



The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in collaboration with The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, Leonard Cheshire Disability, the Center for Financial Inclusion at ACCION, and Barclays Bank would like to invite you to

The second DESA Forum on Disability and Development: Round Table Discussion on Financial Inclusion for Inclusive and Sustainable Development: A Disability Perspective

Friday 13 June 2014
10AM-12PM, CR5, NLB, UNHQ New York

Background

For over 1 billion persons living with some forms of disability¹, their full potential has not always been realized due to existing barriers. This is often the case in terms of access to financial services and products, making it excessively difficult for persons with disabilities to start or build businesses, develop pension plans, and take out loans. These barriers need to be addressed in financial inclusion programmes so to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to unlock their productive potential, making gains for themselves, for their families and, indeed, for their broader communities.

Making financial services fully accessible to persons with disabilities is thus an imperative for their empowerment and realization of their human rights. At the same time, without the financial inclusion of 15% of the world population - it will be impossible to tackle the greatest global challenge facing the world today: eradicating poverty.

DESA Forum Roundtable on Financial Inclusion for Inclusive and Sustainable Development

On 13 June 2014, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs(DESA) will host a DESA Forum Roundtable Discussion on Financial Inclusion for Inclusive and Sustainable Development: A Disability Perspective, in collaboration with the Government of Republic of Korea, Leonard Cheshire Disability, the Center for Financial Inclusion at ACCION, Barclays Bank and other partners. The Round Table Discussion seeks to bring together stakeholders from governments, civil society and the private sector to:

1. To take a stock of progress made so far in including disability in financial sector policies and practices;
2. To share experiences, challenges and good practices in this regard;
3. To discuss options and ways forward as to how commitments made on the local, national, regional and global level can better incorporate the perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities.

Our dialogue there is intended to discuss practical steps towards financial inclusion of persons with disabilities and to contribute to ongoing discussions towards a disability-inclusive post-

¹ World Health Organization and World Bank, *World Report on Disability* (Geneva, 2011).

2015 development agenda. As for without the inclusion of persons with disabilities - it will be impossible to genuinely achieve any internationally agreed development goal.

Discussion questions

Some questions that will be considered during the Round Table Discussion include:

- 1 What are some successful examples of financial inclusion programmes of persons with disabilities?
- 2 What are some of the challenges that preclude financial services from being fully accessible?
- 3 What are examples of successful partnerships?
- 4 What are practical steps towards ensuring the financial inclusion of persons with disabilities?

Programme

Opening

- DESA Representative [TBD]
- Permanent Representative and Ambassador from the Permanent Mission of Korea to the UN

Round Table Discussion

Moderator: TBD

Participants:

- **Mr. Tamislov Bogdanic**, President of the World Youth Bank Network
- **Ms. Clare Pelham**, Chief Executive of Leonard Cheshire Disability
- **Mr. Joshua Goldstein**, Principal Director for Economic Citizenship & Disability Inclusion of the Center for Financial Inclusion, ACCION
- **Ms. Elaine Draper**, Director, Process Transformation of Barclays Bank
- **Mr. Dave Grace**, Dave Grace and Associates

After messages of financial inclusion by the participants we invite all to ask questions, share their knowledge, and participate in an interactive discussion on this important topic.



Nepal, Sarlahi district, 2008, Socio economic inclusion project, Laxminarayan and his wife, shopkeeper. Copyright © Prajwal Pradhan / Handicap International