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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications and signatories

Currently, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has 127 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](#)

• State Reports submitted to the CRPD Committee

Slovakia, Republic of Moldova and Italy have recently submitted their national reports to the CRPD Committee. For the moment, these reports are only available in English.

All reports presented so far to the CRPD Committee are accessible on the [CRPD Committee website section](#).

• European Court of Human Rights

On 31 January 2013, together with the European Disability Forum, IDA submitted [joint written comments](#) to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Semikhvostov v Russia (Application no 2689/12) brought by a wheel chair user prisoner who was subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment due to conditions in prison and the denial of reasonable accommodation, claiming violations of Article 3 of the [European Convention on Human Rights](#).

For more on IDA's legal advocacy, visit [IDA's disability rights litigation page](#).

NEW YORK NEWS

Commission for Social Development

The 51st Session of the Commission for Social Development is taking place from 6 to 15 February 2013, in New York. The priority theme this year is "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all".

Two specific disability reports were prepared for this session: 'Monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities' (E/CN.5/2013/10), which is the annual report prepared by the Special Rapporteur on Disabilities; and 'Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda: towards 2015 and beyond' (E/CN.5/2013/9), which primarily focuses on follow-up frameworks and strategies for disability mainstreaming and suggests that three major elements be considered throughout the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD): how to improve monitoring and

evaluation through steps such as the creation of evaluation criteria, measurable and time-bound targets and disability-disaggregated indicators; how to increase and guide capacity-building efforts in order to strengthen disability-mainstreaming, and how to better support coordination among key actors and stakeholders at all levels. The report suggests that the HLMDD aims toward the creation of a strategic framework for action at the international, regional, sub regional and/or national levels. Finally, It concludes that action strategies be carried out with the participation of, and in close consultation with, DPOs.

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

• The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** met for its **62nd session** from 14 January – 1 February 2013 during which it examined the reports of Guinea, Guyana, Malta and Niue. The country review sessions were webcast live by the NGO Group to the CRC and will be archived on the **treaty body webcast website**. Related documents:

- **IDA's disability-relevant analysis of the adopted Concluding Observations**
- **IDA's proposed recommendations for the Concluding Observations**
- **IDA's disability analysis of state reports**

The Committee also adopted General Comments on the best interest of the child (Article 3), the **right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health**

(Article 24); the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities (Article 31); **child rights and the business sector**, as well as the Rules of Procedure for the **Third Optional Protocol** (complaints mechanism). These documents will be available shortly on the **Committee's website**.

The Committee also announced that the theme of its next Day of General Discussion to be held during its 64th session (16 September – 4 October 2013) will focus on media, social networks and the rights of the child.

Universal Periodic Review

The fifteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR15) took place in Geneva from 21 January to 1 February 2013. Countries reviewed included Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Burundi, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Tonga, and United Arab Emirates. Israel was supposed to be reviewed but withdrew from the process. Recommendations on the rights of persons with disabilities and the CRPD of note were a recommendation by Slovakia to France for France to withdraw its reservation to article 29 CRPD and to consult with DPOs on implementation of the Convention (pending). Costa Rica made good recommendations to Bahamas (to implement policies to guarantee that girls and women with disabilities have equal access to education, employment and work (pending), and recommended that Luxembourg strengthen its National Plan on Disability, to increase access by persons with

disabilities to a wider array of services, which would provide them with greater independence (pending). Tonga accepted Hungary's recommendation to ratify both the CRPD and its Optional Protocol by Tonga's next UPR. Countries reviewed must indicate whether they accept the recommendations by the twenty-third Council session (27 May-14 June 2013).

Related Document:

- **Disability analysis of UPR Working Group Reports**
- **IDA's disability analysis and recommendations**

OHCHR thematic study on work and employment of persons with disabilities

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has recently published its thematic study on work and employment of persons with disabilities (CRPD, Article 27). The Human Rights Council in its resolution 19/11 (March 2012) requested the OHCHR to prepare a study on this topic, that will be presented at the 22nd session of the Council in March 2013.

This study highlights good practices in promoting employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and identifies the main challenges that States parties encounter in ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy access to, retention of and advancement in employment on an equal basis with others.

Related documents:

- OHCHR study on Article 27 (**PDF version** and **Word version**)
- **IDA contribution to this thematic study**

- [Other contributions received by OHCHR as input to this thematic study](#)

WHO Executive Board Resolution on Disability

The 132nd Executive board meeting of the WHO took place from 21-29 January in Geneva. During the meeting, a disability resolution was adopted (resolution EB132.R5, Disability, [PDF version](#) and converted [Word version](#)). According to the resolution, there will be a “comprehensive WHO action plan” on disability to be discussed at the World Health Assembly’s sixty-seventh session (May 2014). Disability is on the [provisional agenda for the World Health Assembly sixty-sixth session](#), which will take place in Geneva from 20-28 May 2013 (agenda item 13.5.). At that time, there will likely be a World Health Assembly resolution on disability. For more information about the Executive Board 132nd meeting, see http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb132.html

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) will adopt lists of issues on China, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Monaco, Sao Tome and Principe and Tuvalu. The State reports are posted on the [Committee’s website](#).

Related documents:

- [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](#) will meet for its [54th session](#) from 11 February – 1 March 2013 in which it will examine the reports of Angola, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Pakistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Solomon Islands (in the absence of a State report). Together with the European 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:

- [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 will also adopt 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 State reports (where available) are posted on the [Committee’s website](#).

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will hold a half day of general discussion on access to justice at its upcoming 54th session on 18 February 2013 at Palais des Nations, Conference Room XVI

from 10am to 1pm. The purpose of the discussion is to elaborate 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. To access the [tentative programme](#) for the discussion 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 [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. The discussion will take place 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. Submissions should not exceed 10 pages and should be sent in word format no later than 17 February 2013 to crpd@ohchr.org. For further details please visit the Committee’s [website](#) where information is available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese.

Human Rights Council

The twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council will take place in Geneva from 25 February to 22 March 2013. During the session, the annual panel on the rights of persons with disabilities will take place (6th of March from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.). This year the topic will be work and employment. Also during the session will be a high level panel on the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (25 February from 12:00-3:00 p.m.), which is also being made accessible for persons with disabilities with international sign and captioning, and these will be webcast. The UPR reports of the fourteenth session will be adopted (for Argentina, Benin, Czech Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Ukraine and Zambia). Please click the link to see the [pending UPR14 recommendations](#).

The webcast of the session will be available here: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/c/un-human-rights-council.html>

- An [updated 2013 treaty body calendar](#) setting out the countries coming up for review and for adoption of list of issues, with deadlines for respective submissions, is now available.

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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