



**Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health  
Disability and Rehabilitation Program**

**Webinar: "The new agenda for sustainable development and the Convention on the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities"**

**December 7, 2015  
Washington, D.C.**

## **Background**

Since 1992, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities has been celebrated on December 3. This event was established to promote awareness and mobilize support for critical issues related to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development initiatives and in society. It is estimated that one billion people worldwide live with a disability. These individuals face many barriers to inclusion.

This year, the Pan American Health Organization /-World Health Organization will join together people with and without disabilities around the world to celebrate **A Day for All** in order to highlight how far we have come in recognizing people with disabilities. This event will celebrate the diversity of our communities and show support for a society that embraces diversity in all its forms. For this reason, we have organized a webinar to discuss issues of interest including: challenges of the new development agenda for persons with disabilities; accessibility and empowerment: keys issues for the inclusion of people with disabilities; and international cooperation in addressing new challenges..

**Meeting Venue:** PAHO HQ, Washington, D.C. Room C, 2nd floor

**Date:** December 7th 2015

**Spanish link:**

<https://paho.webex.com/paho/j.php?MTID=m870c657c72bd2e7e6d4c342a8dbe8960>

**English link:**

<https://paho.webex.com/paho/j.php?MTID=m1998deb9bedd88555c32effd2d0227f5>



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AGENDA

December 7th	
9:00 - 9:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcoming remarks <b>Dr. Anselm Hennis</b>, Director, Department Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, PAHO/WHO</li></ul>
9:15 - 09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of speakers and the objectives of the seminar <b>Mr. Armando Vasquez</b>, Adviser on Disability and Rehabilitation, PAHO/WHO</li></ul>
09:30 - 09:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>"Challenges of the new sustainable development agenda and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities."</i> <b>Ms. María Soledad Cisternas</b>, President, UN Monitoring Committee of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities</li></ul>
09:50-10:00	Questions
10:00-10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>"Importance of accessibility and empowerment for inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities"</i> <b>Ms. Pamela Molina</b>, Disability Specialist, Department of Social Inclusion, OAS</li></ul>
10:20-10:30	Questions
10:30-10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>"Importance of international cooperation in the implementation of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities"</i> <b>Mr. Javier Vasquez</b>, Human Rights Advisor, PAHO/WHO</li></ul>
10:50-11:00	Questions
11:00-11:30	<b>Conclusions</b> <b>Closing remarks</b> Ms. Devora Kestel, Unit Chief, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, PAHO/WHO.