Concept Note: Side Event on Intersectional Barriers and Challenges of Persons with Disabilities

June 12, 2019; 11:30 am – 12:45 pm
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 12, New York

Background

Persons with disabilities comprise the world’s largest minority group. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over a billion people, 15% of the world’s population, live with some form of disability. Internationally, research also points to gender gaps in outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Using intersectionality as a lens to examine evidence from the Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD) (2012 and 2017), research and data reveal significant findings. For example, women have higher rates of disabilities than men and disability rates are higher among Indigenous peoples.

Increasingly, intersectionality is being applied in various ways in research, policy and practice in many countries. At the same time, there are a number of challenges for the practical application of intersectionality, especially in the areas of policy, programs and services relating to persons with disabilities.

A Policy Approach to Intersectionality and Disability

This event will examine what intersectionality looks like in policy, programs and data analysis, especially when addressing cross-disability issues relating to gender, Indigenous people, and youth, and how they are impacted by policy, legislation, and environmental reforms. Does the application of intersectional policies and tools help governments to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities in program, policy, and service delivery development?

Panellists:

- **The Honourable Carla Qualtrough**, Canada’s Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility
- **Her Excellency Isabel Maldonado Vasco**, Technical Secretary of “Toda Una Vida” Plan, Ecuador
- **Magnus Lagercrantz**, Head of Section, Swedish Agency for Participation
- **Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo**, Global Disability Advisor, World Bank Group
- **Bonnie Brayton**, National Executive Director, DisAbled Women’s Network of Canada
- **Hannah MacLellan**, Canadian disability activist and youth delegate