



V CITIZENS ACTION NETWORK

V Citizens Action Network (VCAN)

26th August 2018

Shri N. J. Wagle,
Deputy Secretary,
State Election Commission
Maharashtra

Dear Shri Wagle,

SUB: "International Conference" of Election Commissioners on 25th & 26th October 2018
Invitation to attend as a Speaker – Summary of my Presentation

This is further to my earlier letter dated 18th August 2018, confirming my acceptance to be a Speaker, and to speak on the theme of **Inclusiveness**.

As requested by you in your invitation letter, please find enclosed, the Summary of my Presentation.

Since in your invitation letter I did not see the exact format or the word limit for the Summary of Presentation, I have made a concise Summary of one page. Trust this would be suitable for your purpose. Should you need any elaboration, please do let me know.

I would like to draw your kind attention to a small observation in the Theme allotted to me, the term "differently-abled", is not as per UN definition, which in fact is "Persons with Disability" (PwDs), a term also used in all documents of ECI. Considering we are at an International Conference we should adapt to the UN definition.

I have visited the website mentioned in your invitation letter. It is well constructed and looks good.

I now look forward to a very interesting and successful Conference in October.

Yours sincerely,

Indrani Malkani
Chairman

Ashoka Fellow

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STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
"BETTER ELECTIONS FOR HEALTHIER DEMOCRACY"
25TH & 26TH OCTOBER 2018, MUMBAI

Summary of my talk on Theme (ii) Inclusiveness – How to ensure that women, differently-abled, marginalized and excluded segments of society are brought into main stream

The presentation will discuss the challenges and solutions to increasing voter participation of women, persons with disability (PwDs), transgenders, and migrant labourers, among others. An examination of the issues unique to each, with a focus on the particular challenges, individual to Urban, Semi Urban and Rural environments.

Understanding that participation in Local Body Elections, is actually the foundation for "Better Elections for Healthier Democracy"

The presentation will cover various points relating to the above concept including:

1. Tools and activities for wider outreach to target groups
2. Improvement and adaptation of infrastructure
3. Training and sensitization of electoral and non-electoral personnel
4. Leveraging NGOs (non-government organisations) and CSOs (civil society organisations) in increasing outreach, particularly in voter registration and voter turnout
5. Involving Corporates, PSUs and Government Organisations in ensuring that all employees are registered and that they participate in casting their votes
6. Evaluating the Roles of the ECI and SECs and the synergy between the two
7. Sharing of International best practices

The desired outcome from the presentation would be the audience recognizing that achieving the increased participation of the target groups is not only an attainable target but is something that can realistically be achieved in the next several years provided, that adequate measures and appropriate steps are taken by the Administration and a resolve is made by Civil Society.

Indrani Malkani
Chairman

Ashoka Fellow

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