**DRAFT**

**Side Event Concept Note**

**Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities**

**Submission deadline:** 30st of April

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

**Co-sponsors:** International Disability Alliance, European Disability Forum, Humanity & Inclusion, GAATES, World Enabled, and Global Resilience Partnership

**Co-sponsors:** TBC

**Title:** Inclusion of persons with disabilities in societies

**Goal discussed during side-event**: Goal 11

**Concept note:**

To truly make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, we must ensure that all people are included, diversity is celebrated, and all have support to live in cities and human settlements. The side event will focus on how to fully implement Goal 11 for persons with disabilities by adhering to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). During the side event, speakers will elaborate on concrete, action oriented recommendations and bring practical experiences to the table. As such, speakers will look at the implementation of Goal 11 from the following perspectives:

* **Universal design and accessibility**: Due to barriers in accessing the built environment, information, and communication, including information and communication technologies, persons with disabilities are denied access to basic urban services, including housing, roads, public spaces, transportation, sanitation and water, health, education, emergency and disaster response. Yet, it is generally feasible to meet accessibility requirements at one percent of the total cost. The reality is that retrofitting for accessibility is more expensive costing up to 20 percent of the original cost compared to integrating accessibility and universal design principles into new buildings.
* **Safe mobility of persons with disabilities in cities**: safe and inclusive mobility is central for guaranteeing persons with disabilities’ participation to the life of their community and their access to economic, social, cultural and political spheres of society. Practical examples will be brought from developing countries in Asia and Africa, highlighting the linkages between safe mobility and road safety; safe mobility and inclusive education; safe mobility and socio-economic insertion, etc. Persons with disabilities are vulnerable road users, so as older people, children, or pregnant. Specific attention must be paid to designing roads, applying universal design. This will benefit a large number of people.
* **Living independently and being included in the community**: CRPD Article 19 is the precondition for persons with disabilities to live independently, be included in the community, and to participate fully and equally in society. The denial of access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communication technologies and facilities and services open to the public should be viewed in the context of discrimination.
* **Building resilience:** The frequency and severity of hurricanes, floods, droughts and extreme temperatures are increasing. Persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the impacts of these events. They face constraints in accessing early warning of disasters, information on how to cope, transportation and emergency shelters. The result is persons with disabilities are four times more likely to die when a disaster strikes than those without disabilities.

**Proposed speakers:** (kindly provide name, it’s okay to have tentative names, they can change later, but we need to provide some names)

* Idriss TBC, African Disability Forum
* Yannis Vardakastanis, President of the European Disability Forum
* Blandine Bouniol, Deputy Director for Advocacy, Humanity & Inclusion
* Individual from a country in Africa or Asia with a personal story relating to safe and inclusive mobility
* Janet Jimenez, GAATES, TBC
* Victor Pineda, TBC, World Enabled (or Fernando Jacome, TBC)
* Representative from DIAUD Network, TBC
* Representative from Habitat International Coalition, United Cities and Local Governments, or The World Bank
* Representative from A2R and GRP on how to build resilience (personal story(ies) from Asia)