



## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

### Commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 December 2025

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#### THEME

**Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress**

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##### Opening:

Time	<i>Welcome and Introduction</i>
10:00 – 10:05	Introduction to the International Day and setting out the theme by Master of Ceremonies Mr. Charles Katoanga, Director, DISD/DESA.
10:05 – 10:10	<i>Remarks by the President of the General Assembly</i>  H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock, President of the General Assembly.
10:10 – 10:15	<i>Video message by the State of Qatar, Host of the Second World Summit for Social Development</i>  H.E. Ms. Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations.

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10:15 – 10:20 *Video message by USG, UN DESA*

Mr Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

10:20 – 10:25 *Remarks by the International Disability Alliance (IDA)*

Dr. Nawaf Kabbara, President, International Disability Alliance (IDA).

10:25 – 10:30 *Closing*

Closing remarks by Master of Ceremonies Mr. Charles Katoanga, Director, DISD/DESA.

**Master of Ceremonies:** Mr. Charles Katoanga, Director, Division of Inclusive Social Development (DISD), DESA.

**Online panel discussion:**

Time *Welcome and Introduction by Mr. A.H. Monjurul Kabir, Senior Global Advisor and Team Leader, Gender and Disability Inclusion and Intersectionality, UN Women*

10:30 – 10:35 Welcome and introductory remarks by the Moderator.

10:35 – 10:45 *Ms. Heba Hagrass, Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities*

Presentation of the findings of the Special Rapporteur's latest report entitled "Care and support for children with disabilities within the family environment and its gendered dimensions" (A/80/170).

10:45 – 10:55 *Mr. Sean Maiwald, Mr. Kenneth DeHaan and Ms. Yana Hadjihristova, "Deaf Youth Lead: Sign Language Rights at the UN" initiative*

The active, meaningful and effective participation of youth with disabilities in decision-making is essential for achieving, as well as future-proofing, disability inclusion. This presentation will spotlight an

important youth-led pilot initiative “Deaf Youth Lead: Sign Language Rights at the UN”, aimed at strengthening the participation of Deaf youth in global decision-making and affirming sign languages as a cornerstone of human rights, linguistic diversity, and social inclusion.

10:55 – 11:05 *Ms. Anna Paula Feminella, National Secretary for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, Government of Brazil*

This intervention will highlight the importance and effectiveness of conducting nationwide awareness-raising campaigns to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities, by fostering an enabling environment in which persons with disabilities may achieve full inclusion and participation in all aspects of society.

11:05 – 11:15 *Ms. Ola Abualghaib, Director, Global Disability Fund (GDF)*

This presentation will discuss the Resilient and Inclusive Cities Hub (RICH) initiative, which is centred on promoting inclusive communities. As this initiative stems from the commitments that were made at the Global Disability Summit in 2025, the presentation will also reflect on how these efforts can carry forward the promise of WSSD2.

11:15 – 11:25 *Ms Kinely Wangmo, Senior Programme Manager, ATscale (the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology)*

A discussion of the latest policy brief on Assistive Technology (AT) and Employment issued by ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which sets out how AT can expand persons with disabilities’ access to the workforce and employment.

11:25 – 11:30 *Concluding remarks*

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Wrap-up of main points and takeaway messages from the panel.  
Moderator concludes the discussion and thanks the panellists.

**Moderator:** Mr. A.H. Monjurul Kabir, Senior Global Advisor and Team Leader, Gender and Disability Inclusion and Intersectionality, UN Women.

