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| **Source:** | | Co-vice chair of JCA-AHF | | | |
| **Title:** | | Accessibility at AI for Good event in Geneva | | | |
| **Purpose:** | | Discussion | | | |
| **Contact:** | | Lidia Best EFHOH UK | | | E-mail:best.lidia@gmail.com |

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| **Keywords:** | Accessibility; AI; disability; event |
| **Abstract:** | This document contains the review of onsite and online accessibility of the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva 6-7 July 2023. |

# Introduction

AI for Good Global Summit review of accessibility access

The AI for Good Global Summit took place in Geneva on 6-7 July 2023.

This was very well attended event and important in the AI for Good calendar.

The registration for the event was free, however there did not seem to be any information related to accessibility of the venue both physical and sensory. <https://aiforgood.itu.int/faq/>

This is seriously concerning, as the organisers need to be proactive in attracting experts with disabilities to participate.

# Discussion

1. Access for participants who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

* The was no International Sign interpretation provided on site or online.
* Online, the speeches and presentations were not live captioned.
* Videos played at the plenary room were not captioned and there was no open captioning on screen in the plenary session and other smaller sessions.
* There was ASR captioning via an app with auto translation in a few languages. Participants were asked to download an app and use a code to access captioning. The code was only available at the entrance of the plenary room, however code presented on screen in the plenary was not giving access to captioning, leading to confusion.

The staff were approached and were just as confused themselves, since none of them were given any guidance prior to the event. The captioning in the app, has often stopped, had a message showing that host switched off the captioning and at one point there was no captioning for about 10 min.

1. Access for participants who are Neurodiverse

* As above, plus use of bright lights and extremely loud music and sounds during announcing speakers was not inclusive for those on neurodiverse spectrum including Autism.
* The event organisers did not take care of ensuring participants are not exposed to unsafe levels of noise.

1. Access for participants with mobility issues

* No dedicated spaces for wheelchair users nor other mobility requirements at the plenary sessions

# Conclusion

The event website did not specify any information related to accessibility of the event and referred participants to request accessibility via email, which is detrimental to many PwDs. Lack of open captioning on site was serious misjudgement and missed opportunity to show event accessibility. Having been forced to look at their mobile phones, deaf or HoH participants loose most of the context related to presenters and presentations due to having been forced to look at the app, this was not following accepted good practice nor the ITU own Accessible Meetings Technical Paper.

The Interprefy App with auto captioning suffered from issues, which caused lack of good user experience. The open captioning on the screen in the room is essential for inclusion, while an app can only be added as part of the choice or specific needs, such as ease of captioning access for participants such as persons who are deafblind.

AI for Good was a missed opportunity to showcase how AI can benefit Pwds and to ensure their inclusion and participation. The ITU department responsible for the events organising, should consult with JCA-AHF on the good practice and guidance how to include Pwds.

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