**Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network**

**Membership Guidelines[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines on GLAD membership, including the roles and responsibilities of various membership categories, and the process for considering membership.

**2. Membership (as stated in the GLAD Terms of Reference)**

The GLAD Network welcomes as members, international stakeholders (bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, the private sector, foundations and others) contributing resources to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action. Resources are primarily financial, but may also include technical expertise, provided internationally, either directly or through a partnership, to support disability inclusion in developing countries.

A majority of members of the GLAD Network will agree membership of the GLAD Network. The Steering Committee will determine the process for considering and agreeing membership of full members, and admission of advisors. GLAD co-chairs may invite observers to any GLAD meeting.

The GLAD Steering Committee will be comprised of not more than 20 GLAD Network members. A majority of members of the Steering Committee will agree provisional membership of the Steering Committee, pending endorsements by Network Members.

Consistent with the principle of ‘nothing about us without us’, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations from developing countries/regions and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be invited to all Network and Steering Committee meetings as advisors.

Members and participants in GLAD meetings are responsible for covering their costs of attendance.

**3. Membership Categories**

**Network members**

Subject to the membership eligibility criteria outlined in the GLAD Terms of Reference, the following types of entities may become members of the GLAD Network:

* Bilateral donors and agencies (e.g. Germany)
* Multilateral donors (e.g. UN Women)
* Foundations (disability specific or mainstream) (e.g. Disability Rights Fund)
* Global mainstream business networks (E.g. UN Global Compact)

In exceptional circumstances, when eligibility is clear, the following types of entities may also become Network members:

* Private sector entities (E.g. ARUP)
* Global or regional NGOs or NGO networks (e.g. IDA, IDDC)

**Advisors**

Advisors may include entities or individuals ineligible for membership, but with particular expertise of value to GLAD. For example:

* Persons with disabilities and their representative organisations from developing countries/regions (rotating advisors)
* UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (permanent advisor)
* UN Agencies providing technical capacity, such as UN Volunteers
* UN working groups and coordination mechanisms, such as the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), Special Rapporteurs and other individuals with technical assistance and normative standards
* Academic and research institutions

**Observers**

Observers may include entities that do not meet the full member eligibility criteria, or entities that are awaiting consideration of their membership status. For example:

* International NGOs without a significant individual fundraising portfolio and/ or significant developing countries/regions outreach
* Global, regional or national corporations with interest in disability-inclusive development
* Global, regional or national organisations or charities for persons with disabilities

**4. Membership roles and responsibilities**

**Network members**

* Network membership is ongoing
* Network members may vote on Network matters

Network members are expected to:

* Attend all Network meetings (one meeting annually)
* Actively contribute to GLAD’s collective efforts to achieve its goals

**Advisors**

* The duration of an advisor’s term is decided by the Steering Committee
* Advisors are included in GLAD Secretariat correspondence during their agreed term, and are able to contribute their views and provide advice
* Advisors may not vote

**Observers**

* The GLAD co-chairs may invite observers to any GLAD meeting
* Observers are included in GLAD Secretariat correspondence for the meeting in question
* Observers may be invited to speak by the co-chairs
* Observers may not vote.

**Steering Committee members**

* Steering Committee membership is on an ongoing basis
* Steering Committee members may vote on Steering Committee and Network matters

Steering Committee members are expected to:

* Actively contribute to GLAD’s collective efforts to achieve its goals
* Participate in all Steering Committee meetings (at least one meeting annually) and all Network meetings (one meeting annually)
* Engage in out of session discussions, correspondence and conference calls
* Participate in at least one GLAD working group

**5. Process for considering and agreeing membership**

**5.1 Network membership**

Existing GLAD Network members and advisors may recommend new GLAD Network members to the GLAD Secretariat.

Alternatively, an entity may submit their nomination for GLAD membership to the GLAD Secretariat.

A recommendation/nomination must demonstrate how the recommended entity meets the GLAD membership eligibility criteria, as expressed in the GLAD Terms of Reference and reproduced below, including the entity’s mission statement, website link and a brief summary of its disability-inclusive development and/or humanitarian action activities and geographical focus.

*Membership eligibility criteria:*

The above types of entities are eligible for GLAD membership if they are contributing resources to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action.

Resources should be:

* primarily financial, but may also include technical expertise;
* provided internationally;
* provided either directly or through a partnership; and
* provided to support disability inclusion in developing countries.

The GLAD Secretariat will review membership recommendations/nominations against the membership eligibility criteria. If the nominated entity meets the eligibility criteria, the following *additional* considerations will guide GLAD co-chairs in making a recommendation on admission:

* the number of members being admitted at any one time (in absolute numbers or in proportion to existing Network)
* the balance among the entities on the Network (with regards to the type of entity, type of contributions to disability inclusion (financial or technical), and which developing countries/regions such contributions are supporting)

The GLAD co-chair’s recommendation on admission will go to the Steering Committee for consideration. If a majority of the GLAD Steering Committee supports the entity’s admission as a GLAD member, this recommendation will go to the Network to consider. A majority of GLAD Network members will decide on the admission of the proposed GLAD member.

**5.2 Advisors**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a permanent advisor of GLAD, and will be invited to all GLAD Network and Steering Committee meetings.

Persons with disabilities and their representative organisations from developing countries/regions will be invited to all GLAD Network and Steering Committee meetings, as advisors. The GLAD Secretariat will determine who will represent persons with disabilities at any given meeting, taking into consideration nominations from the Steering Committee, and balanced representation of impairment type and geographical area across different meetings.

Existing GLAD Network members and advisors may recommend new GLAD advisors to the GLAD Secretariat. The GLAD Secretariat will review recommendations/nominations prior to making a recommendation to the Steering Committee on appointment, and duration of advisor status, based on the potential value of the individual/entity’s expertise to GLAD. A majority of GLAD Steering Committee members will decide on the appointment of the proposed GLAD member as an advisor.

**5.3 Observers**

Observers to specific GLAD meetings may be invited by the GLAD Co-chairs in consultation with meeting hosts.

**5.4 Steering Committee membership**

Existing GLAD Network members and advisors may recommend new GLAD Steering Committee members to the GLAD Secretariat.

The GLAD Secretariat will review membership recommendations prior to advising the Steering Committee of the membership proposal and making a recommendation on admission.

A majority of members of the Steering Committee will agree provisional membership of the Steering Committee, pending endorsement by the GLAD Network.

The Steering Committee has agreed to remain relatively small (no more than 20 organisations), flexible and representative of the constituent groups within GLAD, so that it can continue to effectively set the priorities of the GLAD Network and agree on Network events. Steering Committee membership is therefore intended for the most active members of the GLAD Network.

1. This is a working document of the GLAD Steering Committee and is subject to change by the Steering Committee as the Network membership profile changes. It is subordinate to, and should be read in conjunction with, the GLAD Terms of Reference. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)