

April 2013

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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications and signatories

Currently, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has 130 ratifications, while the Optional Protocol (OP) has 76 ratifications.

The number of signatories to the CRPD is 155 while the OP has 91 signatures.

[List of signatories and States Parties](#)

• Regional Consultations on Disability and Development

During the next month, a number of regional consultations on disability will take place as part of the preparatory process of the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development, which will take place on 23 September 2013 in New York.

There will be consultations in Thailand (15-16 May 2013), organised by UN ESCAP and financed by Australia and Salvador - Bahia, Brazil (17-18 May 2013), organised by the Federal Government of Brazil.

NEW YORK NEWS

• World Bank Safeguards

The World Bank is currently undergoing review of its safeguards. IDA participated on 4 April 2013 at the Experts Focus Group meeting on disability as part of the review of the World Bank (WB) safeguards policies. This Focus Group was a part of the World Bank's review and update of the environmental and social safeguard policies. The environmental and social safeguard policies embody core values of the Bank and are the cornerstone of its efforts to protect people and the environment and to ensure sustainable development outcomes. As part of the review process the Bank is also considering if and how to potentially address a number of emerging areas. These include climate change; disability; free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples; gender; human rights; labour and

occupational health and safety; and land tenure and natural resources. The bank recognised the need to discuss inclusion of disability in safeguards and the Focus Group explored why the safeguards on disability are needed, if there should be disability specific safeguards/indicator or a general one on human rights. Regarding these two questions, a positive answer was arisen and the group was unanimous in suggesting that disability language must be mainstreamed into the overall safeguard components. The general recommendation was that safeguards should be used while the countries can be supported to implement the CRPD and thus increase their capacity to implement the country system approach. For more information, please visit the [World Bank Website](#).

• [UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues \(UNPFII\)](#)

The 12th Session of the UNPFII will take place in New York from 20-31 May 2013. During this session, a report on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities will be presented ([E/C.19/2013/6](#)). Following the facilitation by Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) of a group of

indigenous persons with disabilities in the UNPFII 11th session, it was decided there that two UNPFII experts, Ms Myrna Cunningham and Mr Paul Kayinke Sena, would present a report on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities at the upcoming 12th session of the UNPFII. Together with DRAF and the responsible UNPFII members, IDA organised an expert meeting to discuss a draft report in November 2012, with the participation of indigenous persons with disabilities as well as other experts coming from the indigenous and disability communities. IDA and DRAF (with Australian support) are now supporting a delegation of indigenous persons with disabilities to participate in the UNPFII 12th session and will hold a side event on the report on 22 May 2013 from 13:15 to 14:45.

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** held its 9th session in Geneva from 15-19 April 2013, in which it reviewed Paraguay, adopted List of Issues on Australia, Austria and El Salvador and held a half day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities.

The **session opened on Monday 15 April** during which five new members (Martin Babu Mwesigwa, Monthian Buntan, Laszlo Lovasz, Diane Mulligan and Safak Pavey) pronounced their solemn declaration to formally join the Committee. Maria Sole dad Cisternas Reyes was elected as new Chair of the Committee

and a new bureau was elected composed of Ron McCallum, Theresia Degener and Carlos Rios Espinosa as Vice Chairs, and Martin Babu Mwesigwa as new Rapporteur of the Committee.

On 15 and 16 April, the Committee proceeded to its seventh review of a State Party to the CRPD, this time entering into **an interactive dialogue with Paraguay**. On 17 April, the Committee held a **half day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities**. During the lunch-break, the International Disability Alliance and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund hosted a **side event on indigenous women and girls with disabilities**. Following the half day of general discussion, the Committee adopted a statement in **English** and **Spanish** in which it announced that a working group on Article 6 of the CRPD has been set up to elaborate an in depth report that analyses all the information submitted during the discussion, as well as to draft a General Comment on women and girls with disabilities.

On 15, 16, 17, 18 April, country specific briefings were held before the Committee respectively on Paraguay, Austria, Australia and El Salvador. For the remainder of the week, the Committee met in closed sessions to adopt the **Concluding Observations on Paraguay**, as well as the list of issues on **Austria, Australia and El Salvador**.

Views on individual communication no 1/2010, **Szilvia Nyusti & Péter Takács v Hungary**, were adopted. The case concerns two individuals with visual impair-

ments who had separately contracted private account services with OTP bank and were denied access, on an equal basis with others, to the use of their banking services and transactions on account of their bank's inaccessible ATMs. The Committee found that Hungary failed to ensure accessible banking services for persons with visual impairments including those provided by OTP and other private financial institutions in violation of Article 9(2)(b) of the CRPD. It upheld the obligation on the State party to ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services open or provided to the public, take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities, regardless of contractual relationships concluded between individuals and private entities.

Additionally, the Committee established a working group to prepare guidelines for the participation of non-governmental organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities in the Committee's meetings.

At the **10th session (2-13 September)**, the Committee will review Austria, Australia and El Salvador, as well as adopt list of issues on Azerbaijan, Costa Rica and Sweden, for which the following country rapporteurs have been designated respectively, Martin Babu Mwesigwa, Silvia Quan Chang and Stig Langvad. A meeting with States Parties will be held during the second week of the Committee's 10th session. The 10th session programme of work is available [here](#).

All public sessions, including the opening, review of Paraguay, half day of general discussion and IDA & DRAF side event on indigenous women and girls with disabilities were webcast live by IDA and have been archived for subsequent viewing.

Related documents and information:

CRPD Committee documents

- [9th session website](#)
- [Programme of work of 9th session and programme of the half day of general discussion](#)
- Concluding Observations on [Paraguay](#)
- List of issues on [Australia](#), [Austria](#) and [El Salvador](#)
- CRPD Committee website dedicated to the half day of general discussion which includes presentations of panellists as well as DPO & NGO written submissions
- Statement adopted following the half day of general discussion in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Views adopted in individual communication no 1/2010, [Szilvia Nyusti & Péter Takács v Hungary](#)

IDA summaries

- [Opening of 9th session](#)
- [Review of Paraguay](#)
- [Half day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities](#)
- IDA & DRAF side event on indigenous women and girls with disabilities
- Case summary [Szilvia Nyusti & Péter Takács v Hungary](#)

Parallel Reports

- Paraguayan DPO coalition submission on List of Issues in [Spanish](#) and [English](#) and submission on Concluding Observations in [Spanish](#) and [English](#);
- Australian civil society coali-

tion submissions: Parallel report in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and List of Issues submission in [English](#) and [Spanish](#);

- Austrian DPO coalition submissions: [Parallel report](#) and [List of Issues](#);
- El Salvadoran DPO coalition submission on the List of Issues in [Spanish](#) and [English summary](#)

Half day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities

- [IDA submission on women and girls with disabilities](#)
- [IDA & DRAF submission on indigenous women and girls with disabilities](#)
- Other DPO & NGO submissions for the half DGD are available on the [Committee's website dedicated to the half DGD](#) together with the panellists' presentations

Webcast archives

- Opening of 9th session
 - o [English](#)
 - o [Spanish & International sign](#)
- Review of Paraguay
 - o [Spanish](#)
 - o [English & International sign and Paraguayan sign language](#)
- Half day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities
 - o [English](#)
 - o [Spanish & International sign](#)

- The [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) is currently meeting for its 50th session from 29 April to 17 May 2013 in which it is reviewing the reports of Azerbaijan, Denmark, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Rwanda and Togo. The reviews are being webcast by the International Ser-

vice for Human Rights at www.treatybodywebcast.org. The Committee will also adopt list of issues on Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Norway and Uzbekistan. On 5 May 2013, the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR entered into force. It provides for a communications mechanism allowing for individuals and groups of individuals to lodge complaints to the CESCR Committee upon exhaustion of domestic remedies in the State Party to the Optional Protocol, as well as provides for the possibility of the Committee opening an inquiry procedure into grave and systematic violations of provisions of the ICESCR for those States parties which have recognised this competence under Article 11 of OP-ICESCR.

Related documents:

- Joint DPOD, EDF & IDA [submission on Denmark](#)
- [Submission on Togo](#) by DPOs of Togo
- [List of issues submission and addendum](#) on Belgium by the Belgian Disability Forum
- [List of issues submission on China](#) by IDA

• The [Committee against Torture](#) is meeting for its 50th session from 6-31 May 2013 to review the State reports of Bolivia, Estonia, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Mauritania, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The reviews are being webcast live at www.treatybodywebcast.org

Related documents:

- [Submission on the Netherlands](#) by Stichting Mind Rights and supported by WNUSP, ENUSP, PANUSP & IDA

- **Submission on Japan** by Japan National Group of Mentally Disabled People and supported by WNUSP & IDA

Universal Periodic Review

The 16th session of the UPR took place from 22 April to 3 May 2013. During this session, countries reviewed were: Turkmenistan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Tuvalu, Germany, Djibouti, Canada, Bangladesh, Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Cameroon and Cuba. Some recommendations on the rights of persons with disabilities were, for Bangladesh to: adopt the draft law on protection of persons with disabilities (from Brazil, Kyrgyzstan and Mexico); take necessary measures for effective implementation of the CRPD and its OP, in particular, with regard to employment and education (Tunisia); revise and amend when necessary national legislation to ensure non-discrimination against persons with disabilities in employment and increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (Slovakia); and improve access to the electoral system (Venezuela). Germany received recommendations to: lower the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities (Peru), strengthen compliance with the CRPD and implement reasonable accommodation as defined in art. 2 (Spain); extend legal requirements of barrier-free access for persons with disabilities to private entities that provide goods and services to the public (US); ensure nationwide access to barrier-free protection and support facilities for women with disabilities affected by violence (Aus-

tria); and to improve the social inclusion of children and youth with disabilities (Ecuador). Cape Verde accepted Spain's recommendation to ratify the CRPD-OP; however, Colombia rejected Guatemala's recommendation to do so. The DPO-civil society coalition, BRK-Allianz-German CRPD Alliance, which had submitted a report, was present during the session.

Related documents and information:

- **Disability analysis of the UPR Working Group reports**
- **Report and recommendations of national DPO coalition on the situation of persons with disabilities in Bangladesh**
- **Report and recommendations of the German national DPO-civil society coalition**
- **More information on the sixteenth session of the UPR**

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The 4th session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will take place from 19-23 May 2013. During the session, a key issue being discussed is the Hyogo Framework for Action 2 (HFA2). IDA is co-organising a side event with the Nippon Foundation, the German BMZ/GIZ, and Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Net (DiDRRN) on 22 May 2013. This event, **Disability inclusiveness: Widening the participation of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**, will take place from 13:00 to 13:55 in room "7+8" at the CICG conference center. The keynote presentation will be given by Dr Jo Matsuzaki, a deaf person from Japan who experienced the

recent earthquake, who will also be doing an "Ignite stage presentation". Ms Elenoa Kaisau of the Fiji Disabled Peoples Association (FDPA), which is a member of IDA member Pacific Disability Forum, will speak on behalf of IDA. A 'Disability and Disaster Risk Reduction' event organised by DiDRRN will take place on Sunday 19 May from 11:00-13:00.

World Health Assembly 66th session

The sixty-sixth World Health Assembly will take place in Geneva from 20-28 May 2013. A resolution that was adopted at the World Health Organization's Executive Board meeting in January 2013 (resolution EB132. R5, "Disability"), is being sent to this World Health Assembly for consideration. The resolution calls on the Secretary General of WHO and States to take a number of actions and envisages a comprehensive action plan on disability to be submitted to the WHA's 67th session (May 2014). There is more information about the resolution, including a link to the draft resolution that will go to the WHA, at http://www.who.int/disabilities/media/news/2013/25_01/en/index.html.

There will be a Technical Briefing on Disability and Development from WHO Member States on Thursday 23 May 2013, 12:45 to 14:15, in Room XII at the UN Palais des Nations on "Preparing for the UN High Level meeting on Disability and Development: The health sector's contribution". It will be an opportunity for Member States to provide input to the

September 2013 UN High Level Meeting on Disability and Development from the perspectives of the health sector. Mr Yannis Vardakastanis, Chair of IDA, will speak at the meeting.

ITU consultation on accessible ICT, disability and development

ITU consultation on accessible ICT, disability and development is being launched on 15 May 2013. IDA is partnering with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for a sectoral consultation on accessible ICT, disability and development, in the lead up to the September High Level Meeting on Disability and Development. Accessibility experts from IDA members Disabled Peoples International, European Disability Forum and World Blind Union are working on the consultation. There will be an online questionnaire as well as outreach consultations with persons with disabilities who do not currently have internet or other access. ITU will submit a report on the consultation to the co-facilitators of the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development, Spain and Philippines.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** will meet for its 63rd session from 27 May to 14 June to review the reports of Armenia, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, Rwanda, Slovenia and Uzbekistan. It will also adopt list of issues on Congo Brazzaville, Germany, Holy See, Portugal, Russian Federation and Yemen.

Related documents:

- **Joint DPO Submission on Germany** by Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland e.V. (ISL) and supported by EDF, II, DPI and IDA

About the IDA Disability Rights Bulletin

This bulletin is intended for experts advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in the UN system. It is prepared by the IDA Secretariat, which also provides support to the Geneva Group of States Friends of the CRPD and to the New York informal network on States Friends of the CRPD.

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