**PGA: Interactive segment 1: Combatting discrimination and inequalities**

Panel discussion from **Mr.** José María Viera, Human Rights Policy Advisor and Coordinator,International Disabilities Association as lead discussant from the floor:

* What tools does the disability movement use to combat discrimination?
* How does the disability movement work with other progressive movements to combat all forms of discrimination and inequality?
* I am speaking today as a representative of persons with disabilities. We are an estimated population of one billion people worldwide, almost 80% of which live in developing countries.
* Many of you here will be familiar with some of the inequalities persons with disabilities face.
	+ Accessibility is the most well-known: our cities, towns, streets, buildings and transportation systems are not built to be inclusive.
	+ We face communication barriers—for example, my Deaf colleagues, either in the room or via webcast, are unable to participate today as there is no sign language interpretation.
	+ We struggle with the discrimination that comes with society’s perception and attitude towards us: we continue to fight for access to justice and supported rather than substituted decision-making.
* Persons with disabilities are actively engaged in changing this narrative of inequality and discrimination. This year, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a human rights and development treaty that has been ratified by more than 160 Member States.
* We successfully advocated for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in seven Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda.
* Yet, discrimination and inequality will only be addressed when we stop viewing populations in silos. We, persons with disabilities, are women and men, boys and girls. We are indigenous, we live in rural and remote areas. We are African, Asian, Pacific Islanders, European. We do not face discrimination and inequality on the basis of our disability alone—where we live, the colour of our skin, our age and gender contributes to our lives and how we live.
* It is clear that multiple discrimination exacerbates our situation. But it is not unique to the population of persons with disabilities. Agenda 2030 puts people at the center, but this ambitious agenda will only be realized when we recognize that discrimination and inequality exits in layers. We must work together to ensure that we are taking everyone into account—that we are truly leaving no one behind.