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**Side Event Concept Note for the July 2019 High-level Political Forum**

**Title:** Reducing inequalities: a look at persons with disabilities

**Organizer:** Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities

**Co-sponsors:** International Disability Alliance, CBM, …

**Goals to be considered:** Goal 10 interlinked with4, 8 and 16

**Background:**

Persons with disabilities encounter barriers due to lack of or reduced access to healthcare and other services; an increased risk of violence and abuse; lack of access to justice; minimal participation in political and public life; discriminatory attitudes in sexual health, reproductive rights and the right to family life; lack of birth registration; and lack of access to an inclusive and quality education in their own language, and encounter the effects of increasing risks and vulnerability that climate change is creating. Further, in many places, the socio-economic gap between persons with and without disabilities is increasing, because persons with disabilities experience low levels of education, higher rates of unemployment and economic inactivity and a lack of social protection in comparison to their peers without disabilities. Moreover,

**Concept note:**

To achieve a world in which no one is left behind, SDG 10, and the interlinked SDGs, must be carried out in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities across the lifespan. During the side event, speakers will elaborate on concrete, action-oriented recommendations and bring practical experiences to the table to advance the implementation of Goal 10 for persons with disabilities. As such, speakers will look at the implementation of Goal 10 from the following perspectives:

* **Equal access to education** - Efforts to realize education for all without a strong inclusion focus have contributed to widening the gap between girls and boys with and without disabilities. Receiving education in the same places and being given the same opportunities is the only way in which persons with disabilities can all reach an adequate standard of living, live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life. When children and youth with disabilities experience meaningful inclusion at school, they are more likely to gain employment and have better health outcomes. Providing equal access to education to children and youth with disabilities, including reasonable accommodations, can help close the poverty gap between persons with and without disabilities.
* **Equal access to employment opportunities** - Work is a vital component of social participation for many people and has the potential to transform the lives and social positions of persons with disabilities, and how we see disability. Work is a key component for persons with disabilities to become active actors and contributors of society. Alongside the importance of ensuring persons with disabilities attain their right to work, there are economic and business reasons for inclusion. These include the benefits to economies as a whole, businesses that adopt diverse and inclusive practices and for persons with disabilities themselves and their quality of life.
* **Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels** –All people have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives, including those concerning their rights. The active and informed participation of different groups, including women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, is not only consistent with, but also a requisite of, a human rights-based approach. It ensures active citizenship, good governance and social accountability, and participation, which are embodied throughout the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda.
* **Non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development** - Persons with disabilities face widespread exclusion from all areas of economic, political, social, civil and cultural life, including employment, education and health care. The right to equal recognition before the law implies that legal capacity is a universal attribute inherent in all persons by virtue of their humanity and must be upheld for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others. Legal capacity is indispensable for the exercise of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

**Proposed speakers: TBC**