

**Between Gender, Disability And Economic Empowerment : Strategies For The Economic
Empowerment Of Women And Girls With Disabilities.**

MARCH 17, 2017

CR:B (15:00-16:15)

Persons with disabilities comprise approximately 15 per cent of the global population. Many of those of working age — at least 780 million people — face physical, social, economic and cultural barriers that hinder their access to education, skills development, employment, health services and, more broadly, society on an equal basis with others. Women and girls with disabilities tend to be the most marginalized, they experience multiple discriminatory factors based on either gender, or disability, or both. They are less likely to have a decent job than either women without disabilities or men with disabilities.

In the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, we have an opportunity to examine national policies and programs aimed at removing barriers to the economic empowerment of women and girls with disabilities. Guided by the international normative framework that supports women and girls with disabilities, including the Convention on the Elimination and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, participants are invited to engage in a sharing of national best practices.

Aim of this Side-Event

- 1) Raise awareness and understanding of the barriers women and girls with disabilities face with respect to their economic empowerment and to share best practices of how member states and Disabled Persons Organizations are working to remove these barriers.
- 2) Build an understanding of how the full and effective participation of women and girls with disabilities in inclusive sustainable development programs can help to address discrimination and barriers.
- 3) Examine how women and girls with disabilities are addressed in domestic legal frameworks (rights of women, rights of persons with disabilities, employment, education, equality and non-discrimination).
- 4) Look at the economic empowerment of women and girls with disabilities within the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular goal number 5 and goal number 8, and how are countries formulating sustainable development policies in this respect.
- 5) To demonstrate that equal access and enjoyment of education, training and re-training are at the core of their gainful employment.
- 6) Share ideas on addressing barriers women with disabilities face in the workplace, in particular social attitudes.

Panelists:

Moderator: Ms. Akiko Ito, Secretary of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

1. **Dr. Heba Hagrass**, Member of the Egyptian Parliament, Member of the National Council for Women, Member of the National Council for Disability Affairs.
2. **Ms. Venus Llagan**, the Secretary-General of the Rehabilitation International.
3. **Ms. Helen Potiki**, Director of International Policy, Ministry for Women of New Zealand.
4. **Gabriela Troiano** First Vice President of the Disability Commission of the National Congress of Argentina(through recorded video)