



# International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 DECEMBER



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Changing the “Face” of Tech Leadership: 

**Celebrating Persons with Disabilities who are Leading the Way in Technology and Innovation**

**08:30 – 09:45 am EST**

**Thursday, December 14, 2023**

## **Background:**

The 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) theme, "United in action to rescue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for, with and by persons with disabilities," underscores the need for collaborative efforts to ensure sustainable development for individuals with disabilities and that they are part of the solutions including at the design stage. In line with this theme, there is a growing recognition of the significance of promoting the participation and leadership of persons with disabilities in shaping the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Access to education, knowledge and information including through accessible formats is also an imperative to facilitate the participation of women, men and young people in the development of solutions that will help shape an inclusive and sustainable future for all.

## **Objectives:**

The primary objective of this event is to celebrate the contributions of persons with disabilities in the creativity technology, and innovation sector and to promote their active involvement in leadership positions. Specifically, the event aims to:

- Highlight the participation and leadership of persons with disabilities in the innovation and tech sectors.
- Shed light on initiatives aiming at creating an enabling educational environment to facilitate the active participation of women and men in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs
- Showcase initiatives that support the career advancement of women with disabilities in innovation and technology.
- Emphasize the role of women entrepreneurs with disabilities in innovation and tech.

## **Event Overview:**

To mark the 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and partners are organizing a session that will spotlight the achievements and initiatives of women with disabilities in the tech sector, and spotlight legal and technological solutions that contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for women and men to participate in the creativity and STI sector. This session will serve as a platform to showcase existing initiatives that facilitate the career advancement of women with disabilities in innovation and technology, celebrate accomplishments including those of women entrepreneurs with disabilities, and discuss actions/practices needed to further support persons with disabilities in the creativity and STI sphere.

The event will also look bring a gender perspective to the theme. Despite the substantial growth in innovation and technology, the representation of women, particularly those with disabilities, in leadership positions remains inadequate. This event seeks to highlight the significant contributions of women with disabilities in various roles within the sector and to promote their visibility and influence. By doing so, it aims to challenge stereotypes, foster inclusivity, and create equal opportunities while also giving women the platform to share their perspectives on what it will take to accelerate transformation.

The session will encourage collective action to ensure that innovation and technology become more inclusive and accessible. By promoting diversity and inclusivity, we aim to drive progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and creating a more equitable and prosperous future for all.