

UN Enable Newsletter

April 2017

The UN Enable Newsletter is prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (DSPD/DESA) with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as from civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities. It is also available online at: www.un.org/disabilities.

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STATUS OF THE CRPD

173 ratifications/accessions and **160** signatories to the CRPD

92 ratifications/accessions and **92** signatories to its Optional Protocol (OP)

More on the CRPD at: http://bit.ly/UN_crpd

Suriname ratified the CRPD on 29 March 2017

10th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

The 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP10) will take place from **13 to 15 June 2017** at UN Headquarters in New York. The COSP is one of the largest and most diverse disability meetings in the world! The main theme of COSP10 is: "The Second Decade of the CRPD: Inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation of the Convention", as well as sub-themes: "Addressing the impact of multiple discrimination on persons with disabilities and promoting their participation and multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving the SDGs in line with the CRPD", "Inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action", and "Promoting inclusive urban development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda – Habitat III". The Bureau (elect) are: Bulgaria (President), and (Vice-Presidents) Ecuador, Germany, Sri Lanka and Tunisia. On 12 June, day prior to the opening of COSP10, the CRPD Civil Society Forum will be held organized by civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities. DESA will be continuing previous practices by organizing its Forum on Disability and Development in conjunction with the COSP10 to focus on pertinent issues, such as the implementation of the

New Urban Agenda and promoting accessible and inclusive urban development. **NGO registration and new NGO accreditation, as well as application for side-events and exhibits are now available on the UN Enable website.**
(http://bit.ly/crpd_cosp10)

Become a COSP Youth Delegate

Are you a young person passionate about the rights of people with disabilities? You could represent your country at the forthcoming COSP10. Participation in decision-making is one of the key priority areas of the United Nations agenda on youth. One form of youth participation at the UN is through the inclusion of youth delegates in a country's official delegation to the UN General Assembly and various other intergovernmental bodies. Often, Governments in collaboration with civil society, establish a youth delegate programme at the national level, to decide who will represent the young people of their country at UN meetings. The roles of a youth representative varies from country to country, but mostly includes providing input to their delegation on issues related to youth and participate in their delegation's general work through attending meetings and informal negotiations. Contact your Government's Foreign Office or Permanent Mission to the UN to enquire about becoming a youth delegate at COSP10.
(http://bit.ly/cosp_youthdelegate)

NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

Women and girls with disabilities at CSW61

The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) took place at the UN Headquarters from 13 to 24 March 2017 under the priority theme: "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". During CSW61, key side-events were supported by SCRPD, including "Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Development and Society: Networking Workshop" and "Between Gender, Disability and Economic Empowerment". In its Agreed Conclusions on "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work," the CSW expressed concern about the low labour force participation rate of women with disabilities. It called for measures to ensure that women with disabilities have access to decent work in the public and private sectors. It further called for labour markets and work environments to be open, and take positive measures to increase the employment of women with disabilities, as well as eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. The advance unedited text of the Agreed Conclusions is available at: http://bit.ly/csw61_crpd.

DESA: Expert meeting on monitoring and evaluation of disability-inclusive development

The Expert Meeting on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development will be held from 10 to 11 May 2017 at ILO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting organized by DESA and hosted by ILO, is intended to take stock of progress made in monitoring and evaluation for disability-inclusive development, in particular in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Discussions will contribute to preparation of the 2018 United Nations flagship report on disability and development that has been requested by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/69/142). The meeting will include experts, researchers and practitioners from the UN system, academic institutions, Member States, non-governmental organizations, particularly disabled persons' organizations, and development partners with experience and expertise in the areas of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the international development goals, including expertise in policy-analysis, monitoring and evaluation relevant for disability-inclusive development.

http://bit.ly/enable_egm_may2017

UN Habitat: Post-Habitat III EGM on AFINUA

The Habitat III Secretariat and UN Habitat organised a Post-Habitat III cross-cutting Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on UN Habitat's Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA) in New York from 5-7 April. At the meeting, participants, including DESA and other partners from stakeholder groups, substantive bodies, local governments and international agencies discussed a refinement of the descriptions and metrics of the key elements of UN-Habitat's AFINUA, to ensure its relevance, buy-in and measurability. The Framework will be submitted to the Governing Board of UN Habitat for endorsement later this year, before the High Level Meeting on Habitat to be convened by the President of UN General Assembly in August 2017.

<http://nua.unhabitat.org/list1.htm#>

Recognizing the rights of people with autism to make their own decisions

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD, 2 April) was commemorated at UN Headquarters on Friday, 31 March under the theme "Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination". The WAAD observance discussed policies and approaches being implemented with regard to guardianships and the right to self-determination and legal capacity of persons with autism. The CRPD recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to independence of person and to individual autonomy. It also highlights the right of persons with disabilities to "legal capacity on an equal basis with others and in all aspects of life". The WAAD event discussed policies and approaches being implemented with regard to

guardianships and the right to self-determination and legal capacity of persons with autism. (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56478>)

World Down Syndrome Day observed at UN Headquarters

As part of the global initiatives held around the world to commemorate World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), the 6th annual World Down Syndrome Day Conference was held at UN Headquarters on 21 March. The Conference was organized by Down Syndrome International (DSi) and an international network of stakeholders that focused on enabling people with Down syndrome to speak up, as well as those who advocate for them. The event hoped to influence Government and policy-makers to act toward the inclusion of people with Down syndrome, on a full and equal basis with others, in all aspects of society. To commemorate WDSD, at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, a self-advocacy workshop and an “open dialogue” was held along with policy-makers and other stakeholders. (#MyVoiceMyCommunity; <https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/>)

NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES

OHCHR Call for input to report on access to justice

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has issued a call for inputs- questionnaire on access to justice of persons with disabilities for upcoming report for the 37th Human Rights Council session on Article 13 of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Deadline 1 May 2017
Access the questionnaire at: <http://bit.ly/2oaCTHI>

OHCHR: 17th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities continues its seventeenth session (20 March to 12 April 2017) that includes the consideration of eight reports from Moldova, Iran, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, Armenia, Honduras and Canada. At this session, the Committee welcomed six new members, and elected Theresia Degener as the Committee Chairperson; Coomaravel Pyaneandee, Damjan Tatić and Danlami Umaru Basharu, as Vice-Chairpersons; and Hyung Shik Kim as the Committee Rapporteur. (http://bit.ly/enable_crpd17)

OHCHR - Report on Mental Health and Human Rights

The report on Mental Health and Human Rights identifies some of the major challenges faced by users of mental health services, persons with mental health conditions and persons with psychosocial disabilities (A/HRC/34/32). These challenges include stigma and discrimination, violations of economic, social and other rights and the denial of autonomy and legal capacity. In July 2016, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 32/18 and requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the integration of a human rights perspective in mental health. In the report, the High Commissioner recommends a number of policy shifts, which would support the full realization of the human rights of those populations, such as the systematic inclusion of human rights in policy and the recognition of the individual's autonomy, agency and dignity. Such changes cover measures to improve the quality of mental health service delivery, to put an end to involuntary treatment and institutionalization and to create a legal and policy environment that is conducive to the realization of the human rights of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities. (http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/34/32)

ESCWA – Strengthening social protection for persons with disabilities

The UN Economic and Social Commission (ESCWA) will hold an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on 11-12 April in Beirut, Lebanon to discuss its forthcoming publication entitled "Disability in the Arab Region 2017: Strengthening Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities". The EGM will provide an overview of the draft publication and review with participants the information contained therein. Focal points on disability from the ESCWA Member States will be invited to participate, as well as local, regional and international experts on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, social protection and disability. The publication, which will be an updated version of ESCWA's previous publication on disability (http://bit.ly/escwa_disability_arab_region-2014) that will be released in December 2017.

UNDP Human Development Report 2016

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has just released its Human Development Report 2016, "Human Development for Everyone". The report notes that progress in human development over the past 25 years has been impressive on many fronts. More children are going to school, people are living longer, incomes are higher and people have greater potential to shape their societies and their future under democratic forms of government. The report finds that although average human development improved significantly across all regions from 1990 to 2015, the gains have not been universal, and not all lives have been lifted. One in three people worldwide continue to live in low levels of

human development, as measured by the Human Development Index. The report shows that in almost every country, several groups, such as persons with mental health conditions, face disadvantages that often overlap and reinforce each other, increasing vulnerability, widening the progress gap across generations, and making it harder to catch up as the world moves on.

(http://bit.ly/enable_hdr2016)

UN Women – Factsheet on “Leaving No One Behind”

UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality produced a Factsheet building on its seven-year experience working with civil society supporting the transformation of marginalized groups into agents of change. An estimated 7% of the projects globally worked with women with disabilities. The Factsheet offers key insights into effective strategies for operationalizing Agenda 2030 and its commitment to leave no one behind, and overall programming tips. Available at:

http://bit.ly/enable_unwomen_factsheet. For more information UN Women Trust Funds see: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/trust-funds>

UN Women – Ending violence against women and girls with disabilities

In March, the Orange Day Campaign highlighted the issue of Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities. More information about Orange Your Day and the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign is available at

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action>. The March’s Orange Day Action Plan is available at:

http://bit.ly/enable_unwomen_orangeday. For tools and resources see the Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls at

<http://www.endvawnow.org/> and Global Database on Violence against Women at <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en>.

WHO: New QualityRights guidance and training tools

The WHO QualityRights initiative has just published guidance and training tools to align services and practices with the requirements of the CRPD in order to promote the rights of people with psychosocial, cognitive and intellectual disabilities. The tools can be used to strengthen capacity on mental health and human rights among practitioners, people with psychosocial, intellectual and cognitive disabilities, people using mental health services, families, care partners, NGOs, DPOs and others. To access the materials visit:

http://who.int/mental_health/policy/quality_rights/guidance_training_tools/en/

Interested in providing feedback? Contact Natalie Drew, Technical Officer, Mental Health Policy and Service Development, drewn@who.int.

WHO: Factsheet on Autism spectrum disorders

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a new factsheet on autism spectrum disorders that provides key facts, data and information on epidemiology, assessment and management, social and economic impacts, as well as other related resources.

(<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/autism-spectrum-disorders/en/>)

CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY EVENTS

Please send us information on major international disability events, for possible inclusion in the list below, to enable@un.org. Now also available on the UN Enable website at:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/calendar.html>.

23 to 25 April: Meeting of UN Inter-Agency Support Group to the CRPD, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland

(http://bit.ly/crpd_iasg)

10 to 11 May: Expert Meeting on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development, ILO, Geneva, Switzerland

(<http://bit.ly/undisabilitystats>)

22 to 26 May: UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun, Mexico

(<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform>)

23 to 24 May, Afghan Disability Rights Conference, Washington, DC, USA

(<https://www.afghanembassy.us/news/save-the-date-afghan-embassy-to-host-afghan-disability-rights-conference/>)

13 June: International Albinism Awareness Day

(<http://www.un.org/en/events/albinismday/>)

12 to 14 June: M-Enabling Summit 2017, Washington, D.C., USA

(<http://www.m-enabling.com>)

13 to 15 June: 10th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, UN Headquarters, New York

(http://bit.ly/crpd_cosp10)

10 to 19 July: High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), UNHQ, New York

(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>)

18 to 24 September: WFD - International Week of the Deaf 2017

<https://wfdeaf.org>)

8 to 10 November: 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf, Budapest, Hungary

(golob@congressline.hu, <http://wfdbudapest2017.com>)

18 to 24 November: 23rd Conference of Asian Federation on Intellectual Disabilities (AFID), Dhaka Bangladesh

(<http://www.afid23.org>)

3 December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

(<http://bit.ly/undisabilityidpd>)

OTHER NEWS

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GLAD Network meeting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network met from 2-3 March 2017 in Berlin, Germany. The meeting was jointly organised by GLAD co-chairs, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), along with GIZ (Germany), and was hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ). The Network meeting provided space for members to exchange and intensify joint action on inclusion within the context of the 2030 Agenda principles that promise to 'leave no one behind'. To learn more about the Network and to read the communique: <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/glad>

African Disability Forum (ADF) update

The third meeting of the 9-member Executive Council of the African Disability Forum (ADF) took place on 21-22 March 2017 in Bamako, Mali. The Government of Ethiopia has granted ADF legal personality and registration in Ethiopia, and approved ADF to open its Headquarters Office in Addis Ababa. ADF has received funding from the UNPRPD and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund to support the ADF strategic planning process. A strategic planning consultative workshop for DPOs in the countries of West Africa took place on 23-24 March, organized in cooperation with the West African Federation of Associations of

Persons with Disabilities (WAFOD) and hosted by the Malian Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FEMAPH), facilitated with the support of Handicap International. For further information about ADF and ADF membership please contact: africandisabilityforum@gmail.com

RIADIS sixth Latin American Conference convened

The sixth RIADIS Latin American Conference was held at La Havana, Cuba, last month. Over 250 participants attended the Conference, including youth, indigenous peoples' representatives and other disability leaders who discussed and reviewed issues that influence the rights of persons with disabilities in the region. RIADIS represents 55 national organizations of people with disabilities and their families, from 19 countries of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region. RIADIS notes that in Latin America, there is an absence of data, Government national plans and public policies for the harmonization of the CRPD with national legal frameworks, as well as to develop the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs). (www.riadis.org)

Afghan Disability Rights Conference

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Washington, DC, will host the "Afghan Disability Rights Conference: From Policy to Programming" from 23-24 May 2017 at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The conference is being held in partnership with the US-Afghan Women's Council and the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD). The conference aims to highlight disability issues and progress in the disability sector, focusing specifically on practical approaches for making inclusive education, inclusive public healthcare, and vocational training and employment opportunities realities for Afghan citizens living with disabilities. (<https://www.afghanembassy.us/news/save-the-date-afghan-embassy-to-host-afghan-disability-rights-conference/>)

IFES - New training module on disability rights and elections

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) has created the first Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training module on disability rights and elections. The module, which uses BRIDGE's interactive adult learning methodology, includes lessons on access of persons with disabilities throughout the electoral cycle as voters, candidates, election officials and observers. Activities in the new BRIDGE module highlight disability inclusion as a key component of credible and inclusive elections. Lessons in the "Disability Rights and Elections" module are designed to increase knowledge on how to conduct inclusive elections and can be targeted to different types of

stakeholders, including election officials, disabled persons' organizations (DPOs), election observation groups and media. (<http://www.ifes.org/news/ifes-launches-new-training-module-disability-rights-and-elections>)

G3ict – Wayfindr to be featured at M-Enabling Summit

Wayfindr - world's first Open Standard for indoor audio navigation that has been issued as an ITU recommendation, will be featured in a dedicated session at the M-Enabling Summit in Washington, DC, this in June. The standard reflects best practices in the design of interoperable, inclusive audio navigation systems for persons with vision impairment or living with other forms of disabilities and can also benefit anyone seeking help for orientation or information on their immediate environment. This development is likely to help accelerate the universal adoption of indoor audio navigation as a mainstream feature of built environments and public transportation infrastructures. (<http://www.g3ict.org>)

New guide addresses transporting children with disabilities to school

Access Exchange International has prepared a guide to promote affordable, safe, accessible transportation to get children with disabilities to school in developing countries. "Bridging the Gap: Your role in transporting children with disabilities to school in developing countries" provides practical information for people who want to improve transportation for children with disabilities, including transportation officials and providers, as well as parents and their children, teachers, heads of schools, and education officials. By improving transportation to and from school, more children with disabilities will attain the knowledge and skills to enable them to be productive and independent adults within a more inclusive society. The guide works to help bridge the gap between the world of education and the world of transportation. (<http://www.globalride-sf.org/TransportingChildren/GuideToSchool.pdf>)

New digital network on inclusive employment of people with disabilities

Despite progress on the development and validation of effective vocational rehabilitation approaches and supported employment services, persons with disabilities across the world are less likely to be employed or to receive proper assistance, training and education for employment than the general population. While different stakeholders share the same challenges there is often lack of collaboration at all levels. The international digital network on inclusive employment of people with disabilities would work to enhance strategic networking, engagement and dialogue among the different stakeholders around the world. Participation can be from grassroots and national DPOs, NGOs, vocational rehabilitation and supported employment providers, employers'

networks, advocates, researchers and other stakeholders from around the world.
(<https://s-tov.org/about/call-for-participation-to-the-digital-network-on-inclusive-employment-of-people-with-disabilities/call-for-participation/>)

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Twitter: http://twitter.com/UN_Enable

Website: www.un.org/disabilities

Email: enable@un.org

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