Accessibility toolkit
Linking Internet usage by people with disability to key international policies and programs
Introduction

Internet Society strives towards a future where 'The Internet is for Everyone'. As leaders in the Internet community, we should set an example so that the path towards Internet ubiquity will actually benefit everyone including people with disabilities.

The Accessibility Toolkit Project shines a light on how people with disabilities use the Internet, the barriers they encounter and the solutions through national, regional and global policies and programs.

Examples of these programs include Radio MENQ in Armenia, and Tiflolibros in Latin America.

We can all play a part to make a difference.

The Internet Society strives to support projects and activities that encourage barriers to access and ensure that everyone, especially empowering communities that encounter barriers, can play a part to make a difference.

People with disabilities

Raúl Echeberría
Vice-President, Global Engagement
Guaranteeing equal and accessible education by building inclusive learning environments and providing the needed assistance for persons with disabilities.

Emphasizing the social, economic and political inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Creating accessible cities and water resources, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems, providing universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible and green public spaces.

Promoting inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment allowing persons with disabilities to fully access the job market.

International treaties, standards and guidelines promote an inclusive society and act as drivers for improving accessibility.

Seven principles of universal design:
- Engage everyone
- Flow production of books in accessible formats
- Provide individualized support
- Ensure that text can be read in various formats
- Adapt the environment
- Provide alternative information and communication
- Create supportive public policy

Marrakesh Treaty
- Allows individuals to have access to books in accessible formats
- Prohibited to their countries
- Countries that ratify the treaty can make an exception
- Exemptions are made in the Organisation for Cooperation and Development

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0
- International standard
- Guide for making Web content accessible
- Helps people with disabilities to access information and communications
- Provides a flexible and comprehensive accessibility framework

Web Accessibility Initiative
- Standards for making Web content accessible
- Helps people with disabilities to access information and communications
- Provides a flexible and comprehensive accessibility framework

Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines
- Standards for making Web content accessible
- Helps people with disabilities to access information and communications
- Provides a flexible and comprehensive accessibility framework

User Agent Accessibility Guidelines
- Standards for making Web content accessible
- Helps people with disabilities to access information and communications
- Provides a flexible and comprehensive accessibility framework

ISO/IEC 40500 (Universal Design in Standardization) defines the standard for making Web content accessible

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- Standards for making Web content accessible
- Helps people with disabilities to access information and communications
- Provides a flexible and comprehensive accessibility framework

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- Governments that sign and ratify the Convention are obligated to abide by all the Articles
- Relevant Articles:
  - Article 9: Accessibility to ICT
  - Article 12: Access to information

Over 170 governments have ratified the Convention.

Goal 4 – Quality education
- Over 70 governments have access to information and education

Goal 8 – Employment
- Over 100 governments have access to employment

Goal 10 – Social, political and economic inclusion
- Over 50 governments have access to social, political and economic inclusion

Goal 11 – Transport
- Over 60 governments have access to transport

UN Sustainable Development Goals
- The UN urges governments, private sector, civil society—in fact, everyone to take part in building a prosperous society for all.

Goal 4 – Quality education
- Ensure inclusive and quality education for all

Goal 8 – Employment
- Promote inclusive economic growth

Goal 10 – Social, political and economic inclusion
- Promote inclusive economic growth

Goal 11 – Transport
- Ensure inclusive and sustainable urbanization and 2030 Agenda

Public Procurement
- Guidelines and standards for making Government procurement guidelines encourage suppliers to make their products and services more accessible
- The following guidelines and standards apply:
  - USA (Section 508)
  - European Union (Section 508)
  - Australia (Section 508)

ICT Accessibility
- Standards and guidelines for making ICT accessible
- Seven principles of universal design:
  - Universal Design
  - Inclusive Design
  - Usability
  - Accessibility
  - Affordability
  - Customization
  - Feedback

Global Accessibility Drivers
- International treaties, standards and guidelines promote an accessible society and act as drivers for improving accessibility.

Transport
- Ensure accessible and green public transport
- Promote inclusive transport systems
- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible and green public spaces

Social, political and economic inclusion
- Emphasize social, economic and political inclusion
- Recognize the rights of persons with disabilities

Employment
- Promote inclusive economic growth
- Ensure accessible and green public transport
Vashkar Bhattacharjee has a visual impairment and from his own early difficulties learned the importance of accessible textbooks for students with disability.

Encouraging the Bangladeshi government to adopt and implement the globally recognised multimedia DAISY system using open source software means that students with disability have more options for accessible learning materials. This helps to achieve one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

If the Bangladeshi government ratifies the Marrakesh Treaty, it will mean an even broader selection of accessible books available for students with disability.

Vashkar’s work with the government means that its web portal uses W3C’s Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to make information and services accessible for people with disabilities.

The Bangladeshi government has signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but there is more to be done.

In the Bangladeshi government’s efforts towards a more accessible community, accessibility champions can play a significant role.

People with disability across the world strive to overcome barriers and make their community more accessible. This personal story links with global drivers to achieve an accessible community.

Accessibility champions can make this happen in their own countries. A Global Context

One Story With
The Internet Society has funded disability projects in countries across the world through Beyond the Net. Training in ICT usage, Internet radio programs and accessible publications online are just some of these projects. Additional support has been provided through the ISIF Asia Award. People with disability have obtained Fellowships to participate in key international meetings. ISOC's Asia Pacific Bureau has stimulated accessibility programs in the region including Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Chapters play their part in working with local communities to foster accessibility. Some organisations focus on developing technical standards and guidelines to ensure that accessible technology is used. The Internet Society has funded disability projects in countries across the world.

### Ways to Start:

1. **Develop inclusive design guidelines and standards.**
2. **Develop communications materials with accessibility in mind.**
3. **Encourage governments to abide by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**
4. **Make sure that accessibility is supported at a senior management level.**
5. **Include people with disabilities in consultation and decision-making.**
6. **Organise disability awareness training in your organisation.**
7. **Make use of accessible meeting technologies.**
8. **Develop technologies that incorporate inclusive design.**
9. **Use guidelines for arranging accessible meetings (online or face-to-face).**
10. **Incorporate accessibility when developing technical standards and guidelines.**

## Everyone Can Contribute

Making a Difference
New technologies including the Internet of Things make huge impacts on society.

Let us make them accessible, available and affordable for everyone.
Founded by Internet pioneers, the Internet Society (ISOC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution, and use of the internet.

Working through a global community of chapters and members, the Internet Society collaborates with a broad range of groups to promote the technologies that keep the Internet safe and secure, and advocates for policies that enable universal access.

The Internet Society is also the organizational home of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

Learn more internetsociety.org