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GLOBAL NEWS

• CRPD ratifications and signatories

The ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Poland (25 September 2012), Russian Federation (25 September 2012), Israel (28 September 2012), Swaziland (24 September 2012) and Dominica (1 October 2012), the two latter which simultaneously ratified the Optional Protocol (OP) to the CRPD, bring a total of 124 States Parties to the CRPD, while the OP has 74 ratifications.

The number of signatories to the CRPD is 154 while the OP is 91.

Poland ratified the CRPD with reservations to Article 23.1 (b) and 25 (a) and made an interpretative declaration to Article 12, while Israel ratified the CRPD with a reservation to Article 23.1 (a).

[List of signatories and States Parties, as well as, list of reservations and interpretative declarations.](#)

• State Reports submitted to the CRPD Committee

[Chile has submitted its national report to the CRPD Committee.](#) For the moment, the report is only available in Spanish.

A list of all reports presented so far to the CRPD Committee is available on the [Committee's website](#).

• OHCHR Training Materials on the CRPD and its OP

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has recently developed a [training package on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol](#). The package consists of a Training Guide and eight modules.

The training modules, which can be used for developing training courses on the Convention and/or its Optional Protocol, provide basic information on a rights-based approach to disability, on the fundamental elements of the Convention and its Optional Protocol, and on the processes and issues underlying their ratification, implementation and monitoring.

NEW YORK NEWS

• Meeting with UN Women

The meeting took place on 7 September at the premises of UN Women between Ms Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director, Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support for Strategic Partnerships of UN Women, and a delegation of the International Disability Alliance led by its Chair, Yannis Vardakastanis, to discuss the challenge of mainstreaming the rights of women and girls with disabilities within the work of UN Women. During the meeting, IDA proposed that in order to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities, UN Women should establish a senior-level focal point and ensure that the next Strategic Plan of UN Women is disability-inclusive.

Ms Puri welcomed IDA's proposals and it was also agreed to co-sponsor a side event during the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2013) on violence against women with disabilities. [IDA Press Release on the meeting between UN Women and IDA](#).

• **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) took 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 co-chaired the Civil Society CRPD Forum, whose overall focus was the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development which will take place in September 2013. Elections of nine CRPD Committee members took place during the first day of the Conference. The rest of the Conference included two roundtables on accessibility and technology and on children with disabilities, an informal session on women with disabilities, and an interactive dialogue on the implementation of the Convention.

Related Documents:

- [Information on the Civil Society CRPD Forum](#)
- [Information on the Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties, including information on the 2012 Elections to the CRPD Committee](#)
- [More information on the IDA Website](#)

• **Informal Meeting on HLMDD**

On 14 September, the Permanent Representatives of Spain

and the Philippines convened an informal consultation in New York on the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD), scheduled for September 2013. IDA made an intervention putting forward its expectations concerning the process, format, and elements of the outcome document, and further stressed the importance of the full involvement of DPOs.

Related Documents:

- [Statement presented by IDA at the 2nd day of the negotiation towards the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development](#)
- [More information about the meeting](#)
- [General Assembly](#)

The 67th Session of the General Assembly opened on Tuesday, 18 September 2012. The theme of this year is "Adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means." The opening of the general debate took place on Tuesday, 25 September. The Main Committees of the General Assembly started their work after the conclusion of the general debate on 1 October 2012. During this session, the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee (Third Committee) of the General Assembly will address, among others, issues related to persons with disabilities. Two specific reports on the rights of persons with disabilities have 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/67/281) and the "Report of the Secretary-General on Realization of the

Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond" (A/67/211). Ms Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences has also presented to the Third Committee [her report, which provides an overview of the activities of the Special Rapporteur and discusses the issue of violence against women with disabilities](#) (A/67/227).

GENEVA NEWS

Treaty Bodies

- The [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) held its 8th session from 17 – 28 September 2012. It examined the reports of China, Argentina and Hungary as well as adopted the list of issues on Paraguay. During the session, IDA hosted on 18, 19 and 20 September private side events on China, Argentina and Hungary respectively and on 25 September a private side event on Paraguay. IDA also conducted live webcasting of the state reviews.

Related documents and links:

- [Concluding Observations on China, Argentina and Hungary](#)
- [List of issues on Paraguay will be shortly available on the Committee's website](#)
- [DPO & NGO submissions for the 8th session](#)
- [Summary compilation of the proceedings of the 8th session including side events](#)
- [Webcasts of the state reviews of China, Argentina and Hungary, as well as](#)

the [side event held by the French Defender of Rights](#) and the National Consultative Commission of Human Rights have been archived, including [webcasts of the sign language interpretation](#) of those sessions.

- The [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) met for its 61st session from 17 September - 5 October 2012 in which it reviewed the reports of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Namibia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia and Canada.

Related documents:

- [IDA's disability analysis of the Concluding Observations](#)
- [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 also held a Day of General Discussion on the rights of all children in the context of international migration on 28 September in which IDA participated.

Related documents and links:

- [Committee's website](#) dedicated to the DGD, including [background paper](#) and [guidelines](#) prepared by the Committee and [written submissions](#) received
- [IDA's written submission on the rights of children with disabilities in the context of international migration](#)

The CRC Committee is currently meeting from 8 - 12 October for its Pre-sessional Working Group to adopt lists of issues on Armenia, Israel, Lithuania, Monaco, Rwanda and Slovenia, which will shortly be made public on the [Committee's website](#)

Related documents:

- [IDA's proposed questions for the list of issues](#)
- [IDA's disability analysis of those State reports](#)
- The [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#) is meeting for its 53rd session from 1 - 19 October in which it will examine the reports of Chile, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Togo and Turkmenistan.

Related documents:

- [IDA's proposed recommendations for the Concluding Observations](#)
- [IDA's disability analysis of state reports](#)

Human Rights Council

The 21st Session of the Human Rights Council took place in Geneva from 10-28 September 2012. During this session, Dr Elly Macha, from the East African Federation of Disabled People, and representing IDA and IDA member, the World Blind Union, drew attention to the need to include women with disabilities in the post-2015 development agenda during a panel on women's economic, social and cultural rights. [Report on the panel](#) and [Dr Macha's speech](#). This was the first panel to be made accessible to persons with disabilities other than the annual panel on the rights of persons with disabilities and there was international sign interpretation and

captioning, which were [webcast](#). In addition, the [Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty](#) were adopted. Regarding the UPR, a [resolution on technical cooperation and capacity building](#) was passed encouraging donor countries and UN agencies to take the technical assistance needs of reviewed States into consideration in the formulation of their bilateral technical cooperation programmes. [Analysis of resolutions adopted during this session that refer to the rights of persons with disabilities](#) (of note, one on [the human rights of indigenous peoples](#)).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Treaty Bodies

- The [Human Rights Committee](#) will hold its 106th session from 15 October - 2 November in which it will examine the reports of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire (in the absence of a report), Germany, Philippines, Portugal and Turkey, as well as adopt list of issues on Albania, Belize (in the absence of a report) Finland, Hong Kong, Ukraine, and the list of issues prior to reporting on Australia.

Related documents:

- [IDA's proposed recommendations for the Concluding Observations](#)
- [Joint submission by the Philippine Coalition on the CRPD & IDA on the Philippines](#)
- [Joint submission by ISL, DPI & IDA on Germany](#)
- [IDA's disability analysis of state reports on Bosnia & Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Philippines, Portugal and Turkey](#)
- [IDA's proposed questions for the list of issues](#)

- [Joint submission by FDF, EDF & IDA on Finland](#)
- [Joint submission by PWDA, AFDO, WWDA, PDF, DPI & IDA on Australia](#)
- [IDA's disability analysis state reports of Finland, Hong Kong, Ukraine](#)

The Human Rights Committee will be holding a half day of general discussion in preparation for a General Comment on Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (right to liberty and security). It will be held on 25 October 2012 from 3-6pm at Palais des Nations and will also be webcast live.

Related documents & links:

- A [note](#) has been adopted by the Committee which identifies issues to be addressed in the General Comment
- Further information available on the [Committee's website](#)
- [Joint submission by WNUSP, II, DSI & IDA on the right to liberty](#): the application of Article 9 of the ICCPR to disability-based detention and institutionalisation, as informed by related provisions in the CRPD
- Watch the [live webcast](#) from 3-6pm (GVA) on 25 October 2012

Universal Periodic Review

The 14th Session of the Universal Periodic Review will take place from 22 October – 3 November 2012 in Geneva. The States that will be reviewed during this session include: Argentina, Benin, Czech Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Ukraine and Zambia. The countries that have not yet ratified the CRPD

are Japan, Sri Lanka, and Switzerland while Czech Republic, Gabon, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and Zambia have yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD. IDA calls on these countries to ratify both instruments and also recommends for the Republic of Korea to withdraw its reservation on article 25 (e) CRPD. [IDA's recommendations to the States that will be reviewed and disability analysis of the reports that were presented to this session.](#)

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
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