



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development

2018 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
“Empowering Persons with Disabilities and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality”

3 December 2018

10 am –1:00pm/3:00pm –6:00pm, Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York

Co-sponsors: Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Ecuador; Republic of Korea, Brazil, Bulgaria, Italy, Philippines, United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, ITU, UN Women, UN Department of Management

Draft Programme

10.00 am – 11.00 am

Opening Ceremony on “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”

Moderator: Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

- Opening Statement by **H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés**, President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly (*video message*)
- The launch of the Flagship Report by **Mr. Elliott Harris**, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist (UN DESA)
- Statement by **Ms. Kira Christianne Danganan-Azucena**, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN
- Statement by **H.E. Mr. Georgi Panayotov**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Bulgaria and President of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD
- Statement by **Ms. Tiziana Oliva**, Executive Director, Leonard Cheshire Disability



11.05 am – 11.55 am

Recent Initiatives taken by Member States, UN system and Civil Society

The panel will discuss recent initiatives on empowering persons with disabilities and on how stakeholders can benefit from the knowledge and expertise of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to address the multiple forms of discrimination and “leave no one behind”.

Moderator: Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

- **H.E. Ms. Karen Pierce**, Ambassador, United Kingdom Mission to the UN
- **Mr. Vladimir Cuk**, Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance (IDA)
- **H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul**, Ambassador, DPR, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Mauro Vieira**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN
- **H.E. Burhan Gafoor**, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the UN
- **Ms. Aparna Mehrotra**, Director, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women
- **Ms. Venus Ilagan**, Secretary General, Rehabilitation International



12.00 pm – 1.00 pm

High-level Panel on “Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities”

Achieving disability inclusion will require international efforts and effective partnerships, involving Member States, United Nations agencies, humanitarian and human rights actors, development actors, peace and security actors, local communities and organizations of persons with disabilities. The panel will provide an overview of the international framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and recent progress. The discussion will focus on key challenges and cross-cutting issues in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and explore innovative solutions for the well-being of persons with disabilities. The panel will discuss how stakeholders can contribute to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability, enhance awareness and improve cooperation into the process of achieving the SDGs at all levels.

Moderator: Ms. Akiko Ito, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

- **Ms. Maria Martinho**, Social Affairs Officer, UNDESA/DISD
- **Ms. Margaret Mbogoni**, Senior Statistician, UNDESA/UNSD
- **Mr. Mark Waltham**, Senior Education Adviser, UNICEF
- **Ms. Leyla Sharafi**, Programme Analyst for Human Rights and Gender, UNFPA
- **Ms. Sarah Rattray**, UNDP's Lead on Disability
- **Ms. Sophie Mitra**, Associate Professor of Economics, Fordham University



Welcome:

- **Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

3.05 pm – 3.20 pm

Musical Performance by Special Olympics Korea

3.25 pm – 3.55 pm

High-level Panel on “Accessible Cities for All: Smart and Inclusive Urban Planning”

The panel discussion will explore concrete strategies and policy proposals to develop an integrated approach for smart and inclusive cities that are accessible to all; Recommendations for actions and partnerships at the global and local levels for the creation of an enabling environment to ensure that cities benefit all people, including persons with disabilities;

Innovative solutions to challenges that future cities will face in making infrastructure, social services, information and safe environments accessible for all; Sharing of expertise and experience on how cities can foster inclusive urban planning for all by using innovation and technology including artificial intelligence? How can all people benefit? and the way forward for evidence-based research on smart and inclusive urban planning.

Opening Remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Luis Gallegos**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations
- **Ambassador** and Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations *(TBC)*
- **H.E. Yasuhisa Kawamura**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
- **Mr. Mario Armella**, World President of the International Federation for Family



Session 1: Inclusive Cities

4.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Video: Example of an Accessible City: **Jurmala in Latvia**

Moderator: **Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

Panellists:

- **Mr. Victor Calise**, Commissioner, New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
- **Ms. Mara Gabrielli, Senator**, Government of Brazil and recently elected to the CRPD
- **Mr. Raúl Aguayo-Krauthausen**, a disability rights activist on accessible cities

- **Ms. Elise Roy**, Inclusive Design Strategist



Session 2: Smart Inclusion

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Moderator: Ms. Frances West, Founder, FrancesWestCo and Former IBM Chief Accessibility Officer

Panellists:

- **Mr. John Paul Farmer**, Director, Microsoft Cities
- **Mr. Asher Remy-Toledo**, Director and Founder of Hyphen Hub
- **Mr. Albert Manero**, President, Limbitles Solutions
- **Mr. Daryl Mitchell**, American Actor (TBC)