



## **Training Session on Accessibility and Sensitivity Awareness**

Date: Thursday, 9 June 2022 (1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.)  
Venue: Conference Room 4

### **Concept Note**

#### **Introduction**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/154](#) of 16 December 2021 entitled “*Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: participation*”, which encourages the United Nations system to substantially enhance the participation of persons with disabilities, including through building capacity and training, the President of the General Assembly and Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) will convene a training session on accessibility and sensitivity awareness.

Building on the eighth *Holhuashi Dialogue on Accessibility to United Nations Headquarters*, this training session is open to Member States, the UN System, and other stakeholders focused on issues regarding accessibility and sensitivity awareness at the UNHQ.

#### **Background**

The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), in its report JIU/REP/2018/16 entitled “*Enhancing Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities to Conferences and Meetings of the United Nations System*”, states that “*making conferences and meetings fully accessible therefore becomes a critical indicator of the willingness of United Nations system organizations to truly ‘walk the talk’ when it comes to non-discrimination and inclusion.*”

The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, launched by the Secretary-General in 2019, provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the United Nations. The Strategy includes a system-wide policy, an accountability framework and other implementation modalities.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Objectives**

Ongoing awareness and training for staff and delegates is beneficial, especially for those in direct contact with staff, delegates, and visitors with disabilities. Sensitization is also important for delegates in creating an inclusive working environment so that negotiations and other intergovernmental process could be made accessible for all.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/disabilitystrategy/sgreport>

This training session will contribute to ongoing efforts to raise awareness and increase sensitivity regarding accessibility and disabilities. It will provide an open forum to discuss accessibility experiences and share best practices at the UNHQ. It will focus on disability and accessibility awareness and etiquette and will provide an overall picture of the situation of persons with disabilities globally, share models of disability, define key terms and language, and share general and specific etiquette tips, physical and digital barriers and accessibility requirements and recommendations.

### **Format**

The training will be tailored for delegates of Member States and observers in an informal conversation on the human dimension of inclusion with presentations on good practices, etiquette, protocols and awareness raising. It is intended to be a conversation on the reality experienced by persons with disabilities at UNHQ and how inclusion could be best mobilized to provide equality for all.

### **Programme**

*1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Opening remarks*

- H.E. Abdulla Shahid, President of the General Assembly
- Ms. Cherith Ann Norman Chalet, Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM)

*1:30 p.m. – 1.50 p.m.: Training segment*

- Dr. Elizabeth Lockwood (CBM Global Disability Inclusion) CBM Global is a dual mandate organization in international development and humanitarian action that creates concrete and sustainable change for and with persons with disabilities, their representative organizations, their families, and communities through community programs, advisory, and advocacy globally.
- Dr. Mohammed Ali Loutfy (Global Initiative on Inclusive ICTs) G3ICT promotes the rights of persons with disabilities in the digital age. G3ICT's objectives and global outreach are aligned with the dispositions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the accessibility of Information Communication Technologies and Assistive Technologies.
- Bethany Brown (International Disability Alliance) International Disability Alliance is an Alliance of 14 global and regional organizations of persons with disabilities. IDA advocates at the United Nations for a more inclusive global environment for everyone.

*1:50 p.m. – 2.15 p.m.: Interactive segment to share experiences and best practices at UNHQ*

### **Focal Points**

For further information and to confirm attendance, please contact Ms. DeAndrea Cartwright ([deandra.cartwright@un.org](mailto:deandra.cartwright@un.org)) or Mr. Sergey Kochetkov ([kochetkov@un.org](mailto:kochetkov@un.org)).