

*Thursday, 23 November 2017 – The Hague*

## **Making inclusion work!**

*Expert meeting on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Disability*

How can we include men, women, adolescents and children with disabilities in SRHR programs? And how can we include SRHR in disability-specific programs? 'Leave no one behind' is a central principle of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but challenges at implementation level are still paramount.

Therefore, the Dutch Coalition of Disability and Development (DCDD) – a coalition of twelve organizations – has organized an expert meeting and prepared a book on SRHR and disability, in cooperation with Share-Net International (the knowledge platform on SRHR). The publication is filled with practical information, interviews, recommendations, and most importantly: with practical examples. The publication will be presented at the expert meeting with the special UN rapporteur Catalina Devandas.

### **Program of the expert meeting**

*Location: Paleiskerk (Paleisstraat 8, the Hague)*

9:30 **Walk-in, registration and coffee**

10:00 **Opening and welcome** by Ewoud Poerink (DCDD)

**Key note: Catalina Devandas Aguilar**, special UN rapporteur

The special UN rapporteur on the Rights of People with a Disability elaborates on her work from the perspective of sexual and reproductive health rights and disability.

What can and should be done to improve and strengthen the position of people with a disability?

Reaction and reflections by Eric Hilberink, deputy director Multilateral Affairs & Human Rights (Dutch ministry of foreign affairs) and questions from the audience.

10:50 **Presentation of book 'Everybody matters'**

Lieke Scheewe (Light for the World) will present an illustrated collection of remarkable stories, examples and relevant interviews from different parts of the world. The book '**Everybody** matters' addresses three questions that will also be addressed in the World Café's.

**11:00 Three rounds of World Café**

Interactive group discussions addressing the following questions:

- Q1: What can you do in your work to improve SRHR for people with disabilities?
- Q2: How could organizations collaborate to improve SRHR for people with disabilities?
- Q3: What should be done at the (inter)national policy level to improve SRHR for people with disabilities?

**12:20 Concluding remarks**

Catalina Devandas interviewed by Laura Honders (Lilianefonds/DCDD)

**12:30 Closing of expert meeting**

*DCDD and Share-Net International would also like to invite you to attend the following meeting on Thursday afternoon:*

**Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal (House of Parliament)**

**Commission on Foreign Trade and Development  
receives Catalina Devandas, *special UN rapporteur***

**23 November 2017 from 15:00 until 16:00 hours**

A special session is scheduled in the Dutch Parliament. Members of the Commission on Foreign Trade and Development and special UN rapporteur Catalina Devandas will discuss the implementation of CRPD. The session is open to public and participants of the expert meeting are warmly invited to attend this meeting.

*Please note: political developments can influence the agenda of Parliament. This could mean this specific session can be cancelled last minute. For the latest updates please check [www.tweedekamer.nl](http://www.tweedekamer.nl). If you register for the expert meeting, you will be kept updated on potential changes.*

For more information, contact Ewoud Poerink ([dcdd@dcdd.nl](mailto:dcdd@dcdd.nl)).

## **About the special UN Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar (Costa Rica) is a lawyer by training and human rights advocate, who has worked extensively on disability issues at the national, regional and international level. Before taking up her duties as first Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on 1 December 2014, she was working as a Program Officer for Strategic Partnerships with the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, and was formerly with the United Nations Secretariat unit responsible for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the World Bank as a consultant for the Disability and Inclusive Development team for Latin America and the Caribbean region. Ms. Devandas Aguilar has previously served as a Board Member of the Latin American Network of Persons with Disabilities representing the region in the International Disability Alliance.

Her work has focused on the rights of women with disabilities and the rights of indigenous peoples with disabilities, and she has experience supporting capacity building and technical assistance projects with Governments, United Nations system actors, national human rights institutions, and organizations of persons with disabilities.

As Special Rapporteur, Ms. Devandas Aguilar wishes to emphasize the importance of supporting states to fulfil their obligations as outlined in the CRPD, acting as a system-wide catalyst and connector.

### **What are Special Rapporteurs?**

Special Rapporteurs are appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to examine a particular human rights issue and report back on a thematic or country-specific perspective in all parts of the world. This position is honorary, and thus they are not members of staff of the United Nations, nor paid for their work. They express their views in an independent capacity and do not represent their respective Governments. The independent status of the Special Rapporteur is crucial in order to be able to fulfil his/her functions in all impartiality.

(source: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org))