



ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK 19-21 June 2018

Title:

Shifting the focus from vulnerability to rights and resilience: A progressive approach to humanitarian action for persons with disabilities

Sponsors:

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Permanent Missions of Luxembourg to the United Nations and the UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Organizers:

Organized by CBM, Humanity & Inclusion (HI) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), IASC Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (TBC)

Day and time: Wednesday, 20 June 2018, 13:15 - 14:45

Place: Conference Room E, UN Secretariat, New York

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives

Persons with disabilities continue to be among the most marginalized in any crisis-affected community: 80% live in poverty, and an estimated 9.7 million are forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict and human rights violations. In some cases, morbidity in disasters has been estimated at a rate four times higher than that of persons without disabilities, as are instances of sexual violence and abuse.

Compounding this marginalization, persons with disabilities continue to be considered only as recipients of aid. In order to achieve the aim of "leaving no-one behind", a shift from vulnerability to resilience and a new way of thinking about how to address needs are required, as well as a recognition of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations as a critical stakeholders in humanitarian settings.

This session will be an opportunity for unique discussion on why and how humanitarian actors can and should identify new and inclusive approaches to address the situation of persons with disabilities in crisis contexts. The session will address practical steps towards this change, including the development and future roll-out of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and key recommendations on tangible actions

governments and humanitarian stakeholders can consider in advance of the first Global Disability Summit, which will be co-hosted by the Governments of UK and Kenya in July 2018.

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

- *Discuss practical approaches towards the implementation of humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities, considering the UN CRPD and the commitments of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.*
- *Engagement in the development and roll-out of the Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action under the IASC Task Team.*

Speakers:

- *Chair: Mr. Christian Braun, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations*
- *Introductory remarks: Ms. Ursula Mueller, OCHA Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator*

Panel:

- *Claus Lindroos, Director for Humanitarian Assistance and Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland*
- *Daniel Seymour, Director Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response Office, UN Women*
- *Ekaete Judith Umoh, Vice Chairperson of the African Disability Forum (ADF) (TBC)*
- *ICRC/IFRC representative (TBC)*

Followed by an interactive discussion with the audience.

Background Material

An analysis of the PACT self-reports on disability-related commitments taken by stakeholders at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) will be distributed.

Contact

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CART will be provided.