



Information Note for participants on the arrangements for the COSP16 13 - 15 June 2023

This Information Note on the arrangements for the 16th session of the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD (COSP 16) serves to provide organisational and logistical information in relation to the upcoming session of the Conference. This Information Note is addressed to participants who will be attending COSP 16.

COSP 16 will consist of an in-person session taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York between 13 - 15 June 2023. The overarching theme for this year's session is "*Harmonising national policies and strategies with the CRPD: achievements and challenges*", with the following sub-themes:

- 1. Ensuring equal access to and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disabilities*
- 2. Digital accessibility for persons with disabilities*
- 3. Reaching the under-represented groups of persons with disabilities*

Opening Session and General Debate

The session will be officially opened at 10 A.M, in the morning of the 13 June, **in the General Assembly Hall**. Opening remarks will be delivered by President of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, a Civil Society representative as well as a Youth Representative.

The General debate will start immediately right after the opening statements segment during the 1st meeting on 13 June. It is envisaged the debate shall continue in the whole afternoon, and likely need to be extended into the following days in order to exhaust the list of speakers.



Roundtables and Interactive Dialogue

The three Roundtables and one Interactive Dialogue will be held in-person in **Conference Room 4** according to the schedule set out in the table below. Please note that the **first hour** of each of these meetings may be used as a contingency to exhaust the List of Speakers of the General Debate.

1. **Wednesday 14 June 2023, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm:** Roundtable 1: *“Ensuring equal access to and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disabilities”*, co-chaired by Mr. Tasos Kezas, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Greece, Vice President of the Conference, and Ms. Savaira Tinaivunivalu, Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation.
2. **Wednesday 14 June 2023, 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm:** Roundtable 2: *“Digital accessibility for persons with disabilities”*, co-chaired by Mr. Sugeeshwara Gunaratna, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka, Vice President of the Conference, and Mr. Mohammed Ali Loutfy, Director for Capacity Building and Advocacy, G3ICT.
3. **Thursday 15 June 2023, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm:** Roundtable 3 *“Reaching the under-represented groups of persons with disabilities”*, co-chaired by Ms. Iris González de Valenzuela, Director of the National Secretariat on Disability (SENADIS), Panama, and Ms. Ana Ivonia, The Leprosy Mission, Timor-Leste.
4. **Thursday 15 June 2023, 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm:** Interactive Dialogue with the United Nations system and other stakeholders on the implementation of the CRPD.



Interpretation and Live Webcast


Interpretation in all six UN languages will be available. All meetings will be streamed LIVE on UN Web TV at: <https://media.un.org/en/webtv>



Accessibility

Sign Language Interpretation and Closed Captions are provided during the Conference. The link to the closed captions will be available here: <https://www.streamtext.net/text.aspx?event=CFI-UN-DESA>

The [Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters](#), through its services, supports the inclusion and greater participation of persons with disabilities in the meetings of the Organization. For more information, please contact: accessibilitycentre@un.org.



22 May 2023

Additional Information

More information on COSP 16, as well as the Programme and related documents is available on the COSP 16 webpage here: [16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD | Division for Inclusive Social Development \(DISD\) \(un.org\)](#).

