

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY CELEBRATIONS AT UN OFFICE AT GENEVA

APDSF has always been keen on promoting persons with Down syndrome and highlighting their potential. It was towards this goal that the APDSF in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of India at the UN in Geneva had organized the World Down Syndrome Day celebrations at the Palais De Nations at Geneva.

However, with deep regret we announce the postponement of our event at the UN Office in Geneva scheduled for the 23rd of March 2020. Through the course of the informal discussions we have had with the PMI at the UN office in Geneva, I understand that due to the concerns caused by the recent virus threat this event will have to be rescheduled.

The UN website says “As per the advice of the UN Secretary-General and UNOG Director-General, guided by the Swiss authorities, all Council-related side events have been cancelled as of 3 March to 20 March 2020.” We are therefore obliged to adhere to their norms.

We understand how disappointed our speakers, delegates and their families would be due to this decision of ours and APDSF shares your sentiments.. However, this is a case of an extraordinary situation needing an extraordinary action. We do hope you understand that the situation was not within our control and so we had to take this decision to reschedule the event.

Factors taken into consideration:

1. Risk of delegates contracting COVID-19 as a result of attending the event, keeping in mind the nature of those attending the event – including young adults and seniors who might be susceptible to contracting the infection;
2. Travel restrictions on foreign delegates attending the event; Probability of quarantine in an alien country.
3. Currently events have been cancelled only till the 20th of March. However the chances that the entire event might be cancelled are high, so APDSF has taken the call to postpone the WDSF Celebrations hosted by us for the time being.

We sincerely apologize for this decision of ours and will keep you informed about the rescheduled date shortly.

The World Down Syndrome Celebrations will be carried out throughout the region and we do hope that you are a part of these events for now. We will try to find out ways to ensure your voice is heard globally and promote an inclusive society for persons with Down syndrome throughout the region when the situation improves.

N. Ramachandran
President - APDSF