

October 2013

- 68th session UN General Assembly
- Treaty Bodies update
- 17th session Universal Periodic Review
- Upcoming meetings
- Other news

GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications reach 138

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Venezuela on 24 September 2013 brings a total of 138 States Parties to the CRPD, while the Optional Protocol (OP) has 78 ratifications.

Venezuela has not ratified the OP.

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

[List of signatories and States Parties](#)

• International Day for Disaster Reduction 2013

On 13 October, the world celebrated the International Day for Disaster Reduction. Please click the links below to get further information on this Day and to access the IDA press release, in which IDA appeals to the international community to address the exclusion faced by persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction efforts and ensure a disability inclusive development agenda post-2015.

Related documents and information:

- [IDA Press Release on the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2013](#)
- [UNISDR: International Day for Disaster Reduction 2013](#)
- [UNISDR: International Day for Disaster Reduction Survey](#)
- [UNISDR: Post-2015 Framework for DRR](#)

NEW YORK NEWS

• UN General Assembly

The 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) began in New York immediately following the High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development in September 2013. During October, IDA regularly reviewed draft resolutions of the UNGA Second (Economic and Financial) and Third (Human, Cultural and Social Rights) Committees, and provided guiding language, information and support for Member States involved in negotiations related to the rights of persons with disabilities. This work has resulted in an increase of disability-related language in a number of resolutions.

• Group of Friends meeting of the Informal Network of the CRPD

In order to further engage Member States and increase attention to and understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities within the UN framework, IDA participated in the Group of Friends meeting of the Informal Network of the CRPD, held on October 23.

IDA received positive responses to two proposals made during the meeting: first, to hold a workshop for incoming diplomats of the Informal Network on the rights of persons with disabilities, the CRPD and related issues; and second, to develop a similar network of Member States and UN agencies focused on the Opening Working Group for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IDA continues to engage in preparations related to consultations and negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. IDA is now preparing for the Intersessional Meeting of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders on the SDGs, to be held on 22 November, of which IDA is a steering committee member.

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

• The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** (CRC Committee) met for its 64th session from 16 September - 4 October in which it reviewed China, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Monaco, Sao Tome & Principe, and Tuvalu. The state reviews were webcast live and have been [archived](#) for subsequent viewing. During its pre-sessional week from 7-11 October, the CRC Committee adopted lists of issues on India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan and St Lucia.

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](#)

- [DPO submission on mainland China](#)
- [Submission by China Association of the Blind](#)
- [Hong Kong Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Submission on list of issues for India by DPI India](#)

• The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW Committee) met for its 56th session from 30 September -18 October during which it reviewed Andorra, Benin, Cambodia, Colombia, Republic of Moldova, Seychelles and Tajikistan. During its pre-session from 21- 25 October, the CEDAW Committee adopted lists of issues on Central African Republic, Georgia, India, Lithuania, Mauritania, Peru, Swaziland and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The CEDAW Committee held a [half day of general discussion on Rural Women](#) on 7 October 2013. Written contributions by civil society were gathered on the [CEDAW Committee's website](#). The Committee also adopted its [General Recommendation on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations](#) which recommends to States Parties to address the specific risks and particular needs of different groups of women subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination including women with disabilities.

The state reviews and half day of general discussion were webcast live at www.treatybodywebcast

and [archived](#) for subsequent viewing.

Related documents:

- [IDA compilation of disability-relevant recommendations of the adopted Concluding Observations](#)
- [Submission on list of issues on India by DPI India](#)
- [General Recommendation no 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations](#)
- CEDAW Committee's [website](#) on the half day of general discussion on rural women
- [IDA submission on rural women and girls with disabilities](#)
- [Submission by the World Blind Union on rural women](#)
- [Submission by the World Federation of the Deaf on rural women](#)

• The **Human Rights Committee** met for its 109th session from 14 October – 1 November during which it reviewed Bolivia, Djibouti, Mauritania, Mozambique and Uruguay (the review of the US was postponed for March 2014). It also adopted lists of issues on Burundi, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Latvia and Sudan which will be shortly posted on the [Committee's website](#). The Committee continued its first reading of its draft General Comment no 35 on Article 9 of the ICCPR. The public sessions were webcast live and [archived](#) for subsequent viewing.

Related documents:

- [IDA compilation of disability-relevant recommendations of the adopted Concluding Observations](#)
- [Joint submission for the list of issues on Japan](#)

- [Human Rights Committee's draft General Comment no 35](#)

- Joint response on the Human Rights Committee's draft General Comment no 35 by WNUSP, CHRUSP, PANUSP, ENUSP, PAIIS & IDA: [Executive summary & full submission](#)

- The [Committee against Torture](#) (CAT Committee) is meeting for its 51st session from 28 October - 22 November during which it is reviewing Andorra, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mozambique, Poland, Portugal and Uzbekistan, and adopting lists of issues prior to reporting on Belarus, Germany and Ireland. The public sessions are being webcast live at www.treatybodywebcast.org

Related documents:

- [Submission by the Belgian Disability Forum](#)

- The [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) held its 129th Assembly from 7-9 October 2013 during which its Committee on United Nations Affairs convened a panel on the rights of persons with disabilities. The panel discussion brought together parliamentarians, UN agencies, IDA and the World Future Council to explore the role of MPs and Parliaments to promote the right to political participation of persons with disabilities. During the debate, IDA highlighted States' obligations under Article 29 of the CRPD, in particular the need to abolish legislation and practices which exclude persons with disabilities from the right to vote and stand for election, and referred to good practices compiled in its Human Rights Publication

Series, of which the first edition was dedicated to this subject. The Committee endorsed the "Call to Act", submitted by a group of parliamentarians which identifies a series of measures that should be adopted by the IPU and its Member Parliaments in order to ensure that persons with disabilities fulfil their potential in political and public life.

- [Call to Act](#)

- [IDA Human Rights Publication Series](#), Issue no 1: the right to vote and to stand for election

[Universal Periodic Review](#)

The 17th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) took place from 21 October – 1 November 2013 in Geneva. During this session, the following States were reviewed: Belize, Chad, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Senegal. [IDA disability analysis of the UPR Working Group reports and recommendations](#)

Belize accepted to take positive measures to implement the CRPD (Maldives) and a recommendation on political participation (Honduras). Central African Republic and Monaco accepted to ratify the CRPD. Jordan accepted to adopt legislation protecting women with disabilities from forced sterilization (Hungary). Mauritius accepted among others, recommendations on government coordination (Djibouti) and administration (Turkey), political participation (Maldives), and left pending recommendations to withdraw reservations to the CRPD (Togo and Uruguay), while during its

review it had already made voluntary commitments to withdraw them. Malaysia made a voluntary commitment to create a technical committee to review reservations to the CRPD, CEDAW and CRC. Nigeria accepted to incorporate into municipal law the Optional Protocol to the CRPD (Ghana), to fully implement the CRPD (Indonesia) and provide equal access to education (Slovakia).

Among pending recommendations are: for Mexico to harmonize Mexican law with the CRPD (Paraguay) and to allocate more resources to persons with disabilities' education (South Sudan); for Belize to adjust immigration laws to avoid discrimination against persons with disabilities (Colombia); for China to introduce a national plan of action to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with international human rights law (Brazil), and to introduce policies oriented towards better inclusion of all persons with disabilities in all areas of society, in particular children (Costa Rica); for Malaysia to submit its overdue CRPD report (Sierra Leone); for Malta to continue its efforts to further eliminate barriers to the full and effective participation in mainstream society of persons with disabilities, including children, in particular with regard to education, independent living, accessibility to multimedia and full participation in political and public life (Hungary), and to end detention of adults in a vulnerable situation such as persons with disabilities (Togo).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (CESCR Committee) is meeting for its 51st session from 4- 29 November during which it is reviewing Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Kuwait and Norway.

Related documents:

- [Submission on Norway on Forced psychiatric interventions as disability-based discrimination by We Shall Overcome](#) (WNUSP Norwegian member)
- Submission by the Belgian Disability Forum: [parallel report & response to list of issues](#)
- [Parallel report by the Forum of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Austria to which the Austrian National Council of Disabled Persons \(OeAR\) contributed](#)

- The **Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture** will meet for its 21st session from 11-15 November. Since its last session, it has undertaken visits in Peru (10-20 September), as well as an advisory visit on National Preventive Mechanisms in Armenia (3-6 September), and will carry out a visit to Gabon from 3-12 December.

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

Contact us via email at:

info@ida-secretariat.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.