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## Global News

### • CRPD ratifications reach 106

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Cape Verde on 10 October 2011 brings a total of 106 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 Thematic Study on Participation in Political and Public Life

IDA presented its [contribution](#) to the thematic study on participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life that the OHCHR will be presenting to the Human Rights Council in March 2012.

### • Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development

IDA also presented a [contribution](#) to the UN Secretariat in charge of preparing the Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development which will be held in Rio in June 2012.

### • International Day on the Eradication of Poverty (17 October 2011)

The United Nations Office at Geneva and the International Movement ATD Fourth World hosted a commemorative event on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, "From Poverty to Sustainability: People at the Centre of Inclusive Development". Representatives of the missions of Switzerland and Senegal as well as the Special Rapporteur on human rights and extreme poverty, Ms. María Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona spoke, as did a Geneva coalition on poverty.

The Special Rapporteur stressed the need for participation and involvement of stakeholders in all aspects of addressing poverty. A film was screened on a participatory youth project, done with Swiss support, to address flooding in poor neighborhoods in Senegal. IDA's press release on the International Day of the Eradication of Poverty highlights the need to include persons with disabilities in the upcoming ILO recommendation on a social protection floor. Please click the links below to have access to the press release ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)).

## Treaty Bodies

• The **CRC Committee** held its 58th session from 19 September – 7 October 2011. It examined the reports of Iceland, Italy, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, and the Syrian Arab Republic. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the Concluding Observations, [here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for the Concluding Observations, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. With respect to Italy, together with the Italian Disability Forum (IDF) and the European Disability Forum (EDF),

IDA made a joint submission, [click here](#) to read it.

The CRC Committee held its Pre-Sessional Working Group from 10-14 October in which it adopted Lists of Issues on Australia, Algeria, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Niue Islands, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. [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. The Lists of Issues will shortly be available on the Committee's [website](#).

- The **CEDAW Committee** held its 50th session from 3 – 21 October. It examined the reports of Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritius, Montenegro, Oman and Paraguay. [Click here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the Concluding Observations, [here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations, and [here](#) to read the disability analysis of the State reports. The CEDAW Committee held its Pre-Sessional Working Group from 24-28 October in which it adopted Lists of Issues on the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand and Samoa. The Lists of Issues will shortly be available on the Committee's [website](#).

- The **Human Rights Committee** is holding its 103rd session from 17 October – 4 November. It has examined the reports of Iran, Kuwait, Jamaica, Norway and Malawi (in the absence of a report). Together with Norwegian DPO, We Shall Overcome (WSO), and the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP), IDA made a joint submission on Norway. [Click here](#) to read the WSO, WNUSP

and IDA submission on Norway, [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports, and [here](#) for IDA's recommendations on Concluding Observations. The Committee's review sessions have been webcast live and are available for viewing [here](#). During this session, the Country Report Taskforce will adopt Lists of Issues on Armenia, Lithuania, Kenya, and Cape Verde (in the absence of a report), please [click here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports, and [here](#) for IDA's suggested questions for the List of Issues. The Committee will also adopt Lists of Issues Prior to Reporting on Uruguay, Cameroon, Monaco, Denmark and Moldova. Together with Disabled People's Organisation Denmark (DPOD), and the European Disability Forum (EDF), IDA made a joint submission for the LoIPR on Denmark. [Click here](#) to read it and [here](#) to read IDA's proposed questions for the LoIPRs.

- The **Committee Against Torture** is holding its 47th session from 31 October – 25 November. It is examining the reports of Belarus, Bulgaria, Djibouti, Germany, Greece, Madagascar, Morocco, Paraguay and Sri Lanka. [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 Germany, DPI's German member, Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland e.V, made their own submission, available [here](#), as did WNUSP member, Bundesverband Psychiatrie-Erfahrener e.V. (Federal Organisation of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry in Germany) which

is available [here](#).

The Committee's review sessions are being webcast live and are available [here](#) for viewing.

The CAT Committee will also adopt Lists of Issues on Albania, Armenia, Canada, Cuba and the Czech Republic; [click here](#) to read IDA's submission on the List of Issues and [here](#) for the disability analysis of the State reports. Additionally, the Committee is elaborating a General Comment on Article 14, CAT, the right to redress and rehabilitation. IDA made a submission on the latest draft of the General Comment, [click here](#) to read it.

### Universal Periodic Review

The twelfth session of the Universal Periodic Review took place in Geneva from 3 to 13 October 2011. Countries being reviewed were Tajikistan, Tanzania, Antigua and Barbuda, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Thailand, Ireland, Togo, Syria, Venezuela, Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor Leste, Moldova, and Haiti.

During this session which completed the first cycle of the UPR, there were some major gains towards universal ratification of the CRPD. Countries which accepted to ratify the CRPD during the session include: Antigua and Barbuda, Iceland, Ireland, Swaziland, Timor-Leste, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe. Iceland and Venezuela also accepted to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD. States under review also accepted comprehensive recommendations on education, employment, children with disabilities, deinstitutionalization, mobility, and accessibility.

Lithuania and Uganda accepted recommendations (from Spain and Mexico, respectively) to ensure the right of persons with disabilities to vote, in line with the CRPD. Thailand made a voluntary commitment to withdraw its interpretative declaration on article 18 of the CRPD. Venezuela made a voluntary commitment to promote the rights of persons with visual impairments including by mass use of Braille.

Countries that will indicate by the 19th session of the Council in March 2012 whether they accept recommendations to ratify the CRPD or its OP include: Antigua and Barbuda (the OP), Ireland (the OP), Moldova (the OP), Tajikistan (the CRPD and its OP), Thailand (the OP), Timor-Leste (the OP), Trinidad and Tobago (the CRPD and its OP), and Zimbabwe (the OP). Syria will indicate by the March 2012 Council session whether it will accept Slovenia's recommendation to withdraw its reservation on the OP and other human rights treaties. Haiti will indicate by the same session whether it will include accessibility for persons with disabilities in reconstruction, and Ireland will indicate its position on a recommendation on its 2001 Act on Mental Health. [Click here](#) for a disability analysis of the UPR reports, [here](#) for IDA recommendations and [here](#) for a disability analysis of the draft UPR Working Group reports.

### General Assembly

The sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly began in New York in September. IDA has been following

resolutions out of the Third Committee, which covers human rights and humanitarian issues, to ensure that disability rights are included. There will be three disability-specific resolutions, along with resolutions on ageing, women's rights, youth, and children's rights that we foresee will also address disability rights issues. For more information on the negotiations related to these resolutions, please [click here](#).

### Upcoming Meetings

- The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** will be holding its 47th session from 14 November – 2 December. It will examine the reports of Argentina, Cameroon, Estonia, Israel and Turkmenistan. [Click here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports. Together with Argentinian DPO, REDI (Red por los derechos de las personas con discapacidad), and RIADIS, IDA made a joint submission on Argentina, [click here](#) to read it.
- The **Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture** (SPT) will hold its 15th session from 14-18 November. This year the SPT envisaged to conduct visits to Ukraine, Brazil and Mali, for which IDA submitted information concerning places of detention of persons with disabilities and local DPO contacts for each country.

#### ***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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