

UN Enable Newsletter

December 2016

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

172 ratifications/accessions and **160** signatories to the CRPD
92 ratifications/accessions and **92** signatories to its Optional Protocol (OP)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea ratified CRPD on 9 December.
Micronesia (Federated States of) ratified CRPD on 7 December.
Samoa ratified the CRPD on 2 December.

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

HOLIDAY NOTE

In wrapping up 2016 and looking ahead to 2017, there are a number of reasons to celebrate 2016 as a momentous year for disability-inclusive development. The year also marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). As the year 2016 ends and we look forward to the New Year 2017, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of the work of the United Nations toward the creation of an inclusive, accessible and sustainable society for and with persons with disabilities. Read the complete **Holiday Note 2016** at http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/newsletter/holiday_note_2016.docx.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebrated at UN HQ

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) was celebrated on 2 December at UN Headquarters under the theme “Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want”. The theme highlighted the recent adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their role in building a more inclusive and equitable world for all – a world that fully includes persons with disabilities. This year, IDPD coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). At UN Headquarters, the anniversary was commemorated by a high-level panel discussion organized by the President of the General Assembly, as well as several other events organized by DESA. The Opening of the Day included statements by the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, as well as Stevie Wonder, internationally renowned singer and song writer. In the evening, an event entitled: "Accessible Cities for All" was organized by DSPD/DESA and the NYC Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities in partnership with several Governments. The event included a statement and performance by violinist Midori, United Nations Messenger of Peace and a performance by Theater Breaking Through Barriers, as well as statements by senior officers from the United Nations and the City of New York. The Day’s celebration also included the UN Enable Film Festival and UN Enable Photograph Exhibition that featured submissions from around the world. (http://bit.ly/un_idpd2016)

NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

General Assembly Third Committee resolution on disability and the SDGs

The Third Committee of the General Assembly negotiated a resolution on “Inclusive development for persons with disabilities” to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international agreed development goals for persons with disabilities. The resolution encourages Governments and other stakeholders to take measures to implement all aspects of the 2030 development agenda for persons with disabilities, including improving data collection and statistics on disability.

(<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/general-assembly.html>)

DESA-ECLAC: UN EGM on women and girls with disabilities

DESA and UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) under the theme “Advancing the rights and perspectives of women and girls with disabilities in development and society” from 15-17 November in Santiago, Chile. The meeting brought together a diverse group of experts from academia, government institutions, non-government organisations, organisations of women with disabilities, and the

private sector, with expertise in gender equality, disability, and/or development. Experts reviewed existing measures and mechanisms to promote disability inclusive development that is gender responsive, and includes women and girls with disabilities, including existing technical assistance programs, funding mechanisms and mainstreaming efforts. Experts also identified strategies and produced a set of conclusions and recommendations for the UN, Member States, the private sector and civil society, to amplify the voices of women with disabilities and address persistent barriers to their empowerment, including by building synergies between gender equality and disability inclusion, addressing the intersectionality of gender and disability and mainstreaming gender equality and disability in the operationalization of the 2030 Agenda.

[\(<http://www.cepal.org/en/news/specialists-seek-increase-visibility-girls-and-women-disabilities-and-promote-their-inclusive>\)](http://www.cepal.org/en/news/specialists-seek-increase-visibility-girls-and-women-disabilities-and-promote-their-inclusive)

DESA: Third Expert Meeting on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development (MEDD)

On 28-29 November, the third expert meeting on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development (MEDD) took place. The MEDD meetings work to take stock of progress made in monitoring and evaluation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to contribute to preparation of the 2018 UN flagship report on disability and development, as called for in General Assembly resolution 69/142. The meetings include experts, researchers and practitioners from the UN system, academic institutions, Member States, non-governmental organizations, particularly organizations of people with disabilities (DPOs), and development partners. Participants shared their experience and expertise in the areas of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the international development goals for persons with disabilities, as well as policy-analysis.

[\(<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/monitoring-and-evaluation-of-inclusive-development-data-and-statistics/medd.html>\)](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/monitoring-and-evaluation-of-inclusive-development-data-and-statistics/medd.html)

DESA: Working Group on Disability and Digital Societies

On 30 November, the Working Group on Disability and Digital Societies met to explore how digital information can empower persons with disabilities and contribute to disability-inclusive development. Initiated by DESA in partnership with the Data-Pop Alliance, the group acts as a platform to share ideas on how a digital society can contribute to implement disability inclusive development and the 2030 Agenda for persons with disabilities.

[\(<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/working-group-on-disability-and-digital-societies.html>\)](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/working-group-on-disability-and-digital-societies.html)

NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES

OHCHR – #ADay4All – Being part of human diversity

On 3 December, people around the world celebrated what unites us all – being part of human diversity. The Day4All was initiated in 2015 to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. With a view to make the annual celebration truly inclusive, the Day provides an opportunity for all people around the world to embrace persons with disabilities as part of human diversity. Find out how a Day4All was celebrated in 2016: <https://aday4all.net>.

UNESCAP - Making the Right Real in Brunei Darussalam

On 3 December, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asia Pacific Centre on Disability and Development (APCD) supported a “Make the Right Real” event organized by the Government of Brunei Darussalam. As the CRPD was ratified by Brunei Darussalam earlier this year, the event aimed at raising awareness and promoting actions by policy-makers and persons with disabilities on the CRPD, Incheon Strategy and the SDGs. At the event that included over 300 participants, representing both Government and civil society sectors, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports pledged the Government's commitment to disability rights. The establishment of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities, a federation of organizations of persons with disabilities was officially announced as well. The Government plans to respond to ESCAP's survey on the Incheon Strategy, through which the region's database on disability-inclusive development will be established in 2017. (<http://www.maketherightreal.net>)

ESCAP: Publication on accessibility for disability-inclusive development

A new publication launched by UN ESCAP "Accessibility for All: Good practices of accessibility in Asia and the Pacific to promote disability-inclusive development", seeks to support policymakers in promoting accessibility at a policy and practical level. It contains information on relevant global and regional mandates that support and promote disability-inclusive development and accessibility, with a view to demonstrate the multi-faceted value of focusing on disability and accessibility policies to achieve broader development goals. Readers will learn about the core concepts of disability and accessibility, and be empowered with knowledge on standards, tools and means of promoting accessibility. Furthermore, this publication outlines and analyses examples of good practices of accessibility identified in Asia and the Pacific. (<http://www.unescap.org/resources/accessibility-all-good-practices-accessibility-asia-and-pacific-promote-disability>)

UNESCAP: ASEAN Task Force on the rights of persons with disabilities

On 5-6 December, the first meeting of the Task Force on the Mainstreaming of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Community was held in Bangkok, Thailand. At the meeting, ESCAP provided a briefing on the international and regional framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Task Force is entrusted with a mandate to draft a regional instrument that will serve to implement the ASEAN Vision 2025 on the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community through consultations among relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders in the region, including DPOs. The second meeting of the Task Force will take place on 2-3 February 2017. (<http://bit.ly/2hwdqFf>)

UNISDR - Invitation to CSOs/DPOs to participate in Global Platform

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) invites civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) to attend the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held from 22-26 May 2017 in Cancún, México. Applications for Ignite Stage and Market Place booths are now open, as well as for side-events that have been extended to 15 January 2017. The invitation from the UN Special Representative for Disaster Reduction to civil society can be downloaded at: <http://unisdr.org/go/gp2017/invitation-civilsociety>, <http://unisdr.org/gp2017/> or email: globalplatform@un.org)

UNDP: Achieving the 2030 Agenda for persons with disabilities

As UNDP focuses on supporting countries to achieve the SDGs, what will achieving the different goals and targets mean for persons with disabilities who make up 15 percent of the world's population? In developing countries, three out of four people with disabilities are women that also require gender analysis of causes and a robust engendered suite of interventions. Find out more about UNDP's plans to achieve the 2030 Agenda for persons with disabilities through improved data collection to measure progress and ensuring that persons with disabilities are active participants and partners at the global and national level. (<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2016/12/2/Disabilities-and-dignity.html>)

UN Women: Addressing disability and gender-based violence

On 1 December UN Women and Handicap International held a working session on the intersection of violence gender and disability. Through an interactive debate and the sharing of good practices on disability and gender-based violence (GBV), this round table, entitled "Raising awareness on disability and gender-

based violence: What does it take to leave no one behind?” offered participants the opportunity to learn about, and develop an understanding of, the intersection between gender, disability and violence. The event also presented concrete steps that can be taken to include women with disabilities in preventing, reducing and responding to violence against all women. (<http://bit.ly/2hJpbX>)

ILO: New guide to promote diversity and inclusion at the workplace

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has released a new guide to promote diversity and inclusion at the workplace entitled “Promoting diversity and inclusion through workplace adjustments: A practical guide”. The guide notes that while all workers should enjoy equal access to employment, some of them face barriers that may put them at a disadvantage. Such barriers can prevent them from accessing or remaining in employment and, if not addressed, they can also deprive companies of a broader, more diverse pool of workers from which to recruit. (http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_536538/lang--en/index.htm)

ILO: Global Business and Disability Network

The ILO Global Business and Disability Network (GBDN) launched its new LinkedIn page that provides the latest news and initiatives related to private sector employment of persons with disabilities. The GBDN consists of multinational enterprises, employers’ organizations, national business and disability networks as well as civil society organizations and academia that have joined forces to raise business awareness about the positive impact of including persons with disabilities in the workplace. Further, the GBDN supports employers in becoming more confident on disability issues and promotes the development of national business and disability networks in developing countries. (https://lnkd.in/e_UpaEk)

ILO: Enabling people with disabilities to start businesses in Vanuatu

An ILO-funded Start Your Own Business training and mentorship programme brings financial independence to people with disabilities in Vanuatu. The ILO identified the need to organize self-employment training for persons with disabilities that help start and improve their own businesses and to assist in the recovery from Cyclone Pam. Furthermore, the training also works to make persons with disabilities more resilient to future natural disasters that might disrupt their livelihoods.

(http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_536921/lang--en/index.htm)

ITU: ICT accessibility policy in the East African Community countries

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Regional Office for Africa in partnership with the East Africa Community (EAC) has developed a Draft Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Accessibility Policy for the East Africa Community Countries. The policy was adopted at a workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya from 6-7 October 2016, where 40 participants from five EAC countries also recommended the use of Universal Services and Access Funds as a source of funding. The meeting also recommended the development of a five-year monitoring and evaluation mechanism. (http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/E_accessibility_EastAfrica.aspx)

ITU: ICT Centre in Egypt to promote accessibility

On 27 November 2016, ITU and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in Egypt signed a cooperation agreement for the establishment of an Arab Regional ICT Centre to promote ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Centre which is the first of its kind in the region, aims to promote the development of accessible ICT tools for Arab speaking persons with disabilities, promote the adoption of international ICT standards on accessibility and develop skills and knowledge in the areas of ICT accessibility. It will also provide a platform for sharing of best practices and encourage relevant stakeholder to collaborate on regional projects. Furthermore, the Centre will facilitate capacity-building among policy-makers, regulators, and organization of persons with disabilities, in the Arab region, on developing and implementing accessible ICT policies, laws and regulations based on the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report. (<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Persons-with-Disabilities/Pages/Persons-with-Disabilities.aspx>)

UNESCO: Roadmap on ICTs to promote inclusion in Central America

UNESCO is working with countries in Central America and other partners to finalize a regional road map geared towards increasing the educational and job opportunities for people living with disabilities, through the use of and access to ICTs. Discussions on the 4-year plan began during the Regional Conference on ICTs for People Living with Disabilities in Central America that was organized along with the Government of Costa Rica. The event held on 14-16 November in San Jose, Costa Rica, brought together representatives from the ministries of education and technology from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras and El Salvador, national councils responsible for coordinating disability policies, NGOs and international experts. The need to strengthen policies and initiatives to ensure equal access for women and girls and Indigenous peoples will be a key component in the final roadmap. The regional event is follow-up to the UNESCO global conference “From Exclusion to Empowerment: The Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities” organized in

November 2014 in New Delhi, India. (<http://en.unesco.org/events/regional-conference-icts-persons-disabilities-central-america>)

WHO: Mental health care in India: restoring hope and dignity

QualityRights Gujarat Project (QRG) is an innovative intervention to improve public mental health services in Gujarat, India, by reorienting services from a purely medical approach to a holistic, comprehensive and participatory approach. This approach values and emphasizes empowerment, autonomy, recovery and integration into the family and community. Implementation follows the step-by-step guidance provided in the World Health Organization's (WHO) QualityRights Tool Kit, which includes a list of human rights standards that must be applied along with practical tools and training materials for restructuring and improving the mental health facility, and suggestions for evaluating progress. The QualityRights Project goes beyond conventional treatment, by advising service users and caregivers on how to access social grants and provide career guidance. Through the project, mental health providers, caregivers and people using the services undergo training on a human rights approach to care-giving. (<http://bit.ly/2hmFql2>, <http://www.cbm.org/QualityRights-Gujarat-Reforming-Mental-Health-Services-520004.php>)

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>.

12 to 13 January: International Roundtable on Accessible Transportation in Developing Countries, Washington D.C

(tom@globalride-sf.org, <http://www.globalride-sf.org/newsletters/1701.pdf>)

15 to 18 January: UN World Data Forum, Cape Town, South Africa

(<http://sd.iisd.org/events/world-forum-on-sustainable-development-data-world-data-forum/>)

1 to 10 February: 55th Commission for Social Development, UNHQ, NY

(<http://unsdn.org/event/55th-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development>)

22 to 24 February: Zero Project Conference with a focus on employment and work of persons with disabilities, Vienna, Austria

(<http://conference.zeroproject.org/>)

8 to 10 March: Conference on The right to work for persons with disabilities: International perspectives, Kassel, Germany.
(<http://www.the-right-to-work.com/>)

9 to 11 March: Third Symposium Franco-Latin American Research on Disability, Porto Alegre, Brazil
(<http://eventos.pucrs.br/francolatinoamericano/>)

19 to 21 March: Access Israel 5th International Convention, Tel Aviv, Israel
(<http://aisrael.org/?CategoryID=3154>)

21 March: World Down Syndrome Day
(<https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/>)

2 April: World Autism Awareness Day
(<http://www.un.org/en/events/autismday/index.shtml>)

22 to 26 May: UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun, Mexico
(<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform>)

13 June: International Albinism Awareness Day
(<http://www.un.org/en/events/albinismday/>)

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>)

8 to 10 November: 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf, Budapest, Hungary
(golob@congressline.hu, <http://wfdbudapest2017.com>)

3 December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
(<http://bit.ly/undisabilityidpd>)

OTHER NEWS

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the organization or individual. The United Nations bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of their statements and opinions.)

Paper on Assistive products and the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have placed great emphasis on the need for much greater social inclusion, and on making deliberate efforts to reach marginalized groups. People with disabilities are often marginalized through their lack of access to a range of services and opportunities. Assistive products can help people overcome impairments and barriers enabling them to be active, participating and productive members of society. Assistive products are vital for people with disabilities, frailty and chronic illnesses; and for those with mental health problems, and gradual cognitive and physical decline characteristic of aging populations. This paper available at BioMed Central's Globalization and Health, illustrates how the achievement of each of the 17 SDGs can be facilitated by the use of assistive products. Without promoting the availability of assistive products the SDGs cannot be achieved equitably. Assistive products can be considered as both a mediator and a moderator of SDG achievement. The Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology (GATE) is working to promote greater access to assistive products on a global scale.

<http://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-016-0220-6>

IDDC consultation on inclusive Development

International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) has launched a consultation process to bring together collective expertise and experience with the purpose of developing a common understanding of what is meant by "inclusive development". The consultation is an opportunity for colleagues from IDDC members and partners as well as other individuals working in the wider disability, international development and humanitarian sectors to share their reflections on inclusive development. Based on the results, IDDC will develop a narrative on inclusive development which we hope can strengthen the work of IDDC and its members, provide inspiration for the wider development community, and stimulate partnerships across stakeholders committed to the full and effective inclusion of all. **Deadline: Thursday, 15 December 2016.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDDCconsultation>

Situation of wage employment of people with disabilities

A white paper "Situation of Wage Employment of People with Disabilities: Ten developing countries in focus" (2016) from Handicap International is based on the results of a qualitative study of their inclusive livelihoods programs in ten

developing countries. The paper aims to promote an increase wage employment of people with disabilities by providing employers with the best practices showcasing successful wage employment facilitated by Handicap International and others. (<http://bit.ly/2gHACP1>)

WWDA New Human Rights Toolkit for Women and Girls with Disability

Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) has just launched a human rights toolkit for women and girls with disabilities that serves as a resource designed to enable women and girls with disability to learn more about their human rights and how they can be used to achieve positive change. The Toolkit is divided into eight main sections, including resources focused on key human rights issues for the two million women and girls with disability that live in Australia. (wwda.org.au)

International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA) launches a global psoriasis coalition

IFPA - a non-profit organization made up of 55 national and regional psoriasis associations - recently launched a global psoriasis coalition, gathering of patient associations, medical societies, policy makers and other non-state actors. The coalition aims to raise awareness about the psoriasis disease and works towards expanding the scope of the NCD Action Plan 2013-2020, in line with its scheduled revision in 2018. IFPA strives to empower its members, improve patients' living conditions, raise awareness of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and cooperate with fellow stakeholders. A milestone in IFPA's advocacy was the adoption of the WHO Psoriasis Resolution in 2014, which recognized psoriasis as chronic, noncommunicable, disabling, disfiguring and painful disease; and the publication of the Global Report on Psoriasis in 2016. (<http://www.ifpa-pso.com>).

G3ict launches Decennial Call for Action on Digital Inclusion

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the CRPD and the inception of G3ict, a Decennial Call for Action on Digital Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (2016-2026) was launched at an event at the UN Headquarters on December 2. This Call for Action contains ten objectives to eradicate barriers in our information society in application of CRPD, SDGs and relevant UN General Assembly resolutions. G3ict calls on organizations of persons with disabilities, public and private sector organizations as well as international organizations to endorse this call, which also aims to catalyze country level interventions on these 10 issues and bridge the critical implementation gaps. (www.g3ict.org)

Voice-recognition captioning

Using voice recognition software, “respeakers” listen, talk, think, watch and type simultaneously to provide accurate captions that add value to inclusion and accessibility services. Ai-Media is a social enterprise devoted to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities using technological and social innovation. With the mission of “Global impact, one word at a time”, the team of captioners provide high quality speech-to-text solutions for broadcast clients such as Nine, Seven, Foxtel, BBC Worldwide, NBCUniversal and Netflix. Ai Media also supply live and pre-recorded captions to several Australian Government departments and to 27 universities in Australia and the UK. (coordinators.uk@ai-media.tv; ai-media.tv)

EDF - Accessibility guide on using public transport

To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), IRU (World's Road Transport organisation) and the European Disability Forum (EDF) jointly published an "Accessibility Guide" to improve customer service for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility. The publication aims to show that service quality and inclusiveness are of paramount importance for the public transport sector and also works to raise awareness about the barriers to a fully inclusive public transport system and how to best overcome them. The guide works to improve the quality of service offered to people with disabilities by drivers and operators. (

<http://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom/news/new-accessibility-guide-needs-persons-disabilities-using-public-transport>)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: enable@un.org

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<http://bit.ly/enablenewslettervolunteer>

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