

## Wrapping up 2016 and looking ahead to 2017

### Holiday Greetings from the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD)!

There are a number of reasons to celebrate 2016 as a momentous year for advancement of the rights, well-being and perspectives of persons with disabilities in many fronts of disability-inclusive development at the United Nations. The year also marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



As we celebrate the first ten years of the CRPD, we are delighted by the increased global commitment to inclusion of persons with disabilities both as agents of change and beneficiaries in society and development. This upswing has translated into the 2030 development agenda and the global conferences in disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and urban development.

In this first year of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, DESA, other UN entities along with other stakeholders, galvanized its forces to implement an inclusive and sustainable 2030 Agenda—building a peaceful and prosperous world, in which no one is left behind. Throughout the year SCRPD convened expert group meetings, forums and events, creating new partnerships and conducting the outreach efforts to launch the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



Earlier this year, the UN Humanitarian Summit spurred the commitment by Governments to ensure disability-inclusive humanitarian action. At the Summit, the Charter on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action was launched. The Charter has now been endorsed by over 140 stakeholders, including Member States, UN agencies, civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

In October, the Habitat III – the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Governments adopted a New Urban Agenda that will guide future sustainable and inclusive development of the world's cities. The Agenda has several references to disability and includes the needs and aspirations of persons with disabilities. In conjunction with Habitat III, DESA in close collaboration with the Government of Ecuador and civil society organizations convened a high-level forum on inclusion and accessible urban development.

A new General Assembly resolution on “Inclusive development for persons with disabilities” sets out the priorities for 2017 and beyond, reaffirms that the participation of persons with disabilities is integral to the full and inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Assembly also recognizes that further efforts are needed to effectively mainstream disability in all development policies and programmes. It mandates the publication and dissemination of internationally comparable disability data and statistics.

In 2017 and beyond, the international community will accord an emphasis on those who suffer from multiple barriers, including women with disabilities, persons with albinism, and those living with psychosocial disabilities- Leaving no one behind!

DESA, as the global focal point on disability of the UN system, continues to advance accessibility as a means and goal of the international development agenda. This year, along with the UN Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management and other UN departments and offices under the banner of the Inter-Departmental Task Force on Accessibility, DESA coordinated for the report of the Secretary-General entitled: "Toward the full realization of the an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities".

SCRPD will continue its efforts to increase the impact of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP). As stakeholder participation has dramatically increased during the past few years, the COSP is now one of the largest and most diverse international disability meetings in the world! This year's session of the COSP took place in the UN General Assembly Hall for the first-time ever, had the highest level of ministerial participation. In just three days of the COSP, we coordinated over 70 side-events covering numerous issues on the rights of persons with disabilities and development. In 2017, the 10th session of the COSP will be held from 13-15 June at UN Headquarters in New York. Please join us!!

As the year 2016 ends and the New Year 2017 will soon grace us with the fresh start, may we reiterate our heartfelt gratitude to your strong support of the work we do toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable society and development--- by, for and with persons with disabilities.

**We wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year 2017!**

Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD)  
Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)  
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)



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