**Side event – CRPD (COSP15)**

**Concept note**

# Organizer(s)

UN Women

UNPRPD MPTF

In collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF, OHCHR, DESA, IDA, IDDC and the Government of Canada

# Contact Person(s)

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# Event Title

**An Intersectional Approach to Disability Inclusion and beyond**

# Registration link

<https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iCzfTT-dRcKTHGT5WKQA0w>

# Speakers (First Name, Last Name, Title, Organization Name)

* *Moderator:* Ola Abualghaib, Manager Technical Secretariat, UNPRPD MPTF

Opening remarks:

*Speakers:*

* Ms. Rosemary Kayess, CRPD Committee Chair
* Government representative – Government of Canada (tbc)
* Pratima Gurung, National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN)

Toolkit Presentation and country examples:

* Keynote Presentation: Monjurul Kabir, Ph.D, UN Coordination Adviser and Global Team Leader, Disability Inclusion and Intersectionality, UN Women HQ
* Practical Country experiences –
  + Peru and Latin American region: Elizabeth Campos, Blind Women’s Commission of Peru (CODIP), Latin American Blind Union / IDA
  + Ms. Vesna Ivanovikj, Head of UN Women Office North Macedonia

Closing and Note of thanks:

* Monjurul Kabir, UN Women HQ

# Background

In recent decades intersectionality has gained significant traction particularly in the context of international human rights law, with the CRPD being the first human rights treaty to recognize multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. While intersectionality is an established concept, there is still little practical guidance and understanding of how to implement it in a development policy context. The consequences of the interaction of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often considered to be separate and mutually exclusive forms of discrimination. However, the interaction of multiple identities and the resulting discrimination is highly contextual and varies across contexts. Existing evidence on intersectional discrimination indicates that as a consequence of multiple identities some persons with disabilities are pushed to the extreme margins and experience compounded forms of discrimination. The UN System, including UNCTs, and governments, often do not effectively address the rights of persons with disabilities in their programmes and policies. This happens for several reasons, linked to stigma and discrimination, a lack of understanding of the disability rights agenda in conjunction with other development agendas, inadequate planning and budgeting to involve effective participation of persons with disabilities in their full diversity, including through their representative organizations, and an inadequacy of data collection mechanisms. This is further complicated by the continuance of policies and structures which perpetuate segregation and the lack of intersectional approaches in policy making and planning.

With a growing recognition that the failure to address various aspects of identity as well as structural and systemic barriers that inhibit participation can obscure or deny human rights protection due to all, it is crucial to design interventions and policies that effectively address not only discrimination based on disability but multiple forms of discrimination, based on gender, age, indigenous status, migrant status, etc.

There is a need to use an intersectional approach in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes; advocacy; intergovernmental processes; and data collection to identify effective ways to empower persons with disabilities in all their diversity, particularly within the context of the 2030 Agenda and its resolve to leave no one behind. This is particularly relevant in the work of the UN System as it responds to the COVID-19 crisis, which disproportionately impacts the lives the persons with disabilities and is further exacerbated by other structural barriers such as patriarchy, racism, discrimination based on socio-economic status, among others.

# Detailed Description of Event (approx.150 words) / Objective

This side event aims to bring together multiple stakeholders from UN, government, organisations of persons with disabilities, civil society, and academia to discuss intersectionality and provide practical ways to implement and integrate an intersectional approach to mainstream and targeted initiatives addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, including through tangible examples of how it can be done. Specifically, the event will introduce the audience to recently launched [Intersectionality Resource Guide and Toolkit](https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/01/intersectionality-resource-guide-and-toolkit). Building on existing knowledge, experience and expertise, this practical toolkit was developed with funding from UNPRPD MPTF, in consultation with diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, to support UNCTs, civil society and Member States in building their capacity to use an intersectional approach in their work,

This side-event will contribute to an understanding of intersectionality that bridges the gap between theory and practice and focus on presenting concrete country examples, creating a dialogue between Member States, disability constituencies and civil society. The discussion will explore how disability, gender, age, indigenous or migrant status, etc. intersect and impact individuals, discuss challenges and opportunities for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and share recommendations on how to operationalize intersectional lenses in disability inclusion programmes and policies, with emphasis for the response and recovery to the COVID-19 crisis.

# Format

The event will last 75 mins and will include opening remarks from distinguished speakers, presentation of the Toolkit and practical country example. Then Q&A session will follow to address all speakers.

* Welcome
* Opening Remarks
* Introducing the Intersectionality Toolkit [presentation]
* Practical country experiences
* Q&A and discussion
* Closing Remarks

# Dates and Time

10:00-11:15 am EDT (New York) / 4:00-5:15 pm CEST (Geneva)

13 June 2022 (Monday)

# Supporting Information on preferred time slots

Languages: English with live captioning (CART).

Spanish translation

IS interpretation