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Global News

• CRPD ratifications reach 105

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Bahrain on 22 September 2011 and the ratification by Luxembourg of the CRPD and the Optional Protocol (OP) on 26 September 2011 brings a total of 105 States Parties to the CRPD, while the OP has 63 ratifications.

The signature of the CRPD by Saint Lucia on 22 September 2011 and by the Federated States of Micronesia on 23 September 2011 brings a total of 153 signatures to the CRPD, while the OP has 90 signatures.

Please click the link to check the list of [Signatories and State Parties](#).

• State Reports submitted to the CRPD Committee

Belgium has recently presented its national report to the CRPD Committee. For the moment, the report is only available in French. At the 6th session of the CRPD Committee, it was also announced that the State reports of Ecuador and Germany have been received. Spain, Tunisia, Peru, China, Argentina, Hungary, Paraguay, Austria, Australia, El Salvador, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Mexico and Republic of Korea were the first countries in submitting their national reports to the CRPD Committee. Please click the link to access the [CRPD website](#) section where you can find all reports presented so far to the CRPD Committee.

• Fourth Conference of the States Parties

The Fourth Conference of States Parties to the CRPD was held in New York on September 7-9. It included roundtables on International Cooperation and on Participation in Political and Civil Life, as well as an informal session co-chaired by Hungary and IDA on Work and Employment. On 6 September IDA and UN DESA co-chaired the Civil Society Forum which focused on the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development

to be held during the next UN General Assembly. For more information on the Conference, [click here](#). For the statement presented by IDA at the closing session of the Conference, [click here](#).

Treaty Bodies

• From 19 to 23 September 2011, the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** met for its 6th session in which it undertook a review of Spain's implementation of the CRPD. Prior to the dialogue with Spain, a private briefing was held for the CRPD Committee by CERMI, Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad, the umbrella group of Spanish organisations of persons with disabilities, in which CERMI presented the main points of its submission and answered the Committee's questions in preparation for the dialogue. Following the dialogue at the end of the session, the Committee adopted Concluding Observations on Spain, [click here](#) to read them; and [here](#) to read CERMI's submission in the lead up to the review.

Also on the agenda of the Committee was the adoption of the List of Issues on Peru and China. The adoption of the List of

Issues on China was postponed to the next session given that the English translation of the mainland report of China had not yet been finalised.

On 20 September, IDA hosted a side event on Peru to which the majority of Committee members attended. Representatives of the Peruvian National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (Confederación Nacional de Personas con Discapacidad del Perú -CONFENADIP) and Human Rights Watch provided information to the CRPD Committee on the principal issues of concern which should be highlighted in the List of Issues to be sent to the government. The briefing was comprehensive in its scope of areas of concern and in particular highlighted the urgent need to address the violations of the right to political participation given the fact that 20,000 Peruvians with intellectual disabilities have been erased from the electoral registry and deprived of their right to vote. [Click here](#) to access CONFENADIP's submission recommendations for the List of Issues on Peru, and [here](#) for the full parallel report presented by CONFENADIP to the CRPD Committee. The List of Issues adopted by the Committee on Peru will be posted on the [Committee's website](#).

For more detailed information on the 6th Session of the CRPD Committee, please [click here](#).

- The **CRC Committee** is holding its 58th session from 19 September – 7 October 2011. It examined the reports of Iceland, Italy, Panama, Republic of Korea, Seychelles, and the Syrian Arab Re-

public. 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 the joint submission, [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports, and [here](#) for IDA's recommendations for the Concluding Observations. For this session, the International Child Rights Centre (InCRC) webcasted the dialogues live and those recorded streams can be accessed [here](#).

The CRC Committee will be holding its Pre-Sessional Working Group from 10-14 October in which it will adopt Lists of Issues on Australia, Algeria, Cook Island, 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 **CEDAW Committee** is holding its 50th session from 3 – 21 October. It is examining the reports of Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritius, Montenegro, Oman and Paraguay. [Click here](#) to read IDA's recommendations for Concluding Observations, and [here](#) to read IDA's disability analysis of the State reports.

- The **CRC and CEDAW Committees** are in the process of elaborating a General Comment/Recommendation on harmful practices. In response to a call out for papers on the subject, IDA made a submission highlighting the harmful practices targeted at persons with disabilities, and in particular women and girls with disabilities. [Click here](#) to read

IDA's submission and [here](#) to access the Committees' webpage dedicated to the General Comment/Recommendation.

- The **Committees against Torture** 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.

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council's eighteenth session took place in Geneva from 12-30 September 2011. During the session, the Council held interactive dialogues with the special rapporteurs on the right to water and sanitation, and held a panel discussion on the right to health of older persons. IDA made statements on [the right to water and sanitation](#), [the right to health of older persons](#), and spoke at a side event on [the rights of older women](#). IDA also made a statement delivered on behalf of [Nuanua O Le Alofa](#) (Samoa) upon the adoption of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group report of Samoa.

The Council mentioned the rights of persons with disabilities or the CRPD in resolutions on Reporting of the Secretary-General on the question of the death penalty, water and sanitation, maternal mortality, migrants, promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, climate change, and promoting the UDHR through sport and the Olympic ideal. [Click here](#) for a disability analysis of resolutions adopted in the 18th session.

HRC Task Force on Accessibility

On the 23rd of September, the HRC Presidency convened a meeting of the Human Rights Council Task Force on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities with the CRPD Committee bureau to seek the Committee's views on the HRC task force. The bureau welcomed this and pointed out that accessibility was an ongoing issue and the need to include accessibility also for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. It has agreed to work with a consortium on access to documents with Microsoft, a non-profit in England, Enable Net, and Middlesex University, which has a department dealing with disability and communication. They will audit the April 2012 session of the Committee and look at ways the documents can be more accessible, website, and communication. For IDA's statement at the meeting, [click here](#).

Universal Periodic Review

The twelfth session of the Universal Periodic Review is currently taking place in Geneva (3-13 October 2011). Countries being reviewed are Tajikistan, Tanzania, Antigua and Barbuda, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Thailand, Ireland, Togo, Swaziland, Syria, Venezuela, Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor Leste, Moldova, and Haiti. This will complete the first cycle of the UPR. [Click here](#) for a disability analysis of the UPR reports, and [click here](#) for IDA recommendations.

General Assembly

The UN General Assembly opened its 66th Session on 13 September 2011. During this session, the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee (Third Committee) of the General Assembly will address, among other things, issues related to persons with disabilities. Two specific reports on the rights of persons with disabilities has been presented to the Third Committee: "Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto" (A/66/121) and the "Report of the Secretary-General on realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other international development goals for persons with disabilities" (A/66/128).

Other reports presented to the Third Committee including Special Procedures reports, also include references to persons with disabilities. For detailed information on the reports presented by Special Procedures [click here](#) and [here](#) for the disability analysis of other reports presented by the Secretary General.

IDA has also undertaken an analysis of the reports that have been presented to the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly. [Click here](#) to have access to this analysis.

Upcoming Meetings

- The **Human Rights Committee** will be meeting for its 103rd session from 17 October – 4 November. It will examine the reports

of Jamaica, Kuwait, Norway, Iran 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.

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.

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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