



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Global Disability Summit - PACIFIC SATELLITE SUMMIT**

**16 FEBRUARY 2022**

Australia and New Zealand, with Pacific regional partners the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), will host a Pacific Satellite Summit on 16 February 2022 in the lead up to the Global Disability Summit.

The Pacific Satellite Summit will bring together key regional disability inclusion stakeholders including governments, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), multilateral organisations, civil society organisations and others to advance disability inclusion in the Pacific region. It will be held virtually from 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm Fiji Time (FJT).

The key objectives of the Pacific Satellite Summit are as follows:

- Elevate the Pacific voice at the Global Disability Summit
- Ensure people with disabilities and their representative organisations are actively involved, including in advancing disability inclusion in the Pacific
- Reaffirm commitment to, and mobilise support for, disability inclusion in the Pacific

Due to our remote geographic location, the Pacific can be underrepresented in global disability inclusion discussions and efforts. Recognising this, as well as the unique context and experiences of people with disabilities in the Pacific, the Satellite Summit will provide a platform through which we can elevate the voice of the Pacific within disability inclusive development efforts globally.

People with disabilities in the Pacific are over-represented among those living in poverty – a situation exacerbated by the impacts of COVID-19 – and under-represented in social, economic and public life, including in national decision-making. A fundamental element of the Summit is the opportunity to hear from people with disabilities and their representative organisations, ensuring their continued engagement as leaders, participants, and decision-makers in disability inclusive development.

Like the Global Disability Summit, the Pacific Satellite Summit, provides the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to, and mobilise support for, disability inclusion in the region. We encourage all participants to consider what commitments they can bring to the Pacific Satellite Summit to advance disability inclusion and bring about real change for persons with disabilities in the Pacific.

## About the Global Disability Summit

The Global Disability Summit (GDS) is a once in four-year event, through which governments, international organisations, multilateral agencies, organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and other stakeholders convene to discuss and commit to concrete goals that advance disability-inclusive development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development principle of 'leave no one behind'. The theme for the 2022 GDS is *Promoting Equality: Lasting Change for Persons with Disabilities through Joint Action*.

Norway, Ghana, and the International Disability Alliance (IDA) will co-host the 2022 GDS, which will be a virtual event on 16-17 February 2022, [14.00-17.00 \(CET\)](#). To enable meaningful global participation across time zones, a number of satellite summits will take place in the lead up to the main Global Disability Summit. The Pacific Satellite Summit will ensure a Pacific voice within global discussion on disability-inclusive development.