS

(April 2-3, 2025) Berlin, Germany

Background:

Global Disability Summit 2025:

The Global Disability Summit is a significant international event that brings together decision-makers, advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities, and international and regional organizations to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities, in line with the principle of "Nothing about us without us."

The third Global Disability Summit will be held in Berlin, Germany, under the joint presidency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), on April 2-3, 2025.

The summit aims to mobilize global efforts to address a number of issues and topics focused on revitalizing global actions to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The four main pillars of the Global Disability Summit are:

- Social and economic rights.
- Accessibility.
- Inclusive development for disability.
- Inclusive employment and decent work.

Regional Preparatory Conference for the Global Disability Summit 2025:

Prior to the summit, a regional preparatory conference was held, sponsored by His Royal Highness Prince Mired bin Raad. The conference aimed to enhance regional and international cooperation to support the rights of persons with disabilities and achieve positive, tangible changes in their lives. It also facilitated the exchange of experiences to improve the situation of persons with disabilities, fully integrating them into society, and helped secure effective, high-impact commitments during the 2025 Global Disability Summit.

It is worth noting the active participation of Arab countries in the regional preparatory conference for the 2025 Global Disability Summit, through a high-level delegation from the Secretariat of the League of Arab States, along with several ministers, senior officials, and heads of disability councils in Arab countries. The Secretariat and the member states expressed their commitment to the Summit. Based on the Arab consultative meeting, with

the presence of the delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany, the International Disability Alliance, and the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, as the organizing entities of the Global Disability Summit, and taking into account the specificities of the Arab region.

High-Level Side Event titled: "Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship: Supporting Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities":

In this context, the League of Arab States, through the Social Affairs Sector - Department of Development and Social Policies - the Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs Council, will organize the High-Level Arab Event on April 2, 2025, at the summit venue (Station Berlin) Berlin, under the title: "*Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship: Supporting Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities*" as part of the Global Disability Summit. The event will be held in cooperation with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD), the International Disability Alliance (IDA), and the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs of the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in line with the decision of the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs Council, Decision No. [1029, (D.A 44), dated 25/12/2024].

General Objective:

To provide a supportive environment that helps persons with disabilities improve their quality of life by empowering them to use technology, inventions, and innovations for their benefit, as well as supporting entrepreneurship projects to facilitate their daily lives and achieve economic and social independence.

Specific Objectives:

- 1. Empowering persons with disabilities to live independently:** By using technology and creativity as key tools to support their daily lives and achieve personal independence.
- 2. Supporting entrepreneurship among persons with disabilities:** Providing opportunities for persons with disabilities to explore entrepreneurship fields by teaching them technical and creative skills that enable them to start their own businesses and succeed in the work environment and integrating in the society.
- 3. Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, and providing technical and economic assistance:** Offering technical and financial support to persons with disabilities to help them access the necessary technological and economic resources to achieve their personal and professional aspirations.
- 4. Facilitating access to technology:** Working to remove barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from accessing advanced technology.
- 5. Enhancing cooperation between government and private sector institutions:** To create an inclusive and sustainable environment that allows persons with disabilities to interact and innovate through the use of technology.

Given the above, this high-level event is expected to be an important opportunity to discuss how technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship can empower persons with disabilities to achieve economic and social independence, through the main discussion questions as follow:

1. What are the most impactful technological tools in improving the lives of persons with disabilities?
2. What are the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in entrepreneurship, and what are the essential skills needed for entrepreneurs with disabilities?
3. What are the most effective training programs that can be offered to persons with disabilities?
4. How can entrepreneurship projects for persons with disabilities be funded?
5. What government policies can contribute to facilitating access to technology and entrepreneurship opportunities?

Expected Outcomes:

- Exchange of global experiences on how to empower persons with disabilities through technology and entrepreneurship.
- A collective commitment from international and local partners to support innovation and entrepreneurship as tools to achieve economic independence for persons with disabilities.
- Issuance of strategic recommendations to enhance access to technology and entrepreneurship in Arab countries and worldwide.

Key Partners:

- International Disability Alliance (IDA).
- Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD).
- Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs of the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Participating Entities:

- A number of Ministers of Social Affairs and Senior Officials from Arab countries.
- A number of Ministers and high-ranking international figures relevant to the topic.
- Relevant international and regional organizations.
- High-level figures from the United Nations.
- Civil society organizations focused on persons with disabilities.
- Entrepreneurs with disabilities.
- A number of specialized experts.
- Leading role models of persons with disabilities at both the Arab and international levels.