

# Advocacy Fact Sheet: Conference of State Parties (COSP)

## What is the Conference of State Parties?

The **Conference of State Parties** is a big meeting that is run by the **United Nations**.

It is for countries to come together to talk about the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

It happens every year, usually in June in the United Nations headquarters in New York, USA.

The last few years it has been held online because of COVID-19 pandemic.



## What happens at the Conference of State Parties?

Every year there is a different theme for the Conference of State Parties.

Country representatives will talk about how well they are doing in making the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities real in their countries.

Organisations of people with disabilities take part to influence the work that countries do.



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## What is the agenda at the Conference of State Parties?

There are main sessions at the Conference of State Parties that are organised by the United Nations. These are called plenary sessions or roundtables.

There are also side sessions which are separate to the main sessions.

Organisations of people with disabilities are invited to speak in the main sessions or can run side sessions to talk about the issues important to them.



## What is an example of a side session?

For example, Inclusion International have run side sessions on important issues like inclusive education or closing institutions.

At our side sessions, self-advocates and families share their experiences.

We give our recommendations to countries and decision makers.

## Useful links



[Easy Read  
explanation of  
Conference of  
State Parties](#)