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GLOBAL NEWS

• **CRPD ratifications and signatories**

The ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol (OP) by Estonia on 30 May 2012, Greece on 31 May 2012, Djibouti on 18 June 2012 and Benin on 5 July 2012 bring a total of 116 States Parties to the CRPD, while the OP has 71 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 States Parties](#).

• **State Reports submitted to the CRPD Committee**

New Zealand has recently submitted its national report to the CRPD Committee. For the moment, the report is only available in English.

Please click the link to access the [CRPD Committee website](#) section where you can find all reports presented so far to the CRPD Committee.

• **European Court of Human Rights**

On 2 July 2012, together with the European Disability Forum and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, IDA submitted joint written comments to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Gojski v Poland (Application no 45705/0) brought by a wheel chair user prisoner who, in the course of carrying out his sentence, was subjected to ill-treatment in prison due to the lack of provision of reasonable accommodation. [Click here](#) to read the amicus brief.

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 will take place from 12 to 14 September 2012 at the UN Headquarters, in New York.

At this Session of the COP, 9 of the positions on the CRPD Committee will be renewed: six of the initial twelve members, as well as three of the new members elected in 2010. The deadline for States to nominate candidates to the CRPD Committee has now passed and there are currently 19 candidates for 9 places on the Committee. Of those 16 candidates, 5 are current members going for re-election. To see the full list of candidates, their CVs, and the latest information with respect to the elections, please visit the [CRPD Committee's website](#).

IDA has sent a questionnaire to all candidates and given a deadline of 31 July for responses to be returned. These questionnaires will be posted on IDA's website in order to facilitate the election process and in an effort to better inform States of candidates' expertise and experience in the field of disability rights, please [click here](#) to have

access to the questionnaire as well as detailed information on this Conference.

Rio+20 Outcome Document

IDA together with a number of Permanent Missions to the UN and thanks to the active role of the Brazilian disability movement influenced the Rio +20 Outcome Document and achieved the inclusion of five references to persons with disabilities.

The first reference is part of the common vision for the future: all States are responsible to respect the human rights and freedoms of all persons, including persons with disabilities. In addition, persons with disability were included explicitly in public participation regarding sustainable development together with Major Groups. The third reference in the document refers to green economy policy in conjunction with sustainable development and poverty eradication should promote the welfare of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the document encourages the development of sustainable cities that provide a safe and healthy living environment for all, including persons with disabilities, and finally calls for equal access to education at all levels for persons with disabilities.

This outcome will help further mainstream disability across the UN development agenda, in particular for the post-MDG agenda and the imminent negotiation of the resolution on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) for the development activities of the UN system. Please click the

link to have access to the [Outcome Document](#).

Expert-Level meeting convened by UNICEF

UNICEF gathered a number of experts (IDA included) in the beginning of June to discuss a new post-2015 global strategy for dealing with child issues such as discrimination, poor education and health services, gender inequities, and environmental catastrophe. The conclusion of the discussion was that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), while not perfect, can serve as a framework for future efforts to help children, as they were able to help bring about more accountability and resources as well as support and awareness. In the future, further progress needs to be made as the MDGs' simplistic nature did not seek more than mere human survival, leaving out goals of equality, human rights, and helping the most marginalised. New political, economic, and demographic factors will make further progress more difficult for politicians and non-politicians alike. A protective, collaborative, people-centred and child-centred approach is needed across borders and between governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including non-child-focused NGOs. It is possible to align children's rights as the centrepiece for a new global strategy that affects people of all ages.

WHO QualityRights Tool Kit

On 28 June 2012, in New York, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched a new

tool to urge countries to protect the rights and dignity of people with mental health conditions. The tool, called QualityRights Tool Kit, establishes key standards that need to be met in facilities around the world and make recommendations to improve quality of care and human rights at the health facilities at national level. For further information on this tool, please [click here](#) and [here](#) to read the press release published by The Pan African Network of People with Psychosocial Disabilities (PANUSP), on the occasion of this launch.

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Committee against Torture** held its 48th session from 7 May – 1 June 2012 in which it examined the reports of Albania, Armenia, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Greece, Rwanda and the Syrian Arab Republic. [Click here](#) to read IDA's 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. The European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP) and the European Disability Forum (EDF) made a joint submission on the Czech Republic available [here](#). Members of ENUSP, including a survivor of forced hospitalisation and treatment involving confinement in a net bed in the Czech Republic, and a representative of the Czech NGO, LIGA and the Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC), together with IDA, took part in a private briefing with the CAT Committee

to raise issues related to institutionalisation, involuntary hospitalisation, forced treatment and, the continued use of net beds.

The Committee also adopted lists of issues on Senegal, Togo, Tajikistan and Qatar. To read IDA's disability analysis of the list of issues [click here](#), and for the proposed questions for the list of issues [click here](#), and [here](#) to read the disability analysis of those State reports.

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** met for its 60th session from 29 May – 15 June 2012 in which it reviewed the reports of Algeria, Australia, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and Viet Nam. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the adopted Concluding Observations, [here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports.

The CRC Committee also held its Pre-session Working Group from 18 – 22 June 2012, in which it adopted lists of issues on Andorra, Guinea, Guyana, Malta and Uzbekistan. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the adopted list of issues; [here](#) to read IDA's suggested questions for list of issues, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports.

To access archives of the webcasted sessions of the **CAT and CRC Committees**, visit www.treatybodywebcast.org.

- The **Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT)** held its 18th session from 18-22 June 2012. During this session, the SPT held an internal workshop on mental health in places of de

privation of liberty. A public session on this topic was held in the afternoon of 20 June 2012 with civil society organisations including the OPCAT Contact Group. It was announced that the SPT would be making public its draft paper on mental health in places of deprivation of liberty for public consultation.

A paper written by the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) and the European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (ENUSP), and endorsed by IDA was submitted to the SPT leading up to the session. The paper sets out recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on Torture with particular relevance to the SPT as a monitoring mechanism dealing with torture and places of detention. [Click here](#) to read it.

- On 22 June, the High Commissioner made public her report on the **treaty body strengthening** process which provides recommendations to enhance the visibility of the human rights treaty system and its accessibility to individuals and communities throughout the world. The main recommendations include creating a Comprehensive Reporting Calendar (so that every report is reviewed on time and that States receive equal treatment), and a simplified and aligned reporting process. The report suggests means to strengthen the individual communications procedures, inquiries and country visits, as well as the independence and expertise of treaty body members, and the capacity of states to implement the treaties. The report also recommends provi-

ding webcasting and videoconferencing for the sessions. The report is available in Word in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#) and [Russian](#) and in [PDF](#).

Human Rights Council

The 20th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) took place in Geneva from 18 June - 6 July 2012.

During this session, a side event was held, hosted by Canada and the OHCHR, on violence against women and girls and disability. The event launched the report of the OHCHR on this topic ([A/HRC/20/5](#)) (PDF only), that was called for by resolution [A/HRC/RES/17/11](#) of June 2011. The OHCHR received 78 contributions for the report, including 44 States' responses. To access all contributions, please [click here](#) and [here](#) for a report on the side event.

During the session, a number of resolutions that mention disability were also adopted, including those on: Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: access to effective remedies for trafficked persons and their right to an effective remedy for human rights violations; Human rights of migrants; The right to a nationality: women and children; Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality; The right to education: follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution 8/4; Human rights of internally displaced persons; and National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. Please [click here](#) to access the disability analysis of the draft resolutions adopted by the HRC

during this session.

Universal Periodic Review

The 13th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) took place in Geneva from 21 May - 4 June 2012. Countries reviewed included Bahrain, Ecuador, Tunisia, Morocco, Indonesia, Finland, United Kingdom, India, Brazil, Philippines, Algeria, Poland, Netherlands, and South Africa. This session marked the beginning of the second cycle of the UPR.

During the session, 74 recommendations and one voluntary pledge were made on the rights of persons with disabilities. Of the recommendations, 27 were accepted right away, and 47 are pending for adoption in the 21st session of the Human Rights Council. Some good recommendations made during the session include those on political participation of persons with disabilities. For an analysis of the references to persons with disabilities in the reports adopted by the UPR Working Group during this session, please [click here](#), [here](#) for an analysis of relevant reports presented for this session of the UPR, [here](#) to access stakeholders' reports focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities and [here](#) to see the pending recommendations.

International Labour Conference

The 101st session of the International Labour Conference took place in Geneva from 30 May - 15 June 2012. During the session, the Conference adopted a [Recommendation on a Social Protection Floor](#). The International

Disability Alliance worked with a coalition of NGOs to ensure a strong recommendation text. IDA also prepared a [position paper](#) prior the adoption of the recommendation, which indicated some key points on the Recommendation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The **Human Rights Committee** is now meeting from 9 - 27 July 2012 for its 105th session during which it will examine the reports of Armenia, Iceland, Kenya, Lithuania and the Maldives. [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 on Angola, Germany, Macao and Peru; and the list of issues prior to reporting on Afghanistan, Croatia, Israel, New Zealand and San Marino. [Click here](#) to read IDA's suggested questions for the List of Issues and List of Issues prior to reporting, [here](#) for the joint submission on Germany by Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland (ISL), Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) and IDA; and for the submission on Peru by the Peruvian Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (CONFENADIP) in [English](#) and [Spanish](#); and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of those State reports.

- The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** is now meeting from 9 - 27 July 2012 for its 52nd session in NY during which it will examine

the reports of Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand and Samoa. [Click here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. With respect to Mexico, a joint submission was made in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) by Fundación Paso a Paso, Planeta Inclusion and IDA.

The CEDAW Committee will also adopt 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). [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. A joint submission was made on Austria by the Austrian National Council of Disabled Persons (OeAR), the European Disability Forum (EDF) and IDA which can be read [here](#); and a submission is still pending from the Hungarian Disability Caucus.

- The **CRC Committee** has launched a call for written submissions on the subject of children's rights in the context of international migration in the lead up to its Day of General Discussion devoted to this topic to be held during the Committee's 61st session on 28 September 2012. Written submissions on the international legal framework on the rights of children in international migration situations, protection gaps and responsibility of States Parties in countries of origin, transit and destination; national level measures to implement the rights of children in in-

ternational migration situations in countries of origin, transit and destination; and case studies can be sent to the Committee in English, Spanish and French at crc-dgd@ohchr.org. The deadline for written submissions is 10 September 2012. For further information and guidance, please visit the CRC Committee's website [here](#).

In addition to the first call for submissions and multi-stakeholder consultations, the **CRC Committee** is welcoming inputs on the first draft of its General Comment on child rights and the business sector available [here](#). The deadline for submissions on the first draft is 24 August 2012. To read IDA's submission in response to the Committee's first call, [click here](#).

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:
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