

Concept Note

Lessons from 20 years of CRPD Advocacy: How do we rethink partnerships between international organisations, governments and advocates to achieve change?

Side-Event at the 19th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

International Sign interpretation and Closed Captioning will be provided

Sponsor:

- UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Co-sponsors:

- European Commission
- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations in New York
- Permanent Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the United Nations in New York
- The Leprosy Mission International
- Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability – Malta

Background

After 20 years of the CRPD, we have learnt important lessons about the leadership and advocacy of persons with disabilities. There have been many successes – including the establishment of the CRPD itself – but there have also been failures. However, what we learn from these moments – as international organisations, governments and advocates – is not always shared and used as an opportunity to grow.

What have we learnt from these experiences that would allow us to shape the next 20 years of the CRPD, so that rethought partnerships between international organisations, governments and advocates could facilitate the implementation of the Convention?

Objectives

The side event will explore what has worked and what has not worked from the perspectives of international organisations, governments and advocates, in different countries, and in specific regions.

We want to learn lessons from both successes and failures that could allow us to rethink our international organisation-government-advocate partnerships across different countries and regions.

Key Matters to Be Explored

ESCWA and the European Commission would share their experiences of bringing together both CRPD focal points, and civil society actors, within their respective frameworks, in furtherance of the CRPD's objectives in the Arab and European regions.



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Specific examples from stakeholders in Brazil and Malta would explore government-advocate engagement in the fields of reparations for persons affected by leprosy, participatory mechanisms within CRPD focal points and equality bodies, and access to justice for persons with disabilities

Best practices at local, regional and international level would also be shared, from a grassroots perspective, by disability advocates from across civil society, including The Leprosy Mission, Sightsavers, Humanity & Inclusion and Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI).

Aside from providing a platform for the sharing of different stakeholder experiences, the side event aims to serve as a platform for engaging participants in discussion, on the key themes being tackled, to both raise awareness, and serve as a means of informing further advocacy and fostering networking.