



Parliamentarians for Global Action

Strategy Session

Role of Parliamentarians in addressing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

May 8, 2009

Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

Support from the:

*Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*

Agenda

- 09:30 – 09:40 Welcome Remarks
Mr. Harald Fries, Minister, Economic and Social Affairs Coordinator
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations
Sen. Bassey Ewa-Henshaw (Nigeria), President of PGA
- 09:40 - 09:50 Introduction
Ms. Marie Norden, MP (Sweden), Convenor of PGA's Sustainable Development,
Health and Population Program (SDHP); Member, Sida Advisory Council
- 09:50 – 10:15 Ms. Kathryn Cappella, NYS Disabilities Advocacy Association & Network
(NYSDAAN)
Dr. Mariette J. Bates, Academic Director of Disability Studies Programs, The City
University of New York (CUNY)
- 10:15 – 10:25 Break
- 10:25 – 10:40 Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief of the UN Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities (UN-DESA)
- 10:40 – 10:55 Ms. Luz Angela Melo, Human Rights Technical Adviser, UNFPA
- 10:55 – 11:05 Mr. Ibrahim Sorie, MP (Sierra Leone); Post-Conflict Disabilities
- 11:05 – 11:50 Open Discussion
- 11:50 – 12:00 Closing
Dr. Donya Aziz, MP (Pakistan), Deputy Convenor of PGA's SDHP

Discussion Topics:

- To discuss the need of implementing the UN Convention for People with Disabilities through domestic legislation;
- Identify gaps, needs and solutions regarding the design, delivery and funding of services and support through legislation:
 - a) health issues, namely in the workplace setting
 - consider gender discrepancies
 - access to information regarding communicable diseases and prevention such as HIV/AIDS
 - reproductive health concerns
 - b) legal capacity (article 12 of convention) – right to make one’s own decision (including its implications for mental health law)
- Strategies to harmonize goals and activities between government bodies, legislators and civil society that address elimination of barriers for persons with disabilities;
- Disabilities resulting from conflicts situation and post-conflicts.