



Disability inclusive trade: A call for action

Hybrid meeting

3 December 2024, 11.30–12.30 a.m.
International Labour Organization, room Lac
Route des Morillons, 4, Geneva

DITC/MISC/2024/17
(24/219gd)

The Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Trade and Disability Inclusion, established in 2024 by the International Labour Organization, the International Trade Centre, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization, brings together Geneva-based international organizations to focus on integrating and enhancing disability inclusion on trade and development agendas.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed internationally on 3 December, including at the United Nations. The Permanent Missions of Finland and South Africa, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Trade and Disability Inclusion, will hold an event on moving forward the work agenda on trade and disability inclusion issues.

Persons with disabilities account for one in six adults worldwide, yet this diverse group remains largely overlooked in international trade discussions. Further, the impact of international trade on persons with disabilities has been given little consideration in discussions on ensuring inclusive trade. As such, there is a need to integrate disability inclusion into these discussions, drawing parallels with recent strides made in mainstreaming gender into trade discussions and echoing the pledge in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind.

The purpose of this event is to seek views from key stakeholders in order for this issue to become a fully integrated part of the global trade agenda, as well as on further research that could support such potential inclusion. In particular, the meeting is aimed at increasing interest among member States in including persons with disabilities on the trade agenda.

This event represents a continuation of activities by the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Trade and Disability Inclusion, following side events held at the Aid for Trade global review on 26 June 2024 and the World Trade Organization Public Forum on 11 September 2024.

Participation and logistics

Participation is open to all and attendance in person is actively encouraged. Participation by member States and organizations for persons with disabilities is also encouraged. Please register in advance for either [in person participation](#) or for [remote participation](#).

For in-person attendees, security is located at the entrance to the International Labour Organization, door 5, R2 level. If arriving by taxi, indicate door 5; if arriving by bus, the nearest stop is BIT. The entrance is through the parking area, two floors below R2; lifts are available. A visitor's badge will be provided to holders of a United Nations badge. For those without a United Nations badge, a passport

or other identification is required in order to verify registered participants prior to the issuance of a visitor's badge. A staff member will accompany visitors to the meeting room.

For further information, visit <https://unctad.org/meeting/panel-discussion-disability-inclusive-trade-call-action>. For all other enquiries, please contact Mr. Graham Mott, email: graham.mott@unctad.org.

(signed)

Luz Maria de la Mora Sanchez
Director, Division on International Trade and Commodities
25 November 2024