

### IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	Sustainable accessibility goals for persons with disabilities (WS272)
Date	7th December 2016
Time	10:15 – 11:45
Session Organizer	The Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD) / The Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict)
Chair/Moderator	Ms Andrea Saks, DCAD Coordinator, ITU-T JCA-AHF Chair
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Ms Kaoru Mizuno, ITU-TSB
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Ms Francesca Cesa Bianchi, Vice President, Institutional Relations, G3ict Mr Gerry Ellis, Feel The Benefit Ms Gunela Astbrink, Women with Disabilities Australia Ms Judy Okite, Free Software and Open Source Foundation in Africa (FOSSFA) Ms Andrea Saks, DCAD Coordinator, ITU-T JCA-AHF Chair
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries have to immediately develop the means to monitor and report on the SDGs implementation of access to ICTs and the internet for persons with disabilities using the latest data and statistics.</li> <li>• Requirements for the public procurement of accessible ICT in the European EN301549 and the U.S. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act should be harmonized to promote Universal Design of products, environments, programmes and services to make them usable by persons with disabilities globally.</li> <li>• It is necessary to build an available, accessible and affordable mobile and Internet service for small island developing states so their citizens may have more opportunities to participate in the internet society, taking into account accessibility for persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Relay Services for Persons with Disabilities that provide real time access for persons who are deaf voiceless and others with specific needs via the internet should be available as inter-country service, being recognized as an international standard for interoperability.</li> <li>• Universal design should be deployed in the development of new ICT technologies to avoid barriers for persons with disabilities and prevent expensive refits.</li> </ul>
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	Ms <b>Francesca Cesa Bianchi</b> , G3ict, introduced the key facts revealed by the G3ict-DPI 2016 CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report, which showed both a positive impact of CRPD, and an opportunity for further progress as well as advocacy activities in the ICT field. Among the statistics she presented, she highlighted the necessity of for more statistics and data on the situation and problems for accessibility by

persons with disabilities and highlighted those especially in the global south countries. She emphasised also the need of progress on the accessibility of Government Web sites.

Mr **Gerry Ellis**, Feel The Benefit, described the big impact that the public procurement of accessible ICT makes on the market, and the importance of harmonization of the two major requirements for the public procurement of accessible ICT: European EN301549 and the U.S. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. This possible harmonization will be beneficial for persons with disabilities, industry and society as it will further promote interoperability and affordability.

Ms **Gunela Astbrink**, Women with Disabilities Australia, started explaining the ICT accessibility difficulties caused by geographical, socio-economic, cultural characteristics in small island developing states, especially in the pacific region as it is extremely large ocean area with small island countries thus transport and infrastructure costs are high. She stressed that persons with disabilities in the Pacific are suffering from double disadvantages due to the lack of educational and employment opportunities and to affordability technologies. She introduced a pilot project conducted in Vanuatu showing that many persons with disabilities there don't know about the Internet. She emphasized the importance of making websites accessible, and encouraging the multi-faceted approach, including, inclusion of persons with disabilities in the planning. She concluded by including the motto: that has become mantra of persons with disabilities: "Nothing about us without us".

Ms **Judy Okite**, Free Software and Open Source Foundation in Africa, raised a set of questions about the accessibility for persons with disabilities in the environment supported by new ICT technologies, Internet of Things (IoT). Highlighting the disadvantaged situation of persons with disabilities in developing countries, she questioned whether the development of technologies is further widening the gap for persons with disabilities and hindering inclusion especially in developing countries. She emphasised the importance of credible and accurate data to analyse and so as to give the global overview of the current situation. She highlighted that accessibility is about equality, justice, dignity and inclusion for all to the internet society as the conclusion of her presentation.

Ms **Andrea Saks**, DCAD Coordinator and ITU-T JCA-AHF Chair, introduced the history and the challenges in the development of the relay services for persons with disabilities. Then she stressed the importance of accessibility standards for global interoperability, for effective regulations for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and to avoid any new barriers that are being created by new technology and especially new proprietary technology that is not are not international standards. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of the involvement of persons with disabilities in the standardization process, and that concept of Universal Design being deployed from the very beginning of the standard writing process to the deployment of

	implementing those standards with the accessibility features included.
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	<p>Ms Julie Ward, Member of the European Parliament for the North West of England, explained that there are many people with invisible disabilities, in response to the question raised by Ms Deirdre Williams, a remote participant who is also a DCAD member. Ms Ward stated that as many of us are experiencing some form of disability or impairment as we age, policy makers, among others, should also consider the issues that might even apply to themselves when creating policies. She concluded by stating that unfortunately not seeing the disability means that the society is not dealing with it.</p> <p>Mr Gerry Ellis reiterated Ms Andrea Saks' comment that as we grow older, we will all acquire a disability, the alternative is to die, which means accessibility relates to everyone.</p>
Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)	<p>As repeated by many of the workshop participants, every single human being will get a lot of benefits from being included in the internet society, as life is getting longer and thus accessibility applies to everyone. It is important to deploy the concept of Universal Design from the beginning of any design of policies, products and services, otherwise the problems that persons with disabilities face every day will never be solved. To this end, persons with disabilities should be included in the planning.</p>