



UNPRPD **FUND**

Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Understanding Participation of
Organizations of Persons with
Disabilities in **UNPRPD MPTF**
Inception Phase:**

2021 Global Survey



I. How UNPRPD promotes participation of persons with disabilities and why this is critical

Meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations is central to UNPRPD MPTF work. The active and informed participation of persons with disabilities in decisions that affect them is consistent with a human rights-based approach and is part of our compliance with CRPD General Principles. Meaningful participation also ensures good governance and accountability and the disability movement's motto, 'nothing about us without us.'

Persons with disabilities are critical partners in UNPRPD MPTF structures and programs and participation with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) is built into UNPRPD MPTF structure and processes including: our Governance, the Strategic Operational Framework, programme cycle, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management and learning. We require participating UN organisations (PUNOs) to create partnerships with OPDs in the development, delivery and governance of programmes. This cross-cutting approach also supports PUNOs to promote gender equality of women and girls with disabilities as well as to ensure marginalized and underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities¹ are included in programming and decision-making processes.

To better understand the experiences of OPDs and PUNOs engaging in UNPRPD processes, we administered an online survey to both OPDs and UN country teams (UNCTS) in all 26 countries of R4 tier 1 funding.

II. Overview of OPDs engagement survey

UNPRPD MPTF conducted a survey in 2022 to gauge the levels of participation of OPDs that took part in the inception phase of UNPRPD programs in the 26 countries selected under UNPRPD's fourth funding round. The survey serves as a baseline for UNPRPD to develop recommendations for engagement in future funding rounds. We surveyed both OPDs and UNCTs to better understand how OPDs were involved in the inception phase and to gather perceptions from both stakeholders (UN entities and OPDs) on the collaboration experience to identify challenges, highlight opportunities for engagement and define technical assistance strategies for more constructive and meaningful participation, ultimately leading to longer-term partnerships. This report details the findings of both surveys, an overview of OPDs and UNCTs recommendations and outlines reflections on a way forward from the UNPRPD MPTF Technical Secretariat.

¹ Underrepresented persons with disabilities are disability constituencies that have less visibility and representation in the disability movement and the community such as persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, Deafblind persons, persons with albinism, persons with multiple disabilities etc. Marginalized persons with disabilities are those who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of their disability and other factors such as age, geographic location, indigenous origin, ethnic minority status, religious minority status, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status etc.

III. Overview of UNPRPD inception phase

Before the inception phase begins, UNPRPD MPTF² disseminates a call for expressions of interest (EOI) from UN agencies as a starting point for announcing our call for proposals. To underline the importance of participation and collaboration, we require that the EOI is developed in collaboration with national and/or regional OPDs. We also request a letter of endorsement from the national umbrella organization.

Once a country is approved for funding, the inception phase begins to support participating UN organisations (PUNOs) in bringing together diverse stakeholders, including OPDs who will be involved in program implementation. This phase allows for UNCTs and OPDs to develop a collective vision for the program's goals, shared ownership and define roles and promote a coordinated approach between stakeholders. The inception phase includes a capacity building training for UNCTs and OPDs on meaningful participation (induction training); carrying out a situational analysis to inform the program proposal; and finally, the development of the full proposal to UNPRPD MPTF. OPDs are required to be part of each process and to play a decisive role in identifying priorities, inputting on strategies and shaping the overall programme.

IV. Methodology and limitations

The survey was administered in 2021 and sent by email to 26 UNCTs and 254 representatives of OPDs that participated in UNPRPD programs. Of the OPDs that were surveyed, 133 people responded from 22 countries³. There was a total of 15 UNCTs respondents representing 15 national programmes. We requested that only one person from each UNCTs complete the survey based on consultation with other colleagues. One of the limitations in the data is that not all of the OPDs survey respondents answered all of the questions. Therefore, for some of the questions, we used the data to make qualitative analyses rather than a quantitative one. In addition, we received responses from 15 out of 26 UNCTs which affected the ability to compare answers across countries. Finally, the survey was carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic which necessitated the survey to be administered via email rather than through in-person consultations and focus groups.

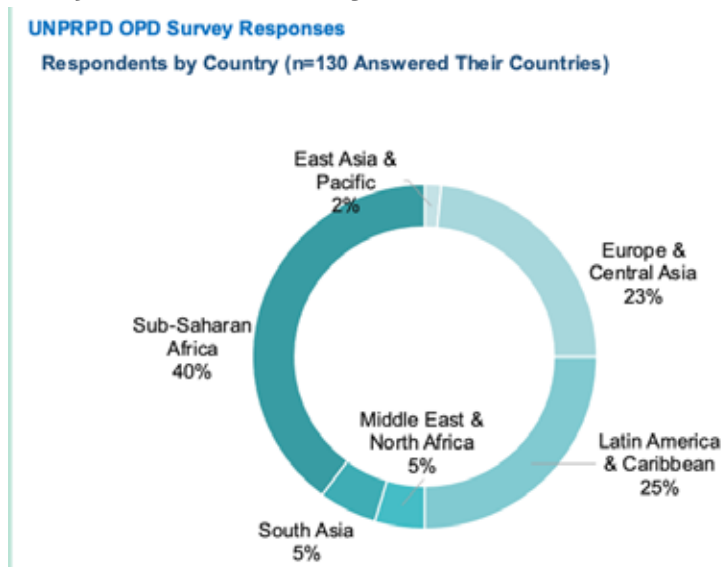
V. OPDs survey respondent demographics:

67% of survey respondents (89 respondents) identified as a person with a disability. The average age of the respondents is 45-46 years old. 97% of the respondents are a member or staff member of an organisation or association/ network/group of persons with disabilities (Organization of Persons with Disabilities). Of the 89 people who identify as a person with a disability, 47 are persons with physical disabilities, 12 are blind or have low vision, 13 are deaf, 3 are persons with albinism, 3 are little people, 3 are hard-of-hearing or have hearing disabilities. There was 1 person with intellectual disabilities, 1 person with psychosocial disabilities. There were no women with disabilities, no persons with autism, no Deafblind persons, no indigenous persons with disabilities in the respondent pool.

² Examples of how we require participation and representation of OPDs in the inception phase: on the EOI process, we require an endorsement letter from the national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities to be submitted along with the EOI. For the induction training, we require UNCTs to implement jointly with OPDs so that they play an active role in planning and facilitation. We also ask UNCTs to work with OPDs on the situational analysis.

³ The countries include: Tanzania, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, the Gambia, Cameroon, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Viet Nam, Sierra Leone, Armenia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tunisia, Benin, Argentina, Georgia, Eswatini, Montenegro, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Moldova.

Image: OPDs survey respondent demographics



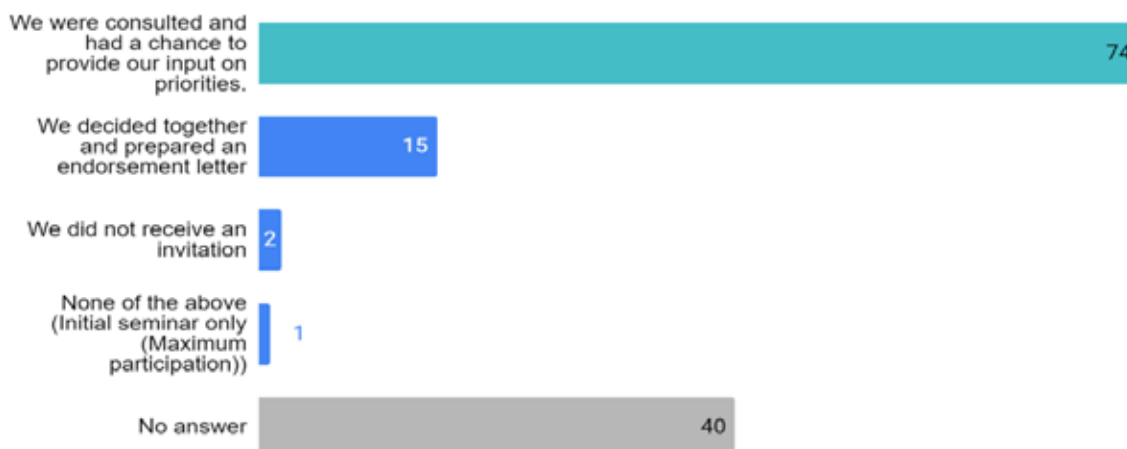
The survey on OPDs engagement was administered to UNCTs in all Round 4 tier 1 countries (26 total). A total of 15 UNCTs representatives responded to the survey, 7 from Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs), 3 from UNDP, 2 from UNFPA, 1 from WHO, 1 from UNICEF and 1 from UNESCO. The majority of survey respondents (14 out of 15) served as the focal point for the UNPRPD program (or the focal point for the induction training and/or the situational analysis process)⁴.

VI. Survey findings from both the survey administered to OPDs and to UNCTs

a. Engagement of OPDs in the expression of interest process (EOI)

The majority of OPDs respondents (69%) said they were part of the EOI process. In terms of the role OPDs played in the EOI process, out of 132 respondents, 74 (56%) said they were consulted and had a chance to provide input on priorities, 15 (11.3%) said that OPDs and UN entities decided together and prepared an endorsement letter for the EOI. 2 said they were not invited, and 40 (30 %) respondents did not answer the survey.

Image: OPDs roles in the EOI Process according to OPDs survey respondents



4 15 countries that responded include: Armenia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cook Islands, Eswatini, Georgia, Guatemala, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Sierra Leone, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Panama, United Republic of Tanzania.

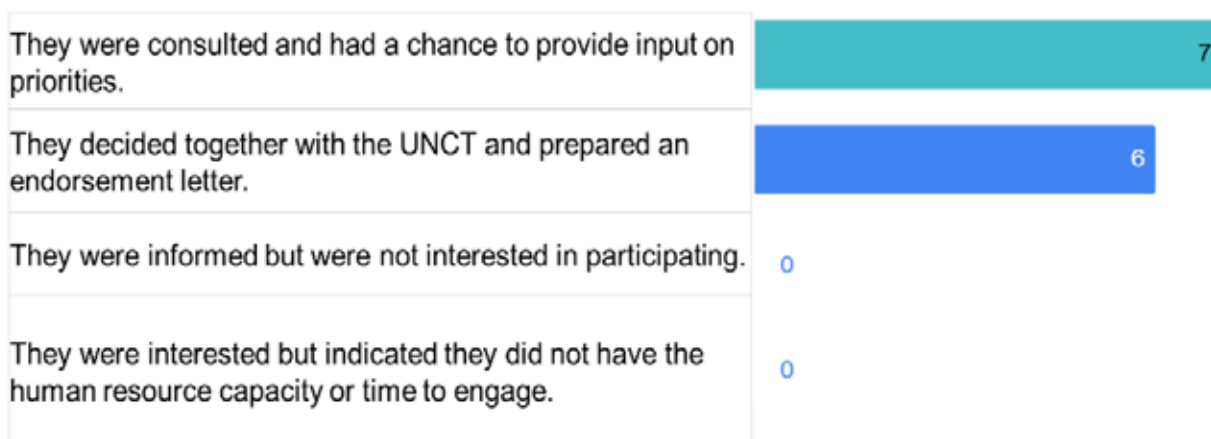
On OPDs having an equal opportunity to engage in the formulation of the expression of interest process as other actors such as government and UN entities, 76 (57%) respondents said yes and 13 (9.8%) said no. Forty-four people did not respond, and the lack of response could be an indication OPDs were not aware of the EOI process or did not participate in it.

Almost all of the UNCTs survey respondents reported positively that OPDs were engaged in the EOI process (14 total). Half of the UNCTs respondents said that OPDs were consulted and that they provided inputs on the EOI while the other half reported OPDs decided together with UNCTs on the EOI. The OPDs survey results show that the majority of OPDs involved in the EOI process were consulted rather than having a decision-making role in the process.

Image: roles of OPDs in the EOI process according to UNCTs survey respondents

Engagement with OPDs

- ✓ 2. How did OPDs support putting together the expression of interest (initial application) for the UNPRPD Fourth Funding Round Joint Program along with your country's UN entities? (count)



b. Engagement in the induction training phase

OPDs were asked what role they played in the induction training. 129 respondents out of 133 said they played a role in the training either as a participant, in the planning and organization of the training, as co-facilitators, guest presenters or as co-organizers. Just over half of the OPDs respondents, 67, were participants (52%), 29 supported the planning of the training (22%), 8 were guest presenters (6%) and 4 were co-organizers (3%). This is an area where UNPRPD MPTF would like to see growth in the number of OPDs who co-organize and co-facilitate the training moving from a more passive role as participant to an active leadership role in co-designing, coordinating and facilitating the trainings. This will give more leadership and visibility to OPDs during the inception phase as well as help ensure the induction training reflects the vast knowledge and experience of OPDs leaders.

Image: Roles of OPDs in the induction training according to OPDs survey

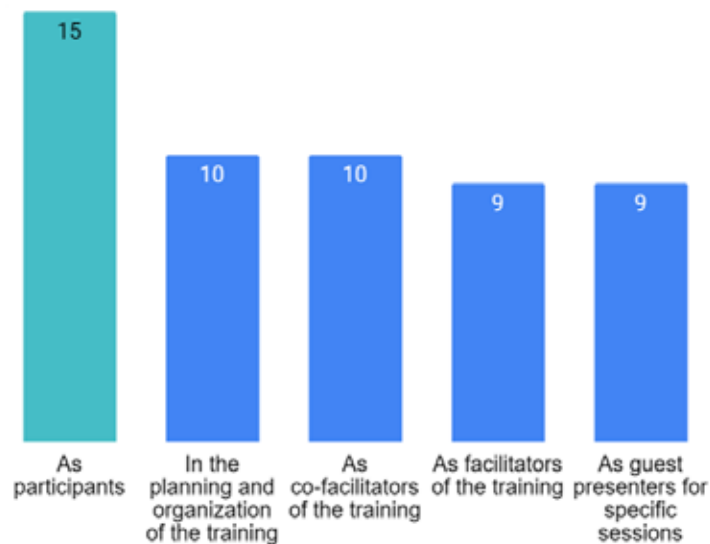


On the accessibility and relevance of induction training, 82% of OPDs respondents said the training venue was accessible, 15% said it was somewhat accessible and 3% said it was not at all accessible. OPDs respondents required Sign language interpretation, personal assistance, accessible transportation, Braille printed materials and accessible digital materials. Overall, all OPDs respondents felt the topics of the inception training were relevant and useful to their work, 65 % said it was highly useful and 33 % said the training was somewhat useful.

All of the UNCTs respondents reported that OPDs played a role in the training process and the majority of felt that OPDs played a role in all aspects of the process; organizing and planning, as co-facilitators, as facilitators and as guest speakers. This differs from the OPDs survey results in which the majority of respondents reported their engagement was as participants of the training (67) and 29 reported being engaged in the planning with smaller numbers reporting engagement as facilitators or co-facilitators.

Image: OPDs roles in the induction training according to UNCTs survey

✓ 8. Did OPDs in your country work with your country’s UN entities on the UNPRPD Induction Training on Cross-cutting Approaches and Preconditions for Disability Inclusive Development? (count)



UNCTs were asked to report on the disability groups represented in the induction training to better understand how women with disabilities and underrepresented and marginalized groups of persons with disabilities were involved in the process. UNCTs respondents reported a diversity of disability groups in the inception training with strong representation of women with disabilities. It is important to note that underrepresented groups like persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with autism, Deafblind persons, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with albinism who are generally much less visible, were included in the induction training in some of the countries.

All of the UNCTs respondents felt that OPDs could express their views and opinions during the training on an equal basis. All 15 respondents reported that they reached out to OPDs for reasonable accommodations requests and 14 respondents said they received requests from OPDs. 13 respondents were able to meet the accessibility requests with 2 reporting they were unable to prepare the accommodations in time. It is important to note that OPDs perceptions differ from UNCTs most especially around the accessibility and inclusivity of the inception phase.

Image: Disability groups represented in the induction training according to UNCTs survey respondents

✓ 9. Which of the following groups were represented by OPDs involved in the induction training under the fourth funding round? (count)

Persons with physical impairments	15	Persons with deafblindness	6
Persons who are blind or partially sighted	14	Persons with psychosocial disability	4
Deaf persons	14	Persons with albinism	1
Women and girls with disabilities	12	Indigenous people with disabilities	0
Persons who are hard of hearing or has other hearing impairments	11	Down Syndrome, People living with dementia, Persons with Optic nerve damage	0
Persons with autism	7		
Persons with intellectual/learning disability	7		

a. Situational analysis

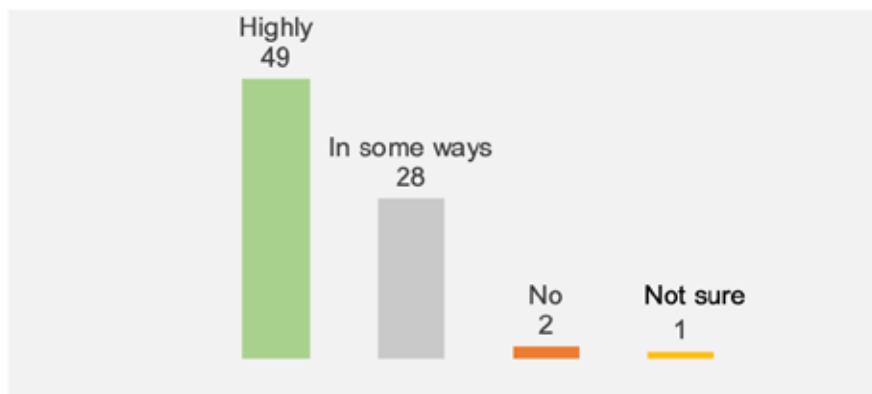
61% of OPDs respondents said their organization took part in the situational analysis process. Of those OPDs that participated in the situational analysis process, 80% of respondents were part of the situational analysis consultation phase, 38 % were consulted on the core areas of focus for the new UNPRPD program, 30% validated the findings and 18% were involved in the steering committee. 61% of OPDs involved in the situational analysis process found it highly useful and 35% found it somewhat useful to their work. 80% of OPDs found the situational analysis process fully accessible and 83% of OPDs said that UNCTs proactively reached out to provide reasonable accommodations.

39% of the respondents' organisation did not take part in the Situational Analysis and Program Design, mainly because they were not invited.

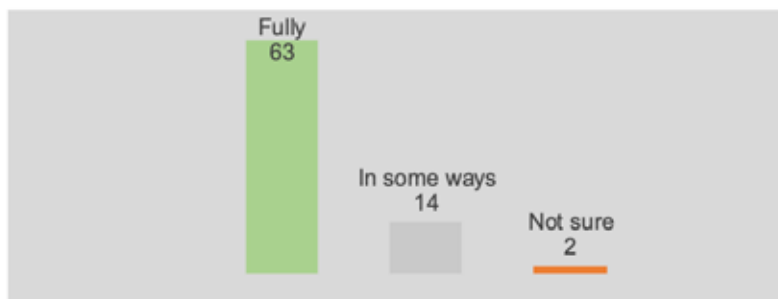
Of the respondents whose OPDs participated in the situational analysis and program design, mainly they:

80%	were participants during consultations on the situational analysis
38%	were participants during consultations on the core areas of focus/priorities for the new UNPRPD program
30%	validated findings
18%	were involved in as steering committee members

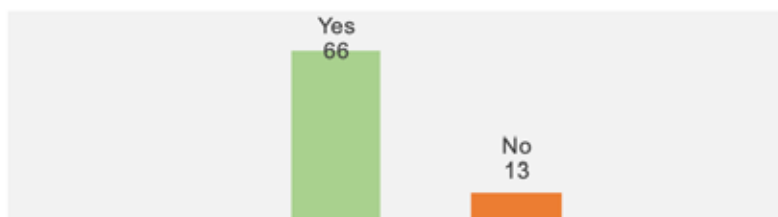
Will the situational analysis be useful for the work of your OPD?



Was information and communication about the situational analysis accessible enough to allow participation of your organisation? (such as Sign Language interpretation, captioning, accessible documents)?



Did the UNCT reach out to OPDs for any reasonable accommodation requests of participants with disabilities?



All of the UNCTs respondents reported that OPDs were part of the situational analysis and played an active role in various components of the process. 13 UNCTs reported that OPDs were active in the collection of data and 8 said OPDs were leading the process as consultants or partners. 12 respondents reported they actively engaged with OPDs on selecting priorities for the development of the log frame. This differs from the OPDS survey responses in which 38 % reported being part of the priority setting process. Only 5 UNCTs reported that OPDs were part of the situational analysis steering committee.

In terms of overall satisfaction on engagement in the situational analysis and program proposal design process, 63% of OPDS respondents were totally satisfied, 26, were somewhat satisfied and 2 were not satisfied. On UNCTs perceptions of OPDs engagement in the situational analysis process, only 4 UNCTs respondents were totally satisfied with the process (4) with the majority responding that they were overall satisfied with some small changes needed (9).

VII. Perspectives of OPDs on the inception phase and their recommendations to ensure meaningful participation

OPDs respondents shared their recommendations through open-ended questions asking for their suggestions to improve the process. Not all the respondents wrote-in feedback but from the responses we received, OPDs highlighted the following key areas:

1. Clear communication and transparency: Some OPDs respondents explained that more communication to understand their role throughout the inception phase process would be helpful. Providing OPDs with clear communication about the inception phase process, who the different actors are, roles and expectations helps ensure transparency and accountability.

2. Comprehensive accessibility planning: Many respondents highlighted a need for more comprehensive planning early on so that the meetings and facilitation processes are fully accessible. It is also important for UNCTs to understand diverse accessibility needs and how to plan for them more effectively.

3. More diverse representation: OPDs pointed to a gap in representation and that more needs to be done to ensure inclusion of women with disabilities, marginalized persons with disabilities and underrepresented groups.

4. Greater role in decision-making: OPDs need to play a more central role in decision-making within the inception phase to inform the situational analysis and the programme proposal. OPDs must be part of the situational analysis steering committee and the priority setting process for the programme proposal and log frame.

5. Co-create for greater ownership: One respondent suggested that OPDs and UNCTs co-create the induction training module so that everyone has a perspective and voice. This would also help encourage OPDs to take more ownership of the process.

6. Simplify the process: Several respondents suggested that the overall inception phase be simplified and less complex allowing flexibility so that approaches can be changed and adapted as needed.

Feedback from UNCTs on how to improve OPDs engagement during the inception phase of UNPRPD programmes

Similarly, UNCTs respondents shared their recommendations through open-ended questions asking for their suggestions to improve the process. UNCTs highlighted the following key areas:

1. Simplify the process: UNCTs respondents shared similar concerns about the complexity of the inception phase process. Several respondents recommended that simplifying the process would be one way to make it easier to engage with OPDs recognizing that multi-stakeholder engagement is complex in and of itself.

2. Greater involvement of underrepresented disability groups: Respondents also highlighted a need to do more to engage with marginalized and underrepresented groups including newly established OPDs and less formal groups of persons with disabilities outside the national umbrella structures.

3. Expand modalities for engagement: Some respondents recommended having more face-to-face meetings with OPDs and to have more opportunities to interface prior to the induction training and situational analysis to build relationships, share relevant materials and clarify roles.

4. Allocate more time: UNCTs respondents highlighted a need for more time to carry out the data collection and analysis and enable consultations and engagement with a more diverse group of OPDs.

Reflections from the Technical Secretariat on ways forward

The inception phase is critical for building multi-stakeholder engagement and carrying out evidence-based programming. The survey results show us that there is a strong level of OPDs engagement in the inception phase. OPDs participated in consultative meetings and dialogues with UNCTs throughout the situational analysis process and as participants and facilitators within the inception training. OPDs also engaged in decision-making and coordination mechanisms to a certain degree within situational analysis steering committees (18% of OPDs respondents reported being part of the steering committee) as well as being part of priority setting for the programme log frame (38% of OPDs respondents reported being part of this process). As priorities, UNPRPD will support UNCTs to ensure greater participation of OPDs in priority setting and decision-making in the situational analysis and the programme proposal development, ensuring greater representation of underrepresented and marginalized persons with disabilities as well as to promote gender equality and leadership of women led OPDs. Based on these priorities, we propose the following ways forward:

1. OPDs participation guidance note: In 2023, the Technical Secretariat is developing guidance on OPDs participation which will include practical strategies for meaningful engagement and guidelines for comprehensive accessibility planning.

2. Guidance note on inclusion of underrepresented and marginalized persons with disabilities: We are also developing guidance on identifying and working with underrepresented and marginalized persons with disabilities in quarter 2 of 2023.

3. Tailored technical assistance: The Technical Secretariat can provide tailored technical assistance to UNPRPD funded programmes requesting support on OPDs participation.

4. Experience sharing: In 2023, the Technical Secretariat will carry out a regional OPDs engagement workshop to share experiences, good practices and ways forward. We will also hold and programme clinics gathering UNCTs from different locations to discuss learnings and strategies for OPDs engagement.

5. Review of Situational Analysis Framework: The Technical Secretariat is updating the Situational Analysis Framework in 2023 and we will use this opportunity to add in more reflection questions for UNCTs to use to better analyze and collect information on disability and gender as well as underrepresented and marginalized persons with disabilities. We can also use this as an opportunity to reflect on how the situational analysis process can be simplified.

6. Communication: The Technical Secretariat can build in more explicit requirements for UNCTs to communicate roles and expectations for OPDs in the inception phase and give more background about the UNPRPD programme to make the process clearer for all stakeholders.

7. Survey approach across all inception phase processes: UNPRPD will continue to administer surveys to OPDs and UNCTs across all inceptions phase to learn from their experiences.



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