

Leaving No One Behind: Policy approaches to recognise intersectionality and promote inclusivity for women and girls with disabilities in sustainable development

Wednesday 10 April 2019 | 16:15 – 18:00 | MZ Meeting Room | UN House, Beirut

Background:

Including and empowering all women and girls is critical to achieve gender equality. The inclusion of all women and girls hinges on the identification and understanding of the experiences of those groups that are at higher risk of being left behind due to socioeconomic and structural barriers, or their higher risk of vulnerability. Research in the Arab States region suggests that factors such as socio-economic status, access to essential services, age, and disability intersect and impact on women and girls' experience of gender equality and empowerment. Certain contexts such as conflict and sustained poverty exacerbate inequalities deriving from intersectionality. It is thus important to identify and unpack the multiple experiences of women in the Arab States region to examine the different experiences that determine development outcomes.

This special session focuses on inclusiveness and exploring its various dimensions and inter-linkages with women's empowerment and gender equality. In particular, the session capitalizes on the experiences and contributions of women and girls with disabilities and aims to shine a light on inclusive approaches to Agenda 2030 implementation.

Session Objective:

The session will discuss the barriers that put some groups at a higher risk of being left behind. It will also highlight challenges to inclusivity and will identify strategies and best practices to ensure those groups enjoy full rights to participate in and benefit from sustainable development. The session will highlight the contributions of women and girls with disabilities to implementation of Agenda 2030 and share best practices, experiences, strategies etc. to ensure that this demographic group is fully included in Agenda 2030 implementation, and opportunities to strengthen interlinkages between policy interventions.

Key Theme of Discussion:

The discussion will examine various dimensions of inclusivity as it relates to gender equality and the principle of Leave No One Behind for the implementation of Agenda 2030, through the intersectional lens of disability.

Facilitator:

- [Ms. Rouba Arja](#), Social Affairs Officer, ESCWA Centre for Women, ESCWA

Panelists:

- [Ms. Rasha Abouelazm](#), Regional Programme Manager *a.i.* UN Women Men and Women for Gender Equality Programme
- [Ms. Simone ellisOluoch-Olunya](#), Regional Women's Political Participation Advisor, UN Women
- [Mr. Khalid Benhassan](#), Director of the Mohamed VI National Center for People with Disabilities, Morocco
- [Ms. Sabah Al Bahlani](#), Omani Parliamentarian and Chief Executive Officer at Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disability, Oman
- [Ms. Safiya Al Bahlani](#), art gallery founder and advocate for people with disabilities, Oman
- [Ms. Heba Hagrass](#), former Secretary General of the National Council for Disability Affairs, Member of the Egyptian Parliament, and Board Member of the National Council for Women, Egypt
- [Ms. Angela Zettler](#), Associate Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCWA

This Special Session will be live-streamed



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