

September 2013

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## GLOBAL NEWS

### • CRPD ratifications reach 137

The ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Kuwait (22 August 2013), Zimbabwe (23 September 2013), Papua New Guinea (26 September 2013) and Kiribati (27 September 2013) bring a total of 137 States Parties to the CRPD, while the Optional Protocol (OP) has 78 ratifications.

Zimbabwe also ratified the OP on 23 September 2013. Kuwait ratified the CRPD with [reservations](#).

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

### [List of signatories and States Parties](#)

### • G20 Russia Summit

The Declaration of the G-20 Leaders' Summit, which took place from 5-6 September 2013 in Saint Petersburg, has included a reference to persons with disabilities regarding to the right to employment (paragraph 31).

In addition, a previous declaration adopted by the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers on July 2013, also included a paragraph on persons with disabilities on this same topic (page 5).

Related Documents:

- [Saint Petersburg G20 Leaders' Declaration](#) (PDF version) (September 2013)
- [G20 Labour and Employment Ministers Declaration](#) (PDF version) (July 2013)

## NEW YORK NEWS

### • UNICEF Executive Board Meeting

On 3 September 2013, IDA chair Mr. Yannis Vardakastanis spoke at the UNICEF Executive Board Meeting's Special Focus Session on UNICEF's work for children with disabilities.

Both UNICEF's Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake, and Chief of UNICEF's Disability Section, Ms. Rosangela Berman Bieler recognised the work of and collaboration with IDA.

Mr. Vardakastanis' statement was welcomed by a number of Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, with many delegations recognising IDA, in addition to UNICEF, as a key actor in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities at the United Nations (UN).

In their statements to the Executive Board during the Special Focus Meeting, the Permanent Missions of Norway, Israel, Bulgaria and Kenya (on behalf of the African Group) praised the work of IDA at the UN.

## High-level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD) and Related Events

High-level dignitaries and civil society leaders gathered in New York between 23 – 25 September 2013 for the United Nations (UN) September 23 High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities (23 September 2013), and the Special Event towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (25 September 2013). IDA members participated in these meetings and the many side events held during the week. It is the first time in UN history that the rights of persons with disabilities have been discussed within the framework of the UN political agenda.

At the opening of the High-Level Meeting, IDA chair Mr. Yannis Vardakastanis spoke on behalf of civil society, calling on decision-makers at the highest levels to recognise the importance of mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In advance of the High-Level Meeting, IDA co-sponsored a high-level breakfast event with UNICEF and the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Australia to the United Nations. Mr. Vardakastanis spoke at the event alongside Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF and Mr. Jose Antonio Meade Kuribreña, Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Government of Mexico. On 24 September 2013, IDA partnered with the UN Part-

nership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN PRPD) in a panel discussion and reception on the launch of the UN PRPD publication “Towards an Inclusive and Accessible Future for All: Voices of Persons with Disabilities on the Post-2015 Development Framework”. IDA Acting Executive Director Mr. Vladimir Cuk spoke during the panel, and Mr. Vardakastanis launched the publication in the evening. Second vice-chair of IDA, Mr. Colin Allen, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the event in his capacity as President of the World Federation of the Deaf. Mr. Vardakastanis also presented a report titled “The ICT Opportunity for a Disability-Inclusive Development Framework”, at the Yale Club on 21 September 2013, at an event hosted by the Inter-Agency Support Group to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Following the Special Event on 25 September 2013, IDA, the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations co-sponsored a successful high-level side-event on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the UN Development Agenda. Mr. Vardakastanis spoke in his capacity as chair of IDA alongside H.E. Ms. Inga Marte Thorkildsen, Norwegian Minister for Children, Equality, and Social Inclusion for Norway; Aimee Mullins, disability advocate and paralympian; Mr. Homi Kharas, Member of the UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; H.E. Minister Kumari Selja, Indian Union

Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment; and Ms. Risna Utami, Chair of the Indonesian National Consortium for Disability. During the reception, H.E. Ms. Gudrun Kopp, German Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, presented the 2013 Manhattan Declaration, which stressed the importance of ensuring accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development.

IDA member organisations attending the High-Level Meeting and other events during the week included the Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD), Disabled People’s International (DPI), Down Syndrome International (DSI), European Disability Forum (EDF), International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH), Inclusion International (II), Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS), Pacific Disability Forum (PDF), World Blind Union (WBU), World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP). In advance of the High-Level week, a declaration on the development and inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families by AOPD and RIADIS, and a statement on the human rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities in an inclusive development agenda by WNUSP were released.

Related information and documents:

- [IDA Press Release: High-level Meeting on Disability and Development \(HLMDD\), 23 September 2013](#)
- [IDA press release: United Nations High-level Week on Disability and Development, 23-25 September 2013](#)
- [Information note - Launch of the Report "The ICT Opportunity for a Disability-Inclusive Development Framework"](#)
- [Outcome Document of the HLMDD](#)
- [Accessible multimedia formats of the Outcome Document](#)
- [Speech of IDA's Chair during the opening of the HLMDD](#)
- [Declaration on the development and inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families by AOPD and RIADIS: English and Spanish](#)
- [Statement on the human rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities in an inclusive development agenda by WNUSP](#)

## GENEVA NEWS

### Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD Committee) met for its [10th session](#) from 2 - 13 September during which it reviewed Austria, Australia and El Salvador and adopted lists of issues on Azerbaijan, Costa Rica and Sweden. The Committee also had its first meeting with States Parties, adopted views on an individual communication concerning the right to vote, as well as adopted the first drafts of General Comments on [Article 12 on equal recognition before the law](#) and [Article 9 on accessibility](#). The Committee invites DPOs and persons with disabilities, States Parties, NHRIs,

independent monitoring bodies under Article 33(2) of the CRPD, NGOs, research institutions and academics to submit comments to the draft General Comments in writing in English, Spanish or French by 31 January 2014 to [crpd@ohchr.org](mailto:crpd@ohchr.org). For more details, please visit the [CRPD Committee's website](#).

All public sessions, including the opening, reviews of Austria, Australia and El Salvador, and the meeting with States Parties were [webcast](#) live and have been [archived](#) for subsequent viewing. For more detailed information on the 10th session, visit [IDA's website](#).

Related documents:

- [Concluding Observations on Austria, Australia and El Salvador](#)
- [List of issues on Azerbaijan, Costa Rica and Sweden](#)
- [Draft General Comments on Article 12 and Article 9](#)
- [Views adopted in individual communication - \*Zsolt Bujdosó and five others v Hungary\*](#)
- [Committee's press release on Syria](#)
- DPO submissions:
  - [Submission on Austria by the Austrian NGO delegation: \[response to the list of issues and recommendations\]\(#\)](#);
  - [Submission on Australia by the Australian Civil Society Parallel Report Group: \[Response to list of issues and recommendations: English and Spanish\]\(#\)](#);
  - [Submission on Australia by Women with Disabilities Australia: \[report\]\(#\) and \[summary\]\(#\)](#);
  - [Submission on El Salvador by the Mesa Permanente de Personas con Discapacidad la Procuraduría de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos \(PDDH\) de El](#)

Salvador: [Spanish](#);

- [Submission on Azerbaijan by the Union of Disabled People Organisations \(UDPO\) for the \[list of issues\]\(#\)](#);

- [Submission on Costa Rica by the DPO coalition for \[list of issues: Spanish and English\]\(#\)](#);

- [Submissions on Sweden by the Women and Disability in Sweden Forum, and the Swedish Disability Federation: \[Parallel report\]\(#\) and \[list of issues submission\]\(#\)](#).

- [IDA summaries](#):

- [Opening of 10th session](#)
- [Reviews of Austria, Australia and El Salvador](#)
- [Meeting with States Parties](#)
- [Closing of 10th session](#)
- [Case summary of \*Zsolt Bujdosó and five others v Hungary\*](#)

- 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 will soon be [archived](#) for subsequent viewing. During its pre-session week from 7-11 October, the CRC Committee will adopt lists of issues on India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan and St Lucia.

Related documents:

- [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) is currently meeting for its 56th session from 30 September -18 October during which it is reviewing Andorra, Benin, Cambodia, Colombia, Republic of Moldova, Seychelles and Tajikistan.

The CEDAW Committee held a [half day of general discussion on Rural Women](#) on 7 October 2013 from 10am to 1pm. Written contributions by civil society have been gathered on the [CEDAW Committee's website](#).

During its pre-session from 21-25 October, the CEDAW Committee will adopt lists of issues on Central African Republic, Georgia, India, Lithuania, Mauritania, Peru, Swaziland and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The state reviews and public sessions are being webcast live at [www.treatybodywebcast.org](http://www.treatybodywebcast.org) and will be [archived](#) for subsequent viewing.

Related documents:

- [Submission on list of issues on India by DPI India](#)
- [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](#)
- CEDAW Committee's [concept note](#) on rural women for the half day of general discussion

### [Special Rapporteur on Torture](#)

The Special Rapporteur on Torture has issued his [thematic report on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners](#). Adopted in 1955, the Ru

les require updating in the light of developments in international law, and the report advocates for the adoption of CRPD standards to be upheld in prisons and detention settings.

### [Compilation of the Committee's Concluding Observations and List of Issues](#)

IDA has published a [compilation](#) of the Committee's Concluding Observations and List of Issues adopted to date, presented per CRPD provision. This compilation serves as a tool for DPOs, civil society, States and others to have a more holistic view of the Committee's work and to render more accessible and transparent the Committee's interpretations per provision to date. Those Concluding Observations and List of Issues adopted at the 10th session will also shortly be incorporated into the present compilation.

### [Human Rights Council](#)

The 24th regular session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) took place from 9-27 September 2013. Representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities from Mexico, Australia, Mauritius, the World Federation of the Deaf, and of a network of indigenous persons with disabilities participated at the session.

IDA has elaborated a [disability analysis of resolutions adopted during this session of the HRC](#). The Council reaffirmed, among other things, that disability is a prohibited ground of discrimination in relation to political participation. It also called for a panel and OHCHR study in June

2014 on "Technical cooperation and capacity-building in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities through legal and institutional frameworks, including public-private partnerships". In so doing, the Council also encouraged States Parties to the CRPD to consider requesting technical cooperation and capacity building from the OHCHR and from the CRPD Committee for the harmonisation of domestic legislation, and encouraged OHCHR and the CRPD Committee to respond favourably to such requests. It requested the High Commissioner to hold a workshop in 2014 on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, with a thematic focus on, among others, the economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities. It decided to convene, at its twenty-seventh session (September 2014), a panel discussion on the protection of the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

The Council held its annual half-day discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples, and this was made accessible to persons with disabilities. Click the link for a [full report](#) on this meeting, which benefited from the participation of Ms Olga Montúfar, who made a [statement speaking on behalf of indigenous persons with disabilities](#). The Council also held an interactive dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and with the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples. [Statement delivered by Ms Montúfar in that discussion](#).

The Council also adopted the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) outcomes for countries reviewed in the UPR 16th session. Bangladesh and Cape Verde accepted to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD, but Canada, Cameroon, Colombia and the Russian Federation all rejected recommendations to do so. IDA delivered a statement on behalf of the German BRK-Allianz upon the adoption of Germany's UPR outcome. [Disability analysis of UPR16 adopted outcomes to see accepted and rejected recommendations on the rights of persons with disabilities.](#)

### **Accessibility of the Human Rights Council**

A new conference registration form was made available to HRC24 Council participants, which permitted indication of disability-related accommodation needs.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **Treaty Bodies**

• The **Human Rights Committee** will meet for its 109th session from 14 October – 1 November during which it will review Bolivia, Djibouti, Mauritania, Mozambique, US and Uruguay, as well as adopt lists of issues on Burundi, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Latvia and Sudan. The Committee will continue its first reading of its draft General Comment no 35 on Article 9 of the ICCPR. The public sessions will be webcast live at [www.treatybodywebcast.org](http://www.treatybodywebcast.org)

Related documents:

• Joint submission on the US on nonconsensual psychia-

tric medication by CHRUSP, WNUSP, IDA & others: [Executive summary & full submission](#)

• [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) will meet for its 51st session from 28 October - 22 November during which it will review Andorra, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mozambique, Poland, Portugal and Uzbekistan, and adopt lists of issues prior to reporting on Belarus, Germany and Ireland. The public sessions will be webcast live at [www.treatybodywebcast.org](http://www.treatybodywebcast.org)

#### **Universal Periodic Review**

The 17th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) will take place from 21 October to 1 November 2013. The countries which will be reviewed include Belize, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Congo (Republic of the), Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Senegal. Of these, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Republic of), and Monaco are not yet States Parties to the CRPD. In addition, IDA recommends that Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, and Monaco, which all have reservations to the CRPD, withdraw those. To access reports submitted to the UPR by organisations of persons with disabilities from

Malta, Mauritius, and Mexico, including by indigenous persons with disabilities in Mexico, and to access a disability analysis of reports submitted to the UPR 17th session and IDA's recommendations, see the [IDA's UPR web page](#).

#### ***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](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org)

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*Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.*