Global News

• CRPD ratifications reach 105

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Bahrain on 22 September 2011 and the ratification by Luxembourg of the CRPD and the Optional Protocol (OP) on 26 September 2011 brings a total of 105 States Parties to the CRPD, while the OP has 63 ratifications.

The signature of the CRPD by Saint Lucia on 22 September 2011 and by the Federated States of Micronesia on 23 September 2011 brings a total of 153 signatures to the CRPD, while the OP has 90 signatures.

Please click the link to check the list of Signatories and State Parties.

• State Reports submitted to the CRPD Committee

Belgium has recently presented its national report to the CRPD Committee. For the moment, the report is only available in French. At the 6th session of the CRPD Committee, it was also announced that the State reports of Ecuador and Germany have been received. Spain, Tunisia, Peru, China, Argentina, Hungary, Paraguay, Austria, Australia, El Salvador, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Mexico and Republic of Korea were the first countries in submitting their national reports to the CRPD Committee. Please click the link to access the CRPD website section where you can find all reports presented so far to the CRPD Committee.

• Fourth Conference of the States Parties

The Fourth Conference of States Parties to the CRPD was held in New York on September 7-9. It included roundtables on International Cooperation and on Participation in Political and Civil Life, as well as an informal session co-chaired by Hungary and IDA on Work and Employment. On 6 September IDA and UN DESA co-chaired the Civil Society Forum which focused on the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development to be held during the next UN General Assembly. For more information on the Conference, click here. For the statement presented by IDA at the closing session of the Conference, click here.

Treaty Bodies

• From 19 to 23 September 2011, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities met for its 6th session in which it undertook a review of Spain's implementation of the CRPD. Prior to the dialogue with Spain, a private briefing was held for the CRPD Committee by CERMI, Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad, the umbrella group of Spanish organisations of persons with disabilities, in which CERMI presented the main points of its submission and answered the Committee's questions in preparation for the dialogue. Following the dialogue at the end of the session, the Committee adopted Concluding Observations on Spain, click here to read them; and here to read CERMI's submission in the lead up to the review.

Also on the agenda of the Committee was the adoption of the List of Issues on Peru and China. The adoption of the List of
Issues on China was postponed to the next session given that the English translation of the mainland report of China had not yet been finalised.

On 20 September, IDA hosted a side event on Peru to which the majority of Committee members attended. Representatives of the Peruvian National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (Confederación Nacional de Personas con Discapacidad del Perú -CONFENADIP) and Human Rights Watch provided information to the CRPD Committee on the principal issues of concern which should be highlighted in the List of Issues to be sent to the government. The briefing was comprehensive in its scope of areas of concern and in particular highlighted the urgent need to address the violations of the right to political participation given the fact that 20,000 Peruvians with intellectual disabilities have been erased from the electoral registry and deprived of their right to vote. Click here to access CONFENADIP’s submission recommendations for the List of Issues on Peru, and here for the full parallel report presented by CONFENADIP to the CRPD Committee. The List of Issues adopted by the Committee on Peru will be posted on the Committee’s website.

For more detailed information on the 6th Session of the CRPD Committee, please click here.

- The CRC Committee is holding its 58th session from 19 September – 7 October 2011. It examined the reports of Iceland, Italy, Panama, Republic of Korea, Seychelles, and the Syrian Arab Republic. With respect to Italy, together with the Italian Disability Forum (IDF) and the European Disability Forum (EDF), IDA made a joint submission, click here to read the joint submission, click here to read IDA’s disability analysis of the State reports, and here for IDA’s recommendations for the Concluding Observations. For this session, the International Child Rights Centre (InCRC) webcasted the dialogues live and those recorded streams can be accessed here.

The CRC Committee will be holding its Pre-Sessional Working Group from 10-14 October in which it will adopt Lists of Issues on Australia, Algeria, Cook Island, Cyprus, Niue Islands, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. 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 CEDAW Committee is holding its 50th session from 3 – 21 October. It is examining the reports of Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritius, Montenegro, Oman and Paraguay. Click here to read IDA’s recommendations for Concluding Observations, and here to read IDA’s disability analysis of the State reports.

- The CRC and CEDAW Committees are in the process of elaborating a General Comment/Recommendation on harmful practices. In response to a call out for papers on the subject, IDA made a submission highlighting the harmful practices targeted at persons with disabilities, and in particular women and girls with disabilities. Click here to read IDA’s submission and here to access the Committees’ webpage dedicated to the General Comment/Recommendation.

- The Committees against Torture is elaborating a General Comment on Article 14, CAT, the right to redress and rehabilitation. IDA made a submission on the latest draft of the General Comment, click here to read it.

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council’s eighteenth session took place in Geneva from 12-30 September 2011. During the session, the Council held interactive dialogues with the special rapporteurs on the right to water and sanitation, and held a panel discussion on the right to health of older persons. IDA made statements on the right to water and sanitation, the right to health of older persons, and spoke at a side event on the rights of older women. IDA also made a statement delivered on behalf of Nuanua O Le Alofa (Samoa) upon the adoption of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group report of Samoa.

The Council mentioned the rights of persons with disabilities or the CRPD in resolutions on Reporting of the Secretary-General on the question of the death penalty, water and sanitation, maternal mortality, migrants, promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, climate change, and promoting the UDHR through sport and the Olympic ideal. Click here for a disability analysis of resolutions adopted in the 18th session.
**General Assembly**

The UN General Assembly opened its 66th Session on 13 September 2011. During this session, the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee (Third Committee) of the General Assembly will address, among other things, issues related to persons with disabilities. Two specific reports on the rights of persons with disabilities has been presented to the Third Committee: “Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto” (A/66/121) and the “Report of the Secretary-General on realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other international development goals for persons with disabilities” (A/66/128).

Other reports presented to the Third Committee including Special Procedures reports, also include references to persons with disabilities. For detailed information on the reports presented by Special Procedures click here and here for the disability analysis of other reports presented by the Secretary General.

IDA has also undertaken an analysis of the reports that have been presented to the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly. Click here to have access to this analysis.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- The Human Rights Committee will be meeting for its 103rd session from 17 October – 4 November. It will examine the reports of Jamaica, Kuwait, Norway, Iran and Malawi (in the absence of a report). Together with Norwegian DPO, We Shall Overcome (WSO), and the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP), IDA made a joint submission on Norway. Click here to read the WSO, WNUSP and IDA submission on Norway, here to read IDA’s disability analysis of the State reports, and here for IDA’s recommendations on Concluding Observations.

During this session, the Country Report Taskforce will adopt Lists of Issues on Armenia, Lithuania, Kenya, and Cape Verde (in the absence of a report), please click here to read IDA’s disability analysis of the State reports, and here for IDA’s suggested questions for the List of Issues.

The Committee will also adopt Lists of Issues Prior to Reporting on Uruguay, Cameroon, Monaco, Denmark and Moldova. Together with Disabled People’s Organisation Denmark (DPOD), and the European Disability Forum (EDF), IDA made a joint submission for the LoIPR on Denmark. Click here to read it and here to read IDA’s proposed questions for the LoIPRs.