



Australian Government



COSP19 Side Event Concept Note

Nothing about us without us ALL: effective co-design with people with disability in all our diversity

Day/Time/Venue: Wednesday 10 June 2026, 1:15pm – 2:30pm, United Nations Headquarters, New York – Conference Room 4.

Overview

Article 4(3) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requires States Parties to closely consult with and actively involve people with disability in developing laws and policies that implement the CRPD. In practice, this is commonly referred to as ‘co-design’.

This side event will examine what effective co-design looks like in action and how inclusive participation can be ensured for all people with disability. It will address civic engagement, leadership and intersectionality, fitting with COSP19’s third sub-theme concerning civic engagement and leadership.

COSP19 will focus on celebrating COSP’s achievements over the past 20 years and shaping the next phase of implementation. During the past 20 years, the concept of ‘intersectionality’ garnered increased attention in human rights circles. We now better understand how overlapping and interacting systems of discrimination and inequality shape the barriers that many people with disability face in realising their rights under the CRPD.

How can we ensure that the ‘next phase’ of CRPD implementation works for people with disability? The key is to ensure that co-design is effective and inclusive of people with disability who are most marginalised and impacted by overlapping systems of discrimination and inequality.

Format

Jointly hosted by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, People with Disability Australia (PWDA), Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA), International Disability Alliance, Global Disability Fund and WHO Disability Health Equity Network, this side event will bring together a range of speakers from international civil society advocates, researchers and government policy representatives to share diverse perspectives

International Sign Language and Closed Captioning services available.

Session Outline

1. **Welcome (Australian Government)**

- Examples of co-design collaboration and policy planning by the Australian Government.

2. **PWDA**

- Overview of how targeted co-design can help implement the CRPD more effectively.
- Introduction of overlapping systems and their impacts on people with disability.
- Effective co-design for people with disability who identify as LGBTQIA+.

3. **WWDA**

- Effective co-design for women, girls and gender diverse people with disability.
- Addressing barriers to and opportunities for effective co-design.
- Applied examples of intersectional practice.

4. **Co-design panel discussion**

- Panel speakers to include: PWDA, WWDA, International Disability Alliance, Global Disability Fund, WHO Disability Health Equity Network.
- Panel discussion and open engagement with side event participants.

5. **Closing Remarks**

Expected Outcomes

1. **Increased Awareness and Advocacy:** Raise awareness of the importance of targeted and productive collaboration and design with people with disability who are most impacted by overlapping systems of discrimination and inequality.
2. **Capacity Building Initiatives:** Share opportunities for Governments and civil society to better understand the barriers and opportunities for productive collaboration, and best practice examples.