



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 DECEMBER

2023 International Day for Persons with Disabilities Commemoration

1 December 2023

Conference Room 4, UNHQ, New York

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Organised by UN DESA with the support of the Department of Global Communications, the Permanent Missions of Tunisia and New Zealand, the Civil Society Coordination Mechanism and the World Institute on Disability.

Opening ceremony 10:00am -10:30am (EST):

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. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General, UN DESA.
10:05 – 10:10	<i>Remarks by the Secretary-General (video message)</i> Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General, UN.
10:10 – 10:15	<i>Remarks by the President of the Bureau of the Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP) and Vice-President of ECOSOC</i> H.E. Tarek Ladeb, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations.
10:15 – 10:20	<i>Remarks by the Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Persons with Disabilities</i>

H.E. Carolyn Schwalger, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations.

10:20 – 10:25 *Remarks by Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

Ms. Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Global Advocacy Manager for Social Inclusion, Sightsavers.

10:25 – 10:30 *Closing*

Closing remarks by Master of Ceremonies.

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

Panel discussion 10:30am – 1:00pm (EST):

Time *Welcome and Introduction*

10:30 – 10:35 Short round of introductions of the panel by the facilitator and outlining the structure of the discussion (5 Ps of Sustainable Development).

10:35 – 10:45 *Keynote speech: Persons with disabilities and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: key findings from the UN Disability and Development Report 2023*

Mr. John Wilmoth, Officer-in-Charge, Division of Inclusive Social Development, DESA.

Presentation on the preliminary findings of the Update to the flagship UN Disability and Development Report to kick off the discussion and set the scene.

10:45 – 10:55 *People pillar of the SDGs: The long road to gender equality: the intersection between gender and disability*

Dr. A.H. Monjurul Kabir, Senior Global Adviser and Team Leader, Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion, UN Women.

This segment will delve into the multifaceted intersection of gender and disability, and how this is impacted by other vectors of exclusion and/or discrimination, such as age and poverty, and assess the major challenges which persist in achieving the SDGs for women and girls with disabilities, whilst reaching the furthest behind first.

10:55 – 11:05 *Planet pillar of the SDGs: No climate justice without persons with disabilities: why and how to include the voices of persons with disabilities in climate action*

Ms. Marcie Roth, Executive Director and CEO of the World Institute on Disability.

This segment will assess the specific impacts and long-term consequences of climate change on persons with disabilities, as well as explore the participation of persons with disabilities in climate action, highlighting the contributions of persons with disabilities.

11:05 – 11:15 *Prosperity pillar of the SDGs: Advancing Disability-Inclusive Sustainable Development*

Ms. Charlotte Vuyiswa McClain-Nhlapo, Global Disability Advisor of the World Bank Group.

The discussion will explore good practices in how to mainstream disability in financing for sustainable development, the economic benefits of advancing disability-inclusive sustainable development and pending gaps and challenges.

11:15 – 11:25 *Peace pillar of the SDGs: The role of persons with disabilities in peacekeeping*

Mr. Gerard Quinn, former UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The discussion will focus on longstanding inequalities affecting persons with disabilities, resulting in their exclusion from peacekeeping processes, despite being more likely to be disproportionately affected by conflict.

11:25 – 11:40 *Partnership pillar of the SDGs: Renewing the pledge to leave no one behind: joining forces and building alliances*

Ms. Dorodi Sharma, Senior Advisor, Advocacy and Engagement, International Disability Alliance (IDA) and Ms. Naoual Driouich, Chief, UN System Affairs and New York Office, UN Volunteers.

This segment will focus on sharing experiences and lessons learned in grassroots movement building, building partnerships across sectors at national and international levels, mobilising support and resources, sharing good practices, and how these efforts can be intensified and multiplied to revitalise action on the 2030 Agenda for a successful rescue plan for people and planet.

11:40 – 11:55 *Q&A and wrap-up*

Q&A session with the audience and inputs from discussants. The panellists will also share their wrap-up and takeaway messages from the discussion.

11:55 – 12:00 *Concluding remarks and closing*

Facilitator concludes the discussion and thanks the panellists.

Facilitator: Ms. Manuela Rubianogroot Arias, Disability Programme Specialist, Human Rights and Leave-No-One-Behind Team, Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth.