

Artificial Intelligence for Inclusion: Strengthening Workforce Participation for Persons with Disabilities

A Side Event co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nation and UN Women

At the 18th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DATE: 10 June 2025

TIME: 13:15 to 14:30

LOCATION: UN Headquarters, Conference Room 11

LIVE STREAMED: UN WebTV <https://webtv.un.org/en>

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the modern workplace, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance accessibility, productivity, and workforce participation for persons with disabilities. However, AI also presents risks such as unintentional biases, accessibility gaps, and discriminatory decision-making, that must be addressed to ensure fair and inclusive employment practices.

This side event will offer the opportunity to explore how AI can be leveraged to foster meaningful workforce participation for persons with disabilities. The discussion will also consider how AI can either exacerbate or help address the intersecting barriers faced by various groups, including women and girls with disabilities who often face layered discrimination in the workforce. By bringing together experts from diverse sectors, the discussion will offer strategic insights and concrete solutions to ensure that AI-driven employment processes remove barriers rather than create new ones. Through international collaboration and shared best practices, we can work toward a future where AI actively supports the full and equitable participation of persons with disabilities in the workforce.

Format and Scenario

This side event will identify the opportunities and challenges AI presents for workforce inclusion and provide insights into international best practices and opportunities for global collaboration on AI accessibility.

The panelists' presentations will outline:

- Reflections on the current and emerging work on the human-centered development and use of safe, secure and trustworthy AI in the world of work, and the opportunities and risks of AI for underrepresented groups, in particular persons with disabilities.
- Ethical AI governance both internationally and domestically, specifically looking at the process of implementing a comprehensive AI regulatory frameworks.

International Sign Language and English Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) will be provided.

- Intersectional perspective on the development and use of technical tools and training programs that are aimed at fostering technology for inclusive and transformative participation in global review processes.
- Best practices and lessons learned towards ensuring inclusive design in the digital transformation and global connection of society, with attention to specific challenges faced by women with disabilities and other groups who face marginalization in employment systems.

Participants

Welcome remarks by Ambassador Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York

Opening remarks by The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families, Canada's Head of Delegation

Moderator: Elisha Ram, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Employment and Social Development Canada, Government of Canada

Panelists:

H.E. Macaé Evaristo, Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship, Government of Brazil

Government of Germany (TBC)

A.H. Monjurul Kabir, Senior Global Adviser and Team Leader at Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion, UN Women

Dr. Jutta Treviranus, Director and Professor at Inclusive Design Research Centre, OCAD University

A question-and-answer period with the audience will follow the panel discussion.

Run of Show

- Moderator to provide a brief introduction of each panelist
- Welcome remarks provided to set the context for the event
- Opening Remarks to provide a brief introduction of the event topic
- Panelists to deliver their presentations
- Q & A session
- Closing

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