

Launch of New Global Data on Equal Rights and Full Inclusion at School and Equal Rights and Reasonable Accommodation at Work in All UN Countries

June 12th, 2019

1:15pm – 2:30pm, Room CR.4, UN Headquarters, New York

Realizing the transformative goals outlined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires dismantling the social and environmental barriers that persons with disabilities continue to face around the world. Evidence of what works can accelerate countries' ability to remove these barriers. Effective monitoring of countries' efforts to fulfill their commitments to equal rights and inclusion for persons with disabilities can also support the global community's ability to advance progress in this area.

Building on the important work of the UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development and the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, this session will provide new tools for evidence-based policymaking, driven by the first examination of all 193 UN Member States' legal frameworks in the areas of equal rights and full inclusion in school at the primary and secondary levels, and equal rights and reasonable accommodation at work.

The session will launch new research findings that reveal important advances, gaps, and trends in UN Member States' legal frameworks in these areas. Important advances have been achieved. A majority of countries (75%) prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of disability either broadly or specifically in hiring. However, just over half, 52%, of all countries require that employers provide reasonable accommodation to workers with disabilities. Moreover, more than a third of countries do not prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in secondary-level education, while one in five countries does not guarantee students with disabilities the right to secondary education in integrated, mainstream education environments. Just 27% of the world's constitutions explicitly guarantee equality or non-discrimination on the basis of disability, but these provisions have become more common in recent years: nearly three-quarters of constitutions adopted between 2010 and 2017 explicitly guarantee equality or non-discrimination to persons with disabilities, compared to 11% of constitutions adopted before 1990.

Linking evidence to action in countries and at the global level, this event will feature leaders in the field with extensive experience accelerating advances at the national and global levels. Participants in this session will receive training on how to fully access this information and use these new tools to accelerate efforts in addressing country-level inequalities. Participants will share their experience and expertise.

Session Speakers

Ambassador Luis Gallegos is Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations. He has served as *Chairman* of the Global UN Partnership for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies, *Chairman* of the Universal Design Commission, and *President* of the International Rehabilitation Foundation. For his work advancing the human rights of persons with disabilities, the Congress of Ecuador has honored him twice. He is also a recipient of the Justice for All Disabilities Rights Award.

Professor Jody Heymann is the *Founding Director* of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center (WORLD) and *Distinguished Professor of Public Policy, Public Health and Medicine* at UCLA. WORLD's mission is to strengthen equal opportunities worldwide by improving the quantity and quality of globally comparative data available to policymakers, citizens, civil society, and researchers on laws and policies that work to support the advancement of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Akiko Ito serves as the *Chief* of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) and as a UN focal point on disability rights at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations. The SCRPD/DESA is the focal point on disability of the United Nations system and promotes the disability rights agenda in the broad international development framework.

Professor Michael Ashley Stein is *Co-Founder and Executive Director* of the Harvard Law School Project on Disability (HPOD). A leading scholar on human rights and disability law, he works deeply within countries to strengthen civil society and enable persons with disabilities to claim their full and equal human rights. He was a leader in the drafting of the CRPD, and continues to provide guidance to governments and UN bodies on disability laws and policies.

Initiative to Advance Equal Rights, Full Inclusion, and Reasonable Accommodation

This event will serve as the cornerstone launch event for the data from the initiative on ***Advancing the Realization of the Right to Education and Work for Persons with Disabilities***. Over the last two years, WORLD performed a systematic analysis of the thousands of constitutions, national laws, and policies related to equal rights, disability rights, and education and employment discrimination in all 193 UN Member States. Action-oriented, sharable, and accessible, the resulting data create tools to support DPO, civil society and other leaders accelerating national action. This session will share visual tools and e-resources that can support disability rights advocates advancing disability-inclusive policymaking. The creation of these evidence-based tools has been made possible by the generous support of the Ford Foundation and the guidance of an exceptional international advisory board comprising the following leaders:

- Abia Akram, CEO of the National Forum of Women with Disabilities
- Betsy Beaumon, President, Benetech
- Guilherme Braga, CEO and Founder, Egalité
- Fabrizio Fea, Chair, GLADNET
- Nora Groce, Chair of Disability and Inclusive Development, Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Anna Lawson, Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds, Coordinator of the Disability Law Hub
- Maria Martinho, Secretariat for the CRPD, Social Affairs at UNDESA
- Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, Global Disability Advisor, World Bank
- Gopal Mitra, Program Specialist, Children with Disabilities, UNICEF
- Sophie Mitra, Associate Professor of Economics, Fordham University
- Mark Priestley, Professor of Disability Policy, University of Leeds, Academic Network of European Disability Experts
- Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility



DESA

Social



WORLD Policy Analysis Center



- Diana Samarasan, Executive Director, Disability Rights Fund
- Michael Ashley Stein, Executive Director, Harvard Law Project on Disability
- Stefan Trömel, Senior Disability Specialist, International Labour Organization
- Sue Swenson, President, Inclusion International
- Susie Talbot, Legal Director, ESCR-Net
- Guozhong (Eric) Zhang, Secretariat for the CRPD, Social Affairs at UNDESA