



Buan-Ionad na hÉireann
chun na Náisiún Aontaithe
Permanent Mission of Ireland
to the United Nations



The Republic of Sierra Leone

Partnership and co-design – Perspectives on the role of Disabled Persons’ Organisations in the development and implementation of National Disability Strategies

A side event on the margins of the 18th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP18)

**Wednesday 11 June, 3 – 4:15pm
UNHQ, CR-12**

Background

Article 4(3) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities mandates that State Parties closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organisations. Disabled Persons’ Organisations (DPOs) are defined as those organisations that are led by disabled people and rooted in the human rights principles of the Convention, for the representation of disabled people.

DPOs operate in local, regional, national and international contexts and their close engagement provides crucial guidance and perspective for State Parties in the development and implementation of policy that affects the lives of disabled people. The growing role of DPOs in the collaborative design of policy represents a significant step-change, moving decidedly toward the model envisaged by the CRPD, where disabled people play an active and defined role in the deliberative processes that surround policy development and are empowered and supported by State Parties in this work.

Ireland is nearing finalisation of its next National Disability Strategy. This Strategy will run to 2030 and will set out a national framework for the coordination of disability policy, for the advancement of the implementation of the UNCRPD in Ireland. Ireland’s Department of Children, Disability and Equality is leading on the development of this Strategy, in partnership with a group of Ireland’s leading Disabled Persons’ Organisations, the DPO Network. The DPO Network is an alliance of five national Disabled Persons’ Organisations, working to advance the full implementation of the UNCRPD in Ireland. This partnership has supported the development of a National Disability Strategy that reflects the views of disabled people.

New Zealand and Sierra Leone are leaders in the area of disability policy. They have first-hand experience with the representation of disabled persons at the centre of policy design processes. This event will be an opportunity to share best practice among the co-sponsoring states, disabled persons organizations, civil society representatives and others in attendance.

Event objectives

This side event will provide a forum for discussing how co-design arrangements between the State and DPOs can function successfully, and to the advantage of disabled people in having their perspectives represented at the centre of policy design processes. The event will showcase best practice and innovation in such partnerships, as well as providing a forum for the discussion of challenges that can arise. It will provide for the sharing of perspectives on co-design arrangements from both DPOs and government officials and will be a forum for international knowledge sharing on how to maximise opportunities to leverage these partnerships for the delivery of better services and supports for disabled people.

Run of Show

Moderator: Ms Joan Carthy, National Advocacy Manager at the Irish Wheelchair Association

Welcome and housekeeping

H.E. Amb Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN

Opening remarks

H.E. Ms Melrose Karminty, Minister of Social Welfare of Sierra Leone

H.E. Amb Fergal Mythen, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN

Panel Discussion

- Ms Fiona Weldon (Independent Living Movement of Ireland)
- Mr Joe McGrath (National Platform of Self Advocates)
- Representatives from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality of Ireland

Q+A

Closing remarks

Ms Paula Tesoriero, Chief Executive of Whaikaha (Ministry for Disabled Peoples of New Zealand)

Accessibility

The event will take place in-person. Closed captioning will be provided.

Registration

To register to attend the event please fill out the following form:

<https://forms.gle/uu2p399ERHn5thsz6>