



**International
Disability
Alliance**

IDA Member Organizations

African Disability Forum, Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities, ASEAN Disability Forum, Down Syndrome International, European Disability Forum, Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families, Pacific Disability Forum, World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the DeafBlind, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

Human Rights Council opens its 34th Regular Session Geneva, from 27 February to 24 March 2017 Informative Note

The Human Rights Council (HRC) holds its thirty fourth regular session from 27 February to 24 March 2017, at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva. Follow all official sessions at webtv.un.org, our side events at www.treatybodywebcast.org/treaty-body-webcast-ii/ and on Twitter [#HRC34](https://twitter.com/HRC34) and [@IDA_CRPD_Forum](https://twitter.com/IDA_CRPD_Forum).

The [programme of work](#) includes discussions and work that might have a direct or indirect bearing on the rights of persons with disabilities at hand. For instance, the Council will promote interactive dialogues with Special Procedures and host interactive panels, as follows:

HIGHLIGHTS - RELATED WORK TO THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ANNUAL DEBATE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Friday, 3 March 2017 (9 am to noon)

Article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding equality and non-discrimination

This panel discussion will address the human rights of persons with disabilities with regard to the standards set in article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on equality and non-discrimination and the policies and practices developed under its guidance.

During this Panel, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will present its study on article 5 of the CRPD (A/HRC/34/26) that sets forth the standards on equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities with the aim to provide guidance for its implementation, identifying good practices and making recommendations.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

Friday, 3 March 2017 (From noon to 6pm - tbc)

Ms **Catalina Devandas**, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, will present her annual report, which provides an overview of the activities undertaken in 2016, as well as a [thematic study on access to support by persons with disabilities](#). More specifically, the study includes guidance for States on how to ensure the provision of different forms of rights-based support and assistance for persons with disabilities, in consultation with them.

ADVOCATES WITH DISABILITIES

During the HRC 34th Session, IDA will be supporting participation of five advocates from different regions and countries, thanks for the generous support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland – Ulkoasiainministeriö, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Open Society Foundations and the Action on Disability and Development (ADD International). The following advocates and representatives are:

Ms Géronime Tokpo, jurist and President of the National Federation of Association of Persons with Disabilities in Benin and lawyer. Ms Tokpo's work is focused on participation in decision-making processes and gender issues. She will be at the first week of the HRC 34 and will be a speaker at two events on the 3rd of March, namely, the **Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities** and the side event **Equality and non-discrimination: Reasonable Accommodation as a Tool for Inclusion**.

Mr Peter Ogik, chairperson of Source of the Nile Union of Persons with Albinism (SNUPA) from Uganda. His focus is on non-discrimination and public policies. Mr Ogik will participate in the first week of the HRC 34 and will be speaker at the side event **Equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities with particular focus on persons with albinism**, to be held on Thursday 2nd March, and will present statement to the ID with the SR on persons with disabilities and the IE on persons with albinism, from the floor, on Friday 02 March.

Mr Alradi Abdalla, granted fellow IDA/Open Society Foundation (OSF), is a Sudanese lawyer and a Disability Rights Scholar. He recently concluded it LLM in International and European Human Rights Law at the University of Leeds. Mr Abdalla has been actively defending the human rights of persons with disabilities for eight years. His main focus is on access to justice. He will be at the entire HRC 34 session and will engage in several side events.

Ms Fernanda Santana Almeida is the President of the National Federation of Persons with Autism from Brazil and the first Latin American youth leader that chairs an organisation of persons with disabilities. She has a background on advocacy for youth rights and rights of persons with autism, and focus her work on accessibility, women's rights as well as sexual and reproductive rights. She will be speaker at the side event **Skills development and economic empowerment: Towards inclusive, sustainable development for all**, to be held on Wednesday, 17 March.

Mr Matthieu Chatelin has master in Human Rights from the University College of London, and master in International Affairs, Civil Society Development at the American University of Paris. He is a youth French advocate with disabilities, representing the Cerebral Palsy European Communities' Association. He will be speaker at the side event **Skills development and economic empowerment: Towards inclusive, sustainable development for all**, to be held on Wednesday, 17 March.

SIDE EVENTS

Our side events will be webcasted at www.treatybodywebcast.org/treaty-body-webcast-ii/

Thursday, 2 March 2017

12:00 to 13:00h **Equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities, with particular focus on persons with albinism**

Room 21, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This event is organized by the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Mandate of the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Human Rights of Persons with Albinism, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), and sponsored by the Permanente Mission of Portugal.

Friday, 3 March 2017

16:30 to 18:00h **Equality and non-discrimination: Reasonable Accommodation as a Tool for Inclusion**

Room 23, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This event is organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization and the International Disability Alliance, sponsored by New Zealand, Finland, Mexico, Ecuador and Bulgaria.

Wednesday, 17 March 2017

13:00 to 15:00h [Skills development and economic empowerment: Towards inclusive, sustainable development for all](#)

Room 27, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This event is organised by the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN in Geneva, the International Disability Alliance, with support of the Permanent Mission of New Zealand and the Zero Project, an initiative of the Essl Foundation, in partnership with the World Future Council & the European Foundation Centre.

Wednesday, 22 March 2017

12:00 to 14:00h [#MyVoiceMyCommunity - Enabling people with Down syndrome to speak up, be heard and influence government policy and action, to be fully included in the community](#)

Room 24, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This event is organised by the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN in Geneva, the Down Syndrome International and the International Disability Alliance. Support from other Permanent Missions to be confirmed.

MAIN PANELS

Non-disability focused panels:

1. [Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming](#)
The contribution of human rights to peacebuilding through the enhancement of dialogue and international cooperation for the promotion of human rights.
Monday, 27 February 2017, 3-6 p.m.
2. [Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty](#)
The death penalty and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Wednesday 1 March 2017, 3 to 6 p.m.
3. [Panel discussion on climate change and the rights of the child](#)
Thursday 2 March 2017, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
4. [Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child](#) - Protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Morning panel (9 a.m. - noon) - A child rights-based approach to implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Afternoon panel (3 - 6 p.m - Challenges and opportunities to reinforce children's rights through the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda
5. **Panel discussion on access to medicines as one of the fundamental elements of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**
Wednesday 8 March 2017, 3 - 6 p.m.
6. [Panel discussion on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity as a human rights priority for all States, including in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
Thursday 9 March 2017, 3 - 6 p.m.
7. [Debate on racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration \(Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination\)](#)
Friday 17 March 2017, 9 a.m. to noon

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE (ID) WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Non-disability focused Interactive Dialogues, relevant to the rights of persons with disabilities:

Wednesday 01 March (from noon – tbc)

Ms Leilani FARHA, Special Rapporteur on [adequate housing](#) as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Thursday 02 March (from noon – tbc)

Mr Michel FORST, Special Rapporteur on the situation of [human rights defenders](#)

Mr Juan MÉNDEZ, Special Rapporteur on [torture](#) and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Ms Karima BENNOUNE, Special Rapporteur in the field of [cultural rights](#)

Friday 03 March (from noon to 6pm - tbc)

Ms Catalina DEVANDAS, Special Rapporteur on the rights of [persons with disabilities](#)

Ms Ikponwosa ERO, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by [persons with albinism](#)

Tuesday 07 March (from noon – tbc)

Mr Joseph CANNATACI, Special Rapporteur on the [right to privacy](#)

Ms Hilal ELVER, Special Rapporteur on the [right to food](#)

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions to be presented to the HRC 34th session:

Only resolutions related to the rights of persons with disabilities are mentioned. (States sponsoring the resolution in brackets).

- **Resolution on the right to work** (Egypt, Greece, Indonesia and Mexico)
- **Resolution on the rights of the child** (European Union and GRULAC)
- **Resolution on registration at birth** (Turkey)
- **Resolution on economic, social and cultural rights** (Portugal)
- **Resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age** (Austria, Brazil, Germany, Lichtenstein and Switzerland)
- **Resolution for mandate renewal of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants** (Mexico)
- **Resolution for mandate renewal of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders** (Norway)
- **Resolution for mandate renewal of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context** (Namibia)
- **Resolution for mandate renewal of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (Denmark)
- **Resolution on the protection of the environment** (Slovenia, Costa Rica, Morocco, Maldives, Switzerland)
- **Resolution on human rights, democracy and the rule of law** (Romania)
- **Resolution on transnational business corporations and human rights** (Egypt)

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

During this session, the Council will adopt the UPR Working Group reports of states that have been reviewed during the previous UPR 26th Session, held from 31 October to 11 November 2016.

IDA supported engagement of advocates with disabilities from [Uganda](#), [Timor Leste](#), [Togo](#) and [South Sudan](#).

All eleven reviewed States received recommendations on the rights of persons with disabilities, as follows: **Haiti** (7), **South Sudan** (4, one did not receive support), **Syrian Arab Republic** (2), **Timor Leste** (24), **Togo** (10), **Uganda** (10, and 3 on persons with albinism), **Venezuela** (5), **Zimbabwe** (7).

Advances perceived at this session were as following:

- **Iceland** (18), including on preclusion of involuntary hospitalisation and coercive health-care approaches, calling on to prioritize free and informed consent as well as involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making related to their well-being,
- **Lithuania** (9), including on financial resources for implementation of the CRPD, and abolish all practices of forced treatment, including non-consensual sterilizations,
- **Moldova** (12), including on legal harmonisation to guarantee the autonomy of persons with disabilities and social inclusion, on a national plan to deinstitutionalisation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in their societies and to abolish discrimination against persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

For the **34th session**, the UPR outcomes are scheduled as follows:

Thursday 16 March 9am-12pm: Togo, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela

Thursday 16 March 12pm-3pm: Iceland, Zimbabwe, and Lithuania

Thursday 16 March 3pm-6pm: Uganda, Timor-Leste and the Republic of Moldova

Friday 17 March 12-3pm: Haiti and South Sudan

ACCESSIBILITY TO HRC MEETINGS

The HRC made available the [Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities](#). Copies in print and braille are available by contacting the accessibility focal point, further information available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx

ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Council's Bureau is comprised by the HRC President and four vice presidents representing all five regional groups. They serve for a year, in accordance with the Council's annual cycle. The current president of the Human Rights Council for the Eleventh Cycle (2017) is Ambassador Joaquín Alexander MAZA MARTELLI, from El Salvador.

The Vice presidents are:

H.E. Mr. Amr Ahmed RAMADAN (Egypt), Vice President and Rapporteur

H.E. Mr. Mouayed SALEH (Iraq), Vice President

H.E. Mr. Shalva TSISKARASHVILI (Georgia), Vice President

H.E. Mr. Valentin ZELLWEGER (Switzerland), Vice President

The 47 Member States for the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council are:

Albania, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

ABOUT IDA

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) is a network of eight global and six regional organisations of persons with disabilities and their families (DPOs), representing the estimated one billion persons with disabilities worldwide. Founded in 1999, IDA has played a key role in mainstreaming the CRPD Convention across the UN system.

Geneva Office: 150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

New York Office: 205 East 42nd Street, 20th floor, New York, NY 10167, United States

For further information: tfleury@ida-secretariat.org

IDA Website: www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/en