What and when?

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) are jointly hosting a side event with the Norwegian Government at the United Nations General Assembly, on the same day as the Millennium Development Goals Summit. Titled ‘Including people with disabilities in the UN development agenda’, the event will feature VIP speakers and music (more details to follow). It will be held at 6-8pm on Wednesday 25th September in the UN complex in New York.

Why are we holding this event?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expire in 2015, and therefore the United Nations is currently running a process of negotiations aimed at developing a successor framework of development goals which will guide the international community’s development work up until 2030. There was no mention of people with disabilities in the original MDGs, and, partly as a result, people with disabilities have been excluded from much of the progress that has been made since their adoption in 2000.

IDA and IDDC, together with many of our members, have actively engaged in the process to ensure that this time, people with disabilities -15% of the world’s population - are central to the new framework. We had a huge success with the UN’s High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Framework, which recommended that people with disabilities be a key component of the new framework, and that data to measure progress against it must be disaggregated by population group, including people with disabilities. In their view, targets should not be considered achieved unless they have been achieved for all relevant population groups.

The responsibility for this process and the future framework has now passed on from the HLP to a new group, called the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), which is made up of nation state representatives (although not every UN member nation is represented). The work of the OWG is a significant part of the process leading to the development of Sustainable Development Goals. These, together with the HLP recommendations and the recommendations of the UN Secretary General will form the basis of negotiations and consultations which will eventually lead to the final post-2015 framework.

If this final framework is fully inclusive, it could be a game changer for people with disabilities. The MDGs profoundly influenced both national development plans and donor policy, and we can expect that the new framework will do the same. If people with disabilities are highly visible in the new framework, it will be much easier for us to negotiate inclusion in our countries and in international cooperation.
What is the aim of this meeting?

This meeting specifically aims to make sure people with disabilities are included in the thinking of the OWG right from the early stages of their work. We want to create and/or develop several key ‘champion’ governments within the OWG. We also want to reach out to nations who are not represented on the OWG in advance of the full negotiations.

Who are our targets?

This is a very high level event, and space in the room is limited. We are therefore keen to secure very senior representatives.

Main targets:

• OWG Member States (a list of the nations that are members of the group is included in the annex).
• Other Permanent Representatives (Ambassadors) of the United Nations Member States.

Other targets:

• Other Government representatives who are in New York for the General Assembly and the special event on the MDGs.
• HLP members.
• Senior UN staff members who are involved in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.
• Other high-level influential figures.

What we would like you to do

The main support that we need from IDA and IDDC members is to identify and invite suitable people. Please could we ask you to:

• If your country is a member of the OWG (a list of the members is in the annex), please find out who is the lead representative.
• Send the name and contact details of the representative to Emmanuelle Parr who is managing the invite list at emmanuelle@fortavoca.com. It is absolutely essential that Emmanuelle has details of everyone who has been invited because they need to be registered with the Norwegian Government in advance of the event.
• Send the Save the Date notice (attached) to the representative and ask him or her to attend the event.
• Referring to the list of targets above, brainstorm any other appropriate invitees that you have contact with (particularly if your country will be sending an additional delegation to the UN MDG Summit, you might think about inviting the lead representative), and send your suggestions to Emmanuelle, again at emmanuelle@fortavoca.com.
• Emmanuelle will respond to let you know if the additional people you suggest have already been invited or not (so that we can avoid many people contacting the
same invitees!) Send the Save the Date notice to any of your suggested invitees that Emmanuelle approves.

- Once we have confirmed details of speakers, we will circulate a full invite. Please send this on to everyone you have invited, and encourage them as strongly as possible to attend.

Annex – members of the Open Working Group

**African Group**

Algeria / Egypt / Morocco / Tunisia  
Ghana  
Benin  
Kenya  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Congo  
Zambia/Zimbabwe

**Asia-Pacific Group**

Nauru / Palau / Papua New Guinea  
Bhutan / Thailand / Viet Nam  
India / Pakistan / Sri Lanka  
China / Indonesia / Kazakhstan  
Cyprus / Singapore / United Arab Emirates  
Bangladesh / Republic of Korea / Saudi Arabia  
Iran (Islamic Republic of) / Japan / Nepal

**Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)**

Colombia / Guatemala  
Bahamas / Barbados  
Guyana/Haiti/Trinidad and Tobago  
Mexico / Peru  
Brazil / Nicaragua  
Argentina / Bolivia (Plurinational State of) / Ecuador

**Western European and Others Group (WEOG)**

Australia/Netherlands/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Canada / Israel / United States of America  
Denmark / Ireland / Norway  
France / Germany / Switzerland  
Italy / Spain / Turkey  
Eastern European Group  
Hungary  
Belarus / Serbia  
Bulgaria / Croatia  
Montenegro / Slovenia  
Poland / Romania
The International Disability Alliance (IDA) was established in 1999 as a network of global and, since 2007, regional disabled people’s organizations (DPOs). The aim of IDA is to promote the effective and full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) worldwide, as well as compliance with the CRPD within the UN system, through the active and coordinated involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and international levels. [http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/en](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/en)

The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and its members aim to promote inclusive development. Inclusive development means respecting the full human rights of every person, acknowledging diversity, eradicating poverty and ensuring that all people are fully included and can actively participate in development processes and activities regardless of age, gender, disability, state of health, ethnic origin or any other characteristic. [http://www.iddcconsortium.net](http://www.iddcconsortium.net)