



CONCEPT NOTE

**Inclusive recovery from COVID19 pandemic- Ensuring Organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families are consulted and involved with development organizations and governments in building back better**

**1) Background**

While the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over in many countries, governments started planning for building back better. This is an opportunity for organizations of persons with disabilities and families to engage in the process in order to make sure that recovery plans are inclusive and ensure that strategies and programs are moving forward towards the CRPD implementation and not stepping back.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities were very active doing their advocacy work, filling the gaps left by the governments and providing direct support to persons with disabilities and their families.

Inclusion International has heard from its members good experiences of collaboration with different actors such as development organizations, human rights institutions and also government in order to make sure their voices are heard and to be included in the response plans design. A regional report on Latin America and a global report on COVID19 impact gathering the work that has been done by the members during the pandemic will be published in early June. They include the global agenda with key messages to make sure the recovery phase is inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities and families.

IDA was strongly involved in supporting its members during the pandemic by making sure persons with disabilities are included in the global agenda, reacting to discriminatory triage practices with WHO, influencing the Office of the SG and advocating to end discrimination or to promote prioritization in access to vaccination. IDA also supported its members in the work they are doing at the regional and national levels, and coordinated the production of evidence on the impact of COVID-19 and experiences of persons with disabilities adapting to the pandemic. This includes a study on the COVID19 impact on OPDs and which main findings will be shared during this event.

## **2) Objectives**

The objectives of the side event are:

1. To share examples of collaborative work between governments and organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and families during the pandemic.
2. To provide a platform for organizations of persons with disabilities, development organizations, UN agencies and other stakeholders to share experiences of collaborative work during the pandemic,
3. To present challenges and solutions adopted by organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families during the pandemic
4. To provide recommendations on inclusive recovery plans, including the key role of OPDs in building back more inclusively

## **3) Format**

The event is co-hosted by Inclusion International (II) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The International Disability & Development Consortium (IDDC) and The Permanent Mission of Kenya are co-sponsoring (TBC).

The side-event will be held online, and it will take the form of a panel discussion. The event of a duration of 1.15 hour will include panellist presentations and interactive debate with the audience. The session will be held in English. Spanish interpretation and live captioning will be provided (TBC).

The event is tentatively scheduled on 18 June 2021 at 8.30am EST/ 2.30pm CET

## **4) Speakers**

### **Opening Remarks:**

- Permanent Mission to the UN, Kenya (TBC)

### **Moderator:**

- Sue Swenson, Inclusion International, president

### **Panelists:**

- **Ms. Phoebe Nyagudi**, Director of Social Development, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services- Kenya
- **Ms Fauzia Hajji**, Inclusion International co-opted council member
- **Ms Priscille Geiser**, Program Director, IDA
- **Ms Mette Miller**, Vice Chair of IDDC
- (Speaker), UN Executive Office of the Secretary-General
- **Gabriela Martinez**, Inclusion International Regional Representative -Mexico