



Check Against Delivery

**United Nations General Assembly Seventy-fourth Session  
Fifth Committee**

**Introduction of the Note of the Secretary-General  
on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled:  
“Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the  
United Nations system” (JIU/REP/2018/6)”**

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to introduce, on behalf of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the note of the Secretary-General conveying his comments and those of CEB members on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit “Enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2018/6)” as contained in A/74/217/Add.1.

Organizations of the United Nations system welcomed the report and its findings and recommendations. They appreciated the breadth of its scope and supported the concept of addressing accessibility of persons with disabilities to UN meetings and conferences through a holistic approach for the benefit of all staff, visitors and beneficiaries with disabilities.

Organizations noted that the country context should be taken into consideration when implementing the proposed recommendations and drew attention to the importance of exercising some level of flexibility in accessibility requirements when planning conferences in field locations vs. headquarters.

Organizations observed that the proposed recommendations should be considered and implemented in the context of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, spearheaded by the Secretary-General and approved by the Chief Executives Board in May 2019, soon after the issuance of this Note. The strategy was conceived to provide a foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the United Nations' work. Its adoption established the highest levels of commitment and a vision for the United Nations system on disability inclusion for the next decade, and clear and achievable objectives against which the United Nations will be accountable at individual entity and country team levels.

Organizations mostly supported the provisions of the proposed recommendations, underscoring that the implementation of some of them might have cost implications and may require an adequate time period.

On behalf of the organizations of the UN system, I would like to thank the JIU for this report, which covered a topic of great importance to CEB members and particular relevance to the entire UN system in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Thank you.