



Accessibility Fair and Awareness Summit

President of ECOSOC

1 December 2022

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to join you at the Accessibility Fair and Awareness Summit and to commemorate the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

Given the complex and interconnected crises currently facing humanity, it is crucial that governments, the public and private sectors, together with the UN system, collaboratively find innovative solutions for and with persons with disabilities.

As you know, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has been given responsibilities in the area of international economic and social cooperation. The UN Charter mandates the Council to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and economic and social progress and solutions of international economic, social and health problems and universal respect for,



and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

ECOSOC also oversees various bodies in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields, and guides and coordinates their work. One of them is the Commission on Social Development, which addresses issues related to disabilities.

Importantly, ECOSOC is the home of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and reviews their implementation annually. The central principle of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development is leaving no one behind, and this means no one, absolutely no one.

The SDGs explicitly mention persons with disabilities. This has led to actions taken at the national level which specifically benefit persons with disabilities in areas such as inclusive education and employment, accessible public services, among others.

The achievement of the Goals must be in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and disability should



thus be mainstreamed in all aspects of SDG realization, monitoring and evaluation.

The meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and the inclusion of their perspectives and voices at all stages and levels of policymaking, decision-making and monitoring is fundamental, if we are to leave no one behind.

The participation of persons with disabilities in ECOSOC and related UN processes and meetings is well established.

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities is part of the Coordination Mechanism of the Major Groups and other Stakeholders.

This important stakeholder group coordinates written inputs from persons with disabilities. They provide opportunities for persons with disabilities and their representatives to participate in ECOSOC forums open to Major Groups and other Stakeholders.



2023 will be a critical year, marking the mid-point of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. We will organize the High-level Political Forum in July, and the SDG Summit in September. As in the past, we will continue to take fully into account the requirements and interests of people with disabilities in the organization of these meetings, to ensure their participation and reflect their views in the discussions and outcomes. We will continue our best efforts to allocate funding to secure the sign language interpretation service and for webcast and CART service for the HLPF and ECOSOC meetings.

In promoting the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, we need to strengthen partnerships between Member States, intergovernmental organisations, civil society organisations, private sector and academia and achieve an enabling vision for intergovernmental organisations that is relevant to, and supported by, all stakeholders.

I wish you a fruitful discussion and look forward to our future collaboration.



Thank you.