

Concept Note

Enhancing public awareness on Empowering Persons with Disabilities and Fostering Sustainable Development

**10 June 2025 – 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm – Trusteeship Council
Chambers, UNHQ, New York**

Persons with disabilities represent approximately 15% of the global population, constituting one of the world's largest minority groups. In the run-up to the 2nd World Summit for Social Development, which focuses on the three pillars of Poverty eradication, full employment and decent work and social inclusion, persons with disabilities are essential stakeholders.

Entrepreneurship and leadership by persons with disabilities can create employment opportunities and workplace environments truly inclusive. Their active engagement is imperative to achieve SDG 8 and SDG10 in letter and spirit. Adoption of such approaches contribute to innovative solutions to social development. Scaling up affordable assistive technology solutions for the active engagement of persons with disabilities is critical.

The work of the Jaipur Foot organization (Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti) provides valuable lessons in this regard – both in developing affordable assistive technology and leveraging South-South Cooperation to reach the most deserving in the Global South.

By bringing to the fore voices of such staunch advocates for empowering persons with disabilities, we hope to add to the global momentum for creating conducive ecosystems that help realize the full human potential of persons with disabilities. We hope to catalyze their greater inclusion and participation in future social development efforts and effective, sustainable, and equitable social development for all.
