# **Civil Society Forum under the auspices of the 16th Session of the**

# **Conference of States Parties to the UN CRPD**

## **12 June 2023 | 10am to 2pm**

## **Conf. Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

### **Overall aims of the Civil Society Forum**

The Civil Society Forum being held under the auspices of the 16th Conference of States Parties (CoSP) to the CRPD will aim to:

1. Share experiences of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) on the implementation of the CRPD
2. Highlight what is working and what is not working; what are new issues that persons with disabilities are facing
3. Expectations of persons with disabilities when world leaders talk about speeding up SDGs implementation at the SDGs Summit in September 2023 and plan for future challenges at the Summit of the Future in 2024

### **Participants at the Civil Society Forum**

Everyone who will be attending CoSP is welcome to attend the Civil Society Forum. This includes OPDs, NGOs, government, academia, etc.

### **Draft programme**

The CSF will follow a Davos style of interaction: the moderator will ask questions to the speakers sitting at the podium, and keep time for interaction from the floor -with the exception of the opening and closing sessions; and special remarks.

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| **Time** | **Title** | **Objective** | **Guiding questions** |
| **10.00 am – 10.30 am** | **Opening*****Moderated by:*** *Ruth Warick, IDA* ***Speakers:*** * *Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, Director Social Rights & Inclusion, European Commission*
* *Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Chair, CRPD Committee*
* *Rose Umutesi, PANPPD, IDDC representative*
* *Esma Gumberidze, ENIL Youth representative*
 | Set the agenda for the discussions of the day. | **What can we hope to achieve through the discussions of the day?** Ruth **5 minutes** **What are some of the key challenges that persons with disabilities are facing today?** Gertrude **5 minutes** **What steps can be taken by the UN and governments?** EU **5 minutes** **What can be done to better include persons from under-represented groups?** Rose **5 minutes** **What can be done to ensure that youth with disabilities find their space in the ongoing discourse?** Esma **5 minutes**  |
| **Session 1** |  |
| **10.30 am – 12.00 pm** | **CRPD implementation: What is the current state of play**? ***Moderator****: Jose Viera, IDA****Speakers****:* 1. *Bhargavi Davar, Transforming Communities for Inclusion*
2. *Nawaf Kabbara, Arab Organisation of Disabled Persons*
3. *Dominique Kantor, Fundación Visibilia, Argentina*
4. *Gopal Mitra, UNICEF*
 | **Objectives:**Highlight the successes on disability inclusion so far.Highlight what has been not achieved.Highlight what should be the priorities now and in the immediate future to advance disability inclusion. | **Opening remarks** Jose **(5 minutes)****Set background and the scene.** **Introduce speakers:****Gopal Mitra,** the Global Lead on Disability and Development in Programme Group at UNICEF, where he provides strategic and technical leadership to deliver on UNICEF’s global commitments on disability inclusion across the organization. Also with us is **Bhargavi Davar**, a person with a psychosocial disability and a childhood survivor of institutions. She is presently Executive Director at Transforming Communities for Inclusion, (TCI) a global organization of persons with psychosocial disabilities.Also with us is **Dr. Nawaf Kabbara**, the president of the National Association for the Rights of persons with disabilities in Lebanon and the president of the Arab Organization of persons with disabilities. By profession, Dr. Kabbara is an associate professor of political sciences. Finally, **Dominique Kantor** is a self-advocate and validator for the Easy to Read division of Fundación Visibilia, Argentina. She is also a representative of the intellectual disability collective with the Buenos Aires Governmental Disability Agency (COPIDIS). **So let’s start with our session.** **Q1: What have we achieved? 5 minutes each speaker*** **Gopal**, you represent UNICEF. Can you tell us how the CRPD has been a game-changer for children’s rights to **education** but also **accessibility**? **5 minutes**
* **Bhargavi**, the **DI guidelines** has been a significant milestone. Could you tell us about its implications for the disability movement at large and its implications on **community inclusion**, especially for persons from underrepresented groups. **5 minutes**
* **Nawaf**, we know you represent the communities in the Arab region, oftentimes hit by conflicts and war. How do you think the CRPD has impacted **access to services for persons with disabilities during conflict and crises**, including ensuring social protection? **5 minutes**
* **Dominique**, you are a self-advocate from Argentina. Can you tell us about your experience when it comes to **accessibility** and easy to understand communication in important meetings and events on disability? **5 minutes**

*Jose to summarise the achievements and move to the next part.***Q2: Who was left behind and why? - 5 minutes each speaker*** Let’s move on to **some of the gaps that still exist**. **Gopal**, you told us about good practices. But what about some of the gaps. Are we leaving behind persons with disabilities? **5 minutes**
* **Nawaf**, the same question for you. **5 minutes**
* And **Dominique**, tell us – to what extend do you feel your community is able to participate in all spheres of life? How is access to education? **5 minutes each speaker**
* **Bhargavi**, did the SDGs leave persons with psychosocial disabilities behind? What are your thoughts? **5 minutes**

**Q3: Where should we be ringing the alarm bells? - 5 minutes each speaker*** Onto our last question: here, we ask: what are some of the **issues that will continue to play out** for persons with disabilities?
* Time and time again, international crises have shown us how easily our human rights can be cast aside. We saw this during the COVID-19 pandemic, where our communities hard were hit hard. When conflict hits, everyone rushes to move to safe areas ensuring the security and health for themselves and their family members. But for many persons with disabilities this is not possible. Evacuation plans are often not designed in accessible ways.
* **Nawaf**, let’s start with you. What would be the major risks of exclusion when it comes to humanitarian action? You touched on some points in the previous part, so <J*ose to ask follow up question>.*
* **5 minutes**
* Bhargavi, in your communities, can you tell us about some of the issues that continue to play out for persons with psychosocial disabilities? You touched on some points in the previous part, so <J*ose to ask follow up question>***5 minutes**
* Dominique, same question for you. What are the most important things you would like to highlight here? *<Jose to ask follow up question>* **5 minutes**
* And finally Gopal – as a representative of a UN Agency, how important is for multilateralism to take note of disability rights? Here I am thinking about Article 32 relating to international cooperation. We have examples of networks like the Global Action on Disability – GLAD Network, and also mechanisms such as the Global Disability Summits. **5 minutes**

Now let’s open up for an **interactive discussion with our audience.*** *Q & A Runs.* **20 minutes**

*At 11.55, Jose wraps up the session and announces a 15 min break.* We will be back at 12.15pm, for a session on inclusive SDGs, moderated by my colleague Diana Dalton from the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. |
| **12.00 pm – 12.15 pm** | **BRIEF BREAK** |
| **Session 2** |
| **12.15 – 1.30** | **Towards a disability inclusive SDGs Summit & Our Common Agenda*****Moderator****: Diana Dalton, FCDO****Suggested speakers:***1. *Mohammad Loutfy, G3ict and the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities*
2. *Gunta Anca, EDF*
3. *Jean Pierre Sibomana, Program Officer (Rwanda) Disability Rights Fund*
4. *Diane Bergeron, World Blind Union*

***Special Remarks:**** *Guy Ryder, USG Policy*
 | **Objectives:**How have the SDGs impacted (or failed to impact) persons with disabilities?What are some of the issues that we need to highlight for inclusion in the SDGs Summit negotiations and for the Summit of the Future & A Pact for the Future?To understand the process of SDGs Summit and Summit of the Future.How can Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) participate in the processes and the Summit itself? | **Opening remarks– Diana Dalton (5 minutes)**(Suggested focus on why there is an urgent need to ensure that we move beyond references/commitment on disability to concrete actions, examples from FCDO)**Introduce speakers:****Dr**. **Mohammed Ali Loutfy** is the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ICT) director for capacity building and advocacy, where he manages G3ICT’s Digital Accessibility Right Education (DARE) Academy. He is also representing the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities.**Gunta Anca** has been an experienced disability rights activist throughout her career. Since 2005, she is a Board member within the European Disability Forum.**Mr. Jean Pierre SIBOMANA** is the Program Officer of the Disability Rights Fund and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRF/DRAF). He has been actively involved in the disability movement for over 12 years, mostly in Rwanda.**Diane Bergeron** is the President of CNIB Guide Dogs and the Treasurer for the World Blind Union, and is the Chair for the WBU Women’s Committee**Q1:****Diana: I would like to turn to our speakers and ask****is the slogan ‘leave no one behind’ been real for persons with disabilities? 5 minutes each speaker*** **Diane,** let me start with you. Why are our cities and infrastructure not inclusive of persons with disabilities? **5 minutes**
* **Mohammed,** a common refrain we hear is that there is no comparable and reliable data on disability. What has been some of the milestones in disability data you would say? **5 minutes**
* **Gunta**, the war in Ukraine is shining a light on how systemic response to humanitarian crises leaves out persons with disabilities. Could you tell us where we fell short? **5 minutes**
* **Jean Pierre,** has financing for development included persons with disabilities? **5 minutes**

**Q2: What should be the priorities that world leaders and UN need to keep in mind as they discuss acceleration of the SDGs and prepare for beyond 2030? 2 minutes each speaker****Diana:** We have heard of the gaps and there are many. While a lot needs to be done, I would like to ask each one of you to highlight 2-3 key priorities for persons with disabilities in the next 7 years of the 2030 Agenda?* Diane Bergeron
* Mohammed Loutfy
* Gunta Anca
* Jean Pierre

Diana opens the floor for a few questions from the floorQ&A with participants **– 10 minutes*****At 1.00 pm Diana wraps up the session and we take a brief break before the special remarks*****Diana Dalton** welcomes USG Guy Ryder, presents key highlights from the earlier discussion **– 5 minutes** **Guy Ryder** is the Under-Secretary General for Policy in the Executive Office of the Secretary General. Mr. Ryder was most recently Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva after serving two successive terms since October 2012.**Remarks by Guy Ryder – 10 minutes**(Suggested focus on intersectional lens on disability in ‘Our Common Agenda’, what are the key steps/moments ahead of us, how can the UN make the processes participatory for persons with disabilities?)Diana opens the floor for more questions from the floorQ&A with participants **– 10 minutes****End of session at 1.30pm.** |
| **1.40 – 2.00** | **Closing** * *Marc Workman, Representative from the CSCM*
* *H.E. Tarek Ladeb, Ambassador to the Mission of Tunisia, Chair, CoSP Bureau*
* *Olivia Sidhu, Down Syndrome Australia*
 |  | **CSCM member** welcomes PR of Tunisia on behalf of the civil society and the CSCM. Introduces the Ambassador: H.E. Tarek Ladeb is a Tunisian diplomat, ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations in New York since September 2020. Hands the floor to the Ambassador.**Remarks from Chair of CoSP Bureau (10 minutes)**(Suggested focus on what participants can expect out of the next 3 days, ways in which participation of different groups pf persons with disabilities at CoSP can be made better)**CSCM member** thanks the Ambassador and hands over to Olivia. Olivia Sidhu is the Health Ambassador for Down Syndrome Australia. Olivia is an independent, young self-advocate.**Olivia** closes with a call for more accessibility of processes and participation from different groups of persons with disabilities in UN processes **(5 minutes)****CSCM member thanks Olivia and closes the session** * On behalf of the Civil Society Coordination Mechanism to the Conference of States Parties, thank you everyone for joining us today for these two rich sessions. We would also like to thank all service providers and support persons.
* Colleagues, friends. On behalf of the Civil Society Coordination Mechanism, we thank you for your rich, substantive contributions. Let us take these messages forward to our discussions and our advocacy over the next few days. Let us have a strong, loud voice.
* Let us stand together with our brothers and sisters who cannot be with us this week.
* We wish everyone a successful Conference.
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