

December 2013

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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications reach 139

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Tuvalu on 18 December 2013 brings a total of 139 States Parties to the CRPD, while the Optional Protocol (OP) has 79 ratifications.

The number of signatures to the CRPD is 158 while the OP has 92 signatures.

[List of signatories and States Parties](#)

• European Court of Human Rights

On 20 December 2013, together with the European Disability Forum, and the Croatian Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities, IDA submitted [joint written comments](#) to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Guberina v Croatia* (Application no 23682/13). This case concerns a family with a child with multiple disabilities which bought a house owing to the inaccessibility of their former flat (absence of a lift) and the increasing difficulty in transporting their growing child. The law foresaw tax exemptions for buying property which met “hygiene and technical housing needs” but did not take into account accessibility needs related to persons with disabilities. Applying the letter of the law, the Croatian authorities refused to grant tax exemptions and subsequently dismissed the applicant’s appeals without addressing the issue of the child’s disability and related housing needs. The Applicant claimed violations of Article 1 of Protocol no 1 (right to property) as well as Article 1 of Protocol no 12 (general non-discrimination clause) of the [European Convention on Human Rights](#). For more on IDA’s legal advocacy, visit [IDA’s disability rights litigation page](#).

Related documents:

- [SOIH, EDF & IDA joint written comments in *Guberina v Croatia*](#)
- [Statement of Facts, *Guberina v Croatia*](#)

NEW YORK NEWS

• UN General Assembly

The meetings of the 68th UNGA Second (Economic and Financial) and Third (Human, Cultural and Social Rights) Committees concluded in New York in December 2013. During deliberations on resolutions relevant to persons with disabilities, IDA reviewed a number of drafts and provided guiding language, information and support for Member States involved in negotiations. While there were no disability-specific resolutions adopted this year, a number of resolutions—in particular, “The Girl Child” and “Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization”—were revised to strengthen and build upon references to the rights of persons with disabilities.

GENEVA NEWS

Indigenous persons with disabilities

During December 2013, as part of an Indigenous initiative supported by Disability Rights Advocacy Fund / AusAID, IDA provided training and

capacity building to an Indigenous Fellow, Ms Pratima Gurung of Nepal, in IDA's Geneva office. Ms Gurung brings to the fellowship her experience advocating for the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities in Nepal, who face multiple forms of discrimination. Activities in December included participating in relevant UN meetings, meetings and information and learning exchanges with a wide range of stakeholders working in different parts of the UN, training, and capacity building and transfer of information to the new Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network formed in May 2013 as part of the same initiative. "Beginning with my arrival in Geneva, it has been a great learning and information sharing opportunity to work on the issues of indigenous persons with disabilities through the Network. In the New Year 2014, I am committed to joining hands together to bring into the mainstream the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities", stated Ms Gurung. Current activities of the initiative are focused on implementing agreed actions of the Network, including to identify new members and working to increase participation of indigenous persons with disabilities in relevant UN meetings.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** commenced its 65th session (13 – 31 January 2014) in which it will be reviewing Congo, Germany, Holy See, Portugal, Russian Federation and

Yemen. The State review sessions are being webcast live at www.treatybodywebcast.org and will also be archived for subsequent viewing.

Related documents:

- [Submission on Germany by DPI Germany](#)

Universal Periodic Review

The eighteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) will take place in Geneva from 27 January to 7 February 2014. The following fourteen countries will be reviewed: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chile, Comoros, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, New Zealand, Slovakia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, and Yemen. The [timetable can be found here](#). IDA recommends those that have not yet become Parties to the CRPD, namely Comoros, Viet Nam and Eritrea, to do so. IDA recommends the countries that are not yet Parties to the OP, namely Cambodia, Comoros, Eritrea, New Zealand, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam to become parties to the OP to the CRPD. On [IDA's UPR web page](#) you can find the reports submitted on the rights of persons with disabilities to the UPR 18th session, as well as a document showing: the relevant recommendations or voluntary pledges from the first UPR cycle, a disability analysis of reports submitted to the CRPD 18th session, and recommendations for each country to be reviewed on. All reports submitted to the UPR 18th session can be found on the [main UPR web page of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#).

Human Rights Council

The 25th regular session of the Human Rights Council will take place from 3 to 28 March 2014. During the session, there will be an annual panel on the rights of persons with disabilities, focusing on education. This is tentatively scheduled to take place on 10 March 2014. This panel will focus on a study by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on article 24 of the CRPD. The study (A/HRC/25/29) will be available at the [OHCHR web page listing reports submitted to the 25th session](#). The study was called for by Human Rights Council resolution [A/HRC/RES/22/3](#) in March 2013. You can access [contributions to the OHCHR education study here](#).

More information on the 25th session can be found at [the main web page for the 25th session](#). Also during the Human Rights Council 25th session, the UPR outcomes will be adopted for the countries reviewed during the UPR 17th session, namely Senegal, China, Nigeria, Mexico, Mauritius, Jordan, Malaysia, Central African Republic, Monaco, Belize, Chad, Congo and Malta.

2014 Treaty Body Calendar

IDA has developed a [2014 calendar setting out the state reviews scheduled before the various treaty bodies](#) and which also indicates the deadlines for civil society written submissions to be sent in related to those reviews. Please be aware that the review schedules are regularly being updated and it is advised

to consult the [OHCHR website](#) to obtain the latest information on each treaty body's programme of work.

***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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