

ICT accessibility in education and employment (DCAD workshop)

Wednesday, 27th November – 13.15-14.15

Convention Hall I-C.

Theme: [Digital Inclusion](#)
Subtheme(s): [Accessibility](#)
[Design for Inclusion](#)
[Digital Divide](#)

Organizer 1: [Gunela Astbrink](#), Internet Society Accessibility Special Interest Group

Organizer 2: [G. Anthony Giannoumis](#), Oslo Metropolitan University

Organizer 3: [Andrea Saks](#)

Speaker 1: [Jorge Manhique](#), Civil Society, African Group

Speaker 2: [Patrick Ojok](#), Civil Society, African Group

Speaker 3: [Peter Crosbie](#), Civil Society, Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Speaker 4: Anne Igeltjorn, Technical Community, Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Key Contributors:

Abdoulaye Dembele, Civil Society, African Group

Hifza Shahzad, Technical Community, Asia-Pacific Group

Policy Questions:

1. What are the societal and cultural factors that become barriers in accessing education and employment for people with disability?
2. How do we ensure that physical accessibility to schools, universities and places of employment is linked with digital accessibility for people with disability?
3. Do user interfaces and websites help or hamper people with disability in improving their productivity in education and employment?
4. What is the way forward to remove the barriers in education and employment of people with disability?
5. How can the global south influence ICT accessibility standards?

Relevance to Theme: Accessibility for people with disability is fundamental to digital inclusion. Improved educational and employment opportunities are needed for equal participation of persons with disability in society. People with disability are, according to WHO, about 1.5 billion or 15% of the world's population.

With technology being an integral part of education and employment, this roundtable is highly relevant to the theme of digital inclusion.

Relevance to Internet Governance: Education and employment are fundamental rights as outlined in Articles 23 and 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It enhances a human being's sense of worth and belonging in society and contributes to the individual's and a community's social capital.

International instruments such as SDGs and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (UNCRPD) promote the accessibility of educational and employment opportunities for people with disability. The UNCRPD's Article 9 on ICT accessibility and W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines are clearly relevant to Internet Governance.

Format: Round Table - U-shape - 60 Min

Description: The roundtable will stimulate a wide-ranging discussion on addressing critical policy questions. The roundtable topic will be introduced and explained to set the scene. Speakers will be introduced and will give short opening statements of around two minutes each. The moderator will then

lead the discussion based on the policy questions. The moderator will encourage participants to give case studies and examples to illustrate policy points.

For example, as students, accessibility or rather inaccessibility of online learning platforms is an issue that people with disability have to face. Some workplaces increasingly make use of online forums for performance, communication and collaboration for employees. The inaccessibility of these forums is creating a new set of problems for persons with disability.

When accessibility is considered as part of mainstream design considerations, it benefits many groups in many different situations. This is referred to as universal or inclusive design.

The roundtable will have a strong focus on issues in the global south. The discussion will be framed in terms of how accessibility and universal design of technologies are addressed in policy and legislation in the global south and will also offer practical examples of accessibility issues for staff and students in Ugandan public universities.

Understanding the practicalities of accessibility helps to focus policy debate. Once all the policy questions have been addressed, the moderator will summarise the main discussion points especially in terms of moving forwards with key strategies to improve digital accessibility to education and employment for people with disability. The roundtable will conclude with closing remarks.

Agenda

Introduction and scene-setting – 3 minutes

Opening statements by speakers – 15 minutes

Guided discussion and debate based on policy questions - 35 minutes

Summary of discussion – 5 minutes

Closing remarks – 2 minutes

Expected Outcomes: The expected robust discussion in the roundtable should lead to a number of strategies to guide further policy discussions in removing barriers to accessing education and employment for people with disability. This will be documented and further discussed in forthcoming DCAD meetings.

Onsite Moderators:

Gunela Astbrink, Civil Society, Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Judy Okite, Civil Society, African Group

Online Moderator: [Judith Hellerstein](#), Private Sector, Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Online Participation:

The workshop will use the ITU Guidelines for supporting remote participation in meetings for all (<http://www.itu.int/pub/T-TUT-FSTP-2015-ACC>). The moderator will have the full list of remote participants and their affiliations. Should there be persons who are blind participating remotely who cannot access directly the remote participation tool, because they are not able to access the 'hand-raising' mechanism with their screen reader, they will be recognised by the online moderator during the discussion session so that they are able to make comments directly.

SDGs:

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequalities

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 17: Partnerships for the Goals