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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications reach 111

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Bulgaria on 22 March 2012 brings a total of 111 States Parties to the CRPD, while the Optional Protocol (OP) has 63 ratifications.

The number of signatures to the CRPD is 153 while the OP has 90 signatures.

Please click the link to check the list of [Signatories and State Parties](#).

NEW YORK NEWS

• Commission on the Status of Women

The fifty-sixth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) took place from 27 February to 9 March 2012, in New York. The priority theme was 'The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges'. The International Disability Alliance carried out its advocacy activities through contributions towards the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women during this session, bilateral meetings and by participating in side events in order to achieve a disability inclusive gender policy in the UN. Please click the link to read [IDA's report on this session](#).

• Statistical Commission

The 43rd session of the [UN Statistical Commission](#) was held from 28 February to 2 March 2012, in New York. The priority theme this year was 'Population and housing censuses'. The Statistical Commission took note of the current and future work programme of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and IDA made it clear that further in depth discussions

are needed to establish an international methodology for disaggregated data-collection on disability. IDA also recommended that the Commission discuss the issue during one of its annual sessions, preferably in 2014, since the topic for 2013 has been already decided. Please click the link to read [IDA's report on this session](#).

• Fifth Conference of States Parties

The Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will take place from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the UN Headquarters, in New York. At this Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, 9 out of 18 positions on the CRPD Committee will be renewed. IDA has prepared a number of documents to provide information about the election process and to give suggestions and advice to national DPOs on how to influence the nomination process at national level. Please [click here](#) to access these documents.

• Partners meeting of the UNPRPD

On Friday 30 March, a partners meeting was held in New York of the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD). The meeting, which was hosted by UNDP, was attended

by a good number of missions to the UN, the six UN agencies that have established the UNPRPD (UNDP, OHCHR, UNICEF, UN DESA, WHO and ILO), as well as civil society organisations. A number of decisions were taken both related to the strategic operational framework and the work plan, including issues related to the composition of the policy board and the management committee. The next step will be to arrange a meeting of the management committee, while it is planned that the policy board will meet during the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD in September.

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** met from 13 February – 3 March 2012 for its 51st session during which it examined the reports of Algeria, Brazil, Grenada, Jordan, Norway, Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the Committee's Concluding Observations; [here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. Together with Brazilian organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and the Latin American Network of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS), IDA made a joint submission with respect to Brazil which can be accessed [here](#).

The **CEDAW Committee** held its **Pre-sessional Working Group** from 5 - 9 March during which

it adopted the list of issues on the Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, Togo and Turkmenistan. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the List of Issues, [here](#) to read IDA's suggested questions for the List of Issues, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports.

- The **Human Rights Committee** met from 12 – 30 March 2012 for its 104th session during which it examined the reports of Cape Verde (in the absence of a report), Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Turkmenistan and Yemen. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the Concluding Observations, [here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. The Committee also adopted the list of issues on the Philippines, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Paraguay, Portugal and Turkey. [Click here](#) to read IDA's suggested questions for the List of Issues, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of those State reports. The adopted List of Issues will soon be available on the Committee's website [here](#).

On 21 March 2012 (first UN recognised celebration of World Down Syndrome Day), in follow up to the OHCHR study on Article 29 and in particular the recommendation directed to the Human Rights Committee to revise their General Comment no 25 on the right to political participation, IDA, with the support of Open Society Foundations, organised a side event at the Human Rights Committee session to discuss directly with members their role with respect to the political

participation of persons with disabilities. The panel of speakers included: Diane Richler (IDA Chair), Gabor Gombos (independent expert and CRPD Committee member), Shantha Rau Barriga (Human Rights Watch), Maria Alejandra Villanueva (Peruvian self advocate), Oliver Lewis (Mental Disability Advocacy Centre). There was also a [video message](#) to the Committee members sent in by Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. For further information on this side event, [click here](#).

Human Rights Council

The 19th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) took place from 27 February to 23 March 2012, in Geneva. [Click here](#) for further information on this session.

Annual Panel on the rights of persons with disabilities

On 1 March, the Human Rights Council held a debate on the rights of persons with disabilities, which was focused on the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life (article 29 of the CRPD). To support the debate, the Office of High Commissioner produced a [thematic study](#) on this topic. Mr. Pat Clarke, President of Down Syndrome International represented IDA on this panel. Please click the following links to see [Mr. Pat Clarke's Statement](#) and the [report prepared by IDA on the Panel](#), as well as [the concept note for this debate](#), the [UN meeting summary](#), and the [web-cast of the panel](#).

On the same day (1 March), there was a short concert at the UN by the Finnish rap artist, Signmark, who is deaf, sponsored by Finland in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and IDA.

Resolution on the rights of persons with disabilities

The Council adopted a resolution on the same topic (the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life), led by the traditional main co-sponsors of the annual disability resolution, Mexico and New Zealand. [Click here](#) for a copy of the resolution (still only available in draft form). The resolution recalls that exclusion and restriction of political rights on the basis of disability constitutes discrimination under the CRPD, and calls for a series of measures to ensure enjoyment of the right to participate in political and public life, including recognizing legal capacity on an equal basis with others and providing the support that persons may require to exercise it. Next year, the resolution linked to the rights of persons with disabilities will be focused on work and employment.

Other Resolutions

The following draft resolutions adopted at the session also refer to persons with disabilities: Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living in the context of disaster settings; Mandate of Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; The right to food; Birth registration and the right of everyone to re-

cognition everywhere as a person before the law; Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Human rights, democracy and the rule of law and; Rights of the child. Please [click here](#) to access the disability analysis of the resolutions adopted by the Council during this session.

The Reports of the **12th session of the UPR Working Group** were adopted during the HRC nineteenth session. Please [click here](#) to access a list showing the pending recommendations that were accepted during the session.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** has developed an annotated outline to guide them in the drafting of their upcoming General Comment on child rights and business. The outline is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The Committee is now seeking inputs by civil society, including DPOs, on this outline and suggestions on issues to be covered by the General Comment by 20 April in English, French or Spanish. Further Information is available on the CRC Committee's website [here](#).

- The **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** will be meeting for its 7th session from 16 – 20 April 2012 during which it will examine the report of Peru. [Click here](#) to read the submission of the Peruvian National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (CONFENADIP). The CRPD Committee will also adopt lists of issues on Argentina, China and Hungary.

[Click here](#) to read the parallel report of the Hungarian Disability Caucus, and [here](#) to read their submission on the list of issues. To read the submissions of other NGOs concerning Peru, Argentina, China and Hungary, consult the Committee's [7th session website](#).

- The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** will be meeting from 30 April - 18 May 2012 for its 48th session during which it will examine the reports of Ethiopia, New Zealand, Peru, Slovakia and Spain. [Click here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations, [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. With respect to Peru, the Peruvian National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (CONFENADIP) made its own submission available [here](#).

The **CESCR Committee** will also hold a **Pre-Sessional Working Group** from 21-25 May 2012 to adopt lists of issues on Azerbaijan, Iceland, Iran, Jamaica and Japan, and in the absence of State reports: Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea. With respect to Iceland, together with Organisation of Disabled Persons in Iceland (ODI) and the European Disability Form (EDF), IDA made a joint submission, available [here](#). [Click here](#) to read IDA's submissions for the list of issues and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports available.

- **List of deadlines:** To see the list of deadlines for the coming month on parallel reporting and submissions by DPOs/NGOs to the human rights treaty bodies, please [click here](#).

***About the IDA Disability
Rights Bulletin***

This bulletin is intended for experts advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular within the Geneva-based human rights framework. It is prepared by IDA Secretariat, which also provides support to the Group of States Friends of the CRPD.

For more information about IDA, its CRPD Forum and its member organisations, please visit:

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