

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

3 December 2024

This year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities reminds us that we need the leadership of persons with disabilities more than ever.

Persons with disabilities already disproportionately bear the brunt of the crises scarring our world — from conflicts and climate disasters, to poverty and inequalities — because of persistent discrimination, stigma, and barriers to basic rights and services.

But they are also often denied their right to contribute to solutions to these crises.

Through the recently adopted Pact for the Future, the countries of the world committed to correcting this injustice for persons with disabilities of all ages, for present and future generations.

This includes recognising the essential role of persons with disabilities in shaping the future of digital and assistive technologies — such as those powered by artificial intelligence — driving change across communities, and advocating for their rightful place in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Next year's World Summit for Social Development will be a key moment to carry these and other commitments forward.

In every community, persons with disabilities are changemakers and peacemakers.

They are also leaders.

On this important day, and every day, let's work with persons with disabilities to achieve an inclusive and sustainable future for all people.
