Greetings

and welcome to the Massive Open Online Course on Empowering Women with Disabilities, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy of Beirut.

My name is Sara Minkara, and I am the Special Advisor on International Disability Rights for the United States Government.

I am honored to be serving in this critical role, where we are committed to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities across the globe,and we are committed to the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

I am also a proud woman with a disability.

This course is so important and speaks to my heart on a personal and professional level, because I understand what empowerment means as a woman and as a person with disability.

If I wasn’t seen or heard or recognized or valued, I wouldn’t be sitting here. This course covers a wide range of topics including identities, education, employability, leadership and professional development, and advocacy.

This course is so important because crisis across the globe disproportionately impact persons and women with disabilities.

Ensuring and upholding disability right is not just the right thing to do,

It promotes inclusive societies, democracies, and economic development.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities is a value for all.