



COSP 17 statement by Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI Global) at Civil Society Forum

Session 1 - COSP theme 1: International cooperation to promote technology innovations and transfer for an inclusive future

As Transforming Communities for Inclusion, a Global OPD of persons with psychosocial disabilities, today, through this forum, we wish to highlight the importance of having discussions around assistive technology for persons with psychosocial disabilities. Despite significant advancements in assistive technology discussions and policies, persons with psychosocial disabilities are often overlooked and marginalized. Assistive technology is super essential for independent living in the community, being included and participating in the community spheres, supporting persons with psychosocial disabilities to have more autonomy over their decisions and improving the overall quality of life. However, most of the conversations tend to exclude us as a group, due to a lack of awareness and understanding of the barriers faced by our constituency and supports needed.

To address this invisibility, we as an OPD, advocate for inclusive policies and practices that acknowledge and include persons with psychosocial disabilities. Through raising awareness, investing in research and development of assistive technologies tailored for persons with psychosocial disabilities and ensuring that the supports needed by our group is integrated in the the broader framework and discourse of advancements in this area. Only by fostering inclusive dialogues and spaces, can we ensure that we as a constituency are not left behind and have access to tools, resources and technology, on an equal basis with others.

Thank you.