



Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Poland  
to the United Nations  
in New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations  
New York



Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic  
to the United Nations

## Promoting leadership and participation of persons with disabilities in peace processes

**Side-event on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with  
Disabilities and the Humanitarian Week  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 9.00-10:30 AM**

The Permanent Missions of Poland, Dominican Republic, Germany, Kenya, the United States are pleased to organize a side-event on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the Humanitarian Week focusing on the role of persons with disabilities in peace processes.

### Context

There are currently around one billion of persons with disabilities, including persons with physical, intellectual, sensory and psychosocial impairments. This number is increasing due to global population aging, increased incidence of chronic diseases and injuries caused by, inter alia, armed conflicts.

The idea that all members of a conflict-affected society should have a meaningful role in shaping peace, is gradually receiving widespread global recognition. Evidence demonstrates positive impact of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction, peacebuilding, addressing the root causes of conflict as well as post-conflict reconstruction. As it is stated in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities “Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are largely untapped resources in the essential process of peacebuilding in post-conflict situations. They have a right to be engaged meaningfully. They have critical insights into what an inclusive society and economy actually mean. They have an instinctive attitude

towards valuing difference, which is of importance in the healing process, and they represent a humane space that can transcend sectarian or ideological differences and thus provide an added incentive for the various parties to tone down their differences and converge on the importance of inclusion for all.”<sup>1</sup>.

Yet the conversation on the rights of persons with disabilities in armed conflict largely focuses on the protection of persons with disabilities while it overlooks their skills and potential as peacebuilders. As a result, little attention has been paid to the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution, peacekeeping, mediation, post-conflict rehabilitation, peacebuilding and reconciliation at local, regional and country level. The UNSC resolution 2475 (2019) on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Armed Conflict, is the first framework to recognise the critical contributions of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations to the peace process.

### **Objective**

The aim of the event is to discuss how to ensure a more inclusive and participatory approach towards persons with disabilities during conflicts and reflect on possible measures to implement adequate solutions and emergency responses in conflict zones, as well as to reflect on the role of the Security Council and the wider United Nations system in this regard. Moreover, the meeting will allow to discuss in details the findings of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the rights of persons with disabilities presented to the Third Committee of the GA that’s for the first time focuses on persons with disabilities in the context of peace and security.

### **In particular the discussion will aim to:**

- highlight the constructive role and contributions of persons with disabilities in peace processes;
- identify factors and dynamics that contribute to their inclusion or exclusion in peace process/peace agreements, the challenges of ensuring effective and meaningful representation, and the most successful mechanisms for empowerment and inclusion in post-conflict societies that take into account also the expertise on disability mainstreaming policies;
- discuss on how to ensure a shift from the medical model to a human rights-based approach regarding persons with disabilities in crisis-affected communities.
- Discuss on how activities under different frameworks (eg. UNSC, CRPD) can be mutually reinforcing and beneficial to ensure greater coherence of efforts aimed at enhancing the inclusivity of peace processes

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<sup>1</sup> A/76/146

**Panelists:**

- Mr Gerard Quinn, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Mr Monjurul Kabir, UN Coordination Adviser and Team Leader, Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion, UN-Women HQ;
- Ms Elizabeth Murray, Senior Program Officer, United States Institute of Peace;
- Mr William Pons, Senior Legal Advisor and Researcher to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons;
- Ms Kirsten Young, Chief of the UNSOM Human Rights and Protection Group
- Ms Neema Namadamu, founder of Maman Shujaa, a women-led initiative demanding peace in eastern Congo;
- Ms Jelena Mišić, Disability Activist in Dobož region of Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- Ms Batool Abuali, Founder of Light Initiative, Peacebuilder, Youth and Social Advocate from Syria;

**Format**

The meeting will be held on ZOOM platform.

RSVP by COB on Monday, 6 December 2021 at [pol-s2-vn@newy.auswaertiges-amt.de](mailto:pol-s2-vn@newy.auswaertiges-amt.de) indicating the level of participation and intention to take the floor.

After the panel the Q&A section will start.  
Translation to IS language will be provided.