Global Business and Disability Network
5th annual meeting

23 October 2018

SOCIAL JUSTICE DECENT WORK

This meeting will take place the day after the 5th Annual Meeting of the ILO Global Business and Disability Network, and will be held from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (CEST) in the ILO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. There will be the possibility to connect through the Webex platform. Closed captioning will be provided.

Introduction

This annual meeting of National Business and Disability Networks (NBDNs) and their allies provides a unique opportunity to dive deeper into technical exploration of experiences and alliances in at country level. Business and Disability Networks face similar challenges but are in very different institutional positions and stages of development around the world. In this meeting, we learn from each other and see how to collaborate going forward. As such, it is also relevant for organizations looking to strengthen country-specific work on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the private sector.

Background

2017 saw the first global meeting of NBDNs. These networks – which exist in over twenty countries – bring together businesses and other partners to work for disability inclusion. For more about NBDNs themselves, see NBDN resources and the folder with resources from last year's meeting.

Since our last meeting, a new network has been founded with ILO support in China, and there are initiatives to start a network in India as well as other countries.

The ILO is honored to host the 2018 annual meeting of NBDNs to build on exchange between networks and their allies, as well as exploring related technical issues. Through both online and physical participation, we will share our current status, challenges and future plans.

Sessions throughout the day will cover:
*   New developments among NBDNs;
*   Setting up Sustainable NBDNs;
*   Exploring shared technical issues (in smaller groups and an online call);
*   Ways forward for collaboration.

A diverse range of participants for the meeting from ILO Global Business and Disability Network (GBDN) members and allies, including:
*   Company members of the GBDN;
*   NBDNs;
*   NGOs;
*   Organizations interested in forming or supporting NBDNs.

Times are local to Geneva, which is UTC+2

Time	Introduction
8:30-9:00	Registration and online connection
9:00-9:30	Opening and introductions
9:30-10:45	New developments in national networks • Haibin Zhou, China Business and Disability Network • Sarbani Chakravarty, Confederation of Indian Industry • Jürgen Menze, ILO Moderator: Bruce Roch, Adecco Group Open discussion.
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:30	Setting up Sustainable Networks • Murteza Khan, Bangladesh Business and Disability Network • Rodrigo Carvajal, Chilean Business and Disability Network Moderator: Stefan Tromel, ILO Open discussion.
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Group work to explore technical issues. See next page for topics. · Online Discussion: How to reach small- and medium-sized enterprises? Moderator: Nick Corby, Equal International
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:00	Reviewing group-work: • Presentations from group

Time	Introduction
16:00-16:45	Going forward together. Future plans and development partner perspectives • Richard Boden, DFID • Bettina Schmidt, GIZ • Stefan Tromel, ILO Moderator: Peter Fremlin, ILO Open discussion.
16:45-17:00	Closing and final remarks

Introduction to Group Work

The afternoon session will separate participants into groups to explore specific issues in more depth. Groups will be set up on the day, giving priority to participants' preference. Unfortunately you can only participate in one group.

This is an opportunity for more in-depth technical exchange and for deeper connections with other participants. The ways you discuss, and take the subjects forward during and after the meeting, is up to each group.

Common questions that can guide each group are:

1. Everyone starts from a different place – catch-up on each person's relation to the topic and the knowledge or questions they might have.
2. Sharing experiences and perspectives on the topic and its questions.
3. What are the ways forward?
• What can you do?
• What can the GBDN do to support?

The only direct output we ask from the groups for a brief presentation to the plenary on what you discussed.

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Time	Introduction	Description
A	Supporting employers to understand and act on disability inclusion.	What tools and methods can networks use to assess and guide companies on where they are in inclusion, and the steps they need to take?
B	Gathering initial support and buy-in for networks.	When you start a network, what are the initial steps for getting company and business attention. What are the lessons learned from recent initiatives?
C	Finding talent – supporting recruitment of persons with disabilities, and supporting them to stay in work.	What methods do networks have to help members find talented employees with disabilities? For example, job-fairs, recruitment processes, direct placement. How to avoid new recruits leaving work?
D	Policy messages for government on employment of persons with disabilities	Networks have a unique perspective on employers circumstances and needs. What are the policy recommendations that come out, and how to advocate for them with policy-makers?
E	Gender-sensitivity in NBDNs and their initiatives.	Combining disability and gender issues is often challenging. We need to make sure that NBDNs have a gender-balance in their management and also that their activities support both men and women with disabilities.
Online	How to reach small- and medium-sized enterprises?	National networks often find it easier to reach larger national and international companies. What are the ways we can reach smaller companies, which in many contexts represent a large part of employment?