



Thematic Workshop: Practical applications of ICTs supporting inclusion and access to information and services, livelihoods for People with Disabilities

Friday, March 23rd: 11 – 12.45 pm (Room H2)

Description of the Session

Information Communication Technology (ICT) can play a tremendous role to provide access, information and inclusion of people with all types of disabilities. In addition, ICTs also provide the opportunity for wide variety of livelihood opportunities due to the broad spectrum of services and applications opening up across the digital ecosystem. Furthermore, the recent developments in research and innovative applications and integration of AI, even more breakthroughs are being made to improve mobility, access and engagement with the digital economy.

Nevertheless, there remains limited understanding, awareness and applications of these breakthroughs across developing countries and least developing countries due to multiple factors.

Therefore, this session has been designed to showcase and highlight practical applications, innovation and breakthroughs for the inclusion, access and engagement of PwDs across the world.

The panelist will share the critical success factors that resulted in the breakthroughs and the transformational impact on the lives of PwD communities. Furthermore, there will be active discussions and recommendations for practical policy changes and more importantly on how to accelerate dissemination of the knowledge and design practical applications into interventions for PwD communities across the world.

This session will be conducted in an interactive manner to maximize the participants' engagement with the international multi-stakeholder panelists from the private sector, government and development agencies.

Topics of Discussions

1. What do you feel are the biggest challenges and barriers that are preventing PwD communities in society from accessing;
 - i. Information
 - ii. Services
 - iii. Livelihood
 2. From your knowledge and experience, how are ICTs helping to overcome the challenges of access and inclusion of;
 - i. Information
 - ii. Services
 - iii. Livelihood
- Could you share some practical examples?



3. What can be done to leverage the breakthroughs of ICT applications across different parts of the world?
How role could be ITU plat to facilitate that?
4. Do you feel that there is a sufficient level of consideration and reference for PwDs inclusion across national policies?
If yes how?
If no, what additional consideration and references would you like to see?
5. Do you feel there is adequate emphasis and correlation in the SDGs to encourage the inclusion, independence and economic empowerment of PwDs at the national levels?
If yes, how?
If no, how should this be addressed?
6. What are the 3 practical recommendations you would like to suggest to policy makers to accelerate the adoption of ICTs for inclusion and empowerment of PwD communities around the world?

Session Organizer and Moderator

Dr. Salma Abbasi, FRGS, Chairperson and CEO, eWorldwide Group

Panelists

1. Gambia - Isatou Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment
2. India - Ministry of Telecommunication
3. ITU - Roxana Widmer-Iliescu, Senior Programme Officer, ITU
4. UAE - Humaid Ali. Al Basti, Internet Governance Specialist, E-Government Operations, TRA
5. UAE - Eng. Khawla Al Mheiri, Project Manager, TRA
6. UAE - Eng. Ghalya Al Mannaee. IT Manager, General Women's Union
7. UN-ESCWA - Haidar Fraihat, Director, Technology for Development