

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and fellow advocates,

Allow me to introduce myself; my name is Khadija, and I am the CEO of HawKar, a Tunisian startup dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with reduced mobility by providing adapted, accessible, and sustainable electric mobility solutions.

As we gather here today under the theme of rethinking disability inclusion, I am deeply honored to stand before you, not just as the CEO of HawKar, but as someone who has lived the reality of mobility challenges.

Growing up, I faced physical limitations that could have confined me to the sidelines. But I refused to accept those boundaries. Instead, I turned my unique perspective into an opportunity for change.

Today, I want to share with you why mobility matters, not just as a means of transportation, but as a gateway to independence, dignity, and social participation.

As a person with reduced mobility, I have dedicated myself to understanding the difficult challenges faced by those with disabilities like me. Despite my physical challenges, I have refused to let the environment define my limitations. Today, I bring you a message that speaks to the very essence of our shared humanity: the importance of breaking down barriers to inclusion in social life.

So let me take you on a journey—a journey that transcends the idea that movement is simply a physical act and dives into the world of freedom, dignity, and connection.

Imagine a world where every limit becomes an obstacle, where public transport remains out of reach, and where social events feel like distant dreams. For millions of individuals with disabilities, this isn't imagination; it's their harsh reality.

But within these challenges lies an opportunity—an opportunity to redefine what mobility truly means. Mobility isn't just about getting from point A to point B; it's about empowering people to participate fully in society, pursue their dreams, and forge meaningful connections. It's about ensuring that no one feels left behind or excluded simply because of physical limitations.

HawKar was born out of a burning desire to create a more inclusive world. Our electric mobility solutions are not just stylish products; they provide independence, dignity, and social involvement. We are committed to ensuring that everyone has the freedom to explore and engage with the world around them.

Our mission goes beyond innovation; it's about tearing down the barriers that block inclusion. It's about advocating for accessible infrastructure, supporting initiatives that promote inclusivity, and amplifying the voices of those who have long been marginalized.

As we stand at the precipice of change, let us seize this moment to reaffirm our commitment to building a more inclusive future. Let us pledge to work towards a world where everyone is valued, respected, and empowered to live life to the fullest.

I believe that if you put a person in an adapted environment, that person will no longer be disabled. Conversely, if you take an able-bodied person and place them in a disabling environment, they will find themselves unable to function and, as a result, become disabled.

In closing, to create a more just and equitable society, we need to support startups like HawKar to be change-makers and advocates for inclusion. We must make inclusion not just a dream, but a reality where no one is left behind.

Remember, when we break down physical barriers, we also break down walls that isolate hearts. Our actions today will shape the world of tomorrow.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who participated and supported me to be here in New York with you, especially [names].