



## Forum on Ways forward Towards a Disability Inclusive and Accessible New Urban Agenda

*Organized by*

UNDESA Division for Social Policy and Development

*In partnership with*

Ecuador, UAE, Kazakhstan, Germany, Indonesia(tbc), UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, Global Alliance on Assistive Technologies and System, Disabled People's International, Rehabilitation International, Nippon Foundation and Essl Foundation

**14 June 2016, 1:15-3.00pm**

**Conference room 7, UNHQs New York**

### Background

Urbanization is one of the most significant global trends of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With 60 per cent of the world's population predicted to be living in cities by 2030, it is a growing force that is influencing and transforming development in many parts of the world – in both developed and developing countries. For estimated over one billion persons with disabilities across the world, ill planned and developed towns and cities that lacks of accessibility<sup>1</sup> often present a combination of physical, environmental, technical and social barriers to physical and virtual infrastructures, facilities and public services. Poor planning and unregulated urban development can have particularly devastating consequences for persons with disabilities. The United Nations Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015 recognizes among other issues, the importance of accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities in urban development contexts.

As member states are negotiating the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda to be considered for adoption at the Habitat III in October 2016, the international community is now faced with another great opportunity and challenge to ensure the New Urban Agenda to be

<sup>1</sup> Accessibility is broadly understood in this note as products, services, built environments and information communication technologies that respond to the interests, needs and capabilities of a wide range of end users, persons with disabilities and many other urban dwellers with access needs in particular. To a great extent, accessibility or universal design can be seen as a public good that benefits all in general population and should therefore be considered a central component of good urban policy to achieve inclusive urban agenda. A city that is well developed is well designed to be accessible to and for all.

accessible to and inclusive of all urban habitants, including persons with disabilities. Making cities and towns accessible and inclusive for all people, including persons with disabilities, is essential for sustainable urban development and also a human right imperative.

The Division for Social Policy and Development of UNDESA in partnership with Governments of Ecuador, United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, Germany, Indonesia(tbc), and UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, The Nippon Foundation, Essl Foundation, Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments and Rehabilitation International and Disabled People’s International, will organize a Forum Towards Disability Inclusive and Accessible New Urban Agenda at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Conference room 7, on 14 June 2016 in the lead to the Habitat III.

The Forum aims at promoting the world’s urban development to be inclusive of and accessible to all, including persons with disabilities, and makes a concrete contribution to inform the ongoing Habitat III processes, especially the negotiations for the outcome New Urban Agenda. Presentations, recommendations and key findings from the Forum will be posted on the United Nations Enable website [www.un.org/disabilities](http://www.un.org/disabilities).

### Suggested guiding questions

1. Please use a concrete example in any country to showcase how and why some urban development programmes or projects have proved to be successful in promoting accessibility and inclusion of all urban dwellers especially persons with disabilities?
2. What specific roles were played by Government/s, urban development practitioners, and civil society including DPOs in that particular exemplar case?
3. Supposing you are now invited to attend the UN Habitat III zero draft negotiations as your governmental delegate or NGO representative, what 3 key messages that you want to inform and include in the New Urban Agenda, in order to promote accessible and disability inclusive urban development?

### Tentative programme

Opening	Welcome remarks Moderator: SCRPD/DSPD/DESA
Roundtable dialogue	Discussants are invited by the moderator to share their contributions around the three guiding questions below, using concrete examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Gustavo Giler Alarcón, Technical Secretary for the Inclusive Management on Disabilities of the Vice-presidency of the Republic of Ecuador</li> <li>• Mr. Jamal Jama Al Musharakh , Deputy Permanent Representative of the UAE</li> <li>• Kazakhstan</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Mr. Luis Gallegos, The Nippon Foundation</li> <li>• Mr. Victor Pineda, Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development Network</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mohktar Shibani, GAATES</li> <li>• Mr. Martin Essl, Essl Foundation</li> <li>• Mr. Jan Monsbakke, Rehabilitation International</li> <li>• Ms. Xu Ling, China Disabled Persons Federation</li> </ul>
Q&A	Interaction among discussants and participants

The event will be conducted in English. Real-time closed caption and international sign language interpretation may be provided depending on the actual requirements. The Forum opens to all interested policy makers, experts from governments, local authorities, UN agencies, civil society, academia, development practitioners and the private sector working in the field of disability and urban development.

### Contact

For more information or enquiry, contact Mr. Eric Guozhong ZHANG, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (DSPD/UNDESA) via email to [zhangg@un.org](mailto:zhangg@un.org)