

January 2014

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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications reach 141

The ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Côte d'Ivoire (10 January 2014) and Japan (20 January 2014) bring a total of 141 States Parties to the CRPD, while the OP has 79 ratifications.

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

[List of signatories and States Parties](#)

• Preparatory meeting for the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 5-6 February 2014

A high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly (WCIP) will be held in New York on 22-23 September 2014. A preparatory meeting for the WCIP took place in Chiang Mai (Thailand) on 5-6 February 2014. The host was the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP). At the meeting, participants discussed background and objectives of the WCIP, side events, coordination and recommendations. Participating on behalf of the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network and the Global Disability Caucus, was Mr Setareki Macanawai (CEO of Pacific Disability Forum, an IDA member). Mr Macanawai raised the issues of indigenous persons with disabilities and requested inclusion of relevant rights in the WCIP processes and outcomes. You can sign up to get email updates on the WCIP at: <http://bit.ly/GCGNews>. Further information on the WCIP is available at <http://wcip2014.org/meetings/gcg-e-registration> and at <http://www.iwgia.org/human-rights/un-mechanisms-and-processes/un-world-conference-on-indigenous-peoples-2014>.

• European Court of Human Rights

On 20 January 2014, together with the European Disability Forum, IDA submitted joint written comments to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *HP v Denmark* (Application no 55607/09). This case concerns a victim of torture from

Iran who was granted refugee status in Denmark where he has been living for over twenty years. Due to the effects of being tortured, he has memory loss and difficulties in communicating and applied for an exemption regarding language requirements to obtain Danish nationality. While the regulations governing naturalisation permitted the granting of an exemption for the language requirement "where the person in question... proved unable to learn Danish to a sufficient degree due to mental disorder, for example as a result of torture", the Applicant's exemption request was refused. As a result of the refusal, he was denied citizenship and complains that his continued statelessness breaches his right to private life and constitutes disability based discrimination in violation of Articles 8 and 14 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Related documents:

- [IDA & EDF joint written comments in *HP v Denmark*](#)

NEW YORK NEWS

• 8th Session of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development

Preparations for the 8th Session

of the United Nations (UN) Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which took place during the first week of February, continued throughout the month of January. One of the sub-themes of the session was, "Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment." A more detailed report of the meetings and other successes of the OWG session will be included in next month's bulletin.

In advance of a joint meeting of different UN Agencies that took place on 3 February 2014, IDA disseminated a short brief which discussed coherent UN action against poverty and vulnerability and towards resilience. The goal of the joint session was to continue dialogue with Member States on the linkage between disability and development, raised in Article 23 of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (2012), in order to explore options for more integrated policy by the UN Development Group. Both the Permanent Missions of New Zealand and Australia noted their support for IDA's position, and included information in their statements to UN Agencies during and in advance of the meeting.

Related documents:

- [IDA Press Release: 8th Session of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development](#)

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** met from 13 – 31 January 2014 for its 65th session

in which it reviewed Congo, Germany, Holy See, Portugal, Russian Federation and Yemen. The State review sessions were webcast live and have been archived for subsequent viewing at <http://www.treatybodywebcast.org/category/webcast-archives/crc/>

The day following the opening of the session, on 14 January 2014, Costa Rica became the tenth country to ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure** which means that it will enter into force on 14 April 2014.

During the session, the Committee continued its work on a joint General Comment with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on harmful practices, and announced that during its 67th session, on 12 September 2014, the Committee will hold a Day of General Discussion on the theme of media, social networks and the rights of children.

Related documents:

- [IDA compilation of disability-relevant recommendations of the adopted Concluding Observations](#)
- [Submission on Germany by DPI Germany](#)
- [IDA submission to the CRC and CEDAW Committees on harmful practices](#)
- The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW Committee) is meeting for its 57th session from 10-28 February during which it is reviewing Bahrain, Cameroon, Finland, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Qatar and Sierra Leone. The State review sessions are being **webcast live** and will be archived for subsequent viewing at <http://www>

[.treatybodywebcast.org/category/webcast-archives/cedaw-webcast-archives/](http://www.treatybodywebcast.org/category/webcast-archives/cedaw-webcast-archives/)

Related documents:

- [Submission on Finland by Finnish Disability Forum and European Disability Forum](#)

Universal Periodic Review

The eighteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) took place in Geneva from 27 January to 7 February 2014. The following fourteen countries were reviewed: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chile, Comoros, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, New Zealand, Slovakia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, and Yemen. Of note is that Comoros accepted recommendations to ensure adequate access for people with disabilities to all buildings, information, communication, education and all means of transportation (Spain), and to continue the procedures of ratifying the CRPD (Iraq). As well, Cambodia accepted a recommendation to implement and strengthen policies and laws to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, and ensure that these mechanisms enjoy a human rights based approach consistent with the CRPD and in consultation with civil society (Colombia). More information, including list of recommendations made on the rights of persons with disabilities, is available at [IDA's UPR web page](#). All reports submitted to the UPR 18th session can be found on the [main UPR web page of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture** will meet for its 22nd session from 24-28 February 2014.

In 2014, the SPT will carry out country visits to Azerbaijan, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Ecuador, Malta, Netherlands and Togo, and a follow-up to a previously visited country. Following previous practice, some of the SPT's visits will focus on providing advice and assistance to national preventive mechanisms, which are bodies that themselves monitor places of detention. During a country mission, the SPT delegation visits places of deprivation of liberty. At the end of the visit, the SPT communicates its recommendations and observations to the State by means of a confidential report, and if necessary to NPMs. However, State parties are encouraged to request that the SPT makes these reports public. For more information, visit the SPT's [website](#).

Human Rights Council

The 25th regular session of the Human Rights Council will take place from 3 to 28 March 2014. The annual panel on the rights of persons with disabilities, focusing on education, will take place on 19 March 2014 from 12:00 to 15:00. This panel will focus on a study by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on article 24 of the CRPD (A/HRC/25/29), now available at [the OHCHR web page listing reports submitted to the 25th session](#). The study was called for by Human Rights Council

resolution [A/HRC/RES/22/3](#) in March 2013. You can access [contributions to the OHCHR education study here](#), including a [contribution from IDA](#). Some side events scheduled (to be confirmed) to take place during the session are one honouring former World Federation of the Deaf President, Liisa Kauppinen, for [her receipt of the United Nations' 2013 Human Rights Award](#) (5 March 2014), as well as one on accessibility (20 March). More information on the 25th session can be found at [the main OHCHR web page for the 25th session](#) and on [IDA's Human Rights Council web page](#).

Accessibility of the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council has made recently public an [accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities](#), and an [easy to read version- About the Human Rights Council](#).

Conference of States Parties to the CRPD- CRPD Committee elections

The seventh Conference of States Parties to the CRPD will be held on 10-12 June 2014 during which the elections will take place for nine of the eighteen seats of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The deadline for States Parties to send in their nominations has been set for 10 April 2014. National DPOs have a large role to play in disseminating information and being consulted to ensure applications from highly qualified candidates for nomination

by their Government. IDA has prepared documents in English, Spanish and French which provide guidance to national DPOs on how to participate in the nomination process, highlighting some good nomination practices, as well as information on the suggested profile of a Committee member and the election process generally.

Further information on the process can be found on the [Committee's website dedicated to the 2014 elections](#) as well as on [IDA's website on the Conference of States Parties](#).

Related documents:

- IDA guidance note on elections in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#)

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
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