

GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications and signatories

Currently, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD) has 112 ratifications, while the Optional Protocol (OP) has 64 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](#).

NEW YORK NEWS

• Commission on Population and Development

The 45th session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York from 23 - 27 April 2012. The priority theme this year was 'Adolescence and youth'.

The International Disability Alliance carried out its advocacy activities through contributions toward the resolution adopted by the Commission, which finally included excellent language on disability.

IDA also co-hosted a side event, on 27 April 2012, with Sweden and Croatia on Mainstreaming Youth and Adolescence with Disability in the Development Agenda.

Please [click here](#) to read IDA's report on this session.

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

• The **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** met for its 7th session from 16 – 20 April 2012, during which it reviewed Peru. For the first time, the session was webcast live by IDA. The archived video of the review is available for playback in [Spanish](#) and [English](#).

To read the Committee's Concluding Observations on Peru, please [click here](#). The list of issues adopted by the Committee on [Argentina](#), [China](#) and [Hungary](#) are now public and available on the Committee's website [here](#). To read a summary of the public sessions of the 7th session which includes the list of adopted decisions, [click here](#).

The Committee also adopted its first views on an individual complaint lodged under the Optional Protocol to the CRPD. The case against Sweden resulted in the Committee finding violations of Articles 5(1), 5(3), 19(b), 25 and 26, read alone and in conjunction with Articles 3 (b), (d) and (e), and 4(1) (d) of the CRPD. [Click here](#) to read the views in full, [here](#) to read a summary prepared by IDA and [here](#) to access IDA's factsheet on the Optional Protocol.

• The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** met from 30 April - 18 May 2012 for its 48th session during which it examined the reports of Ethiopia, New Zealand, Peru, Slovakia and Spain. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the Concluding Observations adopted by the Committee, [here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. With respect to Peru, the Peruvian National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (CONFENADIP) made its own submission available [here](#), and the Spanish DPO umbrella, CERMI (Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad), contributed to the Spanish civil society submission, available [here](#).

The CESCR Committee also held a Pre-Sessional Working Group from 21-25 May 2012 and adopted lists of issues on: Azerbaijan, Iceland, Iran, Jamaica and Japan, and in the absence of State reports: Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea. The list of issues will be posted on the Committee's website [here](#). [Click here](#) to read IDA's submissions for the list of issues and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports available. With respect to Iceland, together with Organisation of Disabled Persons in Iceland (ODI) and the European Disability Form (EDF), IDA made a joint submission, available [here](#).

• The **Committee against Torture** held its 48th session from 7 May - 1 June 2012 in which it will examine the reports of Albania, Armenia, Canada, Cuba, Czech

Republic, Greece, Rwanda and Syrian Arab Republic. [Click 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 and the European Disability Forum 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, among others the continued use of net beds. The Committee's Concluding Observations will be posted shortly on their website [here](#).

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

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

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 international 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](#).

The CRC Committee launched a call out for inputs by civil society, including DPOs, on their upcoming General Comment on child rights and business. Further information is available on the CRC Committee's website [here](#). To read IDA's submission in response to this request, [click here](#).

• The **Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT)** carried out a visit to Argentina from 18 - 27 April 2012 in which it visited prisons, police stations, detention centres for juveniles, and psychiatric institutions (Hospital Neuropsiquiátrico José Tiburcio Borda, Hospital Neuropsiquiátrico Braulio Moyano, Hospital Neuropsiquiátrico Alejandro Korn, Servicio

Psiquiátrico Central de Varones (Unidad 20)). To read the press release issued following the visit, [click here](#). The SPT also conducted an advisory visit to the national preventive mechanism of Honduras from 30 April - 4 May; to read the press release [click here](#).

Universal Periodic Review

The thirteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review is taking place in Geneva from 21 May - 4 June 2012. Countries being reviewed include Bahrain, Ecuador, Tunisia, Morocco, Indonesia, Finland, United Kingdom, India, Brazil, Philippines, Algeria, Poland, Netherlands, and South Africa. For an analysis of the references to persons with disabilities in the reports that are taking into account by the UPR Working Group in this session, please [click here](#) and [here](#) to access stakeholders' reports focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities. During the first week of the review, there were a number of references to the rights of persons with disabilities, [click here](#) to see these references.

OHCHR Report 2011

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Navy Pillay, held on 30 May 2012, a meeting with civil society organizations to present her [Annual Report 2011](#). During the meeting, Mrs. Pillay highlighted the OHCHR's work to promote international human rights standards. On disability issues, she noted OHCHR's leading role on the Multi Donors Trust Fund to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (UNPRPD-MDTF) and on the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG CRPD). In

addition, she stressed the OHCHR participation in the Bureau of the Conference of States Parties of the CRPD and the Accessibility Task Force within the Human Rights Council.

During the informal public discussion, IDA highlighted the significant place given to persons with disabilities in the report. However, IDA remains concerned about the non availability of the Report in accessible formats. IDA also encouraged the OHCHR (i) to devote adequate resources to promote disability rights, including by recruiting staff with disabilities as well as by calling on its staff to mainstream disability rights in all their activities; (ii) to create a fellowship program for persons with disabilities; and (iii) to include persons with disabilities and DPOs in their work on access to justice and fight against impunity.

The IDA Secretariat has made an analysis of the disability references and other relevant references included in the report. Please [Click here](#) to access this analysis.

International Labour Conference

The 101st session of the International Labour Conference is taking place in Geneva from 30 May - 15 June 2012. During the session, the Conference is expected to adopt a recommendation on a social protection floor. IDA is working with a coalition of NGOs to ensure a strong recommendation text. The draft recommendation is available [here](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council's twentieth regular session will take place in Geneva from 18 June - 6 July 2012. During this session, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will present its [recent report on women and girls with disabilities](#) to the Council under agenda items 2 and 3.

The Council will also hold interactive dialogues with the special procedures mandate holders on the right to education, health, freedom of expression, summary executions, peaceful assembly and association, counterterrorism, transnational corporations, foreign debt, extreme poverty, discrimination against women, migrants, cultural rights, trafficking, independence of judge and lawyers, violence against women, racism, and Haiti. [Click here](#) for references to disability in reports submitted to the Human Rights Council's 20th session. Notably, the special rapporteurs on cultural rights and on education each paid good attention to the rights of persons with disabilities in their respective reports and country visits.

The Council will also hold an annual day of discussion on women's human rights, and a panel on the promotion and protection of human rights in a multicultural context. It will consider country situations of Syria, Belarus and others and will [appoint a special procedure mandate holder](#) on the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Treaty Bodies

- The **Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT)** will be holding its 18th session from 18-22 June 2012. During this session, the SPT will hold an internal training workshop on mental health in places of deprivation of liberty. A public session will be held on this topic in the afternoon of 20 June 2012.
- The **annual meeting of Chairpersons of the UN treaty bodies** will take place from 25 – 29 June 2012, in Addis Ababa. On point on the agenda of the Chairpersons' meeting is the drafting and adoption of guidelines on the eligibility criteria of independence and expertise eligibility of treaty body members.

An **updated 2012 treaty body calendar** setting out the countries coming up for review and for adoption of list of issues, with deadlines, is available [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 and its member organisations, please visit:

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