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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications and signatories

The ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Nauru (27 June 2012), Liberia (26 July 2012) and Ghana (31 July 2012), the latter which simultaneously ratified the Optional Protocol (OP) to the CRPD, bring a total of 119 States Parties to the CRPD, while the OP has 72 ratifications.

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

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

NEW YORK NEWS

• Fifth Conference of States Parties

The Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties (COP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) will take place from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the UN Headquarters, in New York. On 11 September, the day prior to the COP, IDA and UN DESA are co-chairing the Civil Society CRPD Forum. The theme of this fifth session is “Making the CRPD count for Women and Children”, and the sub-themes of the Conference, are: “Technology and Accessibility”, “Children with Disabilities” and “Women with Disabilities”. [More information on the COP and the list of side events.](#)

The 2012 elections of the CRPD Committee will take place on 12 September. There are 21 candidates for 9 places on the Committee. Of those 21 candidates, 5 of them are current members seeking re-election. To access the CVs of the CRPD Committee Candidates, and the latest information with respect to the elections, please visit the [CRPD Committee's election website.](#)

IDA sent a questionnaire to all candidates in an effort to better inform States of candidates' expertise and experience in the field of disability rights. The returned responses from candidates and further information on the election process (in English and Spanish) are available on [IDA's website.](#)

• Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The United Nation's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held its annual substantive session from 3 - 27 July 2012. The main theme of this session was “Promoting Productive Capacity, Employment and Decent Work to Eradicate Poverty in the Context of Inclusive, Sustainable and Equitable Economic Growth at all Levels for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals”.

IDA influenced the [Declaration of the Annual Ministerial Review \(AMR\)](#) on this same topic which finally included one reference to persons with disabilities in relation to the need to collect disaggregated data on the basis of gender, age and disability. Furthermore, the overall text has a positive focus on all-inclusiveness, accessibility, and equity.

• **Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held the first substantive discussion at its annual session – 13-17 July 2012 – on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution. The major theme discussed throughout the session was the effectiveness of Delivery As One (DAO) pilot programmes in different Member States, whose aim is to streamline the activities of the various UN development agencies to be able to achieve the most cost-effective results in participating countries.

IDA is very pleased to report about the positive announcement made by Australia that it will be their national priority to make the UN's development agenda disability-inclusive and that they would propose disability language to be included in the QCPR document. New Zealand and Canada also joined this initiative. The inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the final resolution of the QCPR is an excellent opportunity to advance IDA's overall goal of mainstreaming disability in the UN.

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Human Rights Committee** met from 9 - 27 July 2012 for its 105th session during which it examined the reports of Armenia, Iceland, Kenya, Lithuania and the Maldives.

Related documents and information:

- [IDA's disability analysis of the adopted Concluding Observations](#)
- [IDA's proposed recommendations for the Concluding Observations](#)
- [IDA's disability analysis of those State reports](#)
- [Webcast archives](#) of state reviews by the Human Rights Committee

It also adopted the list of issues on Angola, Germany, Macao and Peru; and the list of issues prior to reporting on Afghanistan, Croatia, Israel, New Zealand and San Marino. The adopted lists of issues are not yet available and will be posted on the [Committee's website](#).

Related documents:

- [IDA's proposed questions for the list of issues](#)
- [IDA's disability analysis of those State reports](#)
- [Joint submission on Germany](#) by Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland (ISL), Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) and IDA
- [Submission on Peru](#) by the Peruvian Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (CONFENADIP) in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

- The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** met from 9 – 27 July 2012 in NY for its 52nd session during which it examined the reports of the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand and Samoa.

Related documents:

- [IDA's disability analysis of the adopted Concluding Observations](#)
- [IDA's proposed recommenda](#)

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- [IDA's disability analysis of those State reports](#)
- [Joint submission on Mexico](#) made in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) by Fundación Paso a Paso, Planeta Inclusion and IDA

The CEDAW Committee also adopted lists of issues on Angola, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Pakistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Solomon Islands (in the absence of a State report).

Related documents:

- [IDA's disability analysis of the list of issues](#)
- [IDA's proposed questions for the list of issues](#)
- [IDA's disability analysis of those State reports](#)
- [Joint submission on Austria](#) by the Austrian National Council of Disabled Persons (OeAR), the European Disability Forum (EDF) and IDA
- [Joint submission on Hungary](#) by the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (FESZT), the European Disability Forum (EDF) and IDA

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** will meet for its 61st session from 17 September - 5 October 2012 in which it will review the reports of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Namibia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia and Canada.

Related documents:

- [IDA's proposed recommendations for the Concluding Observations](#)

- [Joint submission on Austria](#) by the Austrian National Council of Disabled Persons (OeAR), the European Disability Forum (EDF) and IDA
- [Joint submission on Canada](#) by the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), Inclusion International (II) and IDA
- [IDA's disability analysis of those State reports](#)

The CRC Committee will also adopt list of issues on Armenia, Israel, Lithuania, Monaco, Rwanda and Slovenia.

Related documents:

- [IDA's proposed questions for the list of issues](#)
- [IDA's disability analysis of those State reports](#)

The CRC Committee issued its first draft of its General Comment on child rights and business and launched a call out for inputs by civil society.

Related documents:

- [First draft](#) of the CRC Committee's GC on child rights and business
- [IDA's submission to the CRC Committee on the first draft](#)
- Further information and NGO submissions are posted on the [CRC Committee's website](#)

• The [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) will hold its 8th session from 17 – 28 September 2012 which will be the Committee's first two-week session. Also for the first time, the CRPD Committee will review three states: China, Argentina and Hungary. In addition, the Committee will adopt the list of issues on Paraguay. DPO and NGO submissions are available on the Committee's [8th session](#)

[website](#). A private briefing by DPOs and NGOs will be held on the morning of 17 September on each country under review during the Committee's formal session, and private coffee briefing side events will take place on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the first week respectively on China, Argentina and Hungary, as well as a side event on Friday hosted by the French Défenseur des Droits (DDD) and the Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme (CNCDH) on the role of independent mechanisms in monitoring the effective implementation of the CRPD at national and regional levels. A private side event will also take place on 25 September on Paraguay.

Human Rights Council

- The 21st Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) will take place in Geneva from 10-28 September 2012.

During this session, the outcome reports of the UPR 13th session will be adopted. ([See UPR13 pending recommendations](#)). The Council will consider the Draft Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty, which contain good inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities. A panel on women's economic, social and cultural rights will take place and will be captioned and have sign language interpretation; Dr Elly Macha of the African Union of the Blind from IDA member World Blind Union has been invited to participate in that discussion.

IDA has conducted a [disability analysis of reports to the 21st](#)

[session](#). Of note is a report by the High Commissioner on the right to development mentioning disability-inclusive development and an accompanying fact sheet. The reports of the Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation presented to the Council in this session also well included the rights of persons with disabilities (A/HRC/21/42, on stigma and discrimination, and A/HRC/21/42/Add.3, on her country visit to Namibia).

Some initiatives announced include a resolution on indigenous peoples (Mexico and Guatemala), and follow up to the global program on human rights education and training (Costa Rica).

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: stromel@ida-secretariat.org
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