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## Transcript Closed Captioning – Launch Event Living Inclusion Network

REBECCA DANIEL (MODERATOR):

Hello, everybody, and a warm welcome to the launch of the Living Inclusion Network, Disability and Development Corporation in Practice. We are very pleased to have so many participants joining today. Before and whilst we let everybody join we would like to share with you a few technical hints for the event. I am Rebecca Daniel and I am an adviser in the Global Project. I will be moderating today's event. Please, make sure you turn off your microphone and camera unless you speak.

We will have translation into International Sign as you might have observed already. We also have professional closed captioning. To make sure the translation is best visible please put on your speaker mode in teams. The link to the closed captioning page is available in the chat, this should be accessible for all of you.

We also have it in the PowerPoint presentation. It is possible to click on the link in the presentation to open the separate page links that will be shared with you on the slide. Ensure you open the link that we share with you now. You can also use automated live captioning by turning on the three dots next to the video symbol. That is an option of course.

We will use Slido today, which is a tool and it should be accessible for everybody. Make sure you can use it to follow the link on the side. There is a direct link or you can enter Slido.com. There will be a field appearing when you can enter the code inclusion-network-launch. It does not matter if you write it with small or big letters.

In case of any technical issues please reach out to [GIZ-inklusion@mediacompany.com](mailto:GIZ-inklusion@mediacompany.com). Also the contact will be posted in the chat. This meeting is being recorded, the recording will start now.

Today we are having this event in the light of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which was on 3 December. The event is celebrated under the motto, united in action. For, with and by persons of disabilities. In the spirit of this motto we will also meet today to discuss how we can join forces in a Living Inclusion Network and practice-oriented network for exchange regarding persons of disabilities in development project.

We are pleased to have so many participants joining today, we have reached 200 people and more keep joining. I would now like to hand over to the official welcoming words from the BMZ and GIZ sign. I will start by introducing Martin Wimmer, he is Head of G1, General Development Policy Issues at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



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In his capacity he oversees the Agenda 2030, inequality, feminist developed policy, governance, and human rights inclusion and media. Martin is an internationally recognised expert on just transition and digital transformation. He is also an author of over 10 books on a variety of topics. I recommend to read more about him and his fascinating profile online. Mr Wimmer, the floor is yours.

MARTIN WIMMER:

Thank you, Rebecca, and everybody for joining, it is a pleasure on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation to welcome all of you who are members of the network and, of course, those who are joining today for the first time. In particular, I welcome our guests, friends, partners from such a diverse range of the local organisations.

Especially our highly honoured guests from UNDP and UNICEF. We come together today to celebrate the official opening of the new Living Inclusion Network. New because until now it was a GIZ-internal network, this event today will open itself towards a global audience. Thanks to GIZ for making this possible.

No persons with disabilities should be left behind. There are over 1.3 billion persons of disabilities worldwide, they correspond to approximately 16% of the world's population. 80% of those living in emerging and developing countries. Ratifying the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in 2009 Germany committed itself to disability inclusive corporation.

Together with almost all of the countries around the world. 2030, the agenda and its principle, leaving no one behind. It also stresses the great importance of inclusion at all levels. The government emphasises the importance of human rights-based development cooperation. Gender equality and inclusion of persons with disabilities are essential for our new human rights strategy; it is just launched and it pointed out very clearly.

Germany has a role in advocating for more inclusion developing cooperation. But, the number of projects worldwide that are explicitly addressing disability inclusion, or at least take sufficient account is still too small.

This is why Germany has introduced the OECD DAC marker inclusion and empowerment of people with disability starting in 2024. Two more things I would like to mention, one, to really live inclusion in the national development cooperation we need to think in alliances. We need to work together, learn from each other, we need partnerships, cooperation on all levels. Network and exchange, it can only be achieved by working across sectors. Politics, economies, civil society, the new network is a huge opportunity, please invite more participants to join the network, connect, stay in touch, spread



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the word, LinkedIn, or whatever. And second, Germany will be hosting the third Global Disability Summit in April 2025.

We will be hosting it with Jordan and the International Disability Alliance. Every idea you have for this big global event, let us know. And, of course, we hope to see you all there. Thank you very much.

REBECCA DANIEL:

Thank you very much. this is great to have you here today to open this launch and to really speak to you network members, or interested in the network; thank you so much.

I would like to move to the introduction of Kristian Lempa. And as such he is responsible for portfolio of 38 global GIZ projects. Prior to that, he has helped in various positions of GIZ in Germany and abroad.

As manager at international development, with more than 15 years of experience, he has advised governments, private sector, and civil society all over the world on resource governments, responsible minimal supply chains and leveraging a mining sector for sustainable development. Kristian Lempa, please take the floor for opening words of GIZ.

KRISTIAN LEMPA:

Thank you very much and thank you Martin for the encouraging words. I want to make it very quick so you can listen to the experts and the discussion afterwards. I did not want to miss the opportunity to welcome everybody, of course the GIZ colleagues and the external guests from NGOs and other organisations with disabilities. From UN organisations and ministries, it is a wonderful sign to open up the forum and show the achievement so far.

We think it makes sense to open it up and have a broader discussion over the GIZ circle. What is GIZ? It is the organisation, I do not want to go into too much detail but it is the implementing agency of the German government. It is supporting development against poverty and to achieve the missions. GIZ is implementing projects commissioned by mainly the German government and the Federal Ministry of economic cooperation and development.

Also implementing the global programme on inclusion. Inclusion for us, it is our values as a company, first of all the concept of intersection and it is really important. Different dimensions of discrimination, based on gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or anything else, to overcome discriminatory structures which maintains a healthy society.



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So, it is both an expectation we have to ourselves, but also we believe it is a concept that should be instrumental for stable and healthy societies. Then, intersection allocate the second point is cross sectional inclusion. It is a cross-sectional topic, thus highly relevant in all areas here at GIZ we work in whatever the aim is to improve people's living conditions... And across all of the sectors, inclusion is important.

Employment, promotion sector, migration, urban planning, all of the sectors we are working. Inclusion is an important topic and it needs to be addressed. The cross-sectional nature makes it extremely important. Inclusion is very cross-sectional and important in all sectors and everything we do at the GIZ. Partnership and exchange is extremely helpful, to learn from experiences and to utilise synergies. Most importantly to include people with disabilities themselves and the organisations to get their view and their ideas on the topic.

This is something we all have to learn, we can learn a lot that can actually be done, what are the needs, what are the priorities and avoid unintended barriers in our work. This is one of the reasons we think the exchange is extremely important. The GIZ internal disability network was launched last year and it was very successful from day one.

I participated in one of the events on feminist development policy for all. We discussed the intersectionality on gender and we found the discussion extremely enlightening and enriching on all concepts of feminism. What we also have to look at beyond the simple agenda.

I'm very excited that we opened the network under the new name, Living Inclusion Network for the public. As we can see there is a demand and so much energy shown by the huge attendance today. It is a network of practitioners in development cooperation working on different aspects of inclusion.

I'm looking forward to a lively exchange on the practice of inclusive development cooperation. And over back to you Rebecca, thank you very much.

REBECCA DANIEL:

Thank you very much. That was very helpful and I am sure for everybody who did not know GIZ yet that much so thank you for providing the background. I would now like to invite all of you to share a little bit who you are. We are going to do that through a slido poll. The link that has been shared at the beginning, it will be shared now again in the chat if you follow it you come to the first question.



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We will get a little bit of an overview who is here with us today. So please follow the link, the first question is, in which country do you work? You come to the first question.

We will get a little bit of an overview who is here with us today. So please follow the link, the first question is, in which country do you mainly work? The second question will be, which type of organisation you represent. Is it governmental, multilateral organisation, and organisation for persons with disabilities, disability-specific NGO or other NGOs, academia, or private sector, or any other. I will give you a few minutes to fill that poll before we have a look at the results.

So, let's have a look at what you have responded to the first question; in which country you mainly work. I'm very curious to see who joined today.

I think the Slido result will pop up in a bit. In the meanwhile, we will also get a few responses in the chat, colleagues posting from Ghana, Moldova, Jordan, Ukraine, Tunisia; also some globally, South Sudan, Nigeria. And here we have the word 'cloud'. Many colleagues from GIZ from Germany have joined today. I'm very happy to see a wide variety of countries worldwide; that's wonderful. I'm very happy to see that we have people joining from all over the world, many African countries, I see. We also have a lot of Asian countries. We have even United States, I can see.

And of course all parts of the world, Middle East, Europe...

Great, wonderful, thank you to everyone joining.

Let's see which type of organisation you represent. 34% say they are coming from a governmental organisation. We also have 26% from multilateral organisations, and 19% others, and we will be curious to get to know what are the others. Also, 12% from other NGOs, 6% from the private sector, 5% disability-specific NGOs (...). The private sector has just been reduced by other votes, they keep coming. Don't take the numbers for granted! More or less, we can say we have a focus today on governmental and multilateral organisations. We don't manage to reach a lot of OPDs. I could probably say that without even asking my network colleagues. You hear more about that later.

Let's now move on in our program. Thank you so much for your polling and for sharing who is here today with us. We would like to now go to a small fireside chat, we call it, as it is getting cold in Germany here, but in case you join from a hot country today, you can also imagine a cool drink and an expert conversation instead. We are going to discuss about inclusion of persons with disabilities and international cooperation, and the power of networks to reach it.



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I'm discussing today with two wonderful colleagues from UN partners who were so kind to offer to share their wisdom and experience with us today. I would like to introduce you first to our dear colleague Alessandro Ercolani. He coordinates the organisations disability inclusion efforts globally. Prior to UNDP, he worked across agencies and civil society organisations in different roles, focusing on programming for human rights and participation of marginalised groups. Alessandro holds a law degree from University of Rome and a master of law in international crime and justice from the International Crime and Justice Institute. We are pleased to have you join us today, Alessandro.

And we also have with us today Yetnebersh Nigusie Molla who is an Ethiopian female lawyer with a disability. Since May 2021, Ms Yetnebersh is serving in the African office of UNICEF based in Nairobi, Kenya. She supports 21 country offices to ensure that UNICEF programs and workers are inclusive and accessible to all, including children with disabilities. Yetnebersh has an impressive background, for example, she is the founder and Executive Director of the Ethiopian Centre for Disability and Development and she was also co-founder of the Ethiopian Association of Lawyers.

She has also received a number of outstanding awards nationally, regionally and globally in recognition of her tireless work in the area of disability inclusion. Amongst quite a few others, the alternative Nobel Prize. Very warm welcome and thank you so much for being with us today.

YETNEBERSH NIGUSSIE MOLLA:

Thank you, Rebecca, for having us.

REBECCA DANIEL:

I see a lot of clapping hands in Teams. Let's get started. Yetnebersh, I have a question for you. We have a mixed panel of experts today. I would like to start with quite a basic but nonetheless very important question. Why is it important to specifically target persons with disabilities in development projects and programmes? Could you maybe share what are the barriers to their participation?

YETNEBERSH NIGUSSIE MOLLA:

Thank you, Rebecca. This is a basic question to start with, but we say in the disability movement that the white grain has left behind. You are right, it is important to remind our colleagues in the fraternity why it's important to be a target. As we know, historically discriminated groups, including not only persons with disabilities, but also women, black people, have already passed through this channel. We understand that there is a need for this and the goal should be an inclusive world for everyone. It's important to recognise the barriers that those people face.



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For women, for example, we had issues when it comes to voting, when it comes to going into paid work. That's why, in order to overcome those barriers, there is a need to target them in development programmes and coming back to persons with disability and the barriers they face, I think we face institutional barriers, we face physical barriers, and most of the time, people talk about physical barriers, but I do believe that those physical barriers were borne from our attitude barriers.

REBECCA DANIEL:

You have just muted yourself. I'm sorry, I thought it was my connection. You muted yourself when you said it is an attitude barrier.

YETNEBERSH NIGUSSIE MOLLA:

I would say that this is a reason for all other barriers because it is the attitude that people with disabilities do not need to hear the news about Gaza which makes television programmes inaccessible. We face attitude barriers but we focus mostly on the physical barriers. I think it is important that we have targeted programs to remove all the barriers we face in life, and then, once all those barriers are removed, I hope I'm not sure if it's my time or my children's time, we will talk about all-inclusive programs. It is mainly to remove barriers, it's to empower persons with disabilities, the young, adults, women, men.

That's why we need a specific track of targeted programs. Back to you, Rebecca.

REBECCA DANIEL:

Thank you so much, Yeti. We will now continue to the 'how' question. Thank you so much for contributing to the back end. I would like to mention that you can send any questions to the panellists into Slido. Please, start putting your questions and comment if you like. Alessandro, against this background, which Yeti has just outlined. Against this background, UNDP has launched an inclusion network. Which aims does it have and how does it contribute to more inclusive programming?

ALESSANDRO ERCOLANI:

Basically, we wanted to operationalise and focus on what Yeti has just listed. We are the development arm of the United Nations, and we have a need to champion and build inclusion. We also, at the same time, have country offices pretty much across the globe. It is a very branched out operational model, very decentralised, with amazing expertise, knowledge all across the globe.



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And we thought that it was somehow a precondition for us to deliver our mandate, to deliver a network that linked those people and those packets and issues of knowledge across the globe. But we don't want to only target the usual suspects, and that is why we created the network.

The network acts as a hub for colleagues with disabilities, and for those disability champions and disability inclusion champions within the organisation who want to make a difference, who want to be part of this international effort. But we also wanted to target the not so usual suspects across the organisation.

And we really wanted to work on those priorities that were mentioned. We wanted to work across every area of development and to work on intersectionality.

Given the mandate of UNDP, that is extremely wide. Development encompasses pretty much everything, including gender, climate change, sustainable finance. So, we wanted those domains, those areas of development to be included in a global effort (...); To be spread across development domains and then targeted.

We created the network, we started it last year, we had the first annual meeting two weeks ago. It has its challenges. We are an organisation with about 2000 people. But it is basically creating and rewriting the narrative around disability inclusion within the organisation, and we received increasingly more requests from our country offices of support how to program and design project on disability inclusion, how to access accommodation, funds and channels, how to design accessible projects and programmes and activities. And really the next step is going to be about making this more of a horizontal effort. We don't just want colleagues to reach out to HQ, but we want them to really make use of the incredible wealth of expertise that we have across the organisation. And of course welcome to answering questions from participants, here outside the meeting.

REBECCA DANIEL:

This is just a start of the networking. Thank you so much for the interesting insight to the network background and how it operates. That already brought some practical examples, and refer to importance of accessibility and reasonable accommodation. It leads me to my follow question, I would be very keen on learning more practical examples in the east and southern African region. Maybe we can learn from a few more practical examples?

YETNEBERSH NIGUSSIE MOLLA:

Thank you, I am going to build on what Alessandro has mentioned. Allow me to put my contribution in A, B, C, to help the participants. The first one, A, I want to share our experience of technology. It





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plays an important role in our life because of assistive technology that I'm able to use a computer without anybody's help to join you guys.

It usually self we do a lot when it comes to assistive technology and devices. For example, we have a huge program and really building the capacity of the government to do hearing screening as well as hearing aids for children who are deaf in a very affordable price.

So they may be available but they may not be affordable. For UNICEF, we believe that every child we have in the globe, they deserve the most good quality and the most affordable assistive technology. Sometimes we see them being donated, they belong to adults or they are manufactured for another terrain.

We do a lot of assistive technology and ensuring they are personalised. We cannot give the same thing for everybody. Most of the time we see this mass distribution, so we do a lot with making standards with the government in unveiling the devices, ensuring there are applications and technologies. The second, B, budget.

But it is critically important. We understand most of the work is being financed by development partners, the development partnerships are extremely low when compared to other issues, including humanitarian aid and inclusive education spaces. Those spaces really need to be changed and our budget locations lead to much with policy aspirations.

One example is we are doing a disability budget from countries like Malawi, Namibia, Zambia is on board. We are working with governments to know how much budget they are putting into disability inclusion. It is not a specific disability grants but what goes into health, education... The last, C, capacity building.

We know that nobody says no to disability inclusion. The willingness is there. But we really need to create capacity, we are still putting money to specialist institutions which are violating children's rights. They do not know how to include them in mainstream facilities, and communities. I think creating the capacity among actors, including governments, community it is important. This is why we are engaged in capacity building programs to perform child protection systems, and health systems, healthcare systems like in Uganda. We are strengthening the capacity of healthcare workers on how to identify children as early as possible. I am happy to share more on participant interest. Back to you Rebecca.

REBECCA DANIEL:



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Thank you so much, maybe those who are not speaking at the moment could switch off the camera and mute, so it is easier to follow the sign language interpretation. We will go to the Q&A section after the next and last question, to you Alessandro, we are curious to know that today we are speaking about the power of networking. Which opportunities you see through joint collaboration, today launched Living Inclusion Network, and of course what your wishes are to the network? Over to you Alessandro.

ALESSANDRO ERCOLANI:

I think... I think networks like these and more in general the networking is the missing piece in our effort to advance disability inclusion of national development. This is because, I think as development professionals and development agents we still are lagging behind with a couple of things. One, financing for disability.

Networks like the Living Inclusion Network can create, can access catalysts, and reshape the political wheel which translates into financing. The second bit, the Living Inclusion Network can really make a difference on inclusion data. This is the second thing I think International development Corporation will be streamlining at.

I think bringing together the diverse spectrum of practitioners, agencies, to really focus on, not only on disability inclusion but on the intersectional areas. Such as children disability inclusion, women, climate change, and so on and so forth. Bringing together these perspectives we can make a difference and really breach the data gap that is as of now one of the biggest barriers in our efforts.

Just to make a point about the thing for international persons day with disabilities is increasing. We have just come out of the summit, we discussed about an agenda for development. Among the 213, with progress, only requires disability inclusion for 10 of the indicators. There is no real understanding across those indicators. About how to get disability inclusive data.

So bringing together the stakeholders in the Living Inclusion Network will be crucial for the next steps. I will leave it to these and then I am happy to answer more questions. Thank you very much.

REBECCA DANIEL:

Thank you so much Alessandro, we must find out the best ways of calibration and potential areas. I think these are two very crucial points, many crucial points you have mentioned. Thank you so much to both of you. I would like to stress again that you could put in questions in the slido Q&A section.



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We have received a few and I would just like to let you know, for the sake of time we cannot go through all of them. We will take note of them and make sure we respond to them, both in slido and through the network. You can still access the slido poll later and you'll find the responses there as well.

I would like to highlight on questions and ask both of really briefly, just a minute to respond to it from your view. It does not need to be exhaustive. It is on involvement of OPDs, organisations of persons of disabilities. The colleagues are interested in receiving a few more ideas and, good or best practices, involving OPDs making UNICEF and projects more inclusive. Disability inclusive where do you see areas for improvement? Let's say... Who feels they would want to share something about it? Both of you. Please go ahead.

YETNEBERSH NIGUSSIE MOLLA:

Thank you, of course it is not an optional choice it is rather a precondition. The UN has guidelines, we already have a guideline on how to content organisations with persons of disabilities. It is a precondition to disability inclusion work. UNICEF we collaborate with many organisations including Mozambique we have one of the best examples in the response to the cyclone Ida.

We have been working with the national organisations of disabilities. We also have at the regional office collaborated with the Southern African Federation for the Disabled. But we do not think it is enough, OPDs are the best place to get collective experts on how to go. It is a how moment, so it has an answer if we work with organisations of people with disabilities. Giving them the right space, not only to decide. Thank you.

REBECCA DANIEL:

Thank you very much, anything from you, Alessandro?

ALESSANDRO ERCOLANI:

I could not possibly add anything to that just to stress the importance, not only of the country, there is eventually where effort really is unfolded. I think there is a need to be the global level, what the global policies are and in the global Forum.

This is a call for all of the UN agencies and network organisations to have a chance to see the decision-making. For example, the summit we have just come out, United Nations General Assembly, so many others, the summit for the future which is coming out in 2024.



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It is a precondition to achieve sustainable development. There is no other way round it. There is no development without disability. So we either include persons with disabilities in the conversations to achieve it or we just do not achieve it.

Yes, that is it, oversimplifying this but I hope... I hope everybody gets the message.

REBECCA DANIEL:

No problem, I would like to also give a positive signal to everybody who would like to speak up. I totally understand this is the natural thing to get into the conversation, especially we are launching a network today. By nature it is on exchange.

I must apologise today we only have one hour to convey the message of what this is about. Promise you there will be a lot participation where we can give you the floor, where you can work in group work and so on and we can to many more questions that have been raised already and that will still be raised.

However, for the sake of time I want to move on because you will get more concrete examples in a bit by our Living Inclusion Network colleagues. I would like to thank again, Yetnebersh and Alessandro it is great to have inspiring colleagues in the network. We look forward to exchanging with you in the future.

I would now like to hand over to my colleague, she is a communication expert in the network team and she will present you what the network is about. So now we have heard a lot about the background and the importance, we want to give you some concrete, let's say food for thought. Over to you.

RAPHAELA KÜHN:

Thank you so much, can you hear me well?

REBECCA DANIEL:

Yes.

RAPHELA KÜHN:

Hello, everybody. I am working for GIZ and I am part of the network team. After exciting and inspiring inputs we have heard already on why inclusion is so important in international operation and how to



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deal with that... We will get a glimpse of it and delighted we are approaching the launch of the Living Inclusion Network. To give you a very brief introduction into the network, to what you can expect and what we have envisioned so far. Next slide, please. It is important to understand in which direction we are heading, I would say, in order to decide, as a listener, as a guest today whether this network meets your demands or organisation goals or anything.

Therefore, let's take a look at what we see as the main goals of the network today. Of course, it can change over the years with members' inputs but we as the network team aim to bridge the existing gap, we heard about it already from our speakers. We want to bridge the existing gap between development cooperation and inclusion of persons with disabilities. It is existing and we have to work on that together.

So, we hope that the network can contribute to mainstreaming disability inclusion in the development community, and in the projects and with the idea to increase the activities, of course, on inclusion but also to improve the existing ones, increase the impact.

So with this, with this work, the network will ultimately contribute to the implementation of the UN CRPD and, of course, the Agenda 2030. Next slide, please.

So how are we going to achieve or what are we going to do? I will keep it short so what we say is we need a demand-driven approach here so imprint from the members, from outside, so everybody should participate, and very important, and we heard it already from my colleagues a little bit, the enabling of practice-oriented exchange. This is a concept we are in so we will look on project work mainly, the implementation, members of the network will share experiences from their work and insights from practice and discuss solutions they found, discuss expenses.

This is the main idea.

We are also sure that there are some among us who were interested in more active collaboration and even maybe develop new ideas together, collaborate, so we also want to give room for that so room for inspiration and co-creation if possible.

And to reach that goal, these are the two ways we want to go, but we heard it already from Yetnebersh and colleagues, what is extremely important is the participation and involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities. Crucial for many reasons, so this is one of the key concepts we are following here.



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So, as you will see in a minute, our first event we are going to organise will be exactly about that, so how can organisations of persons with disabilities be included in project work, and everyday project work, from conception and the very beginning. Next slide.

So, let's look at the planned activities. It is still at the beginning, we are just starting, so what we plan for the next month or the next year, everything is planned to take place online exclusively to reach all of you all over the world. One of the main formats will be the so-called Inclusion Café. This is an interactive and more informal format which will take place every few months. It is aiming at connecting people, connecting members, discuss, learn, exchange, so very interactive format.

The first Inclusion Café will take place in spring. We will let you know the dates, the concrete date as soon as we know it and as I said, it will be about how to include organisations of persons with disabilities into project work.

Then, there will be a newsletter. As some colleagues might know, there is already one in place but as we are now opening up to the public, we decided to refurbish, to polish it a bit, and change the content. Once you are a member of the network, you will also receive this newsletter. The first one will be sent out in February.

So these are the activities for members, for now at least. But we also want to be open to the public at some point, and therefore, we will organise once or twice a year some open larger events where also non-members will be able to join.

Final slide, please, thank you. So, I want to close this brief presentation with a call for action. We are talking about the network, so we need all of you. It is very important for us that although this event is a little bit of talking on our side, but we really appreciate your input. Our members must be an active part in everything we do. This is key to make the network strong and sustainable.

So, whether you want to give feedback, start a discussion, having put to share, or even want to play some kind of active role in the network, just let us know. We are open to this. Furthermore, you can of course contribute to the newsletter with content. If you have something to share, announcements, anything like that, you can give input to the event, share your examples, share your projects, results, whatever. Just approach us.

Then, we would very much appreciate if you could spread the news, share information about this network with anybody who could be interested. Everybody, if it's your colleagues or other organisations, we want to grow, we need this diversity we talked about. Please, feel free to share the restoration form and some input. And, of course, for those who joined us today, who are not yet



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members of the network, follow the link; we have it on the chat and in several slides. Sign in, take a look at the network and we will invite you from there on to our activities and you will receive the newsletter and every update we want to give you.

This is what we do. This is what I wanted to share. I know it's very short and only very roughly but we hope to develop that further in the next month. We are very much looking forward to it. Thank you very much for your attention and I would passover back to Rebecca.

REBECCA DANIEL:

Thank you so much for this very informative session. I think that's why you are all here, also to know what this network is about exactly. So thanks for clarifying that. I'm sure there are a lot of open questions and, as in the previous session, they can comment through the Slido Q&A section. We already saw quite a few coming in and they are already being responded to in written form further. So keep posting all your questions, we will reply to them. You can enter the link all day. We will try to make sure this short session is not the only source of information for you on the event.

I would now like to formally announce that we would like to do a little launch ceremony of the network, and to do so, to have something to do so, we have asked quite a few colleagues if they could send us a few hands-on video messages, private messages, what they wish for the network and what they hope it will be and I would like now to ask our technical team to show the video and I wish you all a great network launch ceremony!

(Video plays)

FRANCINE PICKUP:

2023 marks the halfway point in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, an agenda to transform our world towards a more inclusive and sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

We must remember that there cannot be sustainable development without disability-inclusive development, and that persons with disabilities should be a driving force in this process.

TINO CLEMENS:

We are currently talking about 16% of people worldwide who have a disability. Therefore, despite all the current challenges, disability inclusion is a central driver for development.



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MARY ASARE:

Thus, international cooperation and development cannot be achieved without removing the barriers to development, such as the exclusion of persons with disabilities.

NATALIJA SPASOVSKA:

Because persons with disability are part of our society and they need to participate in all spheres of public life and therefore international community should contribute to this, to the wider participation of this community.

MOHAMED KIMBUGWE:

Every human being, including persons with disabilities, deserves a chance at life, deserves the chance at livelihoods, deserves access to services deserves an opportunity at independence and progress and growth, and the network has been a very important place to learn how to make that work.

THOMAS ONGOLO:

I think the network can advance inclusion of personal disability because it gives us an opportunity to link up as practitioners working in development cooperation.

HELLE DEERTZ:

Therefore, this also works to spread there the momentum for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and to work towards it and to exchange with my colleagues about the topic.

In order to have really successful project, it is also worth to spread it all over the world and also tackling our other colleagues from other organisations and to come with them into a talk to make living inclusion a real case.

TINO CLEMENS:

It is a great opportunity to focus on disability mainstreaming in development cooperation. We have to sing in alliances, work together and learn from each other.

MARY ASARE:

I envision the new network to facilitate more collaborations between GIZ Projects teams and external partners focused on disability inclusion.





## AI MEDIA

This could lead to the creation of joint initiatives that have a broader and more sustainable impact on the lives of persons with disability.

MOHAMED KIMBUGWE:

In the future, I hope that the Network can be this place where we engage, for example, have challenged features where people can present challenges they are encountering and trying to make a disability inclusion in international cooperation work.

THOMAS ONGOLO:

And I believe this network stands a huge opportunity of even unpacking, how do we involve and ensure the participation of people disability.

FRANCINE PICKUP:

The Living Inclusion Network will also be a key tool for UNDP and our partners in sharing expertise and aligning advocacy efforts across stakeholders for a more cohesive approach to disability inclusion.

HELLE DEERTZ:

Therefore, I would really recommend that you join this Network of Living Inclusion and it can really make a change there for support.

TINO CLEMENS:

The BMZ therefore supports the Living Inclusion Network, it is an excellent initiative and I wish all the members a fruitful exchange, inspiration, and a trusting and open atmosphere.

THOMAS ONGOLO:

Yeah, with this launch, I think it's a big opportunity for all of us to join this network. The time is now. Let's all join this network!

(Music plays, video ends)



## AI MEDIA

REBECCA DANIEL:

That was the video. I think there may have been some technical issues. Maybe the bandwidth was too much. I hope you enjoyed nevertheless.

We are pleased to have this network launched officially and to have it done together and to officially close the session, I would like to handover to Dr Bernd Schramm. Over to you, Bernd.

BERND SCHRAMM:

Thank you so much Rebecca fantastic messages! Let's celebrate the fantastic disability inclusion network on the international presence of disabilities on 3 December. This year's theme could not be more suitable for the network, United, to rescue and achieve for, with, and by persons with disabilities.

I would like to thank all of you for participating in the launch event. Thank you to Martin and Kristian for the opening remarks. Thank you to our great panellists for sharing the practical insights into the work of inclusive development and also on working with inclusion networks.

Many thanks also to our Living Inclusion Network team at GIZ to our great moderator Rebecca, to the service providers helping with technical support, sign language, interpretation, and closed captioning.

Let me just conclude with some personal recollections. Networking is so important, not as a talking club but in a sense of coming together with joint activities for co-creation. Many of my personal contacts from today have emerged from networks.

From the ILO Business and Disability Network, and within GIZ we have a number of sector networks. From all of these networks, I gain so much, I gain so much and my personal contacts from joining emerge mainly from these networks.

So, it is the active contribution, emphasised, this disability inclusion network is our network. Let's make it a lively network, we all have to work together for a sustainable transformation, and for realising this changing mindset which we were talking about.

So, I'm very much looking forward to exchanging with you in the network. It was already mentioned, we are starting with newsletters early next year or so with an inclusion café; and many more



## AI MEDIA

activities. It is also important for us within this network we systematically involved and discuss with persons with disabilities and their organisations.

So please, spread the news about the network, spread it to those who are not usually part of the disability community. That is very very important. Everyone is welcome, everybody is welcome to join those who have joined already receive updates on network activities, news, and events.

Thank you so much to all of you and to the moderator again.

REBECCA DANIEL:

Thank you a lot to you, Bernd, for the closing remarks and to everybody who participated today, we hope you enjoyed the event, please evaluate through the link that will be shared to Slido. There will be last questions that you can go through, we will be very grateful for your evaluation feedback to build on for upcoming events.

We also post the link to the web page where you can register for the network and find all of the information shared today and the link to the video to seek and watch it again if you like. Thank you again to everyone and I wish you a good rest of the day at start of networking in this Living Inclusion Network! Goodbye.

(End of captions)