

INTERVENCION

“Global Forum on the COVID-19 crisis and persons with disabilities: Building back better towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world for all”

3 de agosto de 2020

Dear moderator,
Distinguished panelists,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of our Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Ambassador Luis Gallegos, and the Permanent Mission of Ecuador, I want to thank all our panelists for a very constructive event that allowed us to share perspectives and best practices to “build back better” societies that are more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable for all persons with disabilities.

I want to congratulate our co-organizers, the Permanent Missions of Hungary, Liberia, and Singapore, for their outstanding commitment for the fulfillment of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in particular our dear moderator, Daniela Bass, whose support and contribution was fundamental for the realization of this forum.

We have been able to hear about key challenges and gaps facing Governments in ensuring that persons living with disabilities are included and protected in the pandemic response, as well as the good practices that proved to be more disability-inclusive throughout the pandemic responses of containment, mitigation and recovery. Moreover, we learnt innovative measures, including those using accessible technologies, that are available for the benefit persons with disabilities, and some key messages that our Governments, the United Nations and the international community must take into account for COVID-19 responses and recoveries that aim at “building back better”, while implementing the CRPD, and achieving the SDGs for persons with disabilities.



This forum has allowed us also to hear directly from persons with disabilities and their organizations, which is an imperative if we are to successfully tackle the pandemic at the national and international levels. In particular, I was pleased to have in our panel a representative of young persons with disabilities, who reminded us of the significance of including everyone in order to leave no one behind.

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador, Ambassador Luis Gallegos, reminded us today, every crisis can also become an opportunity. It is up to all of us to make it so, and “build back better” a world that is inclusive, equitable and accessible to all persons with disabilities.

Thank you.

