Inclusion International
Membership Proposition
DRAFT

Inclusion International is a global network of people and organizations working for the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The network is led by self-advocates and family members through democratically elected representative governance structures (General Assembly, Council and Officers).

The nature of our network is a coming together of individuals and organizations who have signed up to our Statement of Unity. As a network we believe that by working together we will move our societies towards our vision of full inclusion at quicker pace than if we work in isolation.

There are many benefits from active participation in the Inclusion Network. However, not every item will be relevant to every individual or organization. The list below is intended to give a sense of the various areas of the networks activity.

Like all networks the more an organization or individual put into the network the more it will get out!

Our 60 year history has shown us that being part of a powerful international voice is not only essential to move forward the Inclusion Agenda, as with our work to negotiate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but also to set the domestic agenda.

Members can participate in our global voice by:

• contributing their views to our voice in international advocacy arenas, and by having the opportunity to represent our global network;
• influencing the global agenda to include recognition of the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and families;
• influencing International organizations and agencies such as the World Health Organisation, the International Labour Organisation, UNICEF, or the United Nations Development Programme;
• having access to information about what UN agencies are doing;
• shaping the development of policy positions and advocacy activities;
• participating in policy discussions and advocacy workshops at regional forums;
• participating in the network’s formal governance arrangements and having the right to stand for office or vote in election of council/officers;
• shaping the development of Inclusion International’s vision and strategy;
• gaining an International/Global perspective and knowledge;
• having an International profile and having the opportunity to send leaders to the global stage;
• being known as part of a Global /International network.

The Inclusion network supports members’ work at community and country level by:

• gaining access to the networks’ expertise whether through its own directly employed staff or the expertise of the other members of the network;
• benefiting from internal intelligence and information sharing, receive timely policy updates, and have the opportunity to mobilise global support in solidarity with the member’s own advocacy;
• enjoying financial support for attending events (depending on Inclusion International’s financial policies and budget restrictions at the time);
• receiving Inclusion International’s publications and newsletters, and have the opportunity to participate in their development and/or be featured in them;
• learning about Inclusion International’s projects and campaigns;
• receiving information on intellectual disability;
• being invited to participate in events, working groups, or projects;
• receiving technical support;
• having publications in their language;
• gaining access to funding opportunities through participation in projects;
• getting information on international developments;
• having the members’ domestic profile enhanced;
• receiving training and capacity building;
• gaining help with policy development;
• improving knowledge and understanding about rights.

Access to global knowledge network by:

• participating in Inclusion International’s learning and training activities including strategy meeting and workshops;
• participating in the World Congresses and Regional Forums and be actively involved in their preparation;
• multiplying opportunities for co-operation and collaboration with other networks;
• building international networks with specific expertise in key areas (education, legal capacity, health, violence, self-advocacy etc.);
• making friends all around the world to share experiences;
• sharing good practices.

Members contribute to the network by:

• sharing their knowledge/information;
• contributing human resources;
• providing access to other networks;
• sharing representative positions of their national members;
• representative positions of a Region and all its members;
• connections to important stakeholders like politicians/NGOs;
• providing influence at national level;
• exchange success stories/good practices;
• sharing practical experiences and information;
• expertise and different national perspectives;
• newsletters/support/encouragement;
• being leaders in making change;
• spreading the message of inclusion;
• identifying funding opportunities;
• paying membership fees;
• understanding of the realities for families and self-advocates;
• supporting and strengthening self-advocacy;