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Global News

• CRPD ratifications reach 103

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Pakistan on 5 July 2011 brings a total of 103 States Parties to the CRPD, while the Optional Protocol (OP) has 62 ratifications. The number of signatures to the CRPD is 149, 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

Mexico and Republic of Korea have submitted their national reports to the CRPD Committee. For the moment, the reports are only available in Spanish for Mexico and in English for Republic of Korea.

Spain, Tunisia, Peru, China, Argentina, Austria, Hungary, Paraguay, Australia, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Sweden and Azerbaijan were the first countries in submit their national reports to the CRPD Committee. Please [click here](#) to access the CRPD Committee website section where you can find all reports presented so far to the CRPD.

• Fourth Conference of the States Parties

The Fourth Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be held in New York on September 7-9. On 6 September IDA and UN DESA are co-chairing the Civil Society Forum. The Thematic sessions will focus on international co-operation, political participation and employment. For more information on the COSP and the list of side events, please [click here](#).

• ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration on Education

An ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review on internationally agreed commitments on education took place in Geneva from

4-8 July 2011. The outcome ministerial declaration refers to the rights of persons with disabilities, and to the need for improving data collection on education. Please [click here](#) to see the ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration on Education and [here](#) to read IDA's position paper on education.

• European Court of Human Rights

On 16 August 2011, together with the European Disability Forum, the Centre for Reproductive Rights, Interights and the Mental Disability Alliance, IDA submitted joint written comments to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Gauer and Others v. France (Application no 61521/08) brought by five women with intellectual disabilities who were forcibly sterilised upon the decision of their guardian. To read the written comments, [click here](#). The European Group of National Human Rights Institutions also submitted comments to the Court, they can be read [here](#).

Treaty Bodies

• The **Human Rights Committee** held its 102nd session from 11 – 29 July to review the reports of

Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Bulgaria. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the Concluding Observations.

The Human Rights Committee also adopted Lists of Issues on the Maldives, Turkmenistan, Iceland and Mozambique (in the absence of a report) which will soon be available on their website [here](#).

On the opening day of the session, the Human Rights Committee held a meeting with National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs to discuss ways of improving NGO and NHRI engagement with the Committee. A joint NGO paper was presented on behalf of 23 NGOs, including IDA, to the Committee. To read the paper, [click here](#).

During this session, the Human Rights Committee also adopted General Comment no 34 on freedom of expression, Article 19, IC-CPR. The General Comment elaborates that freedom of expression protects all forms of expression and the means of their dissemination, including spoken, written and sign language (para 12). To read it, [click here](#).

• The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW Committee) held its 49th session from 11 – 29 July in New York, in which it reviewed the reports of Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Korea, Singapore and Zambia. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the Concluding Observations.

The CEDAW Committee also adopted Lists of Issues on Brazil, Comoros, Grenada, Jordan, Norway, Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe. To read the disability analysis of the adopted Lists of

Issues, [click here](#).

On 18 July, the Committee held a half Day of General Discussion to commence the process of elaborating a “General Recommendation on Women in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations.” During the discussion, IDA, represented by Myra Kovary of the International Network of Women with Disabilities (INWWD), took the floor to raise the specific concerns of women and girls with disabilities for whom the risks posed by conflict situations are further exacerbated by their double marginalisation on account of their gender and disability, leading to exclusion from emergency services and humanitarian assistance, and from the processes of post conflict justice, peace building and reconciliation. [Click here](#) to read IDA’s written submission. For more information, visit the Committee’s website [here](#).

• **Committee on the Rights of the Child**

From 20-24 June, the CRC Committee held its Pre-session Working Group and adopted the List of Issues on Azerbaijan, Greece, Italy, Madagascar, Myanmar, Panama, Seychelles and Togo. [Click here](#) to read IDA’s disability analysis of the List of Issues.

• **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

On 9 August, the CRPD Committee made public two documents: the Fact sheet on the procedure for submitting communications to the CRPD Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and the Guidelines for submission of communications to the Committee on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The documents are available on the website of the Committee under the heading “Petitions”. [Click here](#) to read the Factsheet and [here](#) to read the Guidelines. IDA has also produced a Factsheet for DPOs on how to use the communications procedure under the CRPD’s Optional Protocol which is available [here](#).

• **Committee against Torture**

The Committee against Torture has posted its draft General Comment on the right to redress and rehabilitation, Article 14 CAT for civil society consultation on its website [here](#). Comments on this document should be sent to cat@ohchr.org by 15 September 2011.

• **Treaty body strengthening process**

From 20-21 June, a civil society consultation was held in Pretoria hosted by the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria. This consultation, targeting national NGOs, continued the discussions of the treaty body strengthening process and the participants drafted the Pretoria statement which IDA has signed onto. [Click here](#) to read the statement.

Human Rights Council

The 18th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) will take place from 12-30 September 2011, in Geneva. [Click here](#) for further information on this session.

Special Procedures

The following Special Procedures reports, which have been prepared for the 18th session of the HRC, include references to persons with disabilities: SR on slavery; SR on toxic and dangerous products and wastes; IE on drinking water and sanitation; SR on the right to health on the realization of the right to health of older persons; and SR on contemporary forms of racism. For detailed information on the references to persons with disabilities in these reports, please [click here](#).

UPR

Fifteen out of sixteen UPR working group reports adopted at the 11th session of the UPR (May 2011) included recommendations on the rights of persons with disabilities and a number of countries have already accepted recommendations referring to disability. For a detailed information on disability recommendations in the UPR working group reports, please [click here](#).

Other reports

IDA has undertaken an analysis of other reports that have also been prepared for the 18th session of the HRC. [Click here](#) to access this analysis.

Upcoming Meetings

- The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** will hold its 58th session from 19 September – 7 October in which it will review the reports of Iceland, Italy, Panama, Korea, Seychelles and Syria. [Click here](#) to read the disability analysis of the State reports and [here](#) for IDA's recommendations

for the Concluding Observations. For Italy, IDA submitted a joint report together with the European Disability Forum and the Italian Disability Forum, [click here](#) to read it.

The CRC Committee will also hold a Pre-Sessional Working Group to adopt 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 **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** will be holding its 6th session from 19-23 September at Palais des Nations. During this session, the Committee will review the report of Spain and adopt Lists of Issues on Peru and China. To read the submission of CERMI (Comité Español de Representantes de personas con Discapacidad), the Spanish umbrella DPO, [click here](#), and [here](#) to read the report on Peru submitted by the Peruvian National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities (CONFENADIP).

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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