

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 September 2013

Excellency,

In reference to the forthcoming “High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities”, I have the honour to inform Member States that preparations for this High-level meeting are going as planned.

I am also pleased to inform you in line with resolution A/RES/66/124; the high-level meeting will comprise an opening plenary session, two consecutive informal interactive round tables and a closing plenary session. In this regard, the opening plenary will feature statements from the President of the 68th session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes**); an eminent person actively engaged in disability issues (**Mr. Stevie Wonder, Award-winning songwriter and musician, United Nations Messenger of Peace**) and a representative of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (**Mr. Yannis Vardakastanis, President of the European Disability Forum**).

Furthermore, pursuant to operative paragraph 9 of the afore-said resolution, **Ms. Robinah Alambuya, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry** will speak at the first round table entitled “International and regional cooperation and partnerships for disability inclusive development” in her capacity as a representative of a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

In accordance with operative paragraph 3 (a) of the afore-mentioned resolution relating to the two consecutive informal interactive round tables, the following Member States will co-chair the two round tables at the ministerial level:

- **Round table 1: International and regional cooperation and partnerships for disability inclusive development**

Co – Chairs:

- (1) Philippines: H.E. Ms. Corazan Juliano Soliman, Minister of Welfare.
- (2) Spain: H.E. Mr. José Manuel García Margallo, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

- **Round table 2: Post-2015 development agenda and inclusive development for persons with disabilities**

Co – Chairs:

- (1) Finland: H.E. Ms. Heidi Hautala, Minister of International Development.
- (2) Tunisia: H.E. Mr. Othman Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs

In connection with other organizational arrangements of the High-level Meeting, delegations wishing to inscribe on the indicative list of speakers for the interactive round table discussions are kindly reminded to **inscribe in one round table only** and to contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch (e-mail poliakova@un.org; room S-3082; tel. 1 (212) 963-5063; fax 1 (212) 963-3783). Interventions in the interactive round table discussions should not exceed *three minutes* when speaking in a national capacity, and *five minutes* when speaking on behalf of a group.

Additional information on the High-level Meeting including the draft programme is available on the website of the President of the General Assembly and the UN Journal.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Ambassador Dejan Sahovic

Deputy Chef de Cabinet