Session 1	**What do we mean by ICT Accessibility?**
Title of presentation	**Understanding the needs of persons with disabilities**

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Ms. Roxana WIDMER-ILIESCU joined the ITU's Development Sector in April 1998, working with ITU Member States through 2002 as Administrative Officer, promoting effective ICT penetration in particular in countries from Latino America and Africa.

In early 2003 she was given a new portfolio related to the digital inclusion work of the ITU-D aiming at promoting ICT accessibility and use among women and girls, youth and children, persons with disabilities and Indigenous People. As Senior Programme Officer, Ms. Widmer identifies and develops activities and projects aiming at enabling these groups with specific needs to develop their social and economic development through the access to and use of the information and communication technologies.

Ms. Widmer was the first ITU-D Focal Point for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) appointed in 2008 to assist and advice the ITU Member States and Sector Members on digital inclusion of PWD, in line with the Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

She is also ITU-D Focal Point for the Study Group on Question 7 "Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs", which works aims to advice Member States and Sector Members to design policies and execute strategies for promoting and implementing ICT services and solutions for persons with disabilities.

Ms. Widmer has a background education in Law and Strategic Management of Telecommunications. She speaks English French Romanian and Spanish.

For **examples**, see: http://itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/cce/bios.html