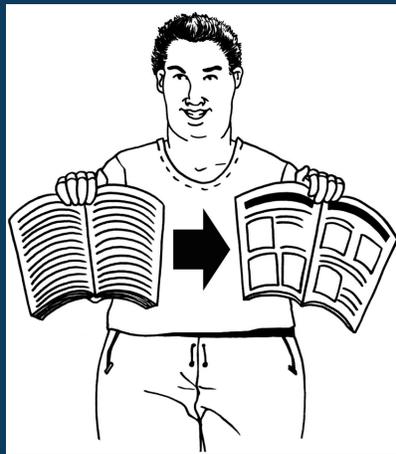




**United
Nations**

**Programme of
the 16th Session of
the Conference of State Parties
to the Convention on the Rights of
Persons With Disabilities**



Easy Read Translation

Introduction

The next pages explain the conference and why it is happening.

About the United Nations and the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities



UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is an organization made up of governments from 193 countries.

The United Nations is also called the **UN**.



Human Rights

All people should be treated well. The rights to be treated well are called: **Human Rights**.



The United Nations wrote a document to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

This document is called: **The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

People also call this document **CRPD**.



Many governments from countries around the world signed the CRPD.

Governments who sign agree to protect the rights of people with disabilities in their countries.

About COSP16

Conference of State Parties to the CRPD

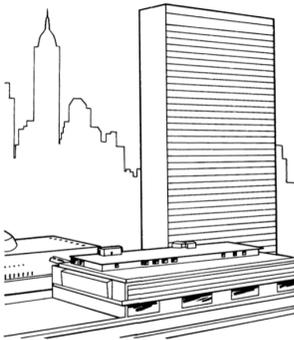


Countries that sign the CRPD must explain to the UN how they protect the rights of people with disabilities.



At the **Conference of State Parties**, people from many countries come together to talk about protecting the rights of people with disabilities.

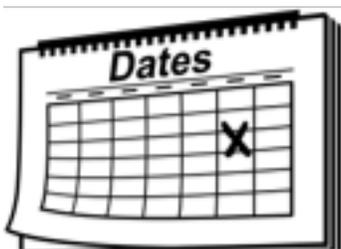
People call this meeting: **COSP**



This Conference happens every year at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

In 2023, it is the **16th year of the conference**.

People call the conference: **COSP 16**.



It will be a 3-day event.

It will be held from **13 June 2023** to **15 June 2023**.

Each day has a morning session and an afternoon session.

How to Attend COSP16



Only people who are registered can attend in person. To register you need to belong to an organization that is allowed to attend.

This is the link to register:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1004737/registrations/10467/>



People can also watch the meeting on the internet.

This is the link to website: media.un.org



If you attend, you do not have to participate in all sessions. You can choose what you are interested in and attend those sessions only.



New York



London



Tokyo

The time in this document is the time in New York City.

If you attend online from another part of the world, you can find the time difference to where you live on this website:

<https://24timezones.com/difference>

COSP16 Programme

On the next pages you find what meetings will be happening and who will speak.

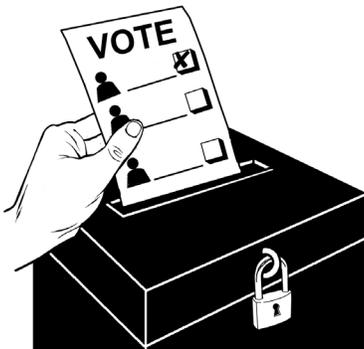
Day 1 – Morning

Tuesday, 13 June 2023, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
In the General Assembly Hall



Opening of the Conference

Mr. Li Junhua, will speak at the beginning. He is the Under Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the UN.



The meeting will hold elections for officers.



H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, President of the Conference, will talk about the agenda and how the conference will be organized.



H.E. before the name means His Excellency. You will see this often on the next pages.

Day 1 – Morning

Tuesday, 13 June 2023, from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

In the General Assembly Hall



Opening Remarks - The following people will speak:

- **H.E. Mr Tarek Ladeb** (President of Conference)
- **H.E. Mr. António Guterres** (Secretary-General of the United Nations)
- **H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi** (President of the General Assembly)
- **Ms. Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame** (Chairperson, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
- **Mr. Gerard Quinn** (Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
- **Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes** (Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility)
- **Mr. Nawaf Kabbara** (Civil Society Representative from the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities of Lebanon)
- **Mr. Ghanim Al Muftah** (Youth Representative, Qatar)



General Debate

People will talk about what is needed in order to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

Day 1 – Afternoon

Tuesday, 13 June 2023, from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

In the General Assembly Hall

People will take a break for lunch from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The meeting will continue at 3:00 pm.



General Debate

People will continue to talk about what is important to do next to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb, President of the Conference will moderate the conversation.



Day 2 – Morning

Wednesday, 14 June 2023, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

In Conference Room 4



Mr. Tasos Kezas



Ms. Savaira Tinaivuniyalu

This meeting will be led by:

- **Mr. Tasos Kezas**, Counsellor
Permanent Mission to Greece and Vice President
of the Conference
- **Ms. Savaira Tinaivuniyalu**, Fiji Disabled
Peoples Federation



Topic

Making sure people with disabilities are getting sexual and reproductive health services.



Sexual and reproductive health can mean many things.

It can mean being able to have birth control and menstrual pads available. It can also mean receiving medical support during pregnancy.

It also means being able to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. And it means getting medical care for people who have a sexually transmitted disease.

Day 2 – Morning

Wednesday, 14 June 2023, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
In Conference Room 4



The following people will speak about sexual and reproductive health:

- **Ms Natalia Moreno Rodriguez** (Member, Inclusion of People with Disabilities Management of the Vice Presidency, Colombia)
- **Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes** (Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility)
- **Ms. Leyla Sharafi** (Global Disability Focal Point and Senior Advisor, UNFPA)
- **Ms. Nora Groce** (Professor, University College London)
- **Mr. Sadam Hanjabam** (Ya_All: The Youth Network, Manipur, India)



People in the room will be able to ask questions or say what they think about sexual and reproductive health.



At the end, a person leading the meeting will repeat the most important points.

Day 2 – Afternoon

Wednesday, 14 June 2023, from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

In Conference Room 4



Mr. Sugeeshwara Gunaratna



Mr. Mohammed Ali Loufy

This meeting will be led by:

- **Mr. Sugeeshwara Gunaratna** (Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka and Vice President of the Conference.
- **Mr. Mohammed Ali Loufy** (Director for Capacity Building and Advocacy, G3ICT)



Topic

Making digital technology accessible for people with disabilities.



People with disabilities often cannot use technology like the internet or phones.

Digital accessibility means making sure that technology is made in a way that people with disabilities can use it.

Day 2 – Afternoon

Wednesday, 14 June 2023, from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

In Conference Room 4



The following people will talk about accessible technology:

- **Mr. Chong Kwek Bin** (Technology Analyst, SG Enable, Singapore)
- **Mr. László G. Lovászy** (Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of International Relations and Diplomacy, University of Public Service, Hungary)
- **Mr. Constantinos Stephanidis** (President, National Accessibility Authority, Greece)
- **Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu** (Senior Coordinator for Digital Inclusion Development Bureau, ITU)
- **Mr. Jean Marie Furaha** (Advisor, Rwanda Organization of Persons with Deaf Blindness [ROPDB], Rwanda)



People in the room will be able to ask questions or say what they think about accessible technology.



At the end, a person leading the meeting will repeat the most important points.

Day 3 – Morning
Thursday, 15 June 2023, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
In Conference Room 4

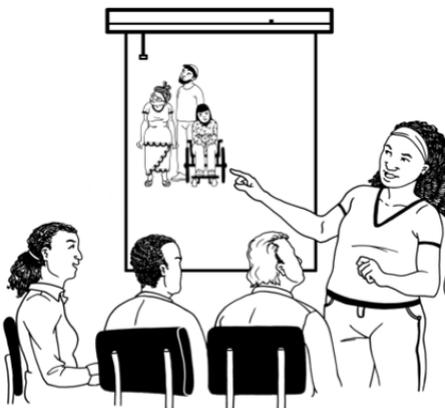


Ms. Iris González de Valenzuela



This meeting will be led by:

- **Ms. Iris González de Valenzuela**, Director of the National Secretariat on Disability (SENADIS), Panama
- **Ms. Ana Ivonia**, The Leprosy Mission, Timor-Leste



Topic

How to reach under-represented groups of people with disabilities.



Under-represented groups within the disability community are groups that are not often talked about or seen.

Reaching under-represented groups means making sure that their needs are included.

People with intellectual disabilities are an under-represented group.

Day 3 – Morning
Thursday, 15 June 2023, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
In Conference Room 4



The following people will talk about reaching under-represented groups:

- **H.E. Mrs. Haidi Zhang** (Chairperson, China Disabled Persons' Federation)
- **H.E. Ms. Carla Qualtrough** (Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Canada)
- **H.E. Mr. Pawel Wdowik** (Secretary of State, Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Poland)
- **Mr. Christopher Nwanoro** (Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria)
- **Ms. Maryangel Garcia Ramos Guadiana** (Executive Director, Women Enabled International, Mexico)



People in the room will be able to ask questions or say what they think about reaching under-represented groups.



At the end, a person leading the meeting will repeat the most important points.

Day 3 – Afternoon

Thursday, 15 June 2023, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

In Conference Room 4



People from organizations in the UN and governments will talk about making sure the rights of people with disabilities are respected.

Mr. Tarek Ladeb, President of the Conference will lead the meeting.



Part 1: People from UN organizations will talk and answer questions:

- Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
- Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- United Nations Partnerships on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD)

Day 3 – Afternoon

Thursday, 15 June 2023, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

In Conference Room 4

Part 2: People working for the UN and people from organizations that support people with disabilities will speak and answer questions:



- **Ms. Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame** (Chairperson, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
- **Mr. Gerard Quinn** (Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
- **Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes** (Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility)
- **Ms. Robinah Alambuya** (Civil Society Representative, President of Transforming Communities for Inclusion)



Decisions by the Conference will be announced. This will include when and where the next conference will be held and other decisions.



H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb

To end the conference the Vice Presidents of the conference will speak.

Final words will come from the President of the Conference, H.E. Mr. Tarek Ladeb.

Side Events during COSP16

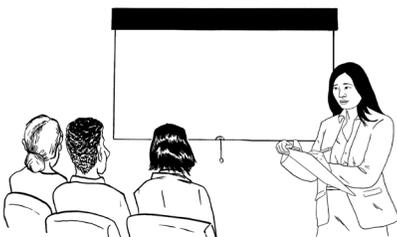
There are many more events happening at the conference. The next page explains these events and how to take part in them.

Side Events at COSP 16



During the conference, there will be other events. These are called side events.

Side events are on many different disability topics. Side events are held by countries or organizations.



Some side events are in person at the UN Headquarters in New York.

These side events are in conference rooms in the UN building.



Other side events are online.

You can attend on your computer from anywhere in the world.



You can find the list of side events at this link:

<https://teamup.com/ks5jg54ivsuj2hwc3h>

Updates on the
Conference of State Parties to the CRPD
will be available at the
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
website link at:

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/cosp/16th-session-of-the-conference-of-states-parties-to-the-crpd>

This Easy Read translation was developed by:



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and un.org