Mainstreaming Disability in Development for Poverty Eradication
Panel Discussion in conjunction with the 49th session of the Commission for Social Development

Organized by UNDESA and the Special Rapporteur on Disability, in collaboration with the Governments of Finland, Germany and Norway, and the World Bank and Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD)

(1.15 -2.30 p.m., 10 February 2011)
(Conference Room B, NLB, UN Headquarters, New York)

Information Note

Background

The Commission for Social Development will convene its 49th session in New York, from 9 to 18th February 2011, under the theme of “Poverty Eradication” for the 2011-2012 review and policy cycle.

Available evidence suggests that persons with disabilities, on average, as a group experience worse socioeconomic outcomes than persons without disabilities: they have less education, lower rates of employment, higher unemployment rates, lower wages, worse living conditions and higher rates of poverty. Children with disabilities are disproportionately represented among the “out-of-school” children. Addressing adverse socioeconomic outcomes among persons with disabilities and their households should be an integral part of collective efforts and a concrete step to reducing the risk and impact of poverty in any country. Action is needed to mainstream disability and the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities into national and international development efforts, including efforts to eliminate poverty.

The General Assembly resolutions in particular A/RES/64/131 and most recently A/RES/65/186 and two ECOSOC resolutions entitled “Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda” (ECOSOC/2008/21 and 2010/13) as well as the Secretary-General’s report “Keeping the Promises: Realizing the MDGs for Persons with Disabilities towards 2015 and beyond”(A/65/173) highlighted, including and mainstreaming disability in development as the missing link in the development agenda. The omission of disability in development efforts not only affects persons with disabilities themselves, but also directly impacts on the objectives of the development for all. The international community therefore called for priority attention and urgent action to mainstream disability, especially in the context of realization of the major internationally-agreed development goals such as the MDGs.

More recently, the UN Special Rapporteur on Disability, in his report before the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2011/9), called for urgent action to mainstream disability in all aspects of development agenda including international cooperation. He further encouraged sharing of good practices and experience among Member States and other stakeholders, in order to overcome barriers and further advance development inclusive of disability and persons with disabilities.

Panel Discussion on Mainstreaming Disability and Persons with Disabilities in Development for Poverty Eradication

A panel discussion will be organized by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on Disability, World Bank and the Governments of Finland, Germany and Norway as well as Global Partnership for Disability and Development, at the United Nations.
The Panel will discuss key issues concerning the inclusion of disability in development, particularly in the context of ongoing global efforts towards poverty eradication with reference to policy framework on disability and development. The presentations will reflect multiplicity of disability as a development issue as it relates to eradication of poverty. Good practice examples of including disability in development with a view to contributing to successful poverty reduction and development for all will be shared.

For inquiries related to this panel discussion, please contact Mr. Eric Guozhong Zhang, UNDESA (zhangg@un.org, Phone: 1-212 963 4755)

**Moderator:**
Mr. Shuaib Chalklen, Special Rapporteur on Disability

**Facilitator:**
Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of SCRPD, UN DESA

**Panel:**
- Dr. Ronald Wiman, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland
- Ms. Stefanie Ruff, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Germany
- Mr. Keiichiro Nakazawa, Japan International Cooperation Agency USA Office (JICA)
- Representative of the Government of Norway
- Ms. Charlotte V. McClain-Nhlapo, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Ms. Maria Reina Venorica, Global Partnership for Disability and Development