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
Thorik 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

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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