

**17th session of the Conference of States Parties to the  
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

General Debate, Tuesday, 11 June 2024

General Assembly Hall, United Nations HQ, New York

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

*Rethinking disability inclusion*

**International cooperation**, multi-stakeholder partnerships, adequate resourcing and accountability are tools to **realizing international commitments and translating them into national priorities**. An [intersectional approach](#) helps identify hidden structural barriers and understanding how individual experiences differ helps achieve substantive equality. [Gender- and disability-inclusive budgeting](#) can strengthen the alignment of public budgets with national commitments to gender equality and disability inclusion, in alignment with international normative standards in all areas of life.

In **rethinking technology innovations and transfer for an inclusive future**, it is important to note the gaps in access and use between women with disabilities and other women, and with men with disabilities. Based on the [United Nations Disability and Development Report 2024](#):

- Fewer women with disabilities (26 per cent) than men with disabilities (30 per cent) **use the Internet and own a mobile phone** (63 per cent of women and 70 per cent of men). In some countries, these **gaps are more than 20 percentage points**.
- **Most women** with disabilities (64 per cent) **do not have access to the assistive technology they need**.

*Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies*

Women and persons with disabilities **are treated as two distinct homogeneous groups** overlooking compounded vulnerability and need for an intersectional approach. A review of 44 reports to [explore how intersectional approaches help identify drivers of exclusion in conflict or crisis-affected areas and countries in transition](#) shows that less than half of the reports(18) addressed gender and disability together.

2024 marks five years since the adoption of the **United Nations Security Council** resolution on the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict (S/RES/2475 (2019)). This and Security Council resolutions calling to ensure gender analysis and expertise in all stages of mission and transition process, gender mainstreaming, and the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women, set the stage to ensure that women with disabilities, as right holders, also participate meaningfully in humanitarian response, peace processes and decision-making. To address some of the gaps:

- UN Women in the Asia Pacific region **supports movement building, and integrated disability and women with disabilities** in a conference on Women **Peace and Security**.

- UN-Women with WHO, OHCHR, UNFPA, and UNICEF in Moldova and Georgia **mainstreamed disability-inclusive and gender-responsive humanitarian responses** to the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

*Economic empowerment and sustainable livelihood*

The *Disability and Development Report* notes that "women with disabilities face **barriers in accessing economic resources, financial services and technology.**"

- As many **1 in 5** women with disabilities **live in income poverty.**
- Around **10 per cent** of women—**with** and women **without disabilities**—provide **unpaid work.**
- **Women** with disabilities receive (17 per cent) **lower wages than for men** with disabilities.

**Decent work and adequate access to and provision of care are closely intertwined.** Comprehensive care systems are crucial to enable persons with disabilities to actively participate in society and address specific support needs. To contribute to economic empowerment and sustainable livelihood UN Women contributed:

- In **Côte d'Ivoire**, to the participation of 40 women with disabilities in **agri-food processing and cosmetics training.** Ten of these women **started up income-generating activities** seeing their living conditions gradually transformed.
- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, to piloting **innovative care economy models**, including the **One Stop Shop**—a more comprehensive and holistic system to make it easier for persons with disabilities and older person to access improved services.

UN-Women's commitment to [disability inclusion and intersectionality](#) is reflected in its [2018 Strategy](#) and inclusion in its Strategic Plan an indicator on UN-Women's implementation of UNDIS.

**Central to our mission is consulting and actively engaging with OPD's**, in particular organizations of and led by women with disabilities amplifying the voices of women with disabilities. In 2023, the **Inclusive Generation Equality Collective**, became a **Member of the Generation Equality Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group**. UN Women **supports the Global Forum on the Leadership of Women with Disabilities** a platform and enabling environment for key stakeholders to jointly develop practical solutions to realize the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

**2025 marks 30 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.** The Platform for Action identifies specific actions to **ensure the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities**, bringing disability inclusion into the general efforts to address the multiple barriers to empowerment faced by women and girls. Preparations for the review and appraisal are an **opportunity to amplify the voices of women and girls with disabilities and to more systematically address** the rights and concerns of women with disabilities building on normative developments since 1995.

**Mainstreaming gender and disability inclusion requires greater expertise and capacity.** To **optimize resource mobilization and utilization and strengthen expertise** on gender equality and disability inclusion we need to build on **synergies.**

UN Women stands ready to work with States Parties, member of the Committee, UN entities, and other stakeholders, in close collaboration with DPOs, to support our common goal to achieve gender equality and disability inclusion.

Thank you.