



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



United Nations Special Rapporteur  
on the rights of persons with disabilities



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
MINISTRY FOR INCLUSION,  
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND  
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS



EU-Arab Cooperation Forum on the  
**Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

منتدى التعاون الأوروبي العربي  
لحقوق الأشخاص ذوي الإعاقة

## “EU-Arab Cooperation Forum on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”

### under the Valletta Political Declaration

Virtual Launch of the Letter of Understanding

**24 January 2022**

3:30pm-4:30 (Beirut time)

2:30pm-3:30 (CET)

*Draft Agenda*

### Background

This virtual event will mark the signature of a Letter of Understanding between the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the Ministry for Inclusion, Social Wellbeing and Voluntary Organisations (MIWV) in the Republic of Malta and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to collaborate and give effect to the “**EU-Arab Cooperation Forum on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**” which was established under the Valletta Political Declaration on EU-Arab Cooperation in Affirming Disability Rights in Valletta, Malta on 25 April 2019.

The “Cooperation Forum” will foster inter-regional cooperation to improve social inclusion of persons with disabilities in both the EU and Arab region. It will support collaborative efforts for capacity building, policy exchange, technical cooperation, and research, among others.

The first initiative under this cooperation shall be to establish the “**Arab-EU Research Network on Disability**”. The network will foster inter-regional cooperation and knowledge exchange. It aims to support research, capacity building and curriculum development as a driver for change to improve social inclusion of persons with disabilities in both the EU and Arab region.

The work of the “Cooperation Forum” is aligned with UN’s commitment to disability inclusion through the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), which provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the UN: peace and security, human rights, and development.

## Agenda

Time (Beirut)	
<b>3:30-3:40</b>	<i>Opening Remarks</i> Dr. Mehrinaz El Awady, Leader of the Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA
<b>3:40-3:50</b>	Speech by Dr. Rola Dashti, Under-Secretary-General, and Executive Secretary of ESCWA
<b>3:50-4:00</b>	Speech by Hon. Julia Farrugia Portelli, Minister for Inclusion, Social Wellbeing and Voluntary Organisations, Malta
<b>4:00-4:10</b>	Speech by Dr. Gerard Quinn, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
	<i>Capturing virtual group photo</i>
<b>4:15-4:20</b>	Speech by Ms. Sylvanna Lakkis, Chair, Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>4:20-4:25</b>	Speech by Dr. Claire Azzopardi Lane, Deputy Dean of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, and Head of the Department of Disability Studies at the University of Malta
<b>4:25-4:30</b>	<i>Conclusion</i>