
Guidance Note by the Secretariat

Wednesday, 19 October – Friday, 21 October 2022
Jakarta and online

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 (HLIGM) will provide an opportunity for delegations and stakeholders to organize side events that focus on the themes and subthemes of the meeting to enrich its deliberations for the conclusion of the Decade.

Member States, civil society organizations, United Nations partners, international organizations and others are cordially invited to submit their proposals for side events through the side event proposal form (https://forms.office.com/r/bTPzt3kpy8) as soon as possible by 10 September 2022.

All side events will be organized hybrid or only online at the margins of the meeting. In accordance with the programme of the HLIGM, time slots for side events are allocated to lunchtime (12.30-13.40) from 19th to 21st October 2022 in Jakarta time. A maximum of two parallel side events per time slot will be convened.

Please note that all side events should be relevant and contribute to the objective of the HLIGM and can facilitate partnerships among stakeholders. Geographical diversity and balanced coverage of a range of topics will be considered when selecting proposals.

The Secretariat will review all proposals according to the criteria below and revert to the applicants.

1 in-person attendance at the meeting venue (Fairmount Hotel Jakarta) and online
Selection Criteria

- The side event contributes to discussions on one or more of the theme or subthemes of the meeting as described in the background or is cross-cutting in nature;
- The side event supports the objective of the meeting described in the following background section and can foster regional partnerships to support the implementation of disability-inclusive development.
- The side event considers geographic and gender balance in the choice of panelists and speakers;
- The format of the side event ensures broad stakeholder participation, including Governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia;
- The side event should be open to all participants of the intergovernmental meeting. Participants attending side events, however, will not automatically be listed as participants of the intergovernmental meeting.
- The side event should last no longer than 1 hour;
- Priority will be given to side events proposed by Governments and a coalition of organizations. One party should be designated as the lead organizer and communicate with the ESCAP secretariat;
- Given time slots limitation, an organization can lead only one side event and co-organize at most one more event. Without being a lead organizer, a party can co-organize at most two side events;
- Organizers are fully responsible for the organization of the side event. This covers the development of the agenda, the identification of the speakers, travel and visa arrangements, invitation, production of materials, and media coverage.
- Through coordination with the Secretariat, organizers communicate on the time, date, and preparation of the side events;
- Following the confirmation of the date and time of the side events, organizers will be requested to submit the following to the ESCAP secretariat: 1) the flyer of the side event and 2) the registration page for the event at least three weeks before the date of the meeting;
- Organizers should prepare a summary report and share it with the Secretariat after the event;
- All side events should be conducted in English. Organizers are requested to arrange the provision of interpretation services, if applicable;
- Organizers should take into account accessibility needs to ensure accessible side events including through sign language interpreters and live caption;
- All costs related to the side event will be borne by organizers.
Background

The Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration, including the Action Plan to Accelerate the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy are comprehensive regional frameworks for the implementation of the Asian Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022. As the first regionally-agreed disability-specific development goals, these frameworks provide clear targets, indicators, and actions to advance disability inclusion in the region.

In accordance with ESCAP resolutions 68/7, 69/13, and 74/7, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 from 19 to 21 October 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The meeting will gather ESCAP members and associate members, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to renew member states’ commitment to the regional frameworks and chart ways forward on disability-inclusive development beyond 2022.

The objective of the intergovernmental meeting is to provide a platform to ESCAP member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders to:

- review the status of disability-inclusive development and take stock of the overall progress made on the Incheon Strategy and Beijing Declaration in the Asia-Pacific region, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders;
- identify key challenges, opportunities, gaps, as well as good practices and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade in Asia and the Pacific, 2013-2022;
- discuss emerging issues, regional priorities, and potential areas for regional cooperation on disability in line with the guiding principles of the global instruments and frameworks including the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Incheon Strategy;

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• facilitate knowledge and data sharing and discussion on resource mobilization, policy development, investment in technology, and partnership building to assist the effective implementation of disability-inclusive development;
• Assist the process of adopting an outcome document that guides a future course of regional actions and affirms commitment to further disability-inclusive development and disability rights.

The theme and subthemes of the meeting which will be also available in due course through an annotated agenda and programme of the meeting cover:

• Theme: Forward-looking policies and strategies for disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific during the period to 2030, focusing on key and emerging regional issues and opportunities
  o Subtheme 1: Harmonization of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
  o Subtheme 2: Innovative partnerships and engagement of persons with disabilities;
  o Subtheme 3: Emerging issues and opportunities including disability-inclusive response to COVID-19, digital accessibility, social protection, women and older persons with disabilities and etc;
  o Subtheme 4: Tracking progress towards the achievement of disability-inclusive development.

Communication

For communication with the secretariat please contact: Ms. Minkyong Kim, ESCAP (min.kim3@un.org), copying escap-sdd@un.org.

Additional information, including background documents, is available on the ESCAP dedicated website for the high-level intergovernmental meeting.