

UN Enable Newsletter

January-February 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

172 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

NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

Commission for Social Development discusses disability issues

During the general discussion at the 55th session of the Commission for Social Development (1 to 10 February 2017, CSOCD55) many Member States took the floor and reaffirmed their commitment to providing solutions to decreasing poverty and increasing accessibility for persons with disabilities in society and development. Member States took the opportunity to describe their programmes covering education, housing, employment, and food security that specifically target persons with disabilities. A high-level panel discussion on “Leaving No One Behind: Poverty and Disability” took place on 3 February. Notable panellists discussed the challenges and opportunities for disability-inclusion in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the new global development agenda, particularly for SDG 1: Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. Disability-related side-events held during CSOCD55 focused on mental health and youth.

(<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/news/csocd55-discusses-disability-issues.html>)

CSOCD55 negotiates new resolution on disability

During 55th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSOCD55), a new resolution on disability entitled: "Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was negotiated. The resolution encourages the Commission to contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for persons with disabilities. It also calls for improving the collection and analysis of internationally comparable, high-quality, timely and reliable data on persons with disabilities, as well as for the promotion of accessibility and for measures against any forms of discrimination or stigmatization. (<http://bit.ly/2kR7Yvy>)

DESA: World Data Forum discusses disability disaggregated data

The first UN World Data Forum was hosted by Statistics South Africa from 15 to 18 January 2017 with support from the Statistics Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Forum gathered together key experts from Governments, businesses, civil society and the scientific and academic communities to discuss opportunities and challenges and showcase the latest innovations to improve data and statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Forum also included a panel discussion on collecting disability data toward implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the CRPD. Panelists discussed the importance of including representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) in the planning, developing, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. (<http://undataforum.org>)

DESA: Toolkit on Disability for Africa

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) launched a Toolkit on Disability for Africa that aims to provide practical tools for Government officials, Parliamentarians, civil servants, organizations of people with disabilities (DPOs) and all those working for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development. The Toolkit supports the implementation of the CRPD and disability-inclusive development, and offers examples of good practices from countries in the African region. Modules cover: accessibility; building multi-stakeholders partnerships for disability inclusion; national plans on disability, legislating for disability rights; access to justice for persons with disabilities; the rights of persons with disabilities to work; inclusive health services for persons with disabilities; participation in political and public life; information and communication technology (ICT) and disability; culture, beliefs, and disability; and inclusive education. (<https://social.un.org/ToolkitDisabilityAfrica>)

UNDPI: New Symbol of Accessibility

The new symbol of accessibility was designed by the Graphic Design Unit of the UN Department of Public Information in New York. The global reach of this logo is conveyed by a circle, with the symmetrical figure connected to represent a harmony between humans in society. This universal human figure with open arms symbolizes inclusion for people with disabilities, everywhere. The logo symbolizes hope and equal access for all. The Accessibility logo was created to raise awareness about disability related issues, and can be used to symbolize products, places and anything that is "disability-friendly" or accessible. This includes accessibility of information, services, communication technologies, as well as physical access. It was reviewed and selected by the Focus Groups on Accessibility, working with the Inter-Departmental Task Force on Accessibility at the United Nations Secretariat. The group comprises of key civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

(<https://www.un.org/en/webaccessibility/logo.shtml>)

Recent events

NYC's innovative approach to mental health showcased at UNHQ

An event entitled "Mental Health for All: Local Strategies" highlighted New York City's innovative approach to tackling mental health challenges against the backdrop of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event held at UN Headquarters in the ECOSOC Chamber on 25 January, commits countries to "promote mental health and well-being" is part of Global Vision: Urban Action, a programme of the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs designed to share and learn best practices, as countries and cities around the world implement the 2030 Agenda. According to the World Health Organization, more than 450 million people globally suffer from mental illnesses. Statistics show, that locally, at least one-in-five adult New Yorkers is likely to experience a mental health disorder in any given year. To address this challenge, NYC launched ThriveNYC, a roadmap to change the way people think about mental health, and the way the City and its partners deliver services in order to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to mental health services. The event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Liberia, Panama, Palau, and Sri Lanka, as well as WHO, UNFPA, and UN Women. (#ThriveNYC, <https://thrivenyc.cityofnewyork.us/>)

Forthcoming events

High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2017

The HLPF is the United Nations' central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2017 meeting of the HLPF on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council will be held from 10 to 19 July, including the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from 17 to 19 July. The theme of this year's HLPF will be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". The set of goals to be reviewed in depth in 2017 are: Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; and Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, as well as Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

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

NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES

UNESCAP: Meeting of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing the Fourth Session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok from 1 to 2 March 2017. The meeting will include Government and civil society members of the Working Group, who were endorsed at an annual regular session of the Commission in 2013. The Working Group serves as an advisory body of ESCAP members supporting their full and effective implementation of the Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. The meeting will review progress made on implementing the Incheon Strategy since the last session in 2016, review ESCAP's preparatory work in the lead-up to the 2017 High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities and discuss issues relating to the functioning of the Working Group for the second half of the Decade. (<http://www.unescap.org/events/fourth-session-working-group-asian-and-pacific-decade-persons-disabilities-2013-2022>)

UNDP: Evaluates disability-inclusive development in its work programme

Recognizing the importance of disability-inclusive development, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been for disability-inclusive

development since the 1980s, which remains an important area of country-level support. UNDP's Independent Evaluation Office presented its analysis and evaluation of disability-inclusive development at UNDP for the period 2008-2016, which corresponds to the current and past UNDP strategic plans, and the first ten years of the CRPD. The International Disability Alliance (IDA) participated in the presentation at the 1st Regular Board Session of UNDP and called for greater collaboration with disabled people's organizations in the implementation of the programmes by UN country teams. IDA also highlighted the importance of establishing a disability unit with a specific mandate link to UNDP's new Strategic Plan. (<http://web.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/thematic/disability.shtml>)

UN Women: Promoting the voices of women with disabilities

UN Women Executive Director's Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) for 2017-2019 comprises internationally renowned feminist leaders from women's rights organizations, male gender equality networks, youth, LGBTI Groups, Trade Unions, and media, among others. The group includes Ms. Nidhi Goyal from India, a woman with disability, who through research, training, advocacy and art addresses the intersection of disability and gender. The CSAG also serves in an advisory role to her on key strategic and political issues. Several of the 40 Civil Society Advisory Groups at the regional and national levels also have members that focus on disability. (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/12/un-women-executive-director-establishes-her-new-civil-society-advisory-group>)

UN Women: Addressing violence against women with disabilities in Pakistan

The National Forum of Women with Disabilities (NFWWD), with Aurat Foundation and the Special Talent Exchange Program held an "orange" rally highlighting that women with disabilities are more vulnerable to face violence in all its forms. This was followed by a press conference on "Participation of Women with Disabilities in Decision Making Processes". Under the theme "Achieving 17 Goals for the future we want", the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was commemorated in Pakistan as part of the 16 Days of Activism to end Gender-Based Violence. As part of the commemoration, UN Women along with the UN Information Center (UNIC) organized a networking lunch to give various organizations for persons with disabilities an opportunity to interact with representatives from international organizations and the diplomatic community. (<http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2016/12/a-call-for-action-to-leave-no-one-behind>)

ITU: Web-accessibility training course

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) developed in English and Spanish languages a

web-accessibility face-to-face training course aimed at providing ITU Member States the necessary knowledge to ensure that Government websites are accessible to all their citizens, equally. For the first time, ITU will deliver the training course to Costa Rica in March 2017. The training is in line with international standards on web accessibility WCAG2.0 and designed for policy-makers, content providers and web professionals. Accessibility of websites will be tested by end-users, namely persons with disabilities. ITU aims to continue contributing to the existing digital accessibility ecosystem with a view to increase digital inclusion of persons with disabilities worldwide. (<http://www.itu.int/accessibility>; accessibility@itu.int)

WHO: "Rehabilitation 2030" commits to promoting rehabilitation worldwide

The World Health Organization invited many of the world's leading rehabilitation experts to attend "Rehabilitation 2030" to address the significant and ever-increasing need for rehabilitation services around the world. Through the call for action, participants pledged to support Governments in enhancing rehabilitation services by incorporating rehabilitation into universal health coverage. In conjunction with the meeting, WHO launched the new WHO guide "Rehabilitation in health systems", which outlines recommendations for Member States and other relevant stakeholders on concrete steps needed to strengthen and expand the availability of quality rehabilitation services. WHO, along with its partners in rehabilitation, will continue to support Member States to implement the evidence-based recommendations reflected in the new guide and others launched in previous years including the Community-based rehabilitation guidelines; develop tools and training packages, such as the country toolkit for strengthening rehabilitation currently under development; and collect information relevant to rehabilitation utilizing the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. (<http://www.who.int/disabilities/care/rehab-2030/en/>)

World Bank 2017 Annual Transforming Transportation Conference

Transforming Transportation is the annual conference co-hosted by the World Bank and EMBARQ, the urban mobility initiative of World Resources Institute's Ross Center for Sustainable Cities took place in Washington D.C. from 12 to 13 January 2017. The event convenes leading transport and urban development experts from national and local governments, multilateral development banks, foundations, civil society, research institutions, and businesses from around the world. The Conference included an exchange of experiences, new information and best practices on sustainable transport. The 18th Roundtable on Accessible Transportation in Developing Countries organized by Access Exchange International and ICSA was also held in conjunction with the Conference. (<http://www.transformingtransportation.org/agenda>)

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>.

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/>)

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>)

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

OTHER NEWS

(DISCLAIMER: The information below is provided by other stakeholders for informational purposes only. This does not constitute endorsement of, or an approval by, the United Nations of any of the products, services, or opinions of the organization or individual. The United Nations bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of their statements and opinions.)

Council of Europe set to adopt a new disability strategy

The Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2017-2023 “Human rights: A reality for all” will be launched at a Conference organized by the Council of Europe and the Cypriot Presidency of the Committee of Ministers in Cyprus on 27 to 28 March 2017. The Council has named five priority areas of the new Strategy that are connected to Articles of the CRPD, aimed at its implementation in practice. (<http://www.coe.int/en/web/disability>)

IDA-IDDC host technical workshop on SDGs in Central America

From 25 to 27 January 2017, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), and its members, hosted the Central American Technical Workshop on Monitoring of the SDGs in line with the CRPD. The workshop was attended by DPO representatives from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, including self-advocates, youth and indigenous people with disabilities. As the four states will be reviewed by the High Level Political Forum in 2017, the workshop aimed to highlight the interrelationship between the CRPD and SDGs and to support DPO representatives in compiling information for use by DPOs in their national reviews. The training is part of the broader training support on the CRPD and SDGs led by IDA and IDDC.

<http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/events/central-american-technical-workshop-monitoring-sdgs-light-crpd>)

CHRUSP – Online course on the CRPD

The Center for the Human Rights of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (CHRUSP) is offering an **online course on CRPD** scheduled to begin March 1 and run through June 2017. (<https://crpdcourse.wordpress.com>). CHRUSP has begun a second phase of its campaign to support the CRPD and its implementation in their national laws, policies and practices are networking together through email discussions and real-time audio/chat discussions. Additional sections to the website are coming soon. (<http://absoluteprohibition.wordpress.com>, info@chrusp.org)

Fifth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability 2017

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) in partnership with Nuanua O’le Alofa (NOLA) and funding from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) hosted the Fifth Pacific Regional Conference on Disability from 20 to 24 February 2017 in Apia, Samoa. The conference theme “Building a More Inclusive and Equitable Pacific for all Persons with Disabilities” recognises the role of the SDG in ensuring a disability inclusive and equitable Pacific. The conference brought together representatives from development actors, partners, Government and PDF members from 20 Pacific Island Countries and territories. For more information please contact Simione Bula on email at infor@pacificdisability.org.

New blog to provide overview of issues related to disability and literacy

The blog series, prepared under the auspices of USAID’s Office of Education, is to address some potential challenges and solutions to increase student literacy rates as they relate to a variety of disabilities in diverse global contexts. (<https://globalreadingnetwork.net/news-and-events/blog/education-all-means-all>)

HRW research and video on situation of refugees with disabilities

Human Rights Watch (HRW) documented that refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants with disabilities are not properly identified and do not enjoy equal access to services - such as shelter, sanitation, and medical care at reception centers. UN agencies and humanitarian organizations working on the ground recognize that more needs to be done to respond to the rights and needs of asylum seekers, refugees, and other migrants with disabilities. For example, funds allocated for the crisis should benefit all refugees without discrimination,

including people with disabilities. Key next steps should include issuing clear guidance to field staff on identifying and registering people with disabilities, including disabilities that are not readily identifiable; ensuring that people with disabilities and other at-risk groups, including children, have equal access to assistance provided in refugee and migrant centers and camps; and consulting refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants with disabilities as well as national disabled persons organizations in these processes. (cerimoe@hrw.org, labakil@hrw.org or barrigs@hrw.org; <http://bit.ly/2kueyH7>)

DRF – Call for proposals for funding from DPOs

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) announces a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for invited Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) from Indonesia and Ghana, as well as any DPOs from Haiti, Malawi and Myanmar. The deadline for submission of applications for funding is 16 March 2017. The broad objective of the Fund is to empower DPOs in the developing world to use the CRPD and to participate in rights advancement and disability-inclusive development. Interested organizations are urged to review the full eligibility criteria and RFP details posted at the Fund's website, at <http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/for-grantseekers/>, email: info@disabilityrightsfund.org)

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