



The Thirteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Side Event - The 2020 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD):

“Building Back Better: Action Toward a Disability-Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World”

Date: 4 December 2020 **Time:** New York: 11:00am – 12:45pm **Venue:** Virtual



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed each year on 3 December and has two primary goals. First, to promote the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities. Second, to take action to insure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development. The theme for IDPD 2020 is: **“Building Back Better: Toward a Disability-Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World”**

The Commemorative Event for IDPD 2020: Action Toward a Disability-Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World”

The side event is co-organized/co-sponsored by Member States, UN entities, the private sector/private foundations and organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as other civil society organizations. It will address the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on persons with disabilities and others with vulnerabilities, highlighting the experiences of persons with disabilities, as well as their vision for steering back toward disability-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The programme will focus on the recent progress by the UN system: (1) strengthening of the international policy framework on disability-inclusive development through the recent adoption of the resolution on “Inclusive Development for and with Persons with Disabilities” by the Third Committee of the General Assembly; (2) “tools” developed by the UN system for mainstreaming disability in different areas of its mandates. The first phase of the implementation of the *UN Disability Inclusion Strategy* has seen progress in the disability inclusion in the UN operational frameworks. Other tools, including those developed by UN Women, the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and the World Bank, are also contributing to positive changes on the ground for equality and inclusion of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the discussion will include (3) good practices by civil society and the private sector/private foundation to “build back better” toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 world.



Programme

Co-Moderators: Mr. Gopal Mitra, Senior Officer, Disability Team (EOSG) and Ms. Abia Akram, Chair, Asia Pacific Forum on Women and Girls with Disabilities (Civil Society)

11:00-11:30am: Global Action: Strengthening the international framework on disability-inclusive development: disability-inclusive response to Covid-19 and “Building Back Better Toward an Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World

- Introduction: **Under-Secretary-General Ms. Ana Maria Menendez, EOSG.**
- President of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, **H.E. Minister Luis Gallegos, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ecuador**
- Third Committee Resolution on Inclusive Development for and with Persons with Disabilities, **H.E. Amb. Enrique A. Manalo, Permanent Representative, PM of Philippines** and **H.E. Amb. Kennedy Gastorn, Permanent Representative, PM of Tanzania**
- The Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Persons with Disabilities (Mexico and New Zealand), **H.E. Amb. Juan Sandoval, Deputy Permanent Representative, PM of Mexico**

11:30am-11:35pm: Video "ON DISPLAY GLOBAL short compilation 2020" by Heidi Latsky Dance

11:35am-12:15pm: Vision for Action on the Ground: Tools for Building Back Better Toward an Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World:

- Next steps for the implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, **Mr. Gopal Mitra, Senior Officer, Disability Team, EOSG**
- UN Women, **Mr. A.H. Monjurul Kabir, Global Adviser, UN Coordination, Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion/Intersectionality, UN Women**
- United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), **Ms. Ola Abualghaib, Technical Secretariat for the UNPRPD Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)**
- World Bank, **Ms. Charlotte V. McClain-Nhlapo, Global Disability Advisor, World Bank**
- Civil Society/organizations of persons with disabilities, **Mr. Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius, World Blind Union, Co-chair, General Assembly of Partners-PCG Persons with Disabilities**
- Private Sector/Foundations, **Mr. Yosuke Ishikawa, Nippon Foundation**

12:15-12:20pm: As part of the Q&A, Moderator Mr. Mitra requests Respondent Mr. Cabra de Luna Miguel Angel, EESC Observer to the UNTFSSSE, to provide his comments concerning the presentations.

12:20-12:40pm: Q&A

12:40-12:45pm: Summary and closing remarks by Co-Moderators



Note: The ongoing COVID-19 crisis and its impact on persons with disabilities

There are more than one billion people living with some form of disability. 80 per cent of them live in developing countries, and, globally, persons with disabilities experience disproportionate poverty. COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities faced by persons with disabilities. These include disparities in stigma and discrimination, access to health-care services, the digital divide, social protection and the risk of violence and abandonment - especially of those living in long-term care and institutionalized settings. Women and girls, indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees, older persons and other marginalized populations are further exposed to intersecting

risks.

The pandemic can be an impetus to find new solutions for building more sustainable, inclusive and equal societies. Many hard-earned gains are now at a crossroad. It is, thus, imperative that disability-inclusion be an integral part of crisis response, recovery and “building back better.”