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GLOBAL NEWS

• **CRPD ratifications reach 132**

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol (OP) by Palau on 11 June 2013 brings a total of 132 States Parties to the CRPD, while the OP has 77 ratifications.

The number of signatories to the CRPD is 156 while the OP has 91 signatures.

[List of signatories and States Parties](#)

• **New WIPO Treaty**

On 27 June 2013, a new historic treaty was adopted in Marrakesh under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to boost access to books for the benefit of hundreds of millions of people who are blind, visually impaired and print-disabled. The World Blind Union, an IDA Member, has been instrumental in the negotiations of this Treaty, which has been the culmination of many years of work on improving access to published works in formats such as Braille, large print text and audio books. The treaty will enter into force after it has been ratified by 20 WIPO members.

Related Information:

- [Marrakesh Treaty](#)
- [IDA Press Release: New WIPO Treaty 27 June 2013](#)
- [WIPO Webpage](#)
- [World Blind Union Webpage](#)

• **Norway WCIP 2014 Preparatory Meeting, 10-12 June 2013**

A conference, hosted by the Sámi Parliament, took place in Alta, Norway from 10 to 12 June 2013, in preparation of the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), which will be held from 22 to 23 September 2014 in New York City. A representative of the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network and of the indigenous disability caucus,

both formed in May 2013, participated in the Norway Meeting, with support from IDA and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund / AusAID. The Outcome Document of the meeting includes good references to indigenous persons with disabilities, on non-discrimination, UN system action, and implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Related Information:

- [Outcome Document \(PDF Version and Word Version\)](#)
- [References to indigenous persons with disabilities in the outcome document](#)
- [More information can be found on the website of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014](#)

NEW YORK NEWS

• **6th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD**

The Sixth Session of the Conference of States Parties (COP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) will take place from 17 to 19 July 2013 at the UN Headquarters, in New York. The theme of this sixth session is “Ensuring adequate standard of living: empowerment and participation of persons with disabilities

within the framework of the CRPD”, and the sub-themes of the Conference, are: “Economic empowerment through inclusive social protection and poverty reduction strategies”, “Disability-inclusive development in national, regional and international processes” and “Community-based rehabilitation and habilitation for inclusive society”. On 16 July, the day prior to the COP, IDA will co-ordinate with the support of DPI, DRF, GPDD, HRW, IDDC and RI and co-sponsored by UN DESA, Australia, Bulgaria, Mexico and New Zealand, the Civil Society CRPD Forum, which will be focused on the post-2015 agenda.

Related Information:

- [More information on the COP](#)
- [Draft Agenda Civil Society Forum 2013](#)

• **High Level Meeting on Disability and Development**

The negotiations on the Outcome document of the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development took place during the last two weeks of June. The first week was open to civil society participation, and IDA took an active role in recommending a number of new paragraphs and modification to the evolving document. In the second week, negotiations were open only to Member States, although IDA continued to lobby its suggestion from afar, such as to oppose the inclusion of language that would reference prevention, specialized institutions, and the weakening of the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 agenda.

• **Open Working Group on sustainable development**

The Open Working Group (OWG) on sustainable development has held its fourth session from 17-19 June 2013. This session dealt with three themes: (i) Employment and decent work for all, social protection (ii) Youth, education and culture and (iii) Health and population dynamics. The co-facilitators invited the Major Groups (MG) and other stakeholders for consultations on those topics. IDA delivered an extended intervention on employment and decent work for all. IDA highlighted that persons with disabilities are systemically discriminated in the labour market and too often not acknowledged by employers. Furthermore, disability was included in the main presentation on this issue due to IDA’s membership in the steering committee for the consultations on Employment and it’s advocacy work therein. The steering committees on a variety of topics provide arenas for the Major Groups as well as the other stakeholders to organize the participation of the civil society in the formulation of the sustainable development goals. IDA also made a number of recommendations and submitted statements to the co-chairs on the other two themes. In particular IDA argued for mainstreaming of persons with disabilities across the new agenda by insisting on disaggregation of data and developing disability sensitive targets and indicators; as well as advocated for future sustainable development goals to be consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Related documents:

- [IDA for OWG - Employment and social protection](#)
- [IDA for OWG - Youth and education](#)
- [IDA for OWG - Health](#)

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

• At the end of May, the **Chairpersons of the treaty bodies** held their [25th annual meeting of Chairpersons from 20-24 May](#) in New York. The Chairpersons met with co-facilitators of the inter-governmental process on treaty body strengthening, and held informal consultations with States as well as civil society. The Chairpersons adopted several decisions and recommendations including a list of principles that the inter-governmental process on treaty body strengthening should take into account (strengthening human rights protection; independence of treaty body members; addressing the challenges faced by the TB system in a comprehensive and sustainable manner; cost-saving to be reinvested in the TB system; modernisation of TB work by technological development) and adopted a joint statement on the post-2015 development agenda related to the need to incorporate human rights.

Related documents:

- [Decisions and recommendations adopted at the Chairpersons’ meeting](#)
- [Joint Statement on the post-2015 development agenda](#)
- [Statement of Mr Grossman, Chair of Chairpersons’ meeting, to Member States](#)

- The **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** made public a [statement on the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 agenda on disability and development](#).

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** met for its 63rd session from 27 May to 14 June to review the reports of Armenia, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, Rwanda, Slovenia and Uzbekistan. It also adopted lists of issues on Congo Brazzaville, Germany, Holy See, Portugal, Russian Federation and Yemen which will be shortly posted on the [Committee's website](#). The state review sessions were webcast live and are available for subsequent viewing at www.treatybodywebcast.org/category/webcast-archives/crc/

The CRC Committee also made public its most recently adopted [General Comment no 14 on the best interests of the child](#). The General Comment sets out that the concept of the child's best interests is aimed at ensuring both the full and effective enjoyment of all the rights recognised in the Convention and the holistic development of the child. It specifies that "the best interest of the child must be assessed and determined in light of the specific circumstances of each child or group of children or children in general which relate to the individual characteristics of the child or children concerned, such as, inter alia, age, sex, level of maturity, experience, belonging to a minority group, having a physical, sensory or intellectual disability, as well as the social and cultural context in which the child or children find themselves". The Committee makes explicit that "the fact that the child

is very young or in a vulnerable situation (e.g. has a disability,..., etc.) does not deprive him or her of the right to express his or her views, nor reduces the weight given to the child's views in determining his or her best interests".

Related documents:

- [IDA compilation of disability-relevant recommendations of the adopted Concluding Observations](#)

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

- [General Comment no 14 on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration](#)

- The **Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture** met from 17-21 June 2013. The SPT carried out visits to Germany (NPM advisory visit) and New Zealand (detention monitoring visit) in April and May respectively, and will be conducting an advisory visit to the NPM in Armenia in early September, and a detention monitoring visit to Peru in mid September. The SPT has launched a call for written contributions on reprisals with a deadline of 30 August. For more information, visit the [SPT Committee's website](#).

Human Rights Council

The **23rd session of the Human Rights Council** took place from 27 May to 14 June 2013 in Geneva.

During the session, the Council adopted resolutions referring to persons with disabilities, on violence against women, elimination of discrimination against

women, internally displaced persons, trafficking in persons, and education. The Council also adopted a resolution on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, requesting a preliminary OHCHR report for the HRC 24th regular session (September 2013).

On 12 June, the Council held a panel on democracy and the rule of law, made accessible to persons with disabilities with sign language interpretation and captioning. Yusdiana, a woman with a disability from Indonesia and from the General Election Network on Disability Access (AGENDA), participated and called for better election access. Mohammed Barakat, Chairman of DPI member, Disabled Without Borders Organization of Palestine, attended part of the Council session.

The Council considered UPR reports for the UPR 15th session. On 6 June, Pascale Ribes, President of the French Council of Persons with Disabilities for European Affairs (CFHE) made a statement at the consideration of France's UPR report, calling for France to withdraw its reservation on article 29 CRPD. France had rejected Slovakia's recommendation to "Withdraw its reservation to article 29 of CRPD and engage in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities to identify steps needed to implement the Convention". Botswana rejected recommendations to ratify the CRPD, saying it would do so when it was in a position to implement it, but did accept to consider ratifying the CRPD and to speed up progress towards ratification.

Related documents:

- [Resolution on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism](#)
- [Disability analysis of resolutions](#)
- [Status of UPR15 recommendations](#)

Human Rights Council Task Force on Secretariat Services, Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Use of Information Technology

The Human Rights Council's [task force on accessibility for persons with disabilities](#) held a meeting on 31 May 2013, to review progress on implementation of the task force's recommendations. A report was presented to the Council on 14 June on this status (A/HRC/23/CRP.2), identifying responsible parties and partners for implementing the Task Force recommendations. The Council President concluded that most recommendations were being implemented, for which existing resources could be used. But some, especially the provision of International Sign, captioning and training of staff, required additional resources to be allocated in the regular budget. The President encouraged to continue consultations to ensure measures are taken to fully implement the recommendations. The Task Force will continue to engage with all stakeholders, civil society, UN agencies and others to share and benefit from best practices in this area.

Related documents:

- [Report on the status of the implementation of the task force's recommendations](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Human Rights Committee** will meet for its 108th session from 8-26 July to review the reports of Albania, Czech Republic, Finland, Indonesia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. It will also adopt lists of issues on Chad, Chile, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Nepal and Sierra Leone. The Human Rights Committee will continue its first reading of its draft general comment no 35 on article 9 of the IC-CPR on the right to liberty and security of person.

The state review sessions as well as the Committee's discussion on the draft general comment will be webcast live at www.treatybodywebcast.org in accordance with the Committee's [programme of work](#).

Related documents:

- [Joint submission by the Finnish Disability Forum, EDF & IDA on Finland](#)
- [Joint submission by EDF, LIGA & MDAC on the Czech Republic](#)
- IDA submissions on [Albania](#), [Indonesia](#), [Tajikistan](#) and [Ukraine](#)
- [Draft General Comment no 35](#)

- The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** will meet for its 55th session from 8-26 July to review the reports of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Serbia and the United Kingdom. It will also adopt lists of issues on Bahrain, Cameroon, Finland, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Qatar. The CEDAW Committee will hold a public panel discussion on HIV/AIDS on

25 July.

The state review sessions as well as the Committee's panel discussion will be webcast live at www.treatybodywebcast.org in accordance with the Committee's [programme of work](#).

Related documents:

- [Joint submission by Cape Verdean DPOs and HI on Cape Verde](#)
- [Joint submission on the list of issues by the Finnish Disability Forum, EDF & IDA on Finland](#)

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: www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org
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