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# World Autism Awareness Day

## Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges & Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World

**Virtual Event:** Thursday, 8 April 2021 | 10 - 11 a.m. EST | 16 - 17 p.m. CET

**10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Maher Nasser**, Director, Outreach Division, Department of Global Communications, UN  
**Melissa Fleming**, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, UN  
**Thorkil Sonne (MC)**, Founder, Specialisterne Foundation

**10:14 a.m. PANEL 1: Disparities and Discrimination Exposed by the Pandemic**

The panel will discuss the challenges that persons with autism face in finding employment, as well as the lack of support and training available during the transition from school to the workplace.

**Moderator: Charlotte Valeur**, Founder, Global Governance Group, Denmark/UK  
**Sarah Bosibori**, Computer skills trainer, Step Up 4 Autism, Kenya  
**Adam Harris**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, As I Am, Ireland  
**Hari Srinivasan**, Student and student instructor, University of California, Berkeley; Board Member, Autistic Self Advocacy Network, U.S.

**10:32 a.m. PANEL 2: Ensuring Inclusion as we Build Back Better**

Recovery from the pandemic provides an opportunity to reset and rebuild to address the inequalities of the past. The panel will discuss the transformation needed to make hiring practices and the workplace itself inclusive, as well as the opportunities that new technologies and new ways of working have created for employees on the autism spectrum.

**Moderator: Charlotte Valeur**, Founder, Global Governance Group, Denmark/UK  
**El Mehdi Benmoussa**, Business owner & advocate for Collectif Autisme Maroc, Morocco  
**Siena Castellon**, Neurodiversity and autism advocate; Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals, U.K.  
**Juan José Sibaja**, Scrum Master, Procter & Gamble, Costa Rica  
**Asha Sreedhar**, Quality Associate, SAP Labs, India

**10:52 a.m. Closing Remarks**

**Maria-Francesca Spatolisano**, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN

**11:00 a.m. Event Concludes**

Event website: [un.org/en/observances/autism-day](https://un.org/en/observances/autism-day)

The event is organized by the UN Department of Global Communications & UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Specialisterne Foundation. The event is co-sponsored by the United Nations Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Italy, Malta, Poland and Qatar.



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