



“BREAK BARRIERS, OPEN DOORS: FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY FOR ALL”

Celebration of the 2013 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Organized by the Geneva Based Members of the
UN Inter-Agency Support Group to the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities

Side event of the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)

3 December 2013, 18h to 19h

Palais des Nations, Room XXIV. Geneva (Switzerland)

Background

More than 1 billion people or 15 per cent of the world’s population are persons with disabilities. No development path that excludes their participation in economic, social or political life violating their human rights can be sustainable. It is clear that internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be truly achieved unless persons with disabilities are meaningfully included.

As part of the process toward defining the new global development agenda that will replace the MDG framework beyond 2015, the UN system of agencies, represented by the Inter Agency Support Group to the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), issued a statement in the context of the 2013 High Level Meeting on Disabilities and Development (HLMDD)¹ to urge all stakeholders to incorporate the needs of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 discussions. The statement also called on stakeholders to “seize every opportunity” to include the rights of persons with disabilities as a crosscutting issue throughout any future outcome agreement of this process, and to give the organizations that represent persons with disabilities the opportunity to meaningfully participate as actors and key stakeholders in the process.

The event “Break barriers, open doors: for an inclusive society for all”, organized by the Geneva members of the Inter Agency Support Group to the CRPD, will commemorate the 2013 International Day of Persons with Disabilities by presenting to all relevant stakeholders in Geneva the outcome document of the HLMDD, calling for a human-rights based post-2015 agenda. The Geneva-based agencies will also highlight the progress that has been made within each agency over the past year towards addressing the needs of persons with disabilities.

The commemoration of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities this year in Geneva also coincides with the 13th Meeting of States Parties to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). Since its entry into force in 1998, the APMBC has been regularly addressing the rights and needs of landmine survivors – who have become persons with disabilities – as a special and key subject of its agenda. The whole mine action community, gathered this week in Geneva, is supportive of persons with disabilities and promotes the universalization of the CRPD.

¹ Held in New York, USA, on 23 September 2013 during the opening of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Further information, including the outcome document of the meeting, is available at the following link: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1590>

Activity

Opening remarks:

- Video statement from Ms **Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes**, Chairperson, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Panelists: Geneva members of the IASG

- Ms **Jyoti Sanghera**, Chief of Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Ms. **Agnès Marcaillou**, Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- Ms **Jane Hodges**, Chief, Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch of the ILO's Conditions of Work and Equality Department. International Labor Organization (ILO)
- Mr. **Paolo Lanteri**, Assistant Legal Officer, Copyright Law Division, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- **Kristen Pratt**, Technical Officer , Disability and Rehabilitation (DAR). World Health Organization (WHO)
- Ms **Ellen Walker**, Human Rights Officer, Intergovernmental Processes. International Disability Alliance (IDA)

The event will be moderated by Mr **Jose Maria Diaz Batanero**, Coordinator Inter-Sectoral Activities, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

RSVP: accessibility@itu.int

Please inform us on any access requirements. The venue is accessible for people using wheelchairs. If you have any other access or support requirements, please kindly inform the organizers as soon as possible.