

Summary of the President-elect's briefing on 17 May 2021

COSP CRPD 14 will be organized 15-17th June 2021. The Conference is scheduled to take place in a hybrid mode: It will convene 2 in-person meetings on 15th of June, a morning and an afternoon session, at the General Assembly Hall, to formally open the session and to organize the General Debate. It will also convene 4 virtual meetings on 16th and 17th of June to organize three roundtable discussions, interactive dialogue and closing of the session on an online platform soon to be chosen.

The themes of the Conference are as follows: Overarching theme: Building back better: COVID-19 response and recovery; Meeting the needs, Realizing the rights and Addressing the socio-economic impacts on persons with disabilities, Sub theme 1: Protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies, Sub theme 2: Living Independently, being included in the community, Sub theme 3: Right to education; challenges with inclusive education and accessibility during COVID-19.

Please see a draft program of the COSP14 attached and some updates to the organization of the Conference. You can also find info on the Conference on the UNEBLE website at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/conference-of-states-parties-to-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2/cosp14.html> .

GENERAL DEBATE | inscription open for list of speakers 26.5-9.6 General Debate will be held in the COSP14 on the first day of the conference. It will begin right after the opening session on the 15th of June.

The bureau has circulated the draft guidance note on the General Debate and put it under silence procedure until 10th of May. As there were no objections to the note, it has now been adopted by the bureau. Please find a copy of the final guidance note posted in the above cited ENABLE website.

There are three ways to deliver the statements: 1) Delegations may deliver their statement orally by their representatives physically present at the venue, 2) by a pre-recorded video message or 3) in written format. Should you need and choose to send in a pre-recorded video message, make sure the video is produced in a high quality that must meet usability and accessibility requirements as contained in the DGACM guidance for such pre-recorded messages. A copy of the video message, together with a copy of speaking script in one of six official UN languages, shall be sent to the meeting organizer in the secretariat 7 days before the COSP opening, namely by 7 June. Please find a copy of the DGACM Guideline on pre-recorded audio- visual messages which is posted in the above cited UN ENABLE website.

In addition, delegations can also email their full statement in MS WORD and PDF formats, by emailing to estatements@un.org<<mailto:estatements@un.org>>, 3 hours before the COSP meeting on 15 June, in order to publish the statement online at the UN Journal.

Inscription to speakers list will be open between 26th of May 10 AM and 9th of June 6 PM (both times, local time in New York). Delegations shall inscribe and if needed update their speaker with required mandatory information via the e-DELEGATE /e-SPEAKER in-timely and only within the above two time points when the portal is open and active to receive inscriptions. In terms of the mandatory contents for

the inscriptions, delegations are requested to provide the accurate and full name of the speaker, the speaker's title, and the active contact email address of the inscription submitter. As for order of speakers, principle of "first comes first served" as well as applicable UN protocols will be respected.

Kindly notice that as the time for the debate is limited, allocation of speaking time is 2.5- minutes for every speaker. Therefore, the bureau would encourage delegations to consider make group statements, and remind that delegations may avail themselves the opportunity to forward their statement (in the name of either individual State or group of States) for the eventual publication in the UN Journal during the session. The written submission will be also acknowledged in the post-session report for the session.

DECISIONS

Prior to the closing of the COSP, the attached Decisions need to be adopted. The bureau set the decision under silence procedure until 10th of May and no objections were raised. As there were no objections, this decisions document will be introduced in the Conference for action on 15 June at the first meeting of the 14th session.

QUORUM and CREDENTIALS | deadline for e-submission 8th of June via E-delegate, hard copy to be delivered in the opening meeting of the COSP The Bureau would also like to inform you that the e-Credentials service, via the e-DELEGATE portal, is already available for the COSP14 Conference, meaning that delegations can now submit their credentials and relevant information on their national delegation through the e-DELEGATE portal. The credentials of representatives and the names of members of national delegation, issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, should be submitted by the 8th of June, if possible, and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, States Parties are kindly requested to bring the original hard copy of the formal credentials to the General Assembly Hall at the opening meeting on 15 June. States Parties are requested not to mail in or hand-deliver formal credentials at this time.

Pursuant to article 34, paragraph 5 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the necessary quorum for the meeting is two-third of the States Parties (which is 121) for this session. In order to avoid lack of quorum which may lead to substantial delay or call off of the meeting of the States Parties, it is imperative for the States Parties to present the credentials of their delegates prior to the meeting and We ask everyone to arrive to the GA Hall at 9.50 A.M in the morning on 15 June, to make sure that we will have the quorum required for the meeting including the relevant proceedings with the above mentioned Decisions. The bureau will share info IF a secondary pass is needed to the GA for the in-person meeting.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS and INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE HELD VIRTUALLY All official segments of the COSP14 can be followed through UN TV but in order to participate in the interactive part of the roundtable discussion, all delegations will need to register their designated representatives to the online platform which will be chosen soon. The bureau will share more information on this when it's available and information will also be posted in UN Journal.

No list of speakers will be maintained for the three roundtable discussions or Interactive Dialogue which all will be virtually convened. However, opportunity will be available to request the floor, in order to pose questions to panelists, make brief comments and interact with panelists, after the delivery of the panel presentations. A devoted website link will be set up for registering the requests but the link will

become active ONLY on the day when the panel completes presentations and the Chair announces to open the “floor”.

Background notes for all three round table discussions, issued in all six official languages, are available in the UN ENABLE website page for the COSP that is www.un.org/disabilities<<http://www.un.org/disabilities>>.

SIDE EVENTS | registration open 26.4-24.5 As mentioned in the previous updates, portal for registration for side events in the margins of COSP14 has been open since Mon 26th of April. The portal will remain open until 24 May 2021. The secretariat has prepared a guidance note on the registration of side events (attached). Kindly note that only one event application can be accommodated per the main sponsor. It is encouraged that side events are linked to the themes of the COSP14. The list of side-events will be published online latest on the 4th of June.

This year, due to the COVID-19 situations, the UN is not in the position to allocate any rooms or offer conference services to side events. Side event organizers are responsible for securing their needed services, interpretation and so on for their own events. It is strongly suggested that event-organizers plan their events in a way that shall take into account accessibility requirements, including information, guidance for participants, and reports of their events. Event hosts shall send to the UN secretariat with their finalized concept note and the website link of their events.

ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS DESA in collaboration with the Department of Management (DM) and the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) will facilitate accessibility requirements of delegations and other participants at the COSP, especially in the in-person meetings on 15th of June.

Delegations are kindly requested to inform Secretariat on their accessibility requirements. Delegations are requested to register such information in the portal “registration” in the link to be published in the UN ENABLE website and the UN Journal, and submit no later than 11 June 2021 as reasonable time will be needed in order to make necessary adjustments by the meeting organizers .

Arrangements may include the modification of the seating arrangements in the Conference Room to accommodate the accessibility needs of participants, such as wheelchair users and hearing disabilities. International Sign language interpretation and CART services, also known as closed captioning, will be made available during the session.