“If I’m not counted I don’t count: better data to improve the lives of persons with disabilities”

Canada/New Zealand/Chile

**Introduction:** The Honourable Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Disability Issues, Government of New Zealand

**Event Moderator:** Paula Tesoriero MNZM, New Zealand Acting Chief Commissioner/Disability Rights Commissioner

**Opening Remarks:**
- The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, Government of Canada
- Maria Soledad Cisternas, Special Envoy of SG on Disability and Accessibility

**Panellists:**
- The Honourable Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Disability Issues, Government of New Zealand
- Julie Bernier, Statistics Canada, Government of Canada

**Summary:**
This event will facilitate a collaborative dialogue on linking data and policy development. Panellists will share progress being made to improve disability data, opportunities and learnings for the future, and ongoing challenges.

Through country-specific experiences, the panellists will highlight new developments in disability data collection, discuss ways to address challenges, and propose future directions for data collection to support the implementation of the CRPD and evidence-based policy-making.

There will be an opportunity for interactive discussion and to ask the panellists questions.

**Themes of the discussion will include:**
- What is the value of better disability data? What are some best practices in evidence-based policymaking relating to disability?
- What are some examples of recent actions to progress data that have achieved positive outcomes? What lessons have you learned?
- Can you identify further opportunities for improvement, such as integrated data sets at a systems level and integration with key disability initiatives?
- What are some of the challenges in gathering data on persons with disabilities? How can we ensure that children, young people, indigenous peoples, and other populations are identified?