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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications reach 129

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Albania on 11 February 2013 and Barbados on 27 February 2013 bring a total of 129 States Parties to the CRPD, 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](#)

• Leadership meeting on Addressing Inequalities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The meeting, co-hosted by the governments of Denmark and Ghana together with the Executive Directors of UNICEF and UN Women, took place in Copenhagen on 19 February 2013 and was well attended by key decision-makers in governments, civil society and the UN. The purpose of this meeting was to review the final report of the global thematic consultation on addressing inequalities and present a statement and recommendations on how to address inequalities in the post-2015 agenda.

Related documents:

- [Final Report of the global thematic consultation on addressing inequalities](#)
- [IDA Press Release: Leadership meeting on Addressing Inequalities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)

• Online consultation for a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 & beyond

As part of the preparatory process for the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UNICEF is holding an online moderated consultation to gather views from a broad range of

stakeholders on how to include disability in the post-2015 development framework, in order to contribute to the ongoing work for the HLMDD. Building on the earlier online discussion on “Addressing Inequalities and Persons with Disabilities in the Post-2015 development agenda”, held on this site in November (read the summary report here: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/304822>), this consultation aims to take a closer look at the particular challenges faced by persons with disabilities in different regions, and to identify the specific measures and actions to be taken by different stakeholders to promote disability-inclusive societies and development.

The Online Consultation will be conducted from 8 - 28 March 2013. To participate, please visit the site www.worldwewant2015.org/enable and login or register at: www.worldwewant2015.org/register.

• European Court of Human Rights

On 12 February 2013, the European Court of Human Rights handed down its [judgment in the case *DG v Poland* \(Application no 45705/07\)](#). This case concerned a wheel chair user

prisoner who, in the course of carrying out his sentence, was subjected to ill-treatment in prison due to the lack of provision of reasonable accommodation. In July 2012, [IDA, together with EDF and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights](#), submitted a [third party intervention](#) in the case highlighting CRPD standards in relation to detention, freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment and non-discrimination including the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation. The Court found that keeping the applicant detained in conditions which were not suitable for persons with physical disabilities and “not making sufficient efforts to *reasonably accommodate* his special needs raises a serious issue under the Convention” (emphasis added), and in these particular circumstances reaches the threshold of severity and constitutes degrading and inhuman treatment contrary to Article 3 of the ECHR.

NEW YORK NEWS

- The 51st session of the [Commission for Social Development](#) (CSocD) was convened from 6 - 15 February 2013 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The priority theme this year was “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all.” The CSocD adopted 5 resolutions and all of them contain disability language. The resolution on ‘[Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda: towards 2015 and beyond](#)’ was entirely focused on disability and

has a very strong development perspective. This resolution recognises disability as a cross-cutting issue, underlines the importance of a disability inclusive post-2015 process, encourages the implementation of the QCPR and has a very good gender angle. The other 4 resolutions on family, ageing, youth and Africa’s development all include references to persons with disabilities. Related Documents and links:

- [Commission for Social Development: Draft Resolutions](#)
- [Monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities](#) (report: E/CN.5/2013/10), which is the annual report prepared by the Special Rapporteur on Disability
- [Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda: towards 2015 and beyond](#) (report E/CN.5/2013/9), which primarily focuses on follow-up frameworks and strategies for disability mainstreaming, and suggests that three major elements – monitoring, capacity building, coordination - be considered throughout the HLMDD
- [Statement made by Mr. Shuaib Chalklen](#) (Special Rapporteur on Disability)
- Panel discussion “[Toward a disability-inclusive post-2015 development framework: Regional perspectives](#)” held on 12 February 2013.

- The 44th session of the **UN Statistical Commission** took place from 26 February to 1 March 2013. The [Report of the World Health Organization on health statistics](#) was introduced to the Commission. The Report refers to the Washington Group, nation-

nal surveys on disability and a model disability survey that was presented at a Statistical expert meeting on 5 and 6 December 2012. The model survey will be pilot tested before use in national surveys. The Report also describes the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), a framework for documenting disability, published by WHO in 2001.

- The 57th session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) is taking place at UN Headquarters in New York from 4 to 15 March 2013. The priority theme this year is ‘Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls’. UN Women and IDA are co-organising a side event that will address the issue of violence against women and girls with disabilities. Following an introduction from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador, UN Women’s Executive Director Michelle Bachelet will lead a high-level panel discussion exploring the intersection of the CRPD and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The event will be held on Friday 8 March 2013 at UN Headquarters in New York.

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

- On 26 February, the inter-governmental process of the General Assembly on [treaty body strengthening](#) held a civil society hearing. [IDA made a statement](#) at the hearing focusing on accessibility across the treaty bodies, as well as joined in several joint NGO statements on [membership](#),

accessibility and visibility, and effective reporting and follow up.

- At its last session in January 2013, the **Committee on the Rights of the Child** (CRC Committee) adopted its **Rules of Procedure on the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child** establishing a communications mechanism allowing for individuals or groups of individuals to raise violations of the CRC and its two substantive Optional Protocols, and also an inquiry procedure. The Rules of Procedure specifically set out that communications may be submitted by individuals “regardless of whether their legal capacity is recognized in the State party against which the communication is directed” (Rule 13), and guarantee that information exchanged or disseminated throughout the procedure will be provided in an appropriate and accessible format and, to the extent possible, adapted to the age and maturity of the author(s) (Rules 14, 15, 21, 27). The third Optional Protocol will enter into force upon its tenth ratification. Currently, it has been ratified by three States (Thailand, Gabon and Germany).

In follow up to the day of general discussion held at its 61st session in September last year, the CRC Committee adopted a **Report on the rights of all children in the context of international migration** which provides an overview of the discussions and puts forwards recommendations to States as well as guidance to other relevant actors concerning the respect, promotion and fulfillment of the rights of children in situations of international mi-

gration. In particular, the Committee calls on States to “ensure that their migration policies do not discriminate against children with disabilities or children in families of parents with disabilities, and that States refrain from considering disability as grounds for the denial of an immigration application” (para 71), as well as sets standards on the right to family life, access to services and benefits such as healthcare, education, and social assistance, regardless of their or their parents’ migration status.

At its **Pre-sessional Working Group** held in early February, the CRC Committee adopted lists of issues on China, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Monaco and Tuvalu.

Related documents:

- **IDA’s written submission on the rights of children with disabilities in the context of international migration**
- **IDA disability analysis of the adopted lists of issues**
- **IDA submission on China** (based on consultations with mainland China organisations of persons with disabilities, NGOs and research carried out by independent experts who wish to keep their identities anonymous)
- **Submission on Hong Kong** by the Hong Kong Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW Committee) met for its **54th session** from 11 February – 1 March 2013 in which it examined the reports of Angola, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Pakistan and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Together with the Eu-

ropean Disability Forum (EDF) and national DPOs, IDA made joint submissions respectively on Austria and Hungary focusing on the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

Related documents:

- **IDA disability analysis of adopted Concluding Observations**
- **Joint submission on Austria** by the Austrian National Council of Disabled Persons (OeAR), EDF and IDA
- **Joint submission on Hungary** by the National Council of Disabled Persons’ Organisations in Hungary (FESZT), other Hungarian DPOs and NGOs, EDF and IDA

The CEDAW Committee also adopted lists of issues on Andorra, Benin, Cambodia, Colombia, Republic of Moldova, Seychelles, Tajikistan, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (in the absence of a State report). The adopted lists of issues will be posted on the **Committee’s website** together with the State reports (where available).

On 18 February, the CEDAW Committee held a half day of general discussion on access to justice. The purpose of the discussion was to prepare for the elaboration of a General Recommendation on access to justice in order to provide appropriate and authoritative guidance to States Parties on the measures to be adopted to ensure full compliance with their obligations to protect, respect and fulfill women’s human rights to access to justice. IDA made an oral intervention raising the barriers women and girls with disabilities face in accessing justice.

At the closing of the discussion, Silvia Pimentel, rapporteur of the General Recommendation, confirmed that the Committee would address access to justice of marginalized groups of women, including women with disabilities. To access the [programme](#) and the [written contributions](#) sent to the Committee, visit the Committee's [website](#).

Related documents:

- [IDA submission on access to justice](#)
- [CEDAW Committee's concept note on access to justice](#)
- The [Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture](#) met for its 19th session from 18 – 22 February. It will carry out a visit to Germany from 8 – 12 April 2013 focusing on the National Preventive Mechanism, as well as a visit to New Zealand from 29 April – 8 May 2013 to visit places of deprivation of liberty.

Human Rights Council

The twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) is taking place in Geneva from 25 February - 22 March 2013.

A [High Level Panel on the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action](#) took place on February 25th, which included international sign language and captioning. Zamir Dhale, nominated by IDA member Disabled Peoples' International, delivered a statement on behalf of IDA.

Annual Discussion on Human Rights and Persons with Disabilities

On 6 March, the HRC held an interactive panel discussion on the rights of persons with disabilities, which was focused on the right to work and employment of

persons with disabilities (Article 27 of the CRPD). The Office of High Commissioner presented a thematic study on this topic ([A/HRC/22/25](#)), which served as a basis for the discussion. Yannis Vardakastanis, IDA Chair, represented IDA during this discussion and delivered an oral statement calling for anti-discrimination legislation, implementation of reasonable accommodation and accessibility- with the necessary resources being made available, and targeted measures for women with disabilities.

At the end of this session, the Council will likely adopt a resolution (led by traditional co-sponsors Mexico and New Zealand) on this same topic.

Side Events

On 1 March, Mr Patrick Clarke, Past President of Down Syndrome International, an IDA Member, represented IDA in the side event, "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities: Examples from Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS Region", organised by UNICEF.

On 6 March, the IDA Chair took part as a speaker in the side event, "Including persons with disabilities in the labour market. Best Practices", organised by ONCE Foundation (Spain), Spain and Ecuador.

On 7 March, the IDA Chair also was a speaker at the side event, "Promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities: Where we are now and the way forward post-2015" jointly organised by Finland, Austria and IDA.

UPR

The working Groups Reports of the 14th Session of the UPR (22 October – 5 November 2012) will be also adopted during this

HRC Session (Argentina, Benin, Czech Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Ukraine and Zambia).

Related information:

- [Concept Note of the Annual Discussion on Human Rights and Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [IDA Contribution to the OHCHR thematic study on work and employment of persons with disabilities](#)
- [IDA informative note on the 22nd session of the HRC](#)
- IDA press release: side event "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities: Examples from Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS Region"
- IDA press release: [Annual discussion on HR & persons with disabilities and side event on "Including persons with disabilities in the labour market. Best Practices"](#)
- IDA press release: side event "Promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities: Where we are now and the way forward post-2015"
- [UPR 14th Session: disability specific recommendations pending acceptance](#)
- The webcast of the session will be available at: www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/c/un-human-rights-council.html

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The [Human Rights Committee](#) will meet for its [107th session](#) from 11- 28 March, in which it will examine the reports of Paraguay, Hong Kong, Angola, Peru, Macao and Belize (in the absence of a report).

A coalition of Peruvian DPOs made a submission in response to the questions concerning persons with disabilities in the Committee's list of issues. The Committee will also discuss the first draft of a [General Comment on the right to liberty](#) (Article 9, ICCPR).

It will also adopt lists of issues on Djibouti, Czech Republic, Mauritania, Mozambique, Tajikistan and the United States.

Related documents:

- IDA submissions on [Paraguay](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Angola](#) and [Belize](#) focusing on the right to political participation of persons with disabilities.

- [Submission on Peru by a coalition of Peruvian DPOs](#)

- The [programme](#) of the [9th session](#) of the [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) is now available. During this upcoming session in April 2013, the Committee will be holding a half day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities on 17 April from 12 – 6pm. The Committee welcomes written submissions from civil society, particularly from DPOs, on strengthening the protection of human rights of women and girls with disabilities. The deadline for written submissions has been extended to 31 March 2013; submissions should not exceed 10 pages and should be sent in word format to crpd@ohchr.org. For the day's programme and further details please visit the Committee's [website](#).

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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