

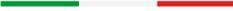


 Permanent Mission of Austria
to the United Nations
in New York



Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland




Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - New York



Bridging the Gap

Annual event 2020

**Building on the Bridging the Gap experience:
strengthening policies and practices for inclusion
and leaving no one behind**

Side event at COSP13

Online event

December 1st, 2020 – 10:00-11:15am GMT-5

Registration link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqdO-rrz0qE9If3ug3am5XPYvJImWoyGVP>





Building on the Bridging the Gap experience: strengthening policies and practices for inclusion and leaving no one behind

under the cross-cutting theme

Strengthening capacity-building to fully implement the CRPD and the SDGs for persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities.

Organisers: Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN, EU project Bridging the Gap

Co-sponsors: European Union Delegation to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN, Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN, Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Disability and Development Consortium, European Disability Forum

Format: Online dynamic panel event with audience Q&A

Platform: Virtual via Zoom

Accessibility: There will be simultaneous ISL interpretation and CART, as well EN-ES interpretation

Date and time: December 1st, 2020 – 10 – 11:15am GMT-5 (75 min)

Overview & Objective

Under the theme 'A decade of action and delivery for inclusive sustainable development: implementing the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda for all persons with disabilities', the 13th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD will be held from 30 November to 3 December 2020. The COSP will gather the international community to discuss the progress made by the States Parties to uphold the CRPD and ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities during the first five years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to look ahead at the remaining challenges for the next ten years to reach sustainable development and leave no one behind.

This assessment will be made in the midst of a global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that has disproportionately affected persons with disabilities. The need to ensure a disability-inclusive response in all response and recovery plans has been highlighted through numerous calls, including a [joint Statement by 138 Member States and Observers](#) to welcome the publication of the United Nations Secretary-General's policy report "[A Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19](#)".





Following up on this initiative, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Borrell, EU Commission's Vice-President Jourová and Commissioner Dalli issued a [new statement](#), supporting the efforts undertaken by the UN Secretary-General and reaffirming the European Union commitment to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

All these statements are not only important steps towards an inclusive response to this pandemic, but they have also reinforced the understanding that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda can only be achieved if they are supported by the CRPD.

In this context, the side event '**Building on the Bridging the Gap experience: strengthening policies and practices for inclusion and leaving no one behind**' proposes a debate on the contribution of the EU-funded project Bridging the Gap to the implementation of the SDGs, gathering around the same roundtable high-level representatives from the United Nations, the participating countries and organisations of persons with disabilities.

This multi-stakeholder event is sponsored by Spain and supported by the European Union, Austria, Finland, Italy, OHCHR, the International Disability and Development Consortium and the European Disability Forum as co-sponsors.

Beyond discussing the contribution of the project to disability mainstreaming in the 2030 Agenda, the event will present OHCHR's package of tools and how they contribute to delivering a disability-inclusive 2030 Agenda, as well concrete results of support to inclusive policies and capacity-building initiatives, with particular attention to the empowerment of women with disabilities.

In sum, the event will:

1. Highlight the **project's contribution** to disability mainstreaming in **the 2030 Agenda**.
2. Present **policy guidelines, CRPD indicators, data sources guidance and training materials to realize disability-inclusive SDGs**.
3. Present **good practices** on inclusive public policies in low- and middle-countries and strengthening of OPDs.
4. Share experiences on **capacity-building initiatives addressed to women and girls with disabilities**.
5. Identify opportunities/synergies for the **consolidation of BtG's results**.
6. Raise awareness on the efforts of the EU and its Member States to support **disability-inclusive development**.





The event will last 75 minutes and will be held in English and Spanish. Interpretation in international sign and CART in English and Spanish will be also available.

COSP theme and subtheme addressed by the side event

Over-arching theme: A decade of action and delivery for inclusive sustainable development: implementing the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda for all persons with disabilities.

Cross-cutting theme: Strengthening capacity-building to fully implement the CRPD and the SDGs for persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities.

Sub-theme: Promoting Inclusive environments for the full implementation of the CRPD

Panel layout

Welcome: Federico Martire, FIIAPP, Director Bridging the Gap II

Introduction, moderation and closing remarks: María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, UN Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility

Invited Panelists:

- **Spain's commitment to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development cooperation**
Jesús Celada Pérez, Director of Inclusion Policies at the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030, Government of Spain
- **OHCHR's CRPD-SDGs package to deliver a disability-inclusive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Policy Guidelines, Human Rights Indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Data Sources Guidance and Training materials)**
Facundo Chavez Penillas, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Capacity-building for inclusion of women with disabilities in Sudan: the role of BtG-II**
Rahma Mohammed, National Council of Persons with Disabilities Sudan
- **Applying a human rights-based approach to policy programming in Paraguay**
Mariela Soledad Ramírez Burgos, Ministry Secretary for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Republic of Paraguay (TBC)



- **Inclusion to leave no one behind: social protection for persons with disabilities in Ethiopia**
Asalifew Amedin Kabeto, Director Disability Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- **Peer-to-peer support for OPDs' capacity building**
Nadia Hadad, Executive Committee Board Member, European Disability Forum

Final remarks by:

- **Katarina Ivanković-Knežević**
Director, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Leonardo Bencini**
Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of the Unit for Strategy, Global Processes and International Organizations, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Conclusion by:

- **María Soledad Cisternas Reyes**, UN Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility