

# Disability Rights Bulletin

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### Global News

#### • CRPD Ratifications Reach 72

The ratification of the CRPD in October by the Islamic Republic of Iran has increased to 72 the number of States Parties to the CRPD. Ratification by Portugal of the Optional Protocol has increased to 45 the number of States Party to the OP.

### Treaty Bodies

• **The second session of the CRPD Committee** was held between October 19 and 23. The CRPD Committee made progress on the reporting guidelines, which should be available in the current month of November. A new Bureau was elected and Mr. Ron McCallum (Australia) will become the Chair of the Committee from its third session onwards.

• An interesting **consultation meeting on article 33 of the CRPD** (national implementation and monitoring) was organised by the OHCHR on October 26th. The one day event included a side event organised by the ICC, IDA and the OHCHR which focused on co-operation between national human rights institutions and NGOs.

• Three (Switzerland, Croatia and the Russian Federation) of the five **Concluding Observations adopted at the 97th session of the Human Rights Committee** included references to persons with disabilities. [Click here](#) for the relevant information.

The Human Rights Committee has started drafting General Comment No. 34 on article 19 of the ICCPR on freedom of opinion and expression. The current draft includes no reference to persons with disabilities and IDA will soon submit some proposals for inclusion in the text.

• The CAT Committee, SPT Committee and CRPD Committee are holding a public **joint event in the afternoon of November 17th on torture and persons with disabilities.**

• IDA and two of its member organisations, the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) and Inclusion International, together with some national organisations, jointly **submitted guidelines on monitoring of psychiatric institutions to the SPT Committee prior to its upcoming session starting on November 16th.** [Click here](#) to access the document.

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### Upcoming UPR Working Group Meeting

The reports related to 13 out of 16 countries which will be under review at the upcoming UPR working group include references to persons with disabilities.

On the basis of this information, IDA has prepared a document with suggested questions and recommendations which could be made by States. [Click here](#) for this document, which covers Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Norway, Portugal and Albania.

## Specialized Agencies

The UNHCR is hosting the fourth meeting of the **Inter Agency Support Group to the Convention (IASG)** on November 18 and 19. Mostly open to civil society, IDA will be one of the participants in this meeting at which progress on the draft guidelines on disability rights for UN country teams will be discussed.

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## Update on the 64th Session of the General Assembly

Several resolutions have been adopted to date by the 64th Session of the General Assembly which are subjected with or make reference to persons with disabilities and/or the CRPD.

A resolution titled "Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities" is a significant step forward in recognizing the CRPD as the governing instrument for development processes related to the MDGs.

A recurring resolution subjected with the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, addresses procedural issues related to UN work regarding the CRPD and OP.

A resolution titled "Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas" contains multiple references to women and girl children with disabilities.

A resolution titled with "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" contains multiple references to persons with disabilities and the CRPD.

A resolution titled "Policies and Programmes involving Youth" contains references to young persons with disabilities.

On October 20, a side event was co-organized by the Mission of Denmark and APT, with a panel of speakers consisting of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the chairs of both the Committee on Torture and the Sub-committee for Prevention of Torture. The Special Rapporteur and Chair of the Committee both made reference to inclusion of persons with disabilities in their work due to their particularly at-risk status in prison or institutional populations.

A consultative meeting was held between the NGO Committee on Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on October 26. The High Commissioner noted six areas of focus in her plan for the coming year and addressed disability as a key issue for inclusion in the principle focus on discrimination.

### **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 the IDA CRPD Forum, 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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