Invitation to a United Nations Panel on

**Autism: Awareness to Action**

*Models of collaboration between UN agencies and local communities*

On the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day 2014

Co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the U.N., Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the U.N. and Autism Speaks

And

Co-sponsored by the United States Mission to the U.N., Permanent Mission of India to the UN, Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN and Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN

Tuesday, 1 April 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

North Lawn Building, Conference Room 4, United Nations, New York

Opening Remarks:

H.E. Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of State of Qatar to the UN

H.E. Ambassador Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN

H.E. Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Permanent Representative of India to the UN

H.E. Ambassador Elizabeth Cousens, U.S. Representative to the UN Economic and Social Council

H.E. Ambassador Usman Sarki, Deputy Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN

Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Mrs. Suzanne Wright and Mr. Bob Wright, Co-founders of Autism Speaks

Panel Discussion Moderated by Mr. Bill Ritter, Anchor, WABC TV

Panelists: (Panel 1 & 2)

Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain, Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Autism, Bangladesh

Dr. Jacob Kumaresan, Executive Director, WHO Office at the UN, New York

Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief and focal point on Disabilities, Secretariat of the CRPD, UNDESA

Ms. Lieve Sabbe, Programme Specialist (Children with Disabilities), UNICEF

Dr. Andy Shih, Senior VP, Scientific Affairs, Autism Speaks

Mr. Shekhar Saxena, M. D., Director, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, World Health Organization

Mrs. Sunghee Byun, Mother of a child with autism and Special Advisor, Autism Society of Korea

Mr. Jesse Saperstein, Self Advocate

Mr. David Sternfield, parent of a child with autism and an activist

Representative from the Shafallah Centre, Doha, Qatar (TBC)

Luncheon reception: You are cordially invited to attend a luncheon reception immediately following the panel discussion at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations

820, 2nd Avenue, 4th Floor (Diplomat Centre) between 43rd and 44th Streets, New York, NY

Please RSVP by March 30, 2014 || Tel: 212 486 6879 || E-mail: rsvp@bljworldwide.com