**Reading and adoption of General Comment no 1- equal recognition before the law**

On 8April, the Committee proceeded to read and adopted its first ever General Comment- General Comment no 1 on Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The Chairperson, Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, and Chair of the Article 12 Working Group, Theresia Degener, opened the discussion and highlighted the contributions of civil society, in particular DPOs, States and NHRIs on the draft text of the General Comment.

During the reading, some issues were raised on paragraphs 8 and 12bis. On paragraph 8, Martin Babu Mwesigwa and Theresia Degener proposed to add the words “political” and “civil” to the following sentence, which became: ‘Legal capacity is indispensable for the exercise of economic, social, civil, political and cultural rights’. On paragraph 12bis, different views were expressed regarding the mental capacity concept, including the evolving character of the concept of mental capacity and its necessarily arbitrary nature due to the fact it is a social construct. The proposed text by the Chair of the Working group was accepted.

The General Comment was adopted with great appreciation by all Committee members. Committee members also expressed their gratitude to former members who were recognised as being pivotal in contributing to advancing the work leading up to the adoption of General Comment no 1.