



International  
Day of  
**Persons with  
Disabilities**

**3 DECEMBER**

Commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022

**Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world**

Monday, 5 December 2022, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Concept Note

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**PREMISE**

Inspired by the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly opening on 13 September under the theme, “**A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges**”, and in recognition that the world is at a critical moment in the history of the United Nations, it is time to act and find joint solutions in building a more sustainable and resilient world for all and for the generations to come.

The complex and interconnected crises facing humanity today, including the shocks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and other countries, a tipping point in climate change, all pose humanitarian challenges of an unprecedented nature, as well as threats to the global economy.

Most often, in moments of crises, people in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities are the most excluded and left behind. In line with the central premise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to “leave no one behind”, it is crucial for governments, public and private sectors to collaboratively find innovative solutions for and with persons with disabilities to make the world a more accessible and equitable place.

## BACKGROUND

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) on 3 December was proclaimed in 1992 by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

The 2022 global observance to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be around the overarching theme of innovation and transformative solutions for inclusive development, covering in three different interactive dialogues the following thematic topics:

1. **Innovation for disability inclusive development in employment (SDG8)**: this dialogue will discuss the linkages between employment, knowledge and skills required to access employment in an innovative, rapidly changing technological landscape to all and how assistive technologies can increase accessibility to employment and be mainstreamed in the workplace.
2. **Innovation for disability inclusive development in reducing inequality (SDG10)**: this dialogue will discuss innovations, practical tools and good practices to reduce inequalities in both public and private sectors, which are disability inclusive and interested in promoting diversity in the workplace.
3. **Innovation for disability inclusive development: sport as an exemplar case**: a sector where all of these aspects coalesce; sport as a good practice example and a site of innovation, employment and equity.

Each interactive dialogue will be 40 minutes long.

## **FORMAT**

The commemorative event will take place virtually via Zoom on Monday 5 December 2022 from 9am-12pm at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The event will kick off with an introductory plenary session followed by interactive dialogues which will focus on 3 key thematic areas in relation to innovation and transformative solutions for inclusive development, in which a variety of stakeholders will contribute with their expertise and insights.

There will also be an opportunity to open the floor for further discussion back in plenary.

## **OUTCOME**

To raise awareness and exchange good practices on the importance of innovation as a tool to increase the possibilities for persons with disabilities to both create and participate in employment by sharing knowledge, research and good examples of innovative and transformative solutions from the Private sector, the Public sector and the People (the 3Ps) and therefore reduce the gap of inequalities. It is hoped to help create a Network of Friends, facilitate partnerships and to make concrete contributions to current policy discourses and developments in the UN, including those during the forthcoming session of the Commission for Social Development (CSOCD 62) and the SDG Summit which will be held next year.