

January 2012

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Global News

• CRPD ratifications reach 109

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Macedonia (FYORM) on 29 December 2011 brings a total of 109 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 Study on participation in political and public life by persons with disabilities

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has recently published its thematic study on participation in political and public life by persons with disabilities (CRPD, Article 29). The Human Rights Council in its resolution 16/15 (March 2011) requested the OHCHR to prepare a study on this topic, that will be presented at the 19th session of the Council in March 2012.

This study, which has been developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including States, United Nations agencies, the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development of the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, and national human rights institutions, highlights good practices in the field of participation of persons with disabilities in elections and in the conduct of public affairs, and identifies the main challenges that still prevent or limit the equal and effective participation of persons with disabilities in the political and public life of their countries.

Please click the links to access this thematic study on article 29 ([PDF version](#) or [Word version](#)).

The contributions that were received by OHCHR as input to this study are available [here](#).

• Commission for Social Development

The 50th Session of the Commission for Social Development will be held from 1 to 10 February 2012, in New York. The priority theme this year is "Poverty Eradication".

Please click the links below to see the two specific disability reports prepared for this session: [Report of the Secretary General on Mainstreaming Disability in the Development Agenda \(E/CN.5/2012/6\)](#) and [Report of the Special Rapporteur to the 50th Session of the Commission for Social Development: Note by the Secretary-General on monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities \(E/CN.5/2012/7\)](#).

During this session, a panel discussion will be held on Inclusion of Disability in Development Policy and Programming, please [click here](#) to get more information on this panel.

- **Joint report by the OHCHR and UNICEF on people placed in institutions**

OHCHR and UNICEF have published a joint report documenting human rights of people placed in institutions, particularly children, and violation of human rights of persons with disabilities. It has also produced a video on the subject, which highlights the experiences of Mikhail in Moldova and Assen in Bulgaria who both grew up in institutional care.

Please click the link to get [more information on this report and to see the video](#) “Forgotten Europeans”.

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** is meeting from 16 January to 3 February 2012 for its 59th session during which it is examining the reports of Azerbaijan, Cook Islands, Madagascar, Myanmar, Niue Islands, Thailand and Togo. [Click here](#) to read IDA’s recommendations for Concluding Observations and [here](#) to read IDA’s disability analysis of the State reports. Once adopted, the Concluding Observations will be available on the Committee’s website [here](#).

During the current session, the Committee will also be looking at the following General Comments which is in the process of drafting: draft General Comment on the best interest of the child; draft General Comment on business and child’s rights;

draft General Comment on the right to play; draft joint General Comment/Recommendation on harmful practices being elaborated together with the CEDAW Committee; and draft General Comment on the right of the child to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health. For the latter, the Committee launched a call for submissions at the end of last year to which IDA contributed. [Click here](#) to read IDA’s submission on the right of children and adolescents with disabilities to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

At the opening of the session, it was announced that the CRC Committee will be holding a Day of General Discussion during its 61st session in September 2012 on the theme of children in the context of migration.

The CRC Committee will hold its 59th pre-session working group from 6 – 10 February 2012 in which it will adopt the list of issues for Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Namibia. [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. 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.

- IDA has compiled a **calendar for the upcoming treaty body sessions in 2012** concerning the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture, the Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [Click here](#) to access the calendar, current as of 25 January. Please note that treaty body sessions are subject to change so for the latest information, please consult the [OHCHR website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** will be meeting from 13 February – 2 March 2012 for its 51st session during which it will examine 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](#).

- The **Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture** (SPT) will hold its 16th session from 20- 24 February during which a thematic discussion on the topic of mental health in detention will be held (22-23 February) with the OPCAT Contact Group to which IDA and WNUSP are members. The OPCAT Contact Group is a group of NGOs involved in work related to implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. The SPT will be making the following country visits in 2012: Argentina, Gabon, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Senegal. For further details, visit the SPT Committee's [website](#).

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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