**DRAFT 9-24-08**

**Implementing the Digital Accessibility Agenda of the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities: Challenges and Opportunities for Signatory States**

*A Workshop co-organized by UNITAR and G3ict, the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs-GAID*

*In co-operation with the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

*December 3, 2008, United Nations Headquarters, New-York, Conference Room E*

***Session will be aired via webcast***

**10.00 a.m. Welcome to Participants, objectives of meeting, by UNITAR, GAID, UN DESA**

*Ambassador Luis Gallegos, G3ict*

*Mr. Sarbuland Khan, GAID*

*Mrs. Colleen Thouez, UNITAR*

*Mrs. Akiko Ito, UN DESA, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

**10.15 a.m. Status of the adoption of the Convention**

*The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been signed by over 130 countries since its opening for signatures on March 31st, 2007, one of the fastest rates of adoption among recent international treaties developed in the context of the United Nations. The Secretariat for the Convention (UN DESA) will present an update on the signatures, ratifications and upcoming next steps to ensure its implementation and enforcement.*

*Speaker: Mrs. Akiko Ito, Chief, Secretariat tof the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.*

**10.40 a.m. The Digital Accessibility Agenda of the Convention**

*One of the most innovative and far reaching dispositions of the Convention is the* *inclusion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in its definition of accessibility, at par with the physical environment and transportation. As a result, all mandates of the Convention regarding accessibility cover ICT applications. G3ict, the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs launched by the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development in December 2006 in support of the Convention, will review the practical implications for signatory states of those accessibility mandates.*

*Speaker: Axel Leblois, Executive Director, G3ict, Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs.*

**11.00 a.m. Perspectives from Policy Makers, NGOs representing persons with disabilities, Industry and Standard Organizations**

*Representatives from key stakeholders will discuss how ICT accessibility mandates can be best met, and the role that ICT vendors, users and policy makers can play in support its implementation. The panel will also review the opportunity to implement international ICT accessibility standards in support of the interoperability of assistive solutions, mass production and affordability, as mandated by the Convention.*

*Panelists:*

* *John Vaughn, Chairman, National Council on Disability, Washington, DC*
* *Charlotte Vuyiswa McClain-Nhlapo, World Bank*
* *Professor Gerard Quinn, National University of Ireland, Galway*
* *Frances West, IBM Worldwide Human Ability and Accessibility Center*
* *Kevin Carey, Royal National Institute for the Blind and World Blind Union*

**12 p.m. Break** *(possibly changing room for last session dedicated to state parties to the Convention, tbc )*

**12.15 p.m. Next Steps and International Cooperation Programs Available to Signatory States**

*A review of the programs and resources available to Policy Makers and Civil Society to monitor and implement the Digital Accessibility Agenda of the Convention will be presented.*

* *Toolkit for Policy Makers: Mrs. Asenath Mpatwa, ITU – D*
* *Digital Accessibility and Inclusion Index and self – assessment tools for governments and Civil Society, John Kemp, Powers, Pyles, Sutter, Verville and Professor Licia Sbatella, Politecnico di Milano*
* *Forum on implementing the Digital Accessibility Agenda of the Convention for state parties to the Convention (as of September 2008, 37 states) – April 2009, Axel Leblois or representative of host country, tbc*
* *Q & As and Conclusions*

**1.30 p.m. Adjournment**