# **Launch of Joint Statement CRC-CRPD on the rights of children with disabilities**

# ***Concept Note***

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| **I. Background**  The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities contain legally binding obligations relating in general and specific terms to the rights of children with disabilities.  By virtue of their complementary mandates and shared commitment to strengthening protection of all children with disabilities, both Committees decided, in 2018, to create a Joint Working Group on Children with Disabilities (JWG) to improve synergies concerning children with disabilities.  One of the agreed activities of the Joint Working Group on Children with Disabilities, was to develop a statement, endorsed by both Committees, which harmonizes issues related to the respect, protection and realization of the rights of children with disabilities in accordance with the two Conventions. The statement should also give orientation to States parties and stakeholders, including United Nations entities, national human rights institutions, regional human rights organizations and civil society organizations (both specialized in children’s rights and the rights of persons with disabilities) on the interpretation of the obligations derived jointly from both Conventions.  **II. Launch of Joint Statement CRC-CRPD**  During its 89th session and 26th session respectively, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) adopted a Joint Statement on the Rights of Children with Disabilities. The Committees have agreed on a public launch of the Joint Statement to take place during the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.   1. **Date, time and venue**   Monday 21 March 2022, from 10.00 am to 11.00 a.m. (CET Geneva time), in *Palais des Nations* Room XXIII. (Remote participation of stakeholders). |
| 1. **Format**   The event will have simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish. Captioning and International Sign will be available. It can be followed on [United Nations Media](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k13/k13lq4ab2q)  The session will start with opening remarks by the Chairs of both Committees and the UNICEF Representative. It will be followed by two speakers addressing questions posed by the moderator and conclude with questions from the floor concerning the adoption of the Joint Statement.   1. **Participants**   The event includes participation of Committee Members from CRC and CRPD, Chairs of CRC (Ms. Mikiko Otani) and CRPD (Ms. Rosemary Kayess), and Coordinators of the Joint Working Group, the lead consultant of the project (Prof. Jorge Cardona), UNICEF representatives, civil society organizations, organizations of persons with disabilities, and other stakeholders, online; moderated by Prof. Jorge Cardona.  **III. Provisional program**   1. **Introduction by moderator:** Prof.Jorge Cardona, lead Consultant – 5min 2. **Opening remarks (**10 min)**:**   Ms.Rosemary Kayess**,** Chair CRPD,  Ms. Mikiko Otani, Chair  UNICEF representative   1. **Panel of speakers:** (20 min.)  * Ms. Velina Todorova, Coordinator of the JWG CRC * Mr. Jonas Ruskus, Coordinator of the JWG CRPD   **Suggested Questions for the panel:**   * What is the human rights model of disabilities and what does it mean for children with disabilities? * Which are the common aspects of the CRC and CRPD in relation to children with disabilities? * What are key elements for children with disabilities in situations of emergency?  1. **Questions from the floor & answers from speakers** – 15 min   Posed by Child Rights Connect and the International Disability Alliance.  **Adoption and launching of the Joint Statement** – 5 min |

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