Overcoming barriers to live independently in the community
United Nations Headquarters, CR12
10 June 2015, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Permanent Mission of Italy - in partnership with the Permanent Missions of Austria, Brazil, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia, International Disability Alliance and Disabled People’s International - are promoting a side event on specific issues related to the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities to live independently in the community.

Background
The Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006 and came into force on 3 May 2008. The Convention asks State Parties to elaborate and implement new global and holistic interventions towards the building of a fully inclusive society and an environment in which all may thrive.

The Convention stresses that persons with disabilities should be able to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life. Moreover, persons with disabilities must be guaranteed equal rights to live in the community, with choices equal to others. To this end, States Parties should take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications technology, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public.

Among such measures, the implementation of National Strategies on Disability, in coherence with the UN Convention, and the positive linkages between public actors and civil society are fundamental to an effective application of independent living policies consistent with the UN CRPD.

Main Objectives
♦ Consider UN CRPD implementation and participatory processes
♦ Discuss independent living models
♦ Propose new social protection policies for persons with disabilities
♦ Share best practices and remaining challenge

Moderator: Mr. Facundo Chavez Penillas, Human Rights and Disability Advisor, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Welcoming Remarks 10.00 – 10.20 am
♦ H.E. Inigo Lambertini, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations
♦ Dr. Abdulmohsen Alyas, Deputy Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations

Panel discussion 10.20 – 10.50 am
♦ Mr. Alfredo Ferrante, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies, Italy
♦ MD PhD Faleh Alrashidi, Ministry for Social Affairs, General Director, Italy
♦ Mr. Robert Martin, People First New Zealand
♦ Mr. Michael Fembek, Director of the Zero Project, Essl Foundation, Austria
♦ Ms. Maria Alarcos, World Health Organization

Discussion 10:50 – 11:30 am

For inquiries related to this event, please contact: sec.italyun@esteri.it tel +1 646 840 5388