



Australian Permanent Mission
to the United Nations
Geneva



High-level panel on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy - Ensuring that the United Nations system is fit for purpose

*15:00-16:30, 3 December 2019,
room XVI, A-building, Palais des Nations*

The [United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy](#) was launched in June 2019 by the United Nations Secretary-General **Mr. António Guterres**.

The Strategy provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the United Nations (peace and security, human rights, and development) through a system-wide framework for policy, action and accountability. It establishes the highest levels of commitment and a vision for the United Nations system on disability inclusion for the next decade, and enables the UN system to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international human rights instruments, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Agenda for Humanity and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

To raise the standards of the UN's performance on disability inclusion across the board, the Permanent Missions of Finland, Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Mexico will organize a high-level panel event on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities that is celebrated on 3 December. The high-level panel will highlight the main elements of the United



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Live captioning will be provided.

Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and point to the transformations that the United Nations system needs to achieve for the inclusion of persons with disabilities across all its work.

The event is co-sponsored by the Missions of Bulgaria, Israel, Norway, Ecuador, Argentina and Namibia as well as the International Disability Alliance.

Opening words

- **Ms. Terhi Hakala**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations and WTO of Finland and **Ms. Jillian Dempster**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations of New Zealand

Remarks on United Nations commitment to disability inclusion

- **Ms. Ana Maria Menéndez**, Under Secretary-General, Senior Advisor on Policy (through video connection)

Panelists

- **Ms. Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva

- **Ms. Mami Mizutori**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

- **Ms. Kelly T. Clements**, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

- **Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar**, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Closing remarks

- **Mr. Julian Braithwaite**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the United Kingdom

Coffee will be served outside the room XVI starting from 14:45 on.

Live captioning will be provided.