



Advancing the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities worldwide

FACT SHEET: MEMBERSHIP

Overview

Rehabilitation International is a democratic organization governed by an Assembly – representing its member organizations – which meets regularly to discuss the general policies of the organization. Members elect RI's President and Executive Committee every four years. The Executive Committee then appoints the Secretary General to oversee RI's headquarters are based in New York, USA.

RI maintains official relations with the United Nations (UN), and its agencies and institutions such as – the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCO and UNICEF – as well as regional bodies, service providers and universities to protect the rights of people with disabilities and improve crucial services for persons with disabilities and their families. RI also promotes international collaboration and advocates for strong policies and legislation to promote these rights by partnering with other civil society groups, organizations of persons with disabilities and others who share similar or the same vision.

Global Membership

RI's membership includes a broad range of organizations and agencies working in the field of disability rights and services. RI now has approximately 1,000 member organizations in 100 countries – including governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, public and private not-for-profit rehabilitation providers, disability advocacy organizations, consumer organizations, self-help groups and individuals.

We continually welcome new organizations who share the RI Vision to join this dynamic global network.

Rehabilitation International's members promote rights, but also implement rights through programs and initiatives at the regional, national and local levels. As a multi-disability organization, RI provides links to a broad range of practitioners in the disability field with whom to exchange information and strengthen your organization's work. The ability exchange good practices and develop partnerships is just one of the many reasons to join RI.

- **Be part of a democratic organization.** All members of RI contribute to the decision-making process regarding RI's policies and strategic priorities, e.g. by participating in the annual RI Governing Assembly or serving on the RI Executive Committee.
- **Benefit from RI's consultative status with the United Nation.** RI's good working relationship with the UN and its agencies provides opportunities to influence UN programs



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and policies, and participate in the negotiations toward a UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its implementation around the world.

- **Contribute to and receive RI publications.** RI produces a comprehensive magazine on issues important to persons in the disability field, as well as a specialized publication on children with disabilities. RI also publishes a quarterly newsletter to keep the RI network informed of important developments, meetings and achievements.
- **Enjoy membership services.** RI, through its New York-based headquarters, works with its members to fulfill RI's Vision and Mission through projects, actions and international meetings, among other services.