

## DRG NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

Welcome to the DRG Monthly Newsletter!



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Dear DRG Members,

As we circulate this first DRG newsletter for 2026 we are looking forward to another big year for the DRG and for disability inclusive humanitarian action. In March we will have our first ever annual meeting, where we invite our members to come together for an online exchange to take stock of where we are at after

more than 5 years of collaboration, and to plan for the way forward. Another important event coming up is the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW), which we encourage all DRG members to participate in and contribute to discussions on the humanitarian reset, ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind as the needed reforms to the humanitarian system are rolled out. You'll find more information about both of these events below.

Also in this newsletter, we share new learning papers on disability inclusion in humanitarian coordination; a call for proposals on disability inclusive climate action; and opportunities for members to respond to a survey on protection analysis as well as to join national reviews of SDG implementation.

As we start this new year, we are conscious of the very real risk of a backsliding on the rights of persons with disabilities affected by humanitarian emergencies, in the context of continuing funding cuts and increasing global instability. We also remain hopeful that working together, as OPDs, NGO, UN entities and others at local, national and global level, we can jointly ensure that persons with disabilities, often the least visible and most at risk in emergencies, are not left behind in efforts to save lives and protect rights.

Kindest Regards,

Kirstin Lange (UNICEF)

Ulrike Last (Humanity & Inclusion)

Gordon Rattray (International Disability Alliance)

## UPDATE FROM THE DRG

### FIRST EVER DRG ANNUAL MEETING

As we enter the new year, we are pleased to announce and invite all DRG members to the first DRG annual meeting, which will take place online on **Thursday 19th March from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm CET** on Zoom platform.

During the meeting, we will look back and reflect on the work of the DRG, providing space for members to exchange views, learnings and experiences; and look forward, presenting and discussing the DRG work plan for the next two years, and identifying priority areas for our ongoing collaboration.

With over 650 members, the DRG remains an active engaging platform for collaboration on disability inclusive humanitarian response. Our work continues to focus on strengthening the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, ensuring that no one is left behind in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing engagement and active participation, and to encourage you to join our annual meeting.

More information, including the agenda, will follow soon.

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## DRG COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE - LEARNING PAPERS

During the last quarter of 2025, the DRG community of practice (CoP) on disability inclusion in humanitarian coordination was a space for exchange on existing good and promising practice, reflection on tools and learning on disability inclusion in humanitarian coordination. The main objective of the COP was to facilitate exchange of learning around the coordination of disability inclusion, including the meaningful participation and leadership of OPDs in humanitarian coordination. Discussions in the community of practice were guided by the IASC Guidelines on disability inclusion as well as other key policies and standards that guide humanitarian coordination and response planning. One of the outcomes of these meetings and exchange are the two learning papers that summarize presentations and discussions of the DRG Community of Practice.

The first learning paper, based on **CoP session 2**, focuses on ***Promoting Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Coordination – lessons learned and the impact of the humanitarian reset***. The second learning paper, based on **CoP session 3**, looks at the reality of ***Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Humanitarian Coordination – what works, what's needed, and ways forward***.

Each learning paper is divided into three sections, with the last section dedicated to collective questions aimed to generate discussion and find solutions.

[CoP Learning paper 1](#)

[CoP Learning paper 2](#)

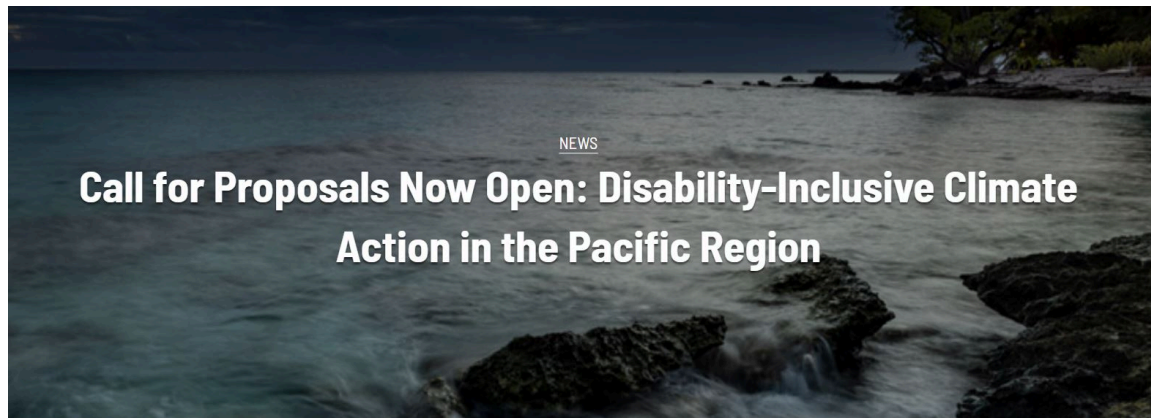
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## UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

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# CALL FOR PROPOSALS: DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION IN THE PACIFIC REGION

by UN GDF



The **Global Disability Fund**, with support from Australia's **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**, has launched a Call for Proposals to **advance disability-inclusive climate action** across Pacific Island Countries.

The Call will provide **4–5 grants of up to USD 450,000** for programmes of up to **24 months**, with a **minimum of 10% of the budget allocated to Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)**.

Applications must be submitted by an eligible **Lead Partner** (NGO/INGO, development bank, UN agency, or academic institution) on behalf of a **consortium** that includes at least one OPD and engages relevant government entities. Co-financing from other climate finance sources is strongly encouraged.

The selection process includes:

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**

**Full Proposal** — *to shortlisted applications*

**Deadline is extended to 13 February 2026**

Proposals should align with the Call's systemic approach across **Practice, Partnerships, Policy & Financing, and Knowledge & Learning**, and address one of the priority thematic areas.

Full details on the call objectives, requirements, and process can be found [here](#).

**MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND HERE**

# GLOBAL SURVEY FOR LOCAL AND REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

by IRC

As part of a joint learning exercise, the Protection Analysis Local Actor Network (PALAN), in collaboration with IRC, the Global Protection Cluster, ACF, CBM, DRC, and Oxfam are launching a global survey to learn about current practices and experiences of local civil society organizations and representative organizations participating in and leading protection analysis. This includes challenges and barriers they face, enablers and promising practices, and recommendations to advance more inclusive and locally led interagency initiatives. This is important opportunity for OPDs to share their views on the tool.

**Who:** This survey is designed for members of community-led, local or national, representative organizations who do and use protection analysis

**What:** A short survey, approximately 15 minutes

**Why:** In recent years, there have been efforts to improve how protection analysis is done within interagency spaces; however, the experiences, needs and priorities of local actors within this process have not been the focus. This survey is part of an interagency learning exercise to address the gap in learning and shape recommendations.

**Anonymity:** All responses are anonymous; no need to share your name or organization

**Use:** The results of the survey will inform additional consultations and interpretation workshops, leading to a final global reflection event in March 2026. If you would like to learn more about the initiative or if you would be interested to participate in a key informant interview or consultation, please contact [katie.grant@rescue.org](mailto:katie.grant@rescue.org) or [Aline.bazerly@rescue.org](mailto:Aline.bazerly@rescue.org).

**You can [take the survey here](#).** It is available in **English, Arabic, French, and Spanish**. Please feel free to share it widely with your colleagues and networks.

Thank you very much for your time and reflections.

**ACCESS THE SURVEY HERE**

# JOIN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS 2026 STAKEHOLDER PROCESS

by IDA



Civil society has a critical role in shaping how governments report on progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2026 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are a key moment for stakeholders to bring evidence, lived experience, and accountability into national SDG reporting.

**Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS)** are inviting organisations and advocates to join the stakeholder engagement process for VNRs 2026. Participants can contribute analysis, help draft joint statements, and influence how national progress and gaps are reflected in the lead-up to the High-Level Political Forum.

This is an opportunity to strengthen civil society's voice in global SDG accountability and ensure that no one is left behind.

If you represent an organisation or network working on SDG implementation in one of the 39 VNR countries, your input is invaluable. **The deadline to sign up for the stakeholder engagement process is 1 March 2026.**

The International Disability Alliance particularly encourages **Organisations of Persons with Disabilities** to contribute to this key annual review of national progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The stakeholder engagement process for VNRs 2026 is an opportunity to promote disability inclusive humanitarian action, including preparedness, response and recovery, at national level.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND HERE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# HUMANITARIAN NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS WEEKS (HNPW) 2026

by HNPW



The Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) will take place in March 2026, in a slightly modified format.

- **02–06 March:** Online sessions
- **10–12 March:** In-person sessions at the CICG in Geneva

The HNPW 2026 has been streamlined and restructured to give it a more strategic direction. Unlike in previous years, the 2026 event will feature two **Network Days** on Tuesday, 10 March, and Thursday, 12 March, with a central **Community Day** on Wednesday, 11 March. This day will be dedicated to the Keynote Session and discussions within the Areas of Common Concern (AOCC), focusing on critical issues central to the humanitarian reset. This will include dedicated discussions on inclusion in the humanitarian reset.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND HERE

# COSP 19 THEMES AND SUBTHEMES ANNOUNCEMENT - REQUEST FOR INPUTS

by IDA

The International Disability Alliance is delighted to announce the COSP 19 themes and subthemes for 2026. The 19th session of the COSP will be scheduled to take place at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, **from 9 to 11 June 2026**.

**Overarching theme:** CRPD at 20: celebrating and consolidating achievements and shaping the next phase of implementation in a changing world.

**Subtheme for Roundtable 1:** Creating a world free from exploitation, violence and abuse for all persons with disabilities.

**Subtheme for Roundtable 2:** Resilient societies: strengthening care and support systems to ensure the empowerment, autonomy and independence of all persons with disabilities.

**Subtheme for Roundtable 3:** From participation to representation: enhancing accessible civic engagement, leadership and advocacy in political and public life.

In terms of opportunities to input:

- **Substantive inputs** are invited by the UN to help inform the discussions of the three roundtables. Inputs may include figures and/or concrete examples illustrating both progress achieved and challenges encountered across each thematic area. Submissions should be no longer than three pages. Kindly send your inputs by email to [mkelson@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:mkelson@ida-secretariat.org) by **Thursday, 12 February 2026**.
- **Speaker nominations** are invited for the opening session on 9 June, the Interactive Dialogue on 11 June, and all three roundtables (civil society co-chair and panellist for each roundtable).

If you wish to nominate panelists and co-chairs, kindly send nominations to [mkelson@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:mkelson@ida-secretariat.org) by **Sunday 15 February 2026**, including the following details:

- Gender and full name
- Session and role being nominated for (co-chair or panellist)
- Country/Nationality
- Expertise (up to 100 words)
- Disabilities

- Confirmation of availability to travel to the Conference, noting that the United Nations will not cover expenses
- Contact details of the nominee, including email address and phone number

Thank you for contribution in preparation for COSP!

**Send us your job opportunities!**

**GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DRG**

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Please share any feedback you may have on the content and format of this Newsletter with us. You can send any material you want to be included in the next issues of the Newsletter by the last Monday of the month via email [info@disabilityreferencegroup.org](mailto:info@disabilityreferencegroup.org).

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