**Commonwealth Disabled People’s Forum: Work Plan and Priorities 2025/2026**

* 1. **Disability Inclusion Action Plan**

CDPF did nor get what we wanted at CHOGM 2024 in Samoa in terms of the adoption of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan; we did

achieve a high profile with distribution of our publications, interventions at

People’s, Youth and Women’s Forum and successful side meetings links with sympathetic Ministers and country delegations. Paragraph 6 of the

Communique went further than any previous mention of Disability Equality at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

* 1. Para 6 of CHOGM 2024 Communique

“ Heads reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring, protecting and promoting the full

realisation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons with disabilities, to fully implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recalling the 2023 Report of the Commonwealth Roundtable on Advancing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Heads urged the Commonwealth Secretariat to prioritise and expedite the establishment of a High-Level Advisory Group of Persons with Disabilities together with representatives of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities from across the Commonwealth, to effectively support member states, in advancing the rights of people with disabilities. Heads commended the ongoing work towards the finalisation of a Disability Inclusion Action Plan, and the important role of National Human Rights Organisations in monitoring CRPD implementation. “

So far our suggestions on implementing the High Level Advisory Group of Persons with Disabilities and suggestions for finalising DIAP have not been responded to accept to delay.

* 1. **Proposed Actions**

1. Urgency Resolution at Special General Assembly 14th February 2025
2. Build on strong relationship with Antigua Barbuda High Commissioner
3. Propose a theme on developing Disability Equality across Commonwealth for CHOGM 2026
4. Work to get DIAP adopted at CHOGM 2026
5. Work with High Level Advisory Group and representative DPOs/OPDS

develop a final version of DIAP by July 2025

1. Encourage setting up Ministerial Committee and work with them
2. Work with Government representatives and High Commissioners to gain

support DIAP

h) Seek an early meeting with Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey the new Secretary General from Ghana

i) Put DIAP to Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting in Fiji February 2026

j) Survey our members to gather information to provide examples /case

studies from across the Commonwealth on use Interns at Regional Desks.

1. Reasonable Accommodation,
2. Implementing Disability Rights Legislation,
3. Government effectively working with representative organisations of disabled people/people with disabilities.
4. Accessibility,
5. Effectively challenging disability discrimination,
6. Universal Design

Use results to produce on -line resource and handbook

k) Work with strong partners like Malta Government, UK Government and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and others

l)All Full member organisations seek an early meeting with the external affairs/foreign office/leaders office in their country to win support of their Government for DIAP.

m) Work for strong representation at CHOGM 2026 June 2026.

n) Put forward theme for CHOGM 2026 Inclusion Disability Equality

Info on DIAP https://commonwealthdpf.org/disability-inclusion-action-plan/

**2.1 Setting up Regional Desks**

Progress has been made on ensuring intern is in post in 6 of 6 regions host organisations and interns sign agreement. Thanks to Gen Sec Assistant Katie Cohen.

Based in the following member organisation offices i) Caribbean **Guyana** Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities, 2) West Africa Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities of **Nigeria** JONAWPWD, East Africa United Disabled Persons of **Kenya** UDPOK , Southern Africa  **Zambia** Federation of Disability Organisations ZAFOD, South Asia **India** Swabhiman Smile Foundation and Pacific People with Disabilities **Solomon Islands** .

**2.2 Country desk interns Work**-

a. Induction meetings for interns/get equipped.

b. Meet regularly with supervisors and report every 6 weeks on progress

c. Contact and update information for all DPOs/OPDs in their region

d. Administer two questionnaire for 1j above and chase up to get responses with actual case studies.

e. Follow up to get good case studies from within their region for 6 areas

f. Recruit other eligible organisations in their region.

g. Get News items and audit where each country is on implementing

UNCRPD.

1. Hold regular induction, training, report back meetings.
2. Pay honorarium in instalments for good work approved by supervisor in host organisation and allocated Executive Member.

**3. Transition to Charity registered in UK and Company Limited by guarantee.**CDPF needs to be an independent organisation with our own accounts. Want to be a member based organisation. In longer term seek Charitable Status as CIO may take 9 months . Immediately reactivate as not for profit company from April 1st 2025.

3. i. Draft and select Objects and aims and redraft constitution to fit Charity Commission requirements and put to Special general assembly of all member organisation in February

3.ii. Membership to agree constitutional changes by ballot at Special General Assembly in February.

3.iii. Officers decided to be Board members. Executive usually meet 4 times a year. Board usually meet 8 times a year.

3.iv. Gen Sec. become non-voting Director

3. v. Solicitor Alison MacLennan of Third Sector Law guide the process

3.vi. Application to Charity Commission as Charitable Incorporate Organisation

3.vii. Once registered set up own bank accounts with 2 signatories in UK

3.viii. Separation financial decisions, accounts and monitoring

3.ix Financial Guidance developed and adapted to transition. Adopted guidance as interim . Developed by Finance Sub Committee

3.x ADD Lt carry on managing Finance and admin on Service Level Agreement after Sept 2025. With separate Quick book system monitored monthly by treasurer.

3.xi. Need to elect auditors and appoint up to the disabled UK based Trustees with a public profile.

**4. Organisational changes**

4.i. Defer full General Assembly and Conference to May/June 2026 to fit with funding for an in person GA in 2026. Difficult to do organisational change and re-elect whole leadership at same time.

4.ii. Hold an **Exceptional Annual Meeting** to agree changes in 3 above, rule changes and by -elections new posts/vacancies. **Hold online February 2025 and on 14th February.**

4.iii. In January contact all member organisations to nominate delegates.

4.v. January call for nominations for 2 Assistant Secretaries and London Liaison.

4.vi. Agreement of members to 2024 and 2025 Annual Report and Accounts virtual.

Must have annual General Meetings with Executive and Board retiring in rotation. May stand for re-election specified terms.

4. vii) Coordinate General Assembly and Conference in Caribbean and training young disability advocates in May /June 2026

5. Prioritise making full national members Focal Points

**5. Funding**

i. UKFCDO have said will fund in 2025/2026 again to same amount of £300,000

as in 2024/2025.( we got an additional £50,000 for attending CHOGM and DIAP).

ii. In subsequent years and from 2026/2027 hope to increase funding and will include face to face General Assembly. [Depends on Economic and political situation]

iii. Will pay grant directly to ADD in sterling from April 2025 if pass due diligence checks

iv. ADD can transfer money to CDPF Account

v. UKFCDO will pay to CDPF directly when we meet their due diligence tests

vi. Rotary International are open to be approached for grant to CDYF

vii. Canadian Government will consider grant for CDPF Women’s Forum Work

viii. Will need additional funding for publications in 4.1 g above

ix. Go ahead with pilot for **African Girls Empowerment Project** ask GM to lead.

x. Set up Steering Group GM,SK,POD,RCh,SL,TM. Allocate 50k for 2025/2026. Call gone out for DPOs in Africa to apply to run and select grass roots organisations . Pilot 2 countries selecting currently . Will run up until March 2026.Outcomes

1. Established working relationships among disabled girls and women led

organizations and CDPF disabled women’s forum

1. Strengthened capacity of disabled girls and women led organizations
2. improvement in disabled girls ‘school enrolment, access to employment

training and livelihoods achieved and reductions in gender-[based violence in

community

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**6. Capacity Building**

6.i. Roundtable 2nd December 2024 Online. Celebrate International Disabled people’s Day. Held and successful <https://commonwealthdpf.org/cdpf-roundtable-marking-international-disabled-peoples-day-2024/> Plan for similar Dec 2025 and Dec 2026.

6.ii. **Plan and organise regional training in Delhi** India for 4 days 10th to 13 March 2025- Working with National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People, Delhi, India. Director Arman Ali.

1. Trainees India Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives up to age up to 40 in Delhi Hotel Selected
2. Lead Trainers RR, SK, AA, SM ,DN, NM. GW administrator to attend others other trainers from India. Selection ongoing 30-35 . Majority from India
3. SK/RR/ SM decide course materials based on Kenya. Use same at each

Training. 3.5 days Monday -

1. Followed by **Roundtable with Ministries** in Delhi on 7th March and visit SK and RR to Orisha to participate Ministerial Meeting Press Conference 17th March. Conference on Inclusive Education 18th March.

6.iii. Autumn 2025 **West Africa** Training. Roundtable Government Place Ghana/Nigeria?

6.iv **February 2026 Pacific Training in Fiji** with Pacific Disability Forum and Fiji Federation. Training follow Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting . Hope top get DIAP adopted there.

6.v **Caribbean training to occur before CHOGM** 2026/ link in person Gen Assembly /Face to Face Executive.May/June 2026

6.vi **Regular Online Seminars** on selected Topics which Members nominate.

**7. Presence other international events**

7i Apply UN ECOSOC status. RP/PK Sri Lanka leading Take 2 years will help us.

7ii.1st April **Berlin Global Disability Summit** **3** delegates suggest SK/KI/RR.

a). Side Meeting Neurodiversity backed South Africa (need guarantee funding in writing) Want to cover wider under-represented. **Rejected** Use funding SA Government to make a film.

b) Side meeting on our struggle to get DIAP across Commonwealth **Rejected**

c) Application for display on work of CDPF Women’s Forum **Rejected**

d) Fire side chat on getting Governments to support representative DPOs/OPDs Outcome pending.

e) Discussions with IDA re CDPF joining on going KI lead.

f) Produce a Broadsheet to distribute what would have said at meetings

7v. **Comisission on Status of Women** 10th to 21st March at UN may get support WF to attend Comm Sec. Women Section GM and CG already attending

7vi. **COSP 18 June 2025** Delegates and subject side meeting chose Exc. members not been before.

a) **Approach States to sponsor side meetings**-Emphasis on younger members in NY

UK/Samo Climate Change/Disabled People

c) NZ and Canade Intersection Disability/ LGBTQIA+

d) Uganda/Kenya Disabled People IT/AI Technology as RA KW agreed to follow up.

7.vii Keep a reserve of funds for attendance at Commonwealth Ministerial Meetings and other relevant International Events. Executive select delegates.

**8. Policy Development /Implementation**

**i. Sexuality, Sexual Orientation LGBTIQ and disabled people There is on going discussion on the Executive. A position Paper was circulated from CG following discussion at face to face Executive. This was discussed at November Executive and a number of reservations were expressed. Had training at January Executive from a disabled activist at ILGA world. A working group set up to draft a policy document taking on board comments chaired by Sarah Kamau. A draft policy will be developed taking account of the adverse position in many Commonwealth countries,** finding a balance as soon as we have a policy we will be in trouble with some Governments, need to understand intersectionality in our community and it is only getting more dangerous **and link to wider issues of sexuality and disability. When Exec has been approved by Executive will be circulated to members for feedback. Sub group** CG, RK, EN,GS, SL,TM, SK +RR

**ii.** **Women’s Forum** to draft application to Global Affair Canada unsolicited. CDPF WF priorities. All female members EC members + Coopted.

**Priorities to address**

a)Education,

b)Employment,

c) Sexual Violence,

d) Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health,

e) Stigma and Discrimination,

**f) Developing Capacity &amp; participation in the General Women’s Movement.**

**iii.Commonwealth Disabled Youth Forum** KW, NG,SR, members of CDPF Executive plus -Membership Coordinator: Hara Simon (Zambia), Social Media Manager: Yahaya Yusuf (Nigeria), Woman Representative: Rukaiya Abdulhamid Musa (Nigeria),Asia Representative: Jharana Kumar (India), Africa Representative: Susan Sabano (Uganda), Caribbean Representative: Judy Sango (Dominica).CD Youth Forum apply to International Rotary. Priorities

a) Certification membership

b) Social Media Campaign to boost membership

c) Quarterly Seminars on line

d) Access

**v.Other Sub Committees**

1. iv. Finance Sub SL (Convenor) POD, KI, RR and GS. When needed GW.
2. v. Inclusive Education Group sub group RR,SM,DSS,RCh
3. Law and justice KI, SL, AA, RR, SK
4. Environment Group/Climate Emergency sub group-CG, SK, SM, DSS
5. Political Participation SM,SK

**Let Gen Sec want to represent your member organisation on any of above groups.**

**9. Communications and PR**

**Website** [**https://commonwealthdpf.org**](https://commonwealthdpf.org)

Newsletter with longer articles 3 x a year.

General Secretaries Bulletin to come out as necessary at least monthly.

Social Media-Naddy Martin engaged