



## ISPO Global Partnership Exchange Terms of Reference

### Introduction

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities seeks to protect, promote and ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It requires States Parties to take effective measures to ensure that people with disabilities have access to mobility devices (Article 20) and rehabilitation services (Article 26) and enjoy full inclusion and participation in the community (Articles 19 and 26). Rehabilitation is a process that aims to remove, or to reduce as much as possible, restrictions on the activities of people with disabilities and to enable them to become more independent, participate fully in society and enjoy the highest possible quality of life. Access to appropriate mobility devices services (prostheses, orthoses, walking aids and wheelchairs, together with therapy that will enable them to make the fullest use of those devices) is an integral part of the process required to ensure the full participation and inclusion in society of people with disabilities. Access to mobility device services is important from both human rights and human development perspectives. Personal mobility and the availability of mobility devices is a precondition for equal participation in and being a productive member of society at large. The use of assistive devices is indicative of mobility, opportunities for education and work, and improved health and quality of life. These outcomes are important indicators of human development.

The 2011 *World Report on Disability* estimated that more than a billion people live with some form of disability, which corresponds to approximately 15% of the world's population (WHO, 2011). Global data on the need for rehabilitation services (including mobility devices) and estimates of unmet need are very limited. It has been estimated that people needing orthoses or prostheses and related services represent 0.5% of the population in developing countries and that the number of people with disabilities in developing countries who require a wheelchair is approximately 1% of the population. The number of people with disabilities is projected to increase which will contribute to an increasing numbers of people with disabilities and suggest a corresponding increase in the need for mobility devices. Despite the efforts of all stakeholders, the mobility needs of people with disabilities are not being met. The same report, gives a list of barriers faced by people with disabilities wishing to access appropriate physical rehabilitation services. These include the absence of a national plan or strategy, non-existent or inadequate services provision, the lack of trained professionals, and insufficient finances to cover the cost of services, including transport to places providing them.

Over the years, the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) has been, and continues to be, an active stakeholder in promoting and ensuring that an increasing number of people worldwide has access to appropriate rehabilitation and mobility devices services.

The ISPO Global Partnership Exchange, established several years ago, aimed to create a platform for exchange and to get a better understanding and to learn and leverage from each other.

During the Global Partnership Exchange meeting held at the ISPO 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress 2017 in Cape Town (South Africa), participating members agreed that the group has not been used to its full potential, but that it is an important body composed of many important, relevant organizations. With the aim of increasing the value of the Global Partnership Exchange and to further enhancing collaboration between ISPO and members of the Global Partnership Exchange, the ISPO Executive Board reviewed the Global Partnership Exchange terms of reference.



## **Purpose of the ISPO Global Partnership Exchange**

The purpose of the ISPO Global Partnership Exchange is to provide a forum for on-going networking that allows strategic dialogue about common challenges in the field of rehabilitation and assistive products (with an emphasis on mobility devices such as prostheses, orthoses and wheelchairs), with the ultimate objective to improve the quality of life for persons who may benefit mobility and assistive devices.

Capitalizing on the expertise and experience of its members, and through a collaborative approach, the Global Partnership Exchange will address (but is not limited to) the following:

- Developing strategy to ensure rehabilitation and mobility device services are available, accessible with equity, affordable and appropriate;
- Developing strategy to reinforce the dissemination and implementation of existing and future international standards (i.e. Standards for Prosthetics and Orthotics, Guidelines on the provision of manual wheelchairs, Standards for P&O Education, etc.);
- Developing strategy to further promote a multidisciplinary approach in the provision of rehabilitation and mobility device services;
- Developing strategy to reinforce the rehabilitation and mobility device services work force;
- Supporting the development of ISPO short courses to support the provision of appropriate rehabilitation and mobility device services;
- Supporting ISPO efforts in ensuring the recognition of Prosthetic & Orthotic profession by the International Labour Organization (ILO);
- Supporting the GATE Initiative, the WHO Rehabilitation 2030: Call for Action and the WHO Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021;
- Encouraging / promoting research for strengthening the provision of appropriate rehabilitation and mobility device services;

The Global Partnership Exchange is an advisory committee of ISPO and reports to the executive board of ISPO.

## **ISPO Global Partnership Exchange membership**

The Global Partnership Exchange is open to institutions and/or organization active in the rehabilitation, mobility devices or related fields, providing/supporting rehabilitation and mobility devices services, representing professionals and/or user groups, or providing/supporting training for professionals.

Membership will be for a four years period and then reviewed.

## **ISPO Global Partnership Exchange meetings**

The Global Partnership Exchange is expected to have one physical meeting per year. Physical meetings would be organized during ISPO World Congress and/or in conjunction with an event or a conference where the majority of the members are attending

In addition to the regular physical meetings, the Global Partnership Exchange communicates frequently via email, and may organize ad-hoc virtual or physical meetings as deemed necessary.

Whenever possible, interim meetings should be held.