

## UN-Women Executive Board

### Informal briefing on UN-Women's work and approach to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities

Wednesday, 12 September 2018; 1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 7 of UNHQ

### Leadership, agency and participation

#### Voices of Women and Girls with Disabilities



#### [Take five: "Nothing about disability should be done without women with disabilities"](#)

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018

Renowned disability rights activist, Ana Peláez Narváez, from Spain, is the first woman with disability to be elected to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) on 7 June, 2018. [More](#)



#### [In the words of Nidhi Goyal: "These spaces belong to everyone"](#)

Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Nidhi Goyal, 32, is a disabled feminist from India who works on disability rights and gender equality. After losing her sight as a teenager, Goyal committed herself to changing the lives of persons with disabilities, and particularly women and girls with disabilities. As a researcher, writer, trainer, stand-up comedian and advocate, she works to raise awareness on the intersection of the disability rights movement, and the women's movement. [More](#)



#### [In the words of Jana Mustafa: "Disability should not stop anyone from starting over"](#)

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Jana Mustafa is a former employee of an international NGO and a survivor of violence. She lost her job due to an abusive marriage and experienced years of physical and psychological violence. She got a divorce with the legal help of the Hayat Centre in the Gaza Strip. [More](#)



[In the words of Elena Kochoska: "Women bear a double burden because of their gender and disability"](#)

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Elena Kochoska is a vocal advocate for persons with disabilities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and works at the local organization, Polio Plus, Movement Against Disability. She participated in training and mentoring sessions on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB)—analyzing a budget to ensure women’s needs are met—organized by UN

Women’s regional programme on GRB, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Austrian Development Agency. Thereafter, she prepared a report that did a cost-benefit analysis showing the benefits of including children with disabilities in mainstream education. [More](#)



[In the words of Ndèye Daro Niang: "I am a valued member of my community"](#)

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2016

Ms. Niang is one of 213 women with disabilities who have benefited from the Gender Equitable Local Development programme implemented by UN Women in 58 local councils in Senegal, with financial support from Luxembourg. Through workshops and information sessions, women with disabilities have been sensitized and trained on Senegal’s landmark social orientation law, adopted in 2010, and on addressing the unique and specific needs of disabled women in menstrual hygiene management. [More](#)

## From Where I Stand: Women with Disabilities and the SDGs



[From where I stand: "Not being able to see was not an obstacle"](#)

Date: Thursday, September 6, 2018

Palmira Martínez, a professional runner who is blind, is among the 70,000 women who ran for gender equality in Mexico as part of the largest 5K race for women in the world. [Learn](#)



[From where I stand: "I am different, but that doesn't mean that I should be condemned"](#)

Date: Monday, December 18, 2017

Olga Berdeu, 50, is a woman with disabilities from Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, who attended UN Women’s "We have abilities, we want possibilities!" initiative, which aims to strengthen the leadership skills of women with disabilities in the Republic of Moldova. The initiative ran from June to October 2017 and was part of the UN “Women in Politics” Programme, financed by the Government of Sweden. [More](#)



[From where I stand: "Technology sees skills before gender and disability"](#)

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017

Casar Jacobson, a disability rights activist and a UN Women Youth Champion, shares her personal story of living with hearing disability and persevering to carve out a place in the world of work. She stresses on the power of technology in ensuring that no one is left behind. [More](#)



[From where I stand: "Being a person with disability is challenging. Being a woman with disability adds extra challenges"](#)

Date: Friday, June 9, 2017

Malvika Iyer, a Disability Rights Activist and motivational speaker, received a standing ovation for her speech at the CSW61 Youth Forum. After losing her hands from a bomb blast, she became a strong advocate for inclusion of disability rights and gender. [More](#)



[From where I stand: “We must be at the table making decisions”](#)

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2017

For Pratima Gurung from Nepal, empowering indigenous women with disabilities starts with making them count as active participants and decision-makers, not just observers of decisions. She points to the need to strengthen their voices in disability fora, as well as indigenous peoples’ fora. [More](#)



[From where I stand: Eisha Mohammed](#)

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Eisha Mohammed, 41, is a solar engineer working and living in Mjimwema, a remote village in southern Tanzania. She spent six months training to be a solar engineer at the Barefoot College in India, supported by UN Women and the Government of India. [More](#)



[From where I stand: Cristina Francisco Reyes](#)

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Cristina Francisco Reyes, paraplegic since the age of 9, founded the Circle of Women with Disabilities (CIMUDIS), an NGO that advocates for the social inclusion, rights and equal access of women living with disabilities in the Dominican Republic, in all areas of life. [More](#)

**In the Global Stage**



[Civil Society calls to leave no woman or girl in rural communities behind in the quest for gender equality](#)

Date: Friday, March 16, 2018

On the sidelines of the 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), UN Women, along with civil society partners\*, convened a dialogue with activists from rural areas and other allies. The conversation brought together diverse constituencies from around the globe to discuss what it would take to leave no woman or girl in any rural area behind in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Participants included indigenous women, those living with disability, members of the LGBTI community, widows, refugees and migrants and youth activists, who highlighted the importance of including their needs in actions towards gender equality. [More](#)



[EU-UN Spotlight Initiative urges inclusive global action on violence against women and girls](#)

Date: Thursday, March 22, 2018

On 12 March, opening day of the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), the Spotlight Initiative, a multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations, brought together leaders from Government and civil society to discuss strategies for eliminating violence against women and girls. Lizzie Kiama, an advocate from Kenya who said that women with disabilities were “10 times more likely to experience violence than women without disabilities.” [More](#)



[Women with disabilities raise their voices during session on rights treaty](#)

Date: Thursday, June 16, 2016

As part of the 9th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, being held in New York from 14-16 June 2016, and as the UN treaty approaches its 10th anniversary, women and girls with disabilities took part in a series of side events, emphasizing that they are the key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so that "no one is left behind." [More](#)

## News and Features



### [UN Women Handicap International launch project to empower women with disabilities](#)

Date: Friday, August 31, 2018

UN Women Pakistan and Handicap International entered into a partnership to work together to increase the recognition of persons with disabilities (PWDs) as rights holders, decrease vulnerability, stigma and discrimination associated with disability, increase the capacity of Disable Persons Organizations (DPOs) to help them generate evidence and engage in protecting the rights and support delivery of services for PWDs at provincial and national levels, including through awareness and linkages with relevant institutions, access to services and support. [More](#)



### [Ending violence against women with disabilities in Serbia's custodial institutions](#)

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017

A recent study has uncovered that women, like Edith, with mental disabilities who are being held in Serbia's institutions often suffer multiple forms of violence. [More](#)



### [Textile workers in Honduras organize to defend their rights together](#)

Date: Monday, March 27, 2017

Although diagnosed with a disability due to excessive work and stress, Maria Gutierrez couldn't convince her factory manager initially to lower the production outputs she was expected to deliver. With the help of a feminist collective, supported by UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, she was able to defend her rights, and is known for her organizing skills among the textile workers. [More](#)



### [Strengthening the capacity of networks of women with disabilities on humanitarian action](#)

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Women leaders with disabilities from the Network of African Women with Disabilities (NAWWD) representing 10 African countries, and refugee women with disabilities met in Nairobi, Kenya from 11-12 February to participate in the workshop "Enhancing the Network's Humanitarian Advocacy at Regional and Global Events". [More](#)

## Knowledge Products



### [Issue brief: Making the SDGs count for women and girls with disabilities](#)

Date: Monday, July 3, 2017

In line with several critical areas under thematic review at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017, this issue brief underlines the need to mainstream disability into all efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5); highlights key issues for ending poverty (SDG 1) and ensuring healthy lives (SDG 3) for women and girls with disabilities; and calls for closing data gaps on gender and disability. [More](#)

### [Fund for Gender Equality Thematic Factsheet: "Leaving No One Behind" In Action](#)

Observations from FGE's seven-year experience working with civil society. This factsheet offers practical insights based on the experience of UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) in working with marginalized populations through its support to women led civil society organizations (CSOs). [en](#) | [es](#) | [fr](#)

