
World Health Organization
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Cross Regional Statement on the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy
Agenda item 3: Report by the Director-General

Delivered by Prof. Itamar Grotto
Assistant Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Health

Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

I am speaking on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Botswana Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uruguay.

We would like to begin by thanking the Director-General for a very comprehensive statement.

Chairperson,

The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy was launched in June 2019 by the United Nations Secretary-General. This Strategy enables the UN system to mainstream disability inclusion through all pillars of the UN's work. By ensuring the UN leaves no one behind, the Strategy is core to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Strategy sets the bar high, calling all UN entities to raise their standards and performance on disability inclusion, by assuring the rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the organization's work.

We welcome and fully support the new strategy, and see it as directly linked to the WHO transformation process.

Chairperson,

We commend the efforts made thus far to promote accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities in the WHO.

We see the full implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy as a necessary step to enhance these efforts even further, in all levels of the organization.

WHO has a unique opportunity to set an example and lead on disability inclusion in the UN system, in line with the Strategy, as the UN specialized agency responsible for public health.

The successful implementation of the Strategy will only be possible if actions are taken with the full support and commitment of the organization as a whole, across all levels.

We would like to assure you, Director-General, that you may count on our support to achieve the goals of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. At the same time, we would like to express the importance of keeping Member States informed on the progress made in its implementation .

I thank you for your attention.