

# “Disability ≠ Inability” Equality and Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Enhancing Co-ordinated Response

A Side Event at the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to  
the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Organised by the Council of Europe and  
the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat  
Sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations

**TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2016, 1:15PM – 2:30PM**

**Conference Room 4 (CR.4), United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**T**he United Nations estimates that globally some one billion individuals live with one or more disabilities. In Europe alone, there are an estimated 80 million Europeans with a disability. This means that **one in four Europeans have a family member with a form of disability**.

— The United Nations and the Council of Europe work towards the promotion of equality and full participation of persons with disabilities in society, following a **rights-based approach** as opposed to the medical model. **Persons with disabilities as fully-fledged citizens with equal rights** is the underlying principle of this approach which is best summarised by the principles shared by both organisations: **independence, freedom of choice, full participation, equality and human dignity**.

— This Side Event will explore the link between disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as enhance concerted action, co-operation and partnerships between regional and international organisations to ensure full protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities in the context of achieving internationally agreed SDGs.

## **SPEAKERS:**

- ▶ **Marja Ruotanen**, Director of Human Dignity and Equality, Council of Europe
- ▶ **Daniela Bas**, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- ▶ **Kalle Könkkölä**, Chair of the Finnish Disability Forum, Dr. hc.

## **MODERATOR:**

- ▶ **Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele**, Head of Equality Division, Council of Europe

