

Co-hosted by Down Syndrome International and Inclusion International:

**Listen, Include, Respect –
The International Guidelines for Inclusive Participation**



**Side event to the 13th Conference of State Parties
to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
4th December 2020 at 8.30am - 9.45am (EST)**



Background

At the global level while there are international standards for accessibility and accommodation for other disability groups (sign language, building accessibility etc.) there are no internationally recognised standards or guidelines for people with intellectual disabilities. Inclusive participation is when a person with an intellectual disability:

- gets information in a way that they understand,
- can share their ideas, experiences and knowledge alongside everyone else,
- is given the time, support and adjustments they need to take part.

There is increasing recognition by organisations and governments of the need to include people with intellectual disabilities in the work that they do. We are receiving many more requests for assistance and advice about how to make materials accessible, organise an inclusive meeting or conference or how to provide good support to enable people to participate.

Inclusion International (II) and Down Syndrome International (DSi) came together to create international guidelines on the inclusion, support and participation of people with intellectual disabilities in the work of organisations called ***Listen Include Respect***.

Objectives

The objective of the side event is to provide a platform to share the challenges faced by people with intellectual disabilities to be included in the work of organisations, to introduce the work to develop the guidelines ***Listen, Include, Respect*** and to share the first findings from the global consultation that was held in order to develop the guidelines.

Discussions will focus on the following questions:

- How is the consultation process being carried out and the guidelines being developed?
- Why are these guidelines important?
- What types of support and adjustments help people with intellectual disabilities to be included?
- How can UN Agencies adapt their work to make it inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities?

Format

The event will be held online on the 4th of December 2020 at 8.30am - 9.45am (EST). It will be co-hosted by Down Syndrome International and Inclusion International.

The event is being sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Japan and the Republic of Poland to the United Nations, UNICEF and the International Disability Alliance.

The side event will include presentations about the guidelines followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Attendees are encouraged to submit questions in advance to helen.powell@ds-int.org.

Speakers

Opening Remarks

- *H.E. Mr. KIMURA Tetsuya*, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

Moderator

- *Ms. Chaica Alqassimi*, Inclusion International Council Member and MENA representative.

Speakers

- *Ms. Dominique Kantor*, DSI & II Consultant, Argentina and *Mr. George Okudi*, DSI & II Consultant, Uganda: 'How are the guidelines being developed – the consultation process'.
- *Ms. Rosangela Berman Bieler*, Senior Advisor Children with Disabilities, UNICEF - 'Why are the guidelines important in the work of organisations?'
- *Mr. Soufiane El Amrani*, Inclusion Europe - 'What types of support and adjustments help people with intellectual disabilities to be included?'
- *Mr. Gopal Mitra*, Senior Social Affairs Officer in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations - 'How UN Agencies can implement the guidelines and assist in the implementation of the UN CRPD and the SDGs'.