

The launch of

WHO Global initiative on
health equity for persons
with disabilities

10 June 2025 | 11.30 - 12.45 EDT

Official side event of the Conference of
States Parties to the CRPD (United
Nations, New York)



About the event

Over 1.3 billion people have a disability worldwide, with many experiencing health inequities such as earlier deaths and higher disease risks. These inequities arise from unfair and avoidable conditions within and beyond the health system.

A global mechanism is urgently needed to better prioritize, coordinate, and collaborate to improve the health outcomes for persons with disabilities and achieve health for all.

**Find out more about the
event and initiative**



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of Sweden
Geneva



Global
Disability
Fund



IDA
International
Disability Alliance



cbm
christian blind mission



Down Syndrome
International



humanity
& inclusion



International Disability
and Development Consortium



Sightsavers



Special Olympics
Health
MADE POSSIBLE BY
Golisano FOUNDATION










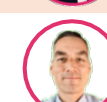



World Health
Organization

Agenda

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Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters, New York | [Watch live on UN Web TV](#)

Topics	Speakers
Moderated by //	 Werner Obermeyer. Director, WHO Office for the United Nations, New York, USA
Impact statement //	 David Duncan. Athlete and Chairman, Global Athlete Leadership Council, Special Olympics
Welcome remarks //	 Lubna Jaffery. Minister of Culture and Equality, Norway  Malin Ekman-Aldén. Director-General, Swedish Agency for Participation, Sweden  Dirk Platzen. Director, Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
Initiative overview //	 Darryl Barrett. Technical Lead, Disability Programme, World Health Organization Headquarters, Switzerland
Stakeholder panel //	 Ola Abualghaib. Director, The Global Disability Fund  Hannah Loryman. Co-chair, IDDC UN Task Group, International Disability and Development Consortium  Bonnielin Swenor. Director, Disability Health Research Center, Johns Hopkins University, USA
Closing remarks //	 Michael Schloms. Head, Unit for Human Rights, Disability Inclusion and Media, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany  Jarrod Clyne. Deputy Executive Director, International Disability Alliance

This event will be conducted in English. International Sign language and captioning will be available.

For more information, contact disability@who.int