**Concept paper for the side event**

**"Strengthening the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities to support integration in crisis and emergency situations"**

The Second Global Summit on Disability

17 February 2022

12:00 pm – 1: 30 Cairo time (via Zoom)

**To participate register on the following link:**

**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKiRd29F-gSrM-QlXE8pYrkvUl7s\_B5fZKHZu-GkXKQ1ADWQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail\_form\_link**

**I. Background**

In light of the continuing difficult situations experienced by a number of Arab countries, including epidemics, natural disasters and humanitarian crises, the event will focus on the discussion on mechanisms and methods to ensure the safety and security of persons with disabilities in situations of conflict, increasing violence and epidemics, the classification of their special needs, and what methods should be adopted to meet these challenges in the light of the current situation, including obstacles, problems and difficulties, as well as steps and measures to be taken to address the reality and help to improve conditions as much as possible and to avoid future problems.

**II. Objective:**

Highlight ways to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in armed conflict, and how governments should take all necessary measures to ensure that civilians and persons with disabilities are protected from all forms of violence in conflict situations.

The event will address how to empower the capacities of organizations of persons with disabilities in order to exercise their role in controlling and monitoring mechanisms for dealing with persons with disabilities in such situations.

**III. Partners**

This event is organized by the League of Arab States, in coordination with the Arab Organization of persons with disabilities (AOPD) and in cooperation with the United Nations economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

**IV. Speakers**

The list of speakers includes:

The league of Arab states, senior officials members of the Council of Arab ministers of Social Affairs, the Arab Organization of persons with disabilities, the International Disability Alliance, UNHCR and the United Nations economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ESCWA

\* Note: translation from English to Arabic (English-Arabic-English), sign language

**The side event “Strengthening the Capacity of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities**

**To support integration in crisis and emergency situations”**

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**Opening session (4 minutes per speech)**

- H. E. Ambassador Dr. Haifa Abu-Ghazaleh-assistant secretary-general-head of the social affairs sector of the league of Arab states

H. E. Dr. Rula Dashti, Under - Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the United Nations economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

- Dr. Nawaf Kabbara-president of the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD)

- International Disability Alliance (to be confirmed)

- Mr. Ricardo PLA Cordero, United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR)

**Facilitator:** Mr. Minister Plenipotentiary / Tarek Nabulsi - director of the Department of development and social policies

- Presentation of the main working paper on the Arab road map to support persons with disabilities in the context of facing epidemics and crises. Submitted by expert Mr. Iyad Hamdan (10 minutes)

**Main interventions** (4 minutes per intervention)

Interventions by senior official’s members of the Council of Arab ministers of Social Affairs

**Discussion** (30 minutes)