



# The Revolution is Inclusion: Sport as a Catalyst for Social Inclusion

Side event at the 12th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



**Monday 10 June, 9:45 - 11:00am**  
**Conference Room 11**  
**United Nations Headquarters**  
**New York**

Inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities (ID) has been a growing concern for over 50 years, both economically and socially. This side event will be a panel discussion comprised of Special Olympics athletes who are accomplished leaders in sports, health, human rights, youth engagement, media, employment and advocacy for persons with ID. Panelists will underscore how CRPD commitments and the UN Sustainable Development Goals cannot be met unless individuals with ID are among the decision makers – ensuring that all persons with ID, who are often overlooked and misunderstood, have equal rights as those without ID as well equitable access to services and resources.

The side event is organized by Special Olympics International, in partnership with the United Nations Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations.

## Speakers

- **Mr. Nyasha Derera**, Special Olympics Athlete (Zimbabwe); Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger, Special Olympics; Chairman, Special Olympics Global Athlete Congress; Director, Special Olympics International Board of Directors; Certified Sports Official, International Association of Athletics Federations
- **Ms. Emanuelle de Souza**, Special Olympics Athlete (Brazil); Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger, Special Olympics
- **Ms. Tajha Ilerant**, Special Olympics Athlete (Florida, USA); Global Messenger for Special Olympics Florida and Youth Ambassador for Unified Champion Schools
- **Ms. Chaica Al Qassimi**, Special Olympics Athlete and Leader (United Arab Emirates)
- **Mr. Jared Niemeyer**, Special Olympics Athlete (Missouri, USA); Member, Special Olympics Missouri Board of Directors; Self-Advocate

## Moderator

- **Mr. Dustin Plunkett**, Special Olympics Athlete (Southern California, USA); Manager, Outreach and Athlete Leadership, Special Olympics Southern California

## Opening Remarks

- **Ambassador Luis Gallegos**, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations