**Concept Note**

**Virtual side-events at Conference of State Parties to the CRPD 2021**

**WeThe15: A global movement to transform the lives of the world’s one billion persons with disabilities over the next decade**

**Background**

While excellent progress on diversity and inclusion has been made in recent decades, disability continues to be overlooked.

As a result, the world’s one billion persons with disabilities, representing 15 per cent of the global population, remain the planet’s largest marginalised group with fewer education opportunities, poorer health outcomes, lower levels of employment, and higher poverty rates.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only made matters worse at a time when the UN 2030 agenda is calling for no-one to be left behind.

As the world reopens, things must fundamentally change.

Harnessing the mass appeal and positivity of major sport events such as the Paralympic Games, Special Olympics, Invictus Games and Deaflympics which place a much-needed spotlight on persons with disabilities, 20 international organisations have formed a coalition to initiate a decade of action that aims to unite the world’s disability community behind a mass movement for change.

Launching just ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, WeThe15 is a 10-year global movement focussed on empowering and advancing the lives of people with disabilities.

Targeting and empowering governments, businesses and the public to initiate change, WeThe15 will advance the human rights of persons with disabilities, ensuring greater visibility, inclusion and accessibility.

Join us on our decade of action, as WeThe15 makes persons with disabilities active, visible and contributing members of a global society.

**Aim**

This event will provide an introduction to WeThe15, the international organisations driving it forward, and outline what the movement aims to achieve over the next 10 years.

Attendees will hear from several protagonists behind the initiative who will explain how WeThe15 plans to unite the world’s one billion persons with disabilities behind a global movement and how it will initiate change amongst governments, businesses and the public.

Further details will be provided on how the movement will launch on 19 August, just ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, and how major sport events over the next decade will provide a platform to put the rights of persons with disabilities at the heart of the diversity and inclusion agenda.

Finally, the session will finish with details on how people can engage with and support the WeThe15 movement.

**Agenda**

* **Opening Remarks (3 minutes) -** Nada Al-Nashif, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights – via video
* **Moderator makes introduction (2 minutes) –** Vladimir Cuk, Executive Director, International Disability Alliance
* **The WeThe15 movement (35 minutes)**
  + Andrew Parsons, IPC President
  + WeThe15 video explainer
  + Caroline Casey, The Valuable 500
  + Eddie Ndopu, UN SDG Advocate
  + Victoria Austin, CEO, Global Disability Innovation Hub
  + Keely Cat-Wells, C-Talent
* Open questions and answers from the virtual floor (30 minutes)

**Co-Sponsors:**

Special Olympics, Invictus Games, Deaflympics, International Disability Alliance, UN Human Rights, World Health Organisation, World Bank, UNESCO, European Union, UN SDG Action Campaign, The Valuable 500, Global Citizen, Global Disability Innovation Hub, UN Alliance of Civilisations, C-Talent, International Disability and Development Consortium,  ATscale – the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, Zero Project, and the Global Alliance of Assistive Technology Organisations (GAATO).