



## **“Unusual” employment of persons with disabilities: from words to work**

### **Side Event**

**New York, 16 June 2016 1:15-2:30 pm**

**Conference Room 6, UN Headquarters**

#### **Introduction**

There is an increasing interest among companies in developing countries to promote the employment of persons with disabilities. This welcome interest stands in contrast with the wide held belief that the only option for people with disabilities to have a job in developing countries is through being self-employed, usually in the informal economy. Employment of persons with disabilities is still seen as something “unusual”.

One example of this interest are the different national business and disability networks that have been established over the last few years in countries like Chile, Zambia, Peru, Brazil, Costa Rica and Saudi Arabia. Similar initiatives are being discussed in China, Indonesia and Egypt. Many of these initiatives have benefitted from the support of the ILO, provided in connection with the ILO Global Business and Disability Network (ILO GBDN).

However, much remains to be done not only to increase the awareness of employers on the advantages of becoming disability-inclusive, but also to ensure that people with disabilities and businesses are provided with the adequate support services to ensure the right to decent work of people with disabilities.

#### **Objectives of the meeting**

To provide information on different initiatives at global and national level that seek to promote the private sector employment of persons with disabilities, with a particular attention to the situation in developing countries.

To promote collaboration among different stakeholders so that the environmental conditions become more conducive for persons with disabilities to find employment in the private sector.



### **Co-sponsors of the meeting**

This side event is organized and co-hosted by the Permanent Missions to the UN of Australia, Costa Rica, Finland and Spain, the International Disability Alliance, the UN Global Compact and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

### **Draft programme**

1:15-1:25 Welcoming remarks by Shauna Olney, Chief of Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch of the ILO and by Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN

1:25-2:05 Panel discussion moderated by Juan Carlos Mendoza, Ambassador and Permanent Representative Costa Rica to the UN. The panel will include:

- Debra Ruh, G3ict EmployAbility Chair
- Alessandra Furtado, Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Virginia Carcedo, Fundación ONCE and Foro Inserta
- Adesuwa Ighile, UN Global Compact
- Stefan Trömel, Secretariat of the ILO Global Business and Disability Network

2:05-2:20 Questions and comments from the floor

2:20-2:30 Closing remarks from James Christian, First Assistant Secretary, Australian Department of Social Services and Maryanne Diamond (International Disability Alliance).

(Closed captioning will be provided. A light lunch will be served outside of the room for side event participants)