## Able4All Haftalık Bülten



# The Global Disability Summit: A Global Platform for Inclusion and Rights

The Global Disability Summit is a global platform organized with the aim of strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities, enhancing inclusivity in development cooperation, and driving tangible change. Held in Berlin on April 2–3, 2025, the summit brought together some of the most influential leaders, decision-makers, and experts in the field to strengthen inclusion on a global scale.

Keynote speakers included global leaders such as the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, the Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Secretary-General of the International Trade Union Confederation.

This summit underlined the critical importance of international cooperation in protecting and advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. It demonstrated that the summit is not just a gathering, but a global movement aimed at creating concrete change.

### Strong Messages from German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

In his opening speech, German Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz emphasized that the rights of persons with disabilities are fundamental human rights. He underlined the necessity of full and equal participation in education, employment, healthcare, and political processes.

"Inclusion is not only a humanitarian responsibility, but also an economic necessity and a democratic duty," he stated, stressing that the full inclusion of persons with disabilities is not only a matter of individual rights, but also critical for social progress. Another important point highlighted in Chancellor Scholz's speech was the increasing global scrutiny around the issue of inclusion. "No one should be disadvantaged because of a disability," he said, reminding the audience that equality and human rights are fundamental principles.

One of the summit's key takeaways was the importance of global solidarity in the face of growing threats to disability rights and the continued commitment to protect and promote these rights worldwide.

#### **News From Europe!**

The Global Disability Summit (GDS) is an international summit organized to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities, promote inclusion, and create equal opportunities. First held in 2018, the summit has continued on a global scale ever since.



GDS aims to improve policies and practices related to disability by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, including the United Nations, the World Bank, national governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

#### Recommendations for Companies from GDS 2025

In addition to implementing best practices such as accessibility measures, awareness training, and inclusive programs, companies are expected to establish regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms for their disability inclusion strategies, taking into account the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and relevant national disability policies. To understand the representation of persons with disabilities in the workforce and take informed action, companies should collect and analyze disability-related data. This data helps identify the barriers and opportunities faced by employees with disabilities and supports the development of effective and targeted corporate policies.

Moreover, companies are encouraged to provide financial support for initiatives and projects that raise awareness on disability, thereby contributing to the reduction of inequalities in society.

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