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International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), 3 December 2018

9-11 minutes



Background

Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been annually observed on 3 December around the world. The theme for this year's IDPD is **“Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring**

inclusiveness and equality”. This theme focuses on the empowering persons with disabilities for the inclusive, equitable and sustainable development envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda, pledging to “leave no one behind,” is an ambitious plan of action of the international community towards a peaceful and prosperous world, where dignity of an individual person and equality among all is applied as the fundamental principle, cutting across the three pillars of the work of the United Nations: Development, Human Rights and Peace and Security. It is critical to ensure, in this regard, the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and create enabling environments by, for and with persons with disabilities.

More than half of the world’s population now live in urban areas. By 2050, that figure will rise to 6.5 billion people. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces. The 2030 Agenda places great importance on issues related to sustainable urbanization, particularly in Goal 11: make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador in 2016, recognized the importance of adopting a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies, as well as

innovative transport technologies enabling cities to improve their service delivery. Importantly, the New Urban Agenda acknowledged that future cities, towns and basic urban infrastructures and services need to be more environmentally accessible, user-friendly and inclusive of all people's needs.

In the morning, the commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities will focus on "Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities" and will review the progress achieved and explore ways to further empower persons with disabilities, in conjunction with the launch the Flagship Report on Disability and Development. The event will provide an overview of the international framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The event will gather Member States, UN entities, civil society organizations, academic institutes and persons with disabilities.

In the afternoon, the commemoration will focus on "Accessible Cities for All: Smart and Inclusive Urban Planning" as key elements to reduce inequalities and empower people to live in accessible, usable and friendly healthy environments. The event will explore SDG11 of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development by providing space for Mayors, City Leaders to exchange innovative solutions on how to implement the SDGs and to exchange good practices about inclusive urban planning to promote the participation and well-being of their

citizens of all ages and abilities.

Afterwards, the event will discuss smart inclusive environment and how to apply information and communication technologies to provide better infrastructure, quality services in a safe accessible environment.

[Concept Note](#) (PDF)



International
Day of
**Persons with
Disabilities**

3 DECEMBER

Events at UN Headquarters in New York

Events for the 2018 IDPD celebration at UN Headquarters in New York will be organized by the [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (UN DESA) on Monday 3 December 2018, in collaboration with the Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Ecuador, Republic of Korea, Brazil, Bulgaria, Italy, Philippines, United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, ITU, UN Women and the UN Department of Management.

The official commemoration of the day will be held in

Conference Room 4 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. and 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

[Draft Programme](#) (PDF)

Opening Ceremony on “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”

10.00 am – 11.00 am, Conference Room 4

The Opening of the International Day will include the Day’s message from the UN Secretary-General, as well as statements from the President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly, Member States and Civil Society Organizations.

Recent Initiatives taken by Member States, UN system and Civil Society

11.05 am – 11.55 am, Conference Room 4

The panel will discuss recent initiatives on empowering persons with disabilities and on how stakeholders can benefit from the knowledge and expertise of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to address the multiple forms of discrimination and “leave no one behind”.

High-level Panel on “Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities”

12.00 pm – 1.00 pm, Conference Room 4

Achieving disability inclusion will require international efforts and effective partnerships, involving Member States, United Nations agencies, humanitarian and human rights actors, development actors, peace and security actors, local

communities and organizations of persons with disabilities. The panel will provide an overview of the international framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and recent progress. The discussion will focus on key challenges and cross-cutting issues in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and explore innovative solutions for the well-being of persons with disabilities. The panel will discuss how stakeholders can contribute to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability, enhance awareness and improve cooperation into the process of achieving the SDGs at all levels.

Musical Performance by Special Olympics Korea

3.05 pm – 3.20 pm, Conference Room 4

High-level Panel on “Accessible Cities for All: Smart and Inclusive Urban Planning”

3.25 pm – 3.55 pm, Conference Room 4

The panel discussion will explore concrete strategies and policy proposals to develop an integrated approach for smart and inclusive cities that are accessible to all; Recommendations for actions and partnerships at the global and local levels for the creation of an enabling environment to ensure that cities benefit all people, including persons with disabilities; Innovative solutions to challenges that future cities will face in making infrastructure, social services, information

and safe environments accessible for all; Sharing of expertise and experience on how cities can foster inclusive urban planning for all by using innovation and technology including artificial intelligence? How can all people benefit? and the way forward for evidence-based research on smart and inclusive urban planning.

Heidi Latsky Dance Installation

9.15 am – 9.45 am in the GA Lobby, Visitor Entrance Area, UN Building

Heidi Latsky Dance will stage a movement installation of 20-30 performers who together form a living gallery. The installation features different and unexpected bodies in white clothing (signifying all the colours of the rainbow and a metaphor for inclusion) moving as reverent sculptures in the space. The installation is sponsored by New York City's Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD).

Special Event on “II Global Recognition Award “Good Practices of Employability for Workers with Disability”

10.00 am – 1.00 pm, Conference Room 11

The event is hosted by the Sao Paulo Secretary of Rights of persons with disabilities, Brazil

[Concept Note](#)

Special Event on “The Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Empowering Persons with Disabilities”

1.15 pm – 2.30 pm, Conference Room 4

The event will explore innovative uses of ICTs for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. It will seek to enhance awareness of what is already possible as well as what is coming down the pipeline and inspire us to further action and cross-sector collaboration to realize the potential of ICTs in this context. It will also explore what is needed from a policy standpoint to accelerate progress towards a more inclusive ICT-enabled future through and with the full participation of persons with disabilities. The event is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

[Concept Note](#)

Special Event on “The Art of the Possible”

12.00 pm – 2.30 pm, Conference Room 1

The event is organized by the UN Department of Management and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

More information coming soon