



**02.04.2016 - Autism is a lifelong neurological condition that manifests during early childhood, irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status.**

Autism is mainly characterized by its unique social interactions, non-standard ways of learning, keen interests in specific subjects, inclination to routines, challenges in typical communications and particular ways of processing sensory information.

The rate of autism in all regions of the world is high and the lack of understanding has a tremendous impact on the individuals, their families and communities. The stigmatization and discrimination associated with neurological differences remain substantial obstacles to diagnosis and therapies.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "This year marks the 10th anniversary of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) . On this World Autism Awareness Day, I call for advancing the rights of individuals with autism and ensuring

their full participation and inclusion as valued members of our diverse human family who can contribute to a future of dignity and opportunity for all."

2 April is World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) which highlights the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

The 2016 observance of WAAD will look ahead to 2030 and reflect on the new [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and their implications for improving the lives of people with autism. Disability and persons with disabilities are explicitly referenced in the following goals: 4) Quality Education; 8) Decent Work and Economic Growth; 10) Reduced Inequalities; 11) Sustainable Cities and Communities; and 17) Partnerships for the Goals.

Watch Benjamin's Story below. The video, produced for WAAD follows film-maker Benjamin Rosloff's visit to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City and his interview with UN's Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon.

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### UNRICs Related Links

- [World Autism Awareness Day](#);
- [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

- [Sustainable Development Goals&nbsp;](#)

Photo: Nicole Mays