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 **Side event: “Disability Inclusive Development in Africa”**

**2 December, 2016**

**CR 12 from 3:00 to 4:30pm**

This event will present the main challenges persons with disabilities face in the Africa region. These include experiences of exclusion and discrimination, and challenges to the enjoyment of their fundamental rights and inclusion in development. In Africa, as in other regions, persons with disabilities are disproportionately likely to live in poverty and, too often, lack access to education, health care, employment opportunities, housing, social protection systems, justice, cultural expression and participation in political life. The ability of persons with disabilities to participate in society is often frustrated because physical environments, transportation and information and communications systems are not accessible.

DESA/DSPD has taken many initiatives to overcome challenges that persons with disabilities are facing at national and regional levels. In its work DESA/DSPD applies a two-pronged approach with a focus on strengthening the normative base on disability as well as contributing to building national capacities for inclusive development. One of the major contributions by DESA/DSPD to this work is a *Toolkit on Disability for Africa* that has been designed to build capacity of government officials and DPOs members to promote inclusive development in line with the CRPD framework.

 **Programme**

**Chair**

Ms. Daniela Bas Director DSPD/UNDESA

**Speakers** (up to 6 minutes each)

Ms. Akiko Ito DSPD/UNDESA

Chief Eric Ndubueze Ufom, President, Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities International, Inc. (ERPDI) Nigeria.

Mr. Amson Sibanda DSPD/UNDESA

Mr. Adriano Monti First Councellor, Italian Mission to the UN

Mr. Oleg Serezhin DSPD/UNDESA

Ms. Beatrice K. Nabulime Assistant Commissioner, Disability and Elderly, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda

**Discussion** (up to 30 minutes)

 **Presentations**

* **Ms Daniela Bas** will Chair the side event and give opening remarks
* **Ms Akiko Ito** will discuss the international normative framework on disability and development which is directly linked with the regional framework to advance disability-inclusive society and development.
* **Chief Eric Ndubueze Ufom** will bring in the experience about the role that DPOs play in the Africa context in order to advance and monitor implementation of CRPD.
* **Mr. Amson Sibanda** will focus on Disability within the Africa Development Agenda 2063.
* **Mr. Adriano Monti** will participate as a representative of the bilateral donors’ community with a strong cooperation programme on disability issues, particularly in Africa. Italy also provided financial support for the finalisation of the *Toolkit on Disability for Africa*.
* **Mr. Oleg Serezhin** will present the *Toolkit on Disability for Africa*, its present characteristics and the planned developments.
* **Ms. Beatrice K. Nabulime** will report the experience as a recipient country for the use of the Toolkit since she has actively participated in its drafting and testing, and has also worked with DSPD to utilize the Toolkit in carrying out a training course within her own country. She also represents the Uganda counterpart for an ongoing DSPD technical assistance project supporting revision on an older Ugandan national disability policy to bring it in line with the CRPD, and the formulation of a specific National Action Plan on disability.