



2 June 2020

Dear Ms. Arellano and Mr. Haslam,

Thank you very much for your letter. It serves as a reminder that in times of crisis, the full inclusion of all people into our communications is more essential than ever.

We appreciate the important work that the International Disability Alliance is doing by promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and we welcome that you are holding us accountable to lead by example in line with the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy.

As a human rights based organization, UNFPA is making the accessibility of all communications a priority. We are committed to making our web content accessible and to embodying the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

While we have built accessibility features following the recommendations of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0. into the technology of our 135 websites, we are aware that this does not suffice to guarantee complete accessibility. This is an ongoing effort and UNFPA will further improve the accessibility of our digital communications and continue to ensure that PDF documents and infographics are accessible and computer readable.

We are already using a web accessibility evaluation tool but in the future we will integrate this analysis into our independent quality assurance process. In addition, we will train our content and social media editors across the globe on how to improve accessibility through writing style and by optimizing the image information for the visually impaired.

Ms. Ana Lucia Arellano
Chair
International Disability Alliance
150 route de Ferney
P.O. Box 2100
CH 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
And

Mr. Dominic Haslam
Chair
International Disability and
Development Consortium
205 East 42nd Street, 20th floor
New York, NY 10017

chair@ida-secretariat.org

We thank you for your recommendations regarding public events. UNFPA will work to improve the accessibility of these events, in particular for events with a global reach.

For UNFPA it has always been important to include the perspectives of persons with disabilities in our storytelling and advocacy efforts. The selection of stories below might be of interest to you.

- [Pandemic heightens vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities](#)
- [We must resolutely resist any attempts to go back”: Listening to the icons and activists of women’s rights](#)
- [“We have sexual desires, too”: Young women with disabilities demand access to information and services](#)
- [Mother with disability hopes for better life with family planning](#)
- [Five things you didn’t know about disability and sexual violence](#)
- [“People like you should not have sex” – Young people with disabilities claim their right to reproductive health](#)
- [Girls in Azerbaijan battle disability stigma with sports](#)

Thank you again for your activism and I assure you that we are committed to continuous improvement.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Natalia Kanem
Executive Director