**Strengthening engagement with the CRPD Committee**

**Workshop with Civil Society Representatives**

**17-18 October 2017, Brussels**

**Concept Note**

**Background and objectives**

Following requests from key partners, the United Nations Human Rights Regional Office for Europe (OHCHR) and the European Disability Forum (EDF) organized a first joint workshop for civil society organisations (CSOs) and disabled persons’ organisations (DPOs) on strengthening engagement with the CRPD Committee in 2015.

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, one of the most recent treaty bodies established, monitors implementation by State parties of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee reviews reports, engages in constructive dialogue and issues conclusions and recommendations. The CRPD Committee can also receive complaints from individuals or groups about a State if it has ratified the Optional Protocol, and adopts General Comments interpreting specific provisions of the CRPD.

EDF supports its members in their participation during the review process of their country by the CRPD Committee by providing guidance on, among others, drafting the alternative report and organizing briefing meetings with the Committee members. In line with OHCHR’s mandate to promote engagement with international human rights mechanisms and to empower rights holders, OHCHR and EDF are organizing another technical workshop on strengthening engagement with the CRPD Committee. The event is organized in collaboration with the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) and targets rights holders, DPOs and civil society representatives. It will take place on **17-18 October in Brussels** (Belgium).

 The objectives of the workshop are the following:

* Increase understanding of the treaty body system and other international human rights mechanisms
* Increase awareness of how rights holders, DPOs and CSOs can engage with the CRPD Committee, including drafting alternative reports and replies to list of issues, monitoring the implementation of Concluding Observations and filing individual complaints.

**Participants**

The workshop is designed for rights-holders and DPOs representing persons with disabilities who:

(a) do not regularly engage with the CRPD Committee and would like to strengthen their knowledge of how to do so, including their role in the various procedures of the CRPD Committee;

(b) are based/work in countries which will be reviewed by the CRPD Committee in the coming future

(c) can bring in the expertise and representation of persons with disabilities; and/or

(d) are committed to transmitting the knowledge acquired to rights-holders and DPOs in their countries.

The participants will be identified through consultation of NGO networks and partners in Brussels and in the field.

**Language**

The workshop will be held in English and will be interpreted into international sign language. For the plenary sessions, there will also be speech to text reporting (velotyping).

**Venue and costs**

OHCHR and EDF are in a position to cover the costs of travel and accommodation for one night’s stay of participants, including personal assistant if applicable.

Participants from outside Brussels will stay in Hotel Courtyard Brussels EU, Rue Joseph II 32, 1000 Brussels. The event will take place in the “Orega Meeting Center”, Rue du Commerce 123, 1000 Brussels, across the street from the hotel.

**Contact**

For questions related to this workshop, please contact Susanne Bosman from OHCHR (sbosman@ohchr.org, tel. +32 2 274 01 75) or An-Sofie Leenknecht from EDF (ansofie.leenknecht@edf-feph.org, tel. +32 2 282 46 02)