

May 2013

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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications reach 131

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Norway on 3 June 2013 brings a total of 131 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](#)

• State Reports submitted to the CRPD Committee

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Uruguay have recently submitted their national reports to the CRPD Committee. For the moment, these reports are available in English for Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Spanish for Uruguay.

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

NEW YORK NEWS

• UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

A delegation of indigenous persons with disabilities met in New York and participated in the 12th session of the UNPFII, with support from the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund/AusAID, and IDA. An international network of indigenous persons with disabilities was formed. And, similar to the global indigenous caucus and the women's, youth and regional caucuses that participate in the UNPFII, an indigenous disability caucus was formed. On 22 May 2013, the disability caucus co-presented, with the Chair of the UNPFII Mr. Paul Kanyinke Sena, the 'Study on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on challenges faced with respect to the full enjoyment of human rights and inclusion in development' ([E/C.19/2013/6](#)).

That report was coordinated by IDA and UNPFII member Myrna Cunningham and benefited from the inputs received at an expert meeting organised last November. The presentation of the report on 22 May was followed by a side event in the same room. The disability caucus took the floor several times during the plenary discussions (e.g., education, dialogue with U.N. agencies and funds, and women's political participation).

Related information:

- [DRAF&IDA Press Release on the 12th session of the UNPFII and side event on the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities](#)

• Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

The 6th session of the Conference of States Parties (COP) will take place from 17-19 July 2013. The theme for this session is: "Ensuring adequate standard of living: empowerment and participation of persons with disabilities within the framework of the CRPD". The sub-themes 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. The day prior to the COP, 16 July, the Civil Society CRPD Forum (CSF) will be held, coordinated by IDA and co-organized by DPI, DRAF, IDDC, RI, HRWatch, GPDD and co-sponsored by UN DESA and the missions of Australia, Bulgaria, Mexico and New Zealand. [More information on this COP](#)

- **Report by the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda has released the report “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development”. The report, which includes a good number of references to persons with disabilities, sets out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty from the face of the earth by 2030. One of the principles throughout the report is disability disaggregated data and indicators and insists that no one is left behind, which means that targets should only be considered ‘achieved’ if they are met for all relevant income and social groups. Disability is also represented in the goals 1 (poverty) and 3 (providing quality education and lifelong learning).

Related information:

- [The report “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development”](#)
- [More information on the references to persons with disabilities in the report](#)

- **UNICEF launches State of the World's Children 2013**

On 30 May, UNICEF launched in Viet Nam, its report ‘State of the World’s Children 2013’ focused this year on the situation of children with disabilities. The report examines the discrimination and deprivations that children with disabilities and their families confront and it urges all relevant stakeholders to take concrete steps to advance the cause of inclusion. In order to achieve this goal, international agencies and donors and their national and local partners should include children with disabilities in the objectives, targets and monitoring indicators of all development programmes.

Related documents:

- [UNICEF Report on the State of the World's Children 2013: Children with Disabilities](#)
- [IDA Press Release: UNICEF Report on the State of the World's Children 2013](#)

- **Open Working Group on Sustainable Development**

The Open Working Group on sustainable development has held its third session from 22-24 May 2013. This was one of the first thematic meetings dealing with three themes: (i) food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, (ii) drought and desertification, land degradation and (iii) water and sanitation. The co-facilitators invited the Major Groups (MG) and other stakeholders for a consultation on those topics. IDA delivered an intervention on food security, water and sanitation. IDA highlighted that persons with disabilities are systemically dis-

criminated against and invisible in development policies. Accessibility of food, water and sanitation, including toilets, and of related information, is especially important to persons with disabilities as a means to maintain people’s dignity, enable independence and social inclusion. IDA also made a number of recommendations particularly that future sustainable development goals must be consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [IDA’s intervention](#)

- **OHCHR Panel Discussion**

The panel discussion on “Freedom from fear and freedom from want – How can a post-2015 agenda can address the twin challenges of the twenty-first century: Recommendations emerging from a global conversation”, organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Tunisia, took place on Tuesday 21 May 2013. IDA delivered a presentation during this event, in which highlighted that the new framework post-2015 needs to be in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that disability should be mainstreamed across all the goals by defining disability specific targets and indicators. [IDA’s statement](#)

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** met for its 50th session from 29 April to 17 May 2013 in which it reviewed the reports of Azerbaijan, Denmark, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Rwanda and Togo. The reviews were webcast live by the International Service for Human Rights and have been archived at www.treatybodywebcast.org. The Committee also adopted list of issues on Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Norway and Uzbekistan.

Related documents:

- **IDA compilation of disability-relevant recommendations of the adopted Concluding Observations**
- **IDA compilation of disability-relevant questions of the adopted List of Issues**
- 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** met 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 were webcast live and have been archived at www.treatybodywebcast.org. Dutch and Japanese members of WNUSP attended the 50th session and briefed the Committee about the forced psy-

chiatric practices in the respective countries which violate the Convention against Torture.

Related documents:

- **IDA compilation of disability-relevant recommendations of the adopted Concluding Observations**
- **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
- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** is meeting 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

Human Rights Council

The 23rd session of the Human Rights Council is taking place from 27 May - 14 June 2013. During the session, the Council will have a panel on democracy and the rule of law. Yusdiana, a woman with a disability from Indonesia who has worked on election access for persons with disabilities, will participate. This panel is being made accessible to persons with disabilities with sign language interpretation and captioning, which will also be webcast. The Council will adopt

the UPR outcomes for countries that were reviewed during the fifteenth UPR session. Of note is that France will report whether it accepts Slovakia's recommendation for France to withdraw its reservation to article 29 of the CRPD. A representative of the national French umbrella DPO will participate. A meeting of the **Human Rights Council's task force on accessibility for persons with disabilities** took place on 31 May 2013, in which progress on implementation of the task force's recommendations were reviewed. [More information on the Council](#)

Meeting between IDA Chair and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

IDA Chair, Yannis Vardakastanis, met the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, in Geneva, to strengthen collaboration. Besides suggestions for the ongoing OHCHR planning process of the Management Plan 2014-2017, IDA Chair congratulated the High Commissioner for the appointment of Mr. Facundo Chavez as the new OHCHR Disability and Human Rights Adviser.

Ms Pillay acknowledged IDA's relevant role and stressed her commitment to work to mainstream disability rights in her Office. She ensured the particular attention she will pay to mainstream disability rights into the OHCHR Management Plan 2014-2017. In addition, she stressed the relevance of the idea to have an OHCHR fellowship programme on disability.

Related information:

- [IDA Press release on the meeting](#)

OHCHR Annual Report 2012

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recently published and presented its Annual Report 2012. The 2012 Report has many references to persons with disabilities and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), with a specific section on persons with disabilities in its first chapter.

The Report gives examples of the OHCHR work on assisting and supporting States Parties in reviewing national legislation and policies on discrimination against persons with disabilities to ensure their compliance with the CRPD. In addition, the Report highlights consultative processes carried out with national representative organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), for instance, in Russia and Iraq.

Related information:

- [OHCHR Annual Report 2012](#)
- [OHCHR new training package on the CRPD and its Optional Protocol](#)

OHCHR launches the “Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation”

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has published the [“Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation”](#). The publication aims to assist in developing quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure progress in the implementation of international human

rights norms and principles.

The Guide provides concrete examples of indicators identified for a number of human rights, with many examples in the context of the rights of persons with disabilities and the CRPD, especially regarding non-discrimination and equality. The Guide emphasizes that “Equal access to public services, including access to justice, and to relevant services provided by private actors is vital for undoing the injustice of historical inequalities and discrimination that some segments of the population, such as persons with disabilities, may have been subjected to”.

Related information:

- [English and Spanish versions of the Guide](#)
- [More general information about the Guide](#)

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

IDA has actively participated in the 4th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and its disability related events, including the Disability Stakeholder consultation. IDA co-organized with the Nippon Foundation, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Disability inclusive DRR Network for Asia and Pacific (DiDRRN) a side event on [“Disability Inclusiveness: widening the participation of persons with disability in post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction \(DRR\)”](#). The side event - designed to influence the second Hyogo Framework for Action (informally referred to as HFA 2) - was very well attended by States, NGOs, DPOs and civil socie-

ty representatives. The Chair’s summary of the fourth session reflected the need for a disability inclusive revised agenda for disaster risk reduction, raised in the side event and also in the statements of the U.S. and Germany during the session.

Related information:

- [The Chair’s Summary](#)
- [Joint Press Release on the side event on disability inclusiveness](#)

World Health Assembly 66th session

The 66th session of the World Health Assembly (20-28 May 2013) adopted a [resolution on disability](#), the first adopted by the World Health Assembly on disability since 2005. It recalls the CRPD and seeks to address disparities in health care. It endorses the recommendations of the 2011 WHO/World Bank “World report on disability”. The resolution urges Member States to implement as States Parties the CRPD; develop national action plans; and improve data collection. Member States are encouraged to ensure that all mainstream health services are inclusive of persons with disabilities; provide more support to informal caregivers; and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services. The resolution also requests the WHO Director-General to provide support to Member States in implementing the recommendations of the WHO/World Bank 2011 report; mainstream the health needs of children and adults with disabilities in WHO’s technical work; and ensure that WHO itself is inclusive of persons with disabilities. It also calls on WHO to support the United Nations General

Assembly's High-level Meeting on Disability and Development (23 September 2013) and prepare a comprehensive WHO action plan with measurable outcomes for next year's World Health Assembly (May 2014). Twenty-seven Member States, some speaking on behalf of regional groupings such as the WHO African Region and the WHO South-East Asian Region, spoke in favour of the resolution, put forward by Ecuador. A representative of the World Blind Union, speaking for IDA, took the floor to draw attention to the need for health care and services that is consistent with the CRPD. [IDA's statement](#)

I.T.U. consultation on accessible I.C.T., disability and development

The I.T.U. is leading a I.C.T. sector consultation on "A Disability Inclusive Development Agenda" in preparation for the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development (23 September 2013) (HLMDD), to identify actions needed to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts and to examine why information and communication technologies (I.C.T.s) accessibility is a key enabler for persons with disabilities. It is using an inclusive process mobilizing and engaging all relevant stakeholders of the ICT sector (including governments, private sector, organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society) with the view to set the issue on the agenda of the HLMDD. The consultation includes physical discussions and an online questionnaire (open until 10 June 2013). The results will be submitted for the consideration of the heads of

state and other high level participants at the HLMDD.

Related information:

- [Access to the questionnaire](#)
- [More information on ITU consultation](#)
- [Information provided by IDA](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The [Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture](#) will meet 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.

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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