

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় ঢাকা-১০০০
উন্নয়ন-৩ শাখা
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স্মারক নং- ৩৮.০১১.০৩২.০০.০০.০০২.২০০৮-১৩৩

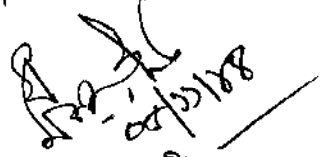
তারিখঃ ০৫ অক্টোবর ২০১৮

বিষয়ঃ নয়াদিপ্লিতে আগামী ২৪-২৬ নভেম্বর ২০১৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত From Exclusion to Empowerment : Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities শীর্ষক আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলনের সংক্রান্ত।

সূত্র: ৩৭.১৮.০০০০.০১২.২৫.০৩৪.১৪-৬৪৭, তারিখ: ১৬/১০/ ২০১৮

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয় ও সূত্রের প্রতি দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণপূর্বক জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ ইউনেস্কো জাতীয় কমিশন (বিএনসিইউ) এর পত্র ও সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্র এতদসঙ্গে প্রেরণ করা হলো। নয়াদিপ্লিতে আগামী ২৪-২৬ নভেম্বর ২০১৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত From Exclusion to Empowerment : Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities শীর্ষক আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলনের বিষয়টি এ মন্ত্রণালয়স্বতন্ত্র সংশ্লিষ্ট সংস্থা/ প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে অবহিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে এ মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েব সাইটে প্রকাশের জন্য নির্দেশক্রমে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সংযুক্ত : বর্ণনা মোতাবেক


(সরদার মো: কেরামত আলী)
উপ-সচিব (উ: ৩)
ফোনঃ ৯৫৭৭২৫৭

✓ প্রোগ্রামার
প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা



বাংলাদেশ ইউনেস্কো জাতীয় কমিশন



ফোন : ৮৮০-২-৯৬৭৫০০২, ৮৮২৭৯৬৯
ফ্যাক্স : ৮৮০-২-৯৬৬২০০৭, ৮৮১৩৪২০
ওয়েবসাইট : www.bncu.gov.bd

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শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
১, সোনারগাঁও রোড, পলাশী,
নীলক্ষেত্র, ঢাকা-১২০৫

নথি নং-৩৭.১৮.০০০০.০১২.২৫.০৩৪.১৪-১৮৪৭

তারিখঃ ১৬.১০.২০১৪ খ্রিঃ।

বিষয়ঃ নয়াদিল্লিতে 24-26 November 2014 তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত "From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities", শীর্ষক আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলন প্রসঙ্গে।

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ে সদয় জ্ঞাতার্থে Mr. Getachew Engida Deputy, Director General, UNESCO থেকে প্রাপ্ত পত্রটি এতদসহ সংযুক্ত করা হলো। আগামী ২৪-২৬ নভেম্বর ২০১৪ তারিখে ভারতের নয়াদিল্লিতে "From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities", শীর্ষক আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলনের বিষয়ে উক্ত পত্রে আলোকপাত করা হয়েছে।

২। পত্রে বর্ণিত আন্তর্জাতিক সম্মেলনের মুখ্য উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে অসমর্থ ব্যক্তিবর্গের মানবাধিকার ও মৌলিক স্বাধীনতার উন্নয়ন এবং আইসিটি ব্যবহারের মাধ্যমে বহুনিষ্ঠ উপায় বের করে তাদের ক্ষমতায়ন নিশ্চিত করার জন্য স্টেকহোল্ডারদের উৎসাহিত করা। এজন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সরকারি ও বেসরকারি সহযোগী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে উক্ত সম্মেলনের বিষয়টি অবগতির নিমিত্ত বিবেচ্য পত্রে অনুরোধ জানানো হয়েছে। উল্লিখিত সম্মেলনের একটি কনসেপ্ট পেপারও এতদসহ সংযুক্ত করা হলো যেখানে সম্মেলন সম্পর্কিত উদ্দেশ্য, কর্মকাণ্ডের বিস্তারিত উল্লেখ রয়েছে।

৩। এমতাবস্থায় বর্ণিত বিষয়টি সংশ্লিষ্ট সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে অবহিত করার জন্য মহোদয়কে সর্বিনয় অনুরোধ করা হলো।

প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
সচিব এর দপ্তর
তাইফী নম্বর : ১০/৩০
তারিখ : ২০/১০/১৪

(মোঃ মনজুর হোসেন)
সচিব

ই-মেইল: natcombd@yahoo.com

২৩
২৫/১০/১৪

প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
অতিরিক্ত সচিব এর দপ্তর
তাইফী নম্বর : ১৫
তারিখ : ২০/১০/১৪

সচিব
প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়
(দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণঃ সচিব মহোদয়ের একান্ত সচিব)

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অনুলিপিঃ

- ১। সচিব মহোদয়ের একান্ত সচিব, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০।
- ২। অফিস কপি

কিওয়ার্ড মুসহাফা (৫-২)
সহকারী সচিব হোসেন
স্বাক্ষরিত ২২/১০/১৪

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তারিখ : ২২/১০/১৪
উপ-প্রধান

২২-১০-১৪
স্বাক্ষরিত মুসহাফা (৫-২)

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The Deputy Director-General

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 Arabic: منظمة اليونسكو
 Chinese: 联合国教育、科学及文化组织
 English: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 French: Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Éducation, la Science et la Culture
 Russian: Организация Объединённых Наций по вопросам образования, науки и культуры
 Spanish: Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura
 Traditional Chinese: 聯合國教育、科學及文化組織
 Vietnamese: Tổ chức Văn hóa, Khoa học và Giáo dục của Liên Hợp Quốc

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To all National Commissions for UNESCO

Ref.: CI/KSD/UAP/14/6005

8 September 2014

Sir/Madam

Since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, significant progress has been made in improving access to information and knowledge for persons with disabilities. Empirical evidence from the public and private sectors across the world shows that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have the potential to make significant improvements in the lives of persons with disabilities, allowing them to enhance their socio-economic, cultural and educational integration in society.

In order to facilitate the implementation process of this UN Convention and of the recommendations of the Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally-agreed development goals for persons with disabilities (23 September 2013, ref.: A/68/L.1), as well as to encourage policy and decision-makers, educational organizations, industry, media, information and communication specialists, academia and civil society organizations working with persons with disabilities to take appropriate and concrete measures, UNESCO, in close cooperation with the Government of India (Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment), as well as with a number of national, regional and international partners, is organizing the first International Event entitled *"From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities"* in New Delhi (India) from 24 to 26 November 2014. Please find enclosed a concept paper for this event.

This meeting will bring together more than 500 of the leading policy-makers and practitioners in the field of disabilities, together with leaders in politics, education, civil society, culture, media, business and industry to discuss the role of ICT in enhancing human rights and fundamental freedoms for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in every aspect of life. The international gathering will comprise three main events: an international conference, a film festival on disability issues and an ICT solution-oriented exhibition.

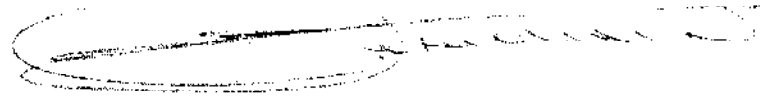
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I should like to encourage representatives of your country to join our efforts, and to attend this important event for the disability community. I should appreciate it very much, therefore, if you would transmit this information to your relevant authorities, national, partners and organizations.

I invite you kindly to contact Mr Indrajit Banerjee, Director of the Knowledge Societies Division within the Communication and Information Sector (tel. +33 1.45.68.42.78; e-mail: i.banerjee@unesco.org), and Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, Programme Specialist in the same Division (tel. +33 1.45.68.40.74; e-mail: i.kasinskaite@unesco.org), for any further information you may require.

I am convinced that your country's presence, support and participation in this International Event would give a considerable impetus to the deliberations and result of the work. I look forward, therefore, to your presence on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,



Getachew Engida
Deputy Director-General

Cc: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

12/26



From Exclusion to Empowerment



CONCEPTUAL

24-26 Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities

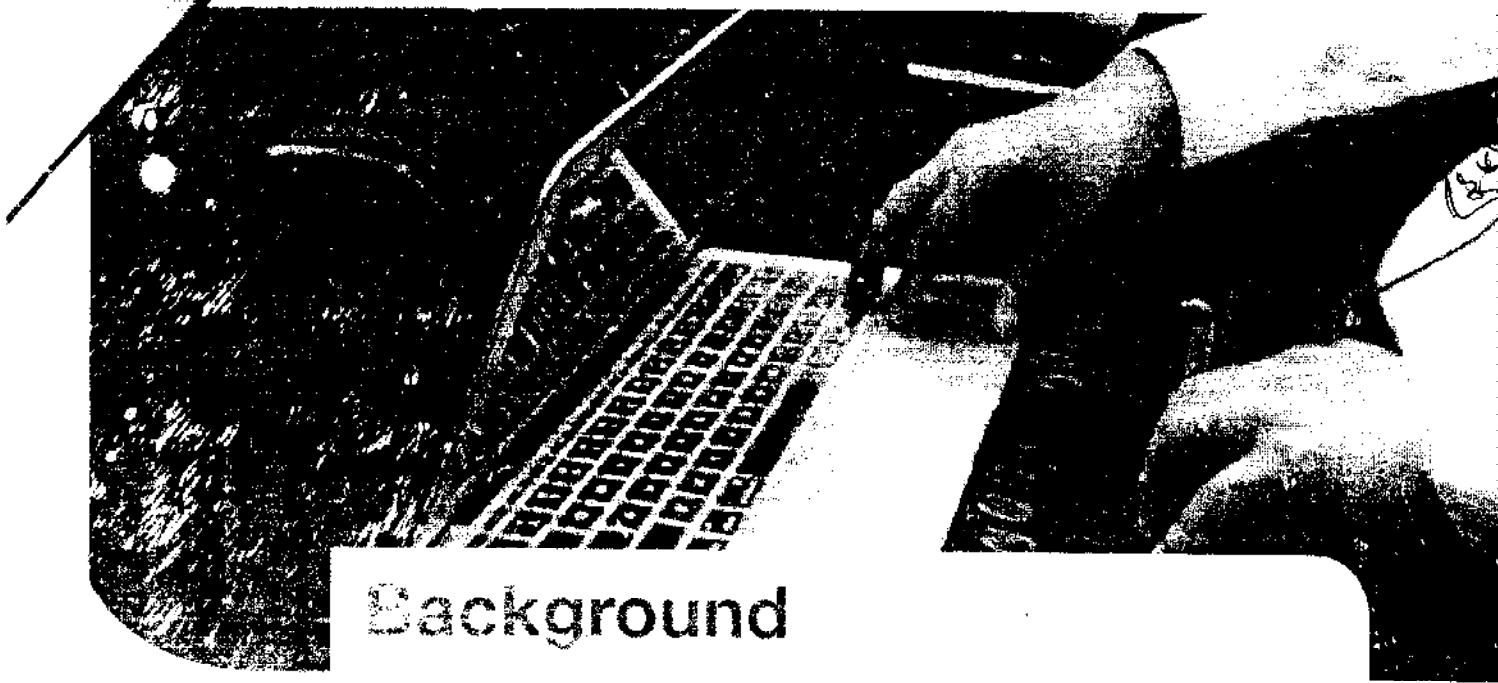
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Table of Contents

Background	2
Major objectives and expected outcomes	5
Format and structure	7
Conference venue	10
Web links	10
Contact information	11
UNESCO Headquarters	11
UNESCO Office in New Delhi	11
Film festival	11



Background

More than one in ten people living with disabilities worldwide



Today, there are more than 650 million persons with disabilities around the world.¹ The World Disability Report,² published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Bank (WB), states that 15% of the world population have some form of disability. Over 80% of those with disabilities live in isolated rural areas

in developing countries. Some 62 million children of primary school age have a disability and 186 million children with disabilities have not completed primary school education. Furthermore, fewer than 2% of children with disabilities in developing countries are in school.³

Persons with disabilities often suffer from discrimination and social exclusion, have fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty. Their daily lives are specifically impeded through inadequate legal frameworks to protect their rights, a lack of financial and skilled human resources to carry out their activities, a lack of opportunities to access education and information, the high cost of assistive technologies (ATs), a lack of services available to them, the absence of large networks of disability groups to share resources with each other, and many other factors.

People with disabilities face major challenges

Disability is a cross-cutting issue and all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have relevance to disability and persons with disabilities. Although the commitment of the UN

1. UNenable. Factsheet on Persons with Disabilities. <http://www.unenable.org/enable/factsheet.asp#id=113>

2. World Health Organization, World Bank (2011). World Disability Report. Geneva. <http://www.who.int/disability>

3. UNESCO (2010). *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*. Paris. <http://unesco.org/education/monitoring>

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to the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion are implied in all aspects of the MDGs, this does not automatically result in their inclusion in either general or targeted efforts to meet MDGs.

The commitment of the United Nations (UN) to the rights of persons with disabilities was codified into the United Nations Convention in 2006: The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**, together with the World Programme of Action⁴, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities⁵ and the Outcome Document to Promote Disability-Inclusive Development⁶ of the UN General Assembly High-level meeting in 2013, now provides a strengthened international normative framework for disability-inclusive development. The growing number of Member States that have ratified the UNCRPD and its optional protocol indicates a paradigm shift in the way we think about disability. It also shows a move away from the association of persons with disabilities with charity, medical treatment and social protection towards integrating their concerns and experiences as essential to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, policies, resources, instruments and services. Since the adoption of the UNCRPD in 2006, some progress has been made to improve access to information and knowledge for persons with disabilities around the world.

Disability-inclusive development spearheaded by United Nations

The challenge now is to take the situations of persons with disabilities fully into account by mainstreaming a disability perspective in all planned development actions, including legislation, policies and programmes, in all areas and at all levels of development. Mainstreaming is crucial in order to promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities and to focus on a person with ability instead of their impairment; to promote the recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities; and to foster an attitude of respect for the rights of people with disabilities.

Mainstreaming disability issues to development actions

The global economic downturn of the recent years has had devastating effects on the lives of many in both developed and developing countries. The majority of persons with disabilities live in conditions of poverty, and are the first to suffer from the decrease in public spending, particularly in developing countries. Innovative solutions are therefore urgently needed to address the negative impact of poverty on people with disabilities, towards the mainstreaming and inclusion of disability issues as an integral part of sustainable development. Against the backdrop of multiple global crises and emerging challenges, governments, together with the development community, have responded in various ways by introducing specific policy measures and new initiatives.

4 [http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/06-03-060314.html](#)
5 [http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/06-03-060314.html](#)
6 [http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/13-09-130914.html](#)

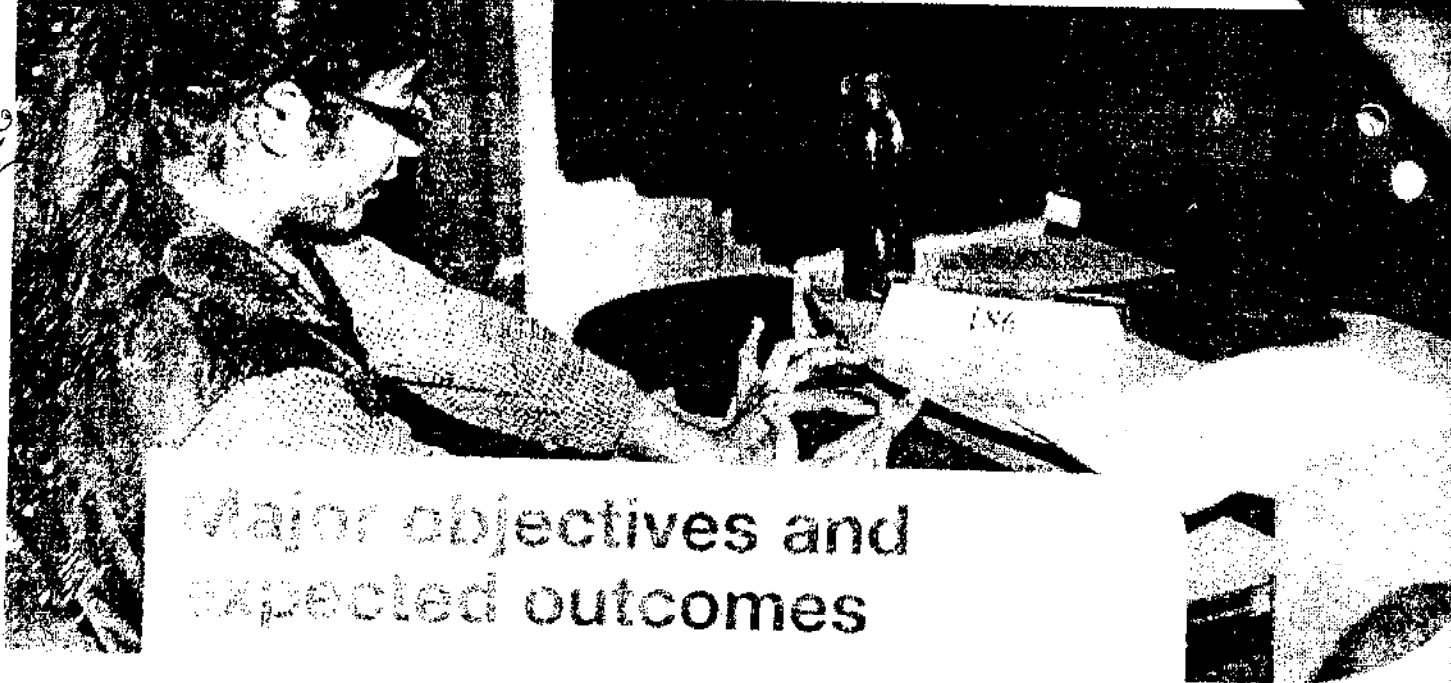
Since the adoption of the UNCRPD in 2006 new trends in science and technology innovation have enabled ICT applications to better meet the needs of people living with disabilities. The ICT applications have proved valuable. Below are areas where ICT applications have the potential to assist and empower persons with disabilities:

- Raising awareness about disability issues throughout the society, combating stereotypes, and promoting awareness of the social contributions of persons with disabilities (Article 8 of the UNCRPD);
- Facilitating access of people with disabilities to information, products and services, including inclusive mobile and other devices and internet (Article 9);
- Allowing persons with disabilities to exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion as well as access to information (Article 21);
- Facilitating inclusive education systems and life-long learning (Article 24);
- Facilitating the right to work, on equal basis to others, for people with disabilities (Article 27) ;
- Facilitating participation in political and public life (Article 29) ;
- Facilitating participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (Article 30); and
- Facilitating cooperation in accessing scientific and technical knowledge (Article 32) aiming towards solutions that are affordable to all (reasonable access, universal design).

ICTs significantly improve social and economic integration of persons with disabilities in society by enlarging the range of activities available to them

Poverty, illiteracy, limited access and employability, stigma and discrimination are key challenges

BRG



Major objectives and expected outcomes



International conference "From Exclusion to Empowerment: The Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities"
24-26 November 2014, New Delhi, India



With a view to empower persons with disabilities and inclusion of disability issues into the sustainable development agenda in Member States, UNESCO, in close cooperation with international, regional and national partners, is organizing an international conference entitled "**From Exclusion to Empowerment: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities**" in New Delhi, India from 24 to 26 November 2014.

The major objective of the event is to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities and to encourage all stakeholders to take concrete measures for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through the effective application of ICTs.

As recognized by the UNCRPD, women and girls are often at greater risk, both within and outside of home for violence, injury, abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment and exploitation. It is, therefore, crucial to integrate **gender equality** in all efforts to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, including in the current Conference.



International cooperation, exchange of experience, showcase of ICT solutions that are suitable and contribute towards full empowerment and participation of women and men with disabilities are among key themes of the international event.



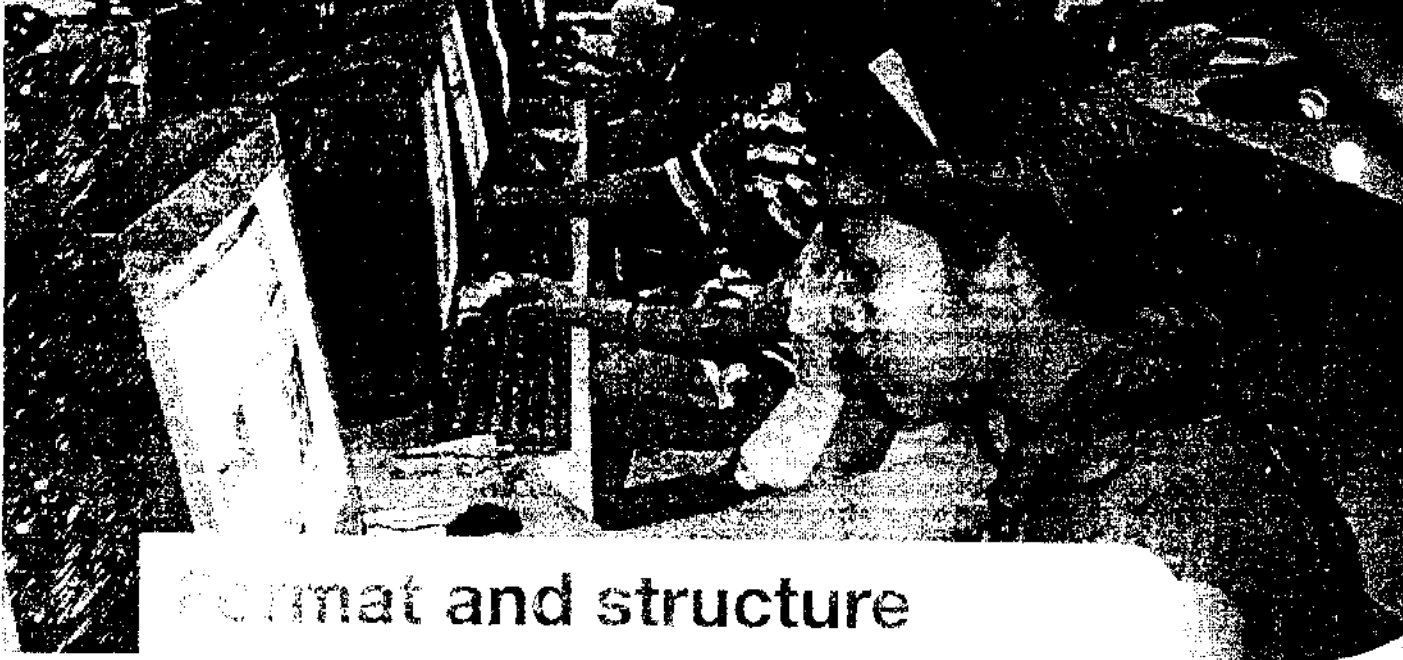
OTHER MAJOR OBJECTIVES

1. **Raise public awareness** of the significance and complexity of disability and technical issues, and the sense of urgency for taking concrete measures and action among policy and decision makers, public and private organizations, education, industry, disabled people organizations, information and media professionals as well as civil society.
2. **Provide assistance and guidance** to UNESCO's Member States in the implementation of international commitments such as the UN Convention and Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly (2013).
3. **Identify existing challenges and barriers** arising from the most recent international experiences in different areas of disability that may help to **develop concrete programmes and services** for people with disability and people working in the field.
4. **Showcase technical solutions, share good practices and encourage constructive dialogue** among people working in the disability, policy, industry and other fields.
5. **Increase public understanding and greater social awareness of disability issues** in order to prevent stigma and discrimination and enable persons with disabilities to participate more fully in society.
6. **Encourage private partners to design and provide access, i.e., affordable and disability and gender-sensitive content, services and products** for men and women with disabilities.
7. **Encourage national, regional and international cooperation** among various stakeholders.
8. **Mobilize resources** for joint initiatives; and
9. **Elaborate of the preliminary recommendations** for the Conference's Outcome Document during the national stock-taking event prior to the international event in 9-10 September 2014 in New Delhi, India

THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES

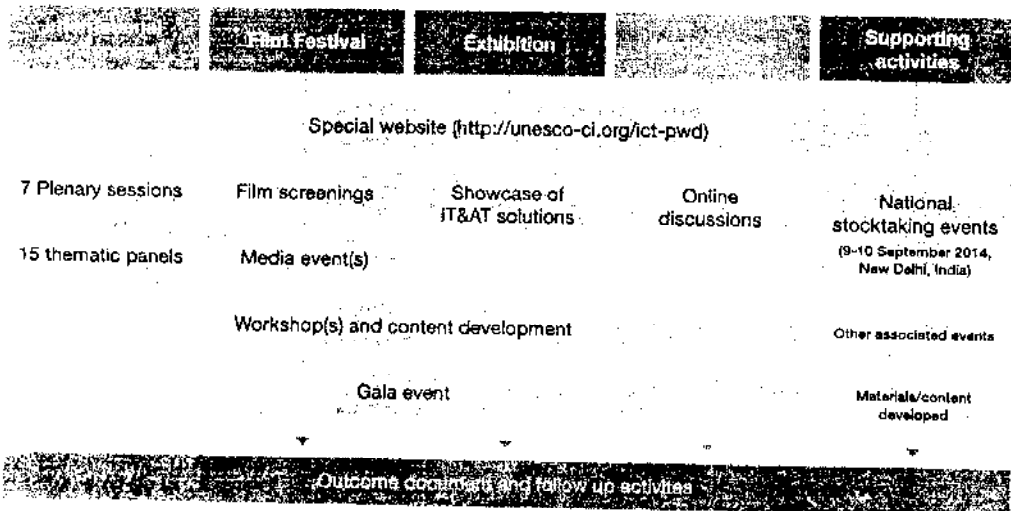
1. Concrete recommendations improve the status quo of people with disabilities with regard to the role of ICTs in increasing access to education, public information, social services, and job opportunities.
2. Long-lasting commitment of all stakeholders to inclusive ICTs and ATs, as effective and necessary means for inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
3. Research and identification of the best practices and solutions on inclusive ICTs and ATs for persons with disabilities to prepare a compendium of caselets.
4. A clear understanding of the benefits for development of accessible products and services harness the potential of people with disabilities, such as the establishment of inclusive learning environments using inclusive ICTs and ATs for persons with disabilities within ICT exhibition space.
5. Accessible and disability and gender-sensitive films remove misconceptions, prejudices, and stereotypes about persons with disabilities; and best films distributed within the framework of the international film festival for international awareness-raising and social mobilization campaign.
6. More private stakeholders are encouraged to design accessible content, services and products.
7. Partnership initiated, communication forged and networks established among various stakeholders. New contacts established for initiation of new projects, as well as accessible services and technical solutions integrated in design, planning and implementation processes.
8. Encouragement of private and public entities to engage in social actions in response to the needs of persons with disabilities.
9. Facilitation of a constructive dialogue between private and public entities for integration, adoption and implementation of a disability perspective in corporate social responsibility initiatives and resource mobilization.
10. Conference's outcomes and recommendations contribute to the international commitments such as World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Review Process, implementation of the strategy of the Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP) and others, including the implementation of UN CRPD and "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals" (2013, UNGA A/68/L.1).

13/10



Format and structure

The International Conference programme of three days, consists of *plenary sessions* and *panel discussions (International conference)*, a film festival – ‘We Care’ –film screenings and the *exhibition* on innovative low-cost ICT solutions as well as one or several *workshops* for pre-selected participants and media and supporting events (see the image below).



2160

International Conference

Plenaries - The plenaries start and close the Conference, including the approval of the Conference Outcome document at the end.

Parallel panel tracks have the following overall themes:

► **Track I: Partnerships and Sustainable Development**

The focus of this thematic track is on promoting international cooperation and public-private-partnerships in support of national efforts to mainstream disability issues to development plans, using ICTs.

► **Track II: Accessibility**

The focus of this thematic track is on identifying affordable technological solutions to improve the access of persons with disabilities, on equal basis with others, to the physical environment, information and communications, using inclusive and accessible ICTs. This includes the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility as well as presentations of concrete ICTs solutions.

► **Track III: Access to information and knowledge**

The focus of this thematic track is to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in educational, social, economic and political life, as well as encourage freedom of expression and access to information.

Workshop "Techno Camp"- A workshop "techno camp" will be organised for pre-selected participants of all ages with a wide range of disabilities. The workshops are seen as an opportunity to raise awareness of how inclusive and assistive technology can benefit people with disabilities and to build their capacity to use and develop e-content more efficiently and creatively. (Pictures, videos and interviews will be captured over the first two days of the event and will be presented at the plenary session on the best practical solutions).

Film Festival

'We Care' Film Festival will screen a selection of documentary and fiction films displaying the valued participation in their communities of people with disability, in order to spread the message of ability and inclusion.

ICT Exhibition

The exhibition will showcase ICT solutions by both public and private partners, with relevance to the theme of the Conference.

Conference Outcome Document will approve a forward-looking Outcome document, which seeks to capture concrete recommendations for international cooperation. The document will capture main debates, discussions and solutions for informed decision making, then globally distributed among various stakeholders and integrated into new follow up activities.

2015

Participants

More than 500 international, regional and national participants are expected from around the world, including:

- High-level representatives of the Government of India;
- Representatives of Ministries and Departments of Education, Information and Communications, Social Affairs and Health, Women and Child Development;
- Policy and decision makers, international organization representatives;
- Disabled peoples' organizations, civil society and teacher training institutes;
- Representatives of ICT, media and film industry;
- Information and media professionals and other stakeholders.

The registration will be opened in September 2014. Working Language of the event is English.



Conference venue

The conference venue is **Vigyan Bhavan**⁷, New Delhi, India. Vigyan Bhavan is the premier convention centre for the Government of India in New Delhi. Built in 1956, over the years it has been the venue of conferences of national and international stature, seminars and award ceremonies attended by distinguished world leaders and dignitaries.

Web links

International Conference "From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities (24-26 November 2014, New Delhi, India)
<http://india2014.org/01-gwd>

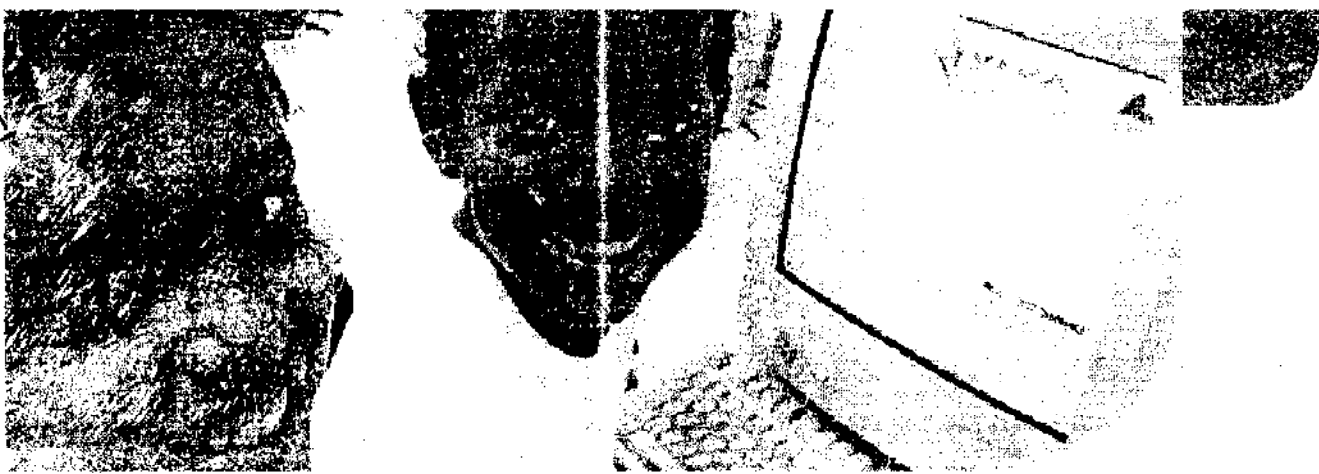
UNESCO website on Access to Information and Knowledge for People with Disabilities:
<http://www.unesco.org/india/communication-and-information/access-to-knowledge/access-for-people-with-disabilities/>

Brotherhood and We Care Filmfest
<http://www.brotherfilmfest.net/home.php>

UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan
<http://www.un.org/india/default.php>

⁷ <http://www.vigyanbhavan.org/>

21



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Film festival

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