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# Bridging the Gap

## Launch event

*Brussels, 5 December 2017*

Square Brussels Meeting Centre  
Hall 300  
Rue Mont des Arts / Kunstberg  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium





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## 9:15 Registration

## 9:45 Opening remarks – Institutional welcoming

- **Neven Mimica**, *EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development*
- Ambassador **Pablo García-Berdoy**, *Permanent Representative of Spain to the European Union (TBC)*
- **Yannis Vardakastanis**, *President of the European Disability Forum (EDF)*
- **Birgit Van Hout**, *Regional Representative in Europe of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)*

## 10:45 Keynote speech

**Yetnebersh Nigussie**, *Lawyer and Disability Rights Activist – Senior Inclusion Advisor at Light for the World* (video message) – Overview on the main current challenges in the field of disability and development

## 11:00 Presentation of the project Bridging the Gap

- **Victoria Lee**, *Bridging the Gap I, OHCHR, Project Manager*
- **Federico Martire**, *Bridging the Gap II, FIIAPP – Cooperación Española, Project Director*

Q&A Session

## 11:30 Coffee break

## 11:45 Session I – “Inclusive education”

Moderator: **Ana Peláez Narváez**, *Executive vice-president of CERMI Mujeres (TBC)*

- **Claude Cahn**, *OHCHR Regional Office for Europe, Human Rights Officer*
- **Franz-Joseph Huainigg**, *Member of the Foreign Policy Committee and Committee on Human Rights, Austrian Parliament*
- **Donata Vivanti**, *Italian Forum on Disability, Vice-President*

Q&A Session

## 12:45 Lunch break



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## 13:45 **Session II – “Ensuring CRPD compliance in the SDGs through international cooperation”**

Moderator: **Jean-Louis Ville**, *European Commission, DG DEVCO Directorate for People and Peace, Director*

- **Sabine Rehbichler**, *Light for the world, International Director Programmes, Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships*
- **Giampiero Griffo**, *Italian Network for Disability and Development, President*
- **Thorkild Olesen**, *SDG Expert, Dansk Blindesamfunds*

Q&A Session

## 14:45 **Session III – “Gender equality and human rights”**

Moderator: **Joanna Maycock**, *European Women Lobby, Secretary General*

- **Ola Abu Alghaib**, *Deputy Director Global Leonard Cheshire Disability*
- **Shitaye Astawes**, *Austrian Development Agency, National Coordinator Ethiopia*
- **Olga Montúfar**, *President of the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network*

Q&A Session

## 15:45 **Conclusions and closing remarks**

- (TBA)
- **Germán García da Rosa**, *FIIAPP, Director of Department of Social Affairs and Public Administration*

## 16:15 **End of the launch event**

*Interpretation languages: EN, FR, ES, international sign*

*Real time captioning*