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**Virtual Side Event at the 14th Conference of the State Parties to CRPD**

**Proposed date and time: June 16 or June 17 2021 8.30-9.45am (TIME EST)**

**Promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in just transition towards a sustainable economy**

**Background**

Estimates suggest that, overall, the transition to low-carbon economies worldwide will be a net generator of jobs, with as many as 18 million new jobs appearing by 2030, according to the ILO World Employment Social Outlook 2018.

How this transition will play out for persons with disabilities will be determined largely by the local and national policies of governments and social partners. If the principles of a just transition are applied, the world of work will move towards a more inclusive and empowering situation for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities would have equal opportunities at benefitting from new or upgraded green jobs and the economic empowerment those jobs can offer. For example, skills development initiatives in the renewable energy sector that are disability-inclusive could pave the way for an effective match of green jobs with applicants with disabilities.

**Objectives**

The event aims to explore rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in building back better through a just transition towards a sustainable and low-carbon economy.

It will address the following questions:

* What measures need to be taken by public authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that persons with disabilities will have access to the jobs that will be generated by the transition to low-carbon economies as part of the building back better recovery plans?
* Are there examples of good practice both in developed and developing countries from which we can learn and which can be replicated?
* How can we promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the just transition discussions within COP26?

**Outline of the session**

Opening by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Moderation by Mina Mojtahedi, Senior Adviser on Non-discrimination, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Panelists:

* Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Global Coordinator, ILO Green Jobs Programme
* Fernando Riaño, Institutional Relations and Social Responsibility Director, ONCE Social Group, TBC
* Representative from an organization of persons with disabilities, promoting disability inclusive green jobs in a developing country, TBC
* Representative from a country active involved in just transition discussions in COP, TBC

Closing words by Vinicius Pinheiro, Head of ILO office in New York

**Organizers:**Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

International Labour Organization

**Sponsor:**

International Disability Alliance

**Registration**The link to the event will be sent to the participants by email after registration to the event.

**The event is organized on Zoom and is accessible and open to all. International sign language and automatic captioning will be available.**