

# #DiversityIsStrength

## Interactive High Level Panel Discussion on the Power of Inclusion and Diversity

*18:00-19:30 - Wednesday, September 21, 2016 – United Nations, New York*

Diversity is a source of strength. Diversity of thought, experience, age, gender, origin, language, orientation, ethnicity and faith can enrich our lives, both individually as well as internationally. A growing body of evidence demonstrates that diverse communities and countries can experience higher rates of economic growth, better social cohesion, and tremendous cultural and civic benefits. Inclusion ultimately enables diversity to be leveraged locally, nationally and internationally. In inclusive societies, people are freer to innovate, iterate, and explore; they are better able to collaborate, create and construct; to build, develop and deliver. But inclusion is only arrived at consciously, when policies and programs are put in place to help empower women and men, youth, artists, civil society and the private sector alike.



Hosted by the Government of Canada, **#DiversityIsStrength** is an interactive high level panel discussion on how we can work together to better accrue the benefits of inclusion and diversity. Taking place on September 21, 2016 from 18:00-19:30 on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and building on prior high-level events on migration and refugees, **#DiversityIsStrength** will explore four interconnected themes: the economic, social, cultural and civic benefits of inclusion and diversity. Drawing on expert practitioners and policy makers, the panel will explore the various pathways to pluralism that have led to positive change, and the work that remains to be undertaken.

*Welcoming and closing remarks will be offered by the Honourable Stephane Dion, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs. The panel discussion will be moderated by Morris Rosenberg, President and CEO of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. #DiversityIsStrength will culminate in a 30-minute Question and Answer period followed by closing remarks. In line with the over-arching vision of Agenda2030, each expert practitioner will provide concrete examples of policies and programs that can build inclusive societies, helping to ensure that no one is left behind. Understanding effective approaches towards inclusion and diversity is particularly critical against a global backdrop frequently dominated by the challenges posed by migration and violent extremism.*

A wide range of stakeholders are invited to participate. Please join the growing network of individuals committed to demonstrating **the Power of Inclusion and Diversity**. Bring your ideas, your insights, your questions and your comments. Help us to learn what works better, how, and why.

**ECONOMIC INCLUSION**

promotes sustainable development, increases competitive advantage, attracts foreign investment, spurs innovation and builds the workforce of the future

**SOCIAL INCLUSION**

nurtures communities, fosters cohesion, empowers women and girls, positively engages youth, stimulates thinkers and cultivates pride

**CULTURAL INCLUSION**

enriches life experiences, revels in art, opens the mind, respects and celebrates faith or belief

**CIVIC INCLUSION**

builds resilient communities, enfranchises vulnerable groups, encourages participation, prevents conflict and promotes peace

