

February 2012

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## GLOBAL NEWS

### • CRPD ratifications reach 110

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Mozambique on 30 January 2012 brings a total of 110 States Parties to the CRPD, while the Optional Protocol (OP) has 63 ratifications.

The number of signatures to the CRPD is 153 while the OP has 90 signatures.

Please click the link to check the list of [Signatories and State Parties](#).

### • OHCHR Management Plan 2012-2013

In early 2012, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published its Management Plan 2012 - 2013, which gives special attention to combat discrimination, including discrimination based on disability. The Management Plan adopts, in general, a mainstream approach of disability rights, including for instance on access to justice and basic services for individuals and groups facing discrimination. The IDA Secretariat analyzed the OHCHR Plan and prepared a disability analysis document, which can serve as an instrument to monitor OHCHR actions to promote the rights of persons with disabilities around the world. The document specifies OHCHR's expected actions for the coming year by region and country and presents as an opportunity for DPOs to work with OHCHR and follow up on their implementation. The IDA analysis is available [here](#). Once again the OHCHR Management Plan is unavailable in accessible format. [Website of the Plan](#). For further information, please contact [tfleury@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:tfleury@ida-secretariat.org).

### • European Court of Human Rights

On 13 February 2012, together with the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, the European Disability Forum, and the European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, IDA submitted joint written comments

to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Mihailovs v Latvia (Application no 35939/10) brought by a man with a psycho-social disability who was placed under guardianship and forcibly institutionalised and subjected to forced treatment and arbitrary detention for more than ten years. To read the written comments, [click here](#).

## NEW YORK NEWS

### • Commission for Social Development

The Fiftieth Session of the [Commission for Social Development](#) has been convened from 1 to 10 February 2012 in New York. The priority theme this year was "Poverty Eradication". IDA contributed to two resolutions, in both cases the suggestions were incorporated into the text. In the resolution on "[Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda](#)" IDA successfully advocated for three issues to be mentioned – welcoming the establishment of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the post 2015 framework, and inviting Member States to include disability in the upcoming Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the

UN development system. The second resolution was on Poverty eradication in which two references to disability were achieved.

IDA also participated at two side events: Women's Voices in Disability and Development and a side event at the US mission for the UNICEF Board. [Click here](#) to see the report prepared by IDA in relation to this session.

#### • **Commission on the Status of Women**

The fifty-sixth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) is taking place in New York from 27 February to 9 March 2012. The priority theme is 'The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges'. At the end of the session Member States will adopt an agreed conclusion (related to the priority theme) and a number of resolutions on various gender related issues. Most of those texts have a reference to disability. Myra Kovary highlighted IDA's role at the side event on "Rural women and girls with disabilities – Economic empowerment and political participation" organized by Australia, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Women Enabled, Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) and Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN). Please [click here](#) for further information on this side event.

#### • **Statistical Commission**

The 43rd session of the [Statistical Commission](#) is taking place

in New York from 28 February to 2 March 2012. During the session, IDA emphasized the need that data collection on disability should be one of the main topics of the commission in the year 2014, as a follow-up to the HLMDD. The Commission will adopt at the end of its session several decisions, one will take note of the report submitted by the Washington Group, which requests the Commission to strengthen its work on disability data collection. Further the representative of Philippines made a strong statement requesting the Commission to devote more time to disability related data collection.

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### GENEVA NEWS

#### **Treaty Bodies**

• The **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** has launched a call for practical and theoretical papers on the implementation of Article 9 on accessibility of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Papers can be sent in either English, Spanish or Arabic by 15 March 2012 to [crpd@ohchr.org](mailto:crpd@ohchr.org). For further details, visit the CRPD Committee's website [here](#).

• The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** met from 16 January to 3 February 2012 for its 59th session during which it examined the reports of Azerbaijan, Cook Islands, Madagascar, Myanmar, Niue Islands, Thailand and Togo. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the Concluding Observations, [here](#) to read IDA's

recommendations for Concluding Observations and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. At the opening of the session, it was announced that the CRC Committee will be holding a Day of General Discussion on 28 September 2012 during its 61st session on the theme of children in migration situations. Further information on participating in the discussion and a formal call for written submissions will be posted in the months to come on the CRC Committee's website [here](#).

The CRC Committee held its 59th pre-session working group from 6 – 10 February 2012 in which it adopted the list of issues for Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Namibia. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the Committee's List of Issues, [here](#) to read IDA's suggested questions for the List of Issues, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of those State reports. Together with the Austrian National Disability Council and the European Disability Forum, IDA made a joint submission with respect to Austria, [click here](#) to read it. Additionally, together with the Canadian Association for Community Living and Inclusion International, IDA made a joint submission with respect to Canada, [click here](#) to read it.

• The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women** met from 13 February – 3 March 2012 for its 51st session during which it examined the reports of Algeria, Brazil, Grenada, Jordan, Norway, Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe.

[Click here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. Together with Brazilian organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and the Latin American Network of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS), IDA made a joint submission with respect to Brazil which can be accessed [here](#). Once adopted, the Concluding Observations will be available on the Committee's website [here](#).

The CEDAW Committee will be holding its Pre-sessional Working Group from 5 - 9 March during which it will adopt the list of issues for the Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, Togo, and Turkmenistan. [Click here](#) to read IDA's suggested questions for the List of Issues, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of those State reports.

- The **Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture** (SPT) held its 16th session from 20 - 24 February. On 22 February, the SPT met with the OPCAT Contact Group (Group of NGOs involved in work related to implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, of which IDA and the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) are members) for a thematic discussion on mental health in detention in preparation for a workshop to be held during their 17th session in June in which several experts will be invited to discuss this topic with SPT members in closed session, which will be followed by an open session to involving other stakeholders including

civil society. [Click here](#) to read the submission prepared by WNUSP, and endorsed by IDA, sent to the SPT for the thematic discussion.

The SPT will be making the following country visits in 2012: Argentina, Gabon, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Senegal. If you would like to submit information on the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities in those countries, and particular places of detention that should be visited, please contact [vlee@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:vlee@ida-secretariat.org) for further details.

### Human Rights Council

**The 19th Session of the Human Rights Council** is taking place from 27 February to 23 March 2012, in Geneva.

[Click here](#) for further information on this session and [here](#) for the information note prepared by IDA.

IDA has prepared a disability analysis of reports presented to the 19th Session of the Council.

The following **Special Procedures** reports include references to persons with disabilities: SR on adequate housing; IE on minority issues; WG on enforced or involuntary disappearances; SR on right to food: SR on torture, and SR on sale children. For detailed information on the references to persons with disabilities in these reports, please [click here](#).

All **UPR Working Group reports**, which were prepared at the 12th session of the UPR (October 2011) and will be presented to

this session of the HRC, included recommendations related to persons with disabilities. [Click here](#) to get more information on these recommendations.

On 1 March, the Human Rights Council held a **debate on the rights of persons with disabilities**, which was focused on the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life (article 29 of the CRPD). For detailed information on this debate, please [click here](#). To support the debate, the Office of High Commissioner produced a thematic study on this topic, please [click here](#) to access the study. Mr. Pat Clarke, President of Down Syndrome International represented IDA on this panel. The Council will likely pass a resolution on this topic, which should stress that the CRPD sets forth all rights for all persons with disabilities, including article 29.

On the same day (1 March), there was a short concert in the Bar Serpent by the Finnish rap artist, Signmark, who is deaf, sponsored by Finland in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and IDA.

IDA has undertaken an analysis of **other reports** that have also been prepared for the 19th session of the HRC. [Click here](#) to access this analysis.

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### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- The **Human Rights Committee** will be meeting from 12 - 30 March 2012 for its 104th session during which it will examine

the reports of Cape Verde (in the absence of a report), Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Turkmenistan and Yemen. [Click here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. It will also adopt the list of issues for the Philippines, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Paraguay, Portugal and Turkey. [Click here](#) to read IDA's suggested questions for the List of Issues, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of those State reports.

- **List of deadlines:** To see the list of deadlines for the coming month on parallel reporting and submissions by DPOs/NGOs to the human rights treaty bodies, please [click here](#).

#### ***About the IDA Disability Rights Bulletin***

*This bulletin is intended for experts advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular within the Geneva-based human rights framework. It is prepared by IDA Secretariat, which also provides support to the Group of States Friends of the CRPD.*

*For more information about IDA, its CRPD Forum and its member organisations, please visit:*

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