

**EMPOWERING AND PROTECTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DURING
AND AFTER COVID-19”
A CONVERSATION WITH THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SECRETARY GENERAL ON DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY**

**October 30, 2020
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (ET)**

Organizers

American University Washington College of Law, Office of the Dean
American University Washington College of Law, International and Comparative Legal
Studies
Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on Disability and
Accessibility

Objectives

- To present the mandate of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility and its recommendations to empower and protect persons with disabilities during and after COVID-19;
- To present an overview of the World Health Organization’s “Quality Rights Materials for Training, Guidance and Transformation on Mental Health, Disability and Human Rights”; and
- To explore and discuss areas of technical collaboration to promote and protect more effectively health and other related human rights of persons with disabilities during and after COVID-19.

Participants

The invitation to this conversation will be widely disseminated among academic institutions, faculty and law students, international organizations, health agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities, NGOs dedicated to human rights and health law, international and regional human rights organs and treaty bodies and United Nations Special Procedures, among others.

PROGRAM

11:00 a.m. – 11:02 a.m.

Opening remarks and objectives of the session

Moderator of the session: Prof. Javier Vásquez,
Senior Advisor to the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on
Disability and Accessibility
Adjunct Associate Faculty on Global Health Law, American University Washington
College of Law

11:02 a.m.-11:12 a.m.

American University Washington College of Law and the promotion of the human rights
of persons with disabilities: A message from the Dean's Office

Prof. Robert Dinerstein
Acting Dean and Director of the Disability Rights Law Clinic, American University
Washington College of Law

11:12 a.m.-11:28 a.m.

Mandate of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on Disability and
Accessibility and its recommendations to empower and protect persons with disabilities
during and after COVID-19

Prof. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes
Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility
Comments by Prof. Javier Vásquez

11:28 a.m.-11:40 a.m.

Mental Health, Disability and Human Rights: World Health Organization Quality Rights
Core Training and Guidance for all Services and all People

Dr. Michelle Funk
Unit Head, Policy, Law and Human Rights Unit
Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, World Health Organization

11:40 a.m.-11:50 a.m.

Questions and Answers (dialogue with participants)

11:50 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Dialogue on the way forward: potential areas for technical cooperation

Prof. Robert Dinerstein
Prof. María Soledad Cisternas
Dr. Michelle Funk

12:00 p.m.

End of Session