

WEBINAR: PROTECTING AND EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

9:00 - 11:00 am, 15 May 2020

❖ Moderator: Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP

Time	Description
9:00 - 9:15	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening remarks: Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP Keynote address: Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights-based approaches to protecting and empowering persons with disabilities in the context of COVID-19
9:15 - 9:25	Experience-sharing by person with disabilities: “Leave Us Not Behind” [video]
9:25 - 10:45	Policy Crucible <p><i>I. PANELIST DISCUSSION</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative, China Disabled Persons’ Federation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole-of-nation approach across ministries, administrative levels, and diverse sectors, to ensure disability-inclusion in the COVID-19 response Mr. Masahito Kawamori, Co-chair, Focus Group on Media Accessibility, International Telecommunication Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How governments and OPDs can ensure diverse disability groups in rural, remote and urban settings have access to public information on COVID-19 Mr. Stephen Sui, Senior Expert and former Secretary of Labour and Welfare, Government of Hong Kong, China: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing and delivering social protection and employment promotion measures for persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 context Ms. Anjee Agarwal, Executive Director, Samarthyam, and Member, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI)-CSO Standing Committee, India: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership role of OPDs and other CSOs in policy design and service delivery, to ensure disability-inclusion in pandemic responses Integration of gender perspectives into disability-inclusive responses to address the specific and multiple challenges for women and girls in the COVID-19 pandemic Ms. Valerie Julliland, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Nepal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of United Nations Country Teams in advocating for disability inclusion in pandemic responses <p><i>II. STRUCTURED INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR*</i></p>
10:45 - 11:00	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflections on the way forward: Mr. Monthian Buntan, Senator, Parliament of Thailand, Member, United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and ESCAP Champion for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

*As part of the Policy Crucible, structured interventions from the participants (not exceeding two minutes each) will be invited on the following topics:

- **Policy challenges to and good practices on mainstreaming disability inclusion into pandemic policy measures**
- **Innovative solutions to protecting the rights of persons with diverse disabilities and to providing continued care and support amidst lockdown and public health concerns: case studies on the following:**
 - Developing disability-inclusive responses at the municipal level
 - Ensuring continued access to goods and services, e.g., addressing issues pertaining to movement beyond the home
 - Providing disability-specific support services
 - Addressing specific needs of certain disability groups, e.g., children and adults with autism, and persons with dementia
- **Good practices of private sector organizations in supporting accessible telecommuting and other support measures for employees with disabilities:**
- **Good practices at community-level and grassroot-level on protecting and empowering persons with disabilities, especially those with multiple disadvantages:**