

UN Enable Newsletter

March 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

Updates on the next session of the COSP CRPD

The 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP10) will take place from **13 to 15 June 2017**. The COSP has grown to be 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", and 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. Key dates for NGO registration and accreditation, as well as application for side-events and exhibits are now posted on the UN Enable website. (http://bit.ly/crpd_cosp10)

Become a COSP10 Youth Delegate

Are you a young person with a disability? Are you passionate about the rights of people with disabilities? 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 United Nations 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 official delegation to the United Nations and enquire about becoming a youth delegate to COSP10.

(http://bit.ly/cosp_youthdelegate)

NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

CSOCD55 concludes and adopts new resolution on disability

The 55th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSOCD55) concluded on 10 February and adopted 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." 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>)

Women and girls with disabilities at CSW61

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. The priority theme this year is: "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attend the session. Over two hundred side-events will be held at the UN Headquarters during the two weeks, including some related to women and girls with disabilities. A side-event entitled: "Networking Workshop: Advancing the Leadership of Women and Girls with Disabilities in Development and Society" will

be organized by DESA/DSPD, UN Women and the Permanent Mission of Japan on 14 March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Conference Room 2727 in the UN Secretariat Building. Other side-events include "Accessible Cities & The Needs of Women with Disabilities & Older Women" and "Working to Improve Our Own Future—Strengthening networks of women with disabilities in humanitarian action". Now available is an online survey for the networking workshop attendees. (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/news/women-and-girls-with-disabilities-at-csw61.html>)

World Down Syndrome Day, 21 March

In 2012, the UN General Assembly recognized World Down Syndrome Day. In 2017, the World Down Syndrome Day Conference will be organized by Down Syndrome International (DSi) and an international network of stakeholders to focus on enabling people with Down syndrome to speak up, as well as those who advocate for them. The Day works 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. Global initiatives will be held around the world on the Day, including the 6th annual World Down Syndrome Day Conference, held at UN Headquarters in New York on 21 March, and at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva on 21 and 22 March, the Self-advocacy workshop plus an “open dialogue” with policy-makers. (#MyVoiceMyCommunity; <https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/>)

World Autism Awareness Day, 2 April

On 31 March 2017 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the World Autism Awareness Day will be observed at UN Headquarters with an event entitled: “Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination”. The CRPD recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to independence of person and to individual autonomy (article 3.a). Moreover, the CRPD highlights the right of persons with disabilities to “legal capacity on an equal basis with others and in all aspects of life” (article 12). In many countries, certain abilities are often deemed necessary qualifications for personal autonomy, which creates a barrier to societal inclusion for people with autism. The WAAD observance would discuss policies and approaches being implemented with regard to guardianships and the right to self-determination and legal capacity of persons with autism. The event will also review case studies on key aspects of legal capacity. For the detailed programme and to register to attend, please visit <http://www.un.org/en/events/autismday/2017/events.shtml>.

DESA: Experts to meet on assessing 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 SCRPD/DSPD/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/undisabilitystats>)

New infographics on UN Enable

The infographic "Mental Health: The cost of stigma" draws attention to the impact of stigma on mental health costs to society and development, highlighting key indicators. It shows that reducing stigma will reduce mental health costs and promote mental health and well-being, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (<http://bit.ly/2mjDRjt>). The infographic on "Disability, conflict and disaster" presents key facts on the impact of conflict and disaster situations on persons with disabilities. It notes how the CRPD and the SDGs work toward greater inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities in such situations. (<http://bit.ly/2mQlwWL>)

NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES

OHCHR: 34th Regular Session of the HRC underway

The 34th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) is currently underway until 24 March at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The programme of work includes discussions and work relevant to the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. During the session, the annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities took place under the theme: "Article 5 of the CRPD regarding equality and non-discrimination". The discussion addressed the human rights of persons with disabilities and the policies and practices developed under its guidance. It provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the realization of the human rights of persons with disabilities and to reduce inequalities. The

debate worked to identify good practices in promoting the human rights of persons with disabilities to achieve substantive equality and to ensure non-discrimination. It also contributed to raising awareness of the challenges that persons with disabilities face in enjoying their human rights, particularly in accessing reasonable accommodation. The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms Catalina Devandas, presented her annual report that provided an overview of the activities undertaken in 2016, as well as a thematic study on access to support by persons with disabilities. Follow all official sessions at webtv.un.org, and on Twitter #HRC34.

(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session34/Pages/34RegularSession.aspx>)

WHO: Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide

The World Health Organization estimates that depression affects more than 300 million people worldwide – the majority of them women, young people and older persons. The report on “Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates” released last month, indicates that around 4.4 per cent of the global population suffers from depression. Furthermore, the report shows that an 18 per cent increase in the number of people living with depression between 2005 and 2015. Depression is different from usual mood fluctuations and short-lived emotional responses to challenges in everyday life. When long-lasting and with moderate or severe intensity, depression may become a serious health condition leading, at its worst, to suicide. The report notes that some 800,000 people kill themselves every year, a significant number of them young adults between the ages of 15 and 29. Depression results from a complex interaction of social, psychological and biological factors. The report provides recommendation on programmes and psychological and psychosocial treatments and caution against using antidepressants to treat children or to quickly offer them to adolescents. Some psychological treatment formats for consideration include individual and/or group face-to-face psychological treatments delivered by professionals and supervised lay therapists.

(<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56230#.WLM1eG8rKpp>)

WHO: Rehabilitation 2030: A Call for Action

WHO’s Rehabilitation 2030 was held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland from 6 to 7 February 2017. The Rehabilitation 2030 meeting provided an invaluable opportunity for discussing the strategic direction for coordinated action and establishing joint commitments to raise the profile of rehabilitation as a health strategy relevant to the whole population, across the lifespan and across the continuum of care. The meeting discussed the substantial unmet need for rehabilitation worldwide, which is particularly profound in low- and middle-income countries. Panellists discussing the barriers to scaling

up rehabilitation indicate a need for greater awareness and advocacy, increased investment into rehabilitation workforce and infrastructure, and improved leadership and governance structures.

(<http://www.who.int/disabilities/care/rehab-2030/en/>)

The World Bank: Promoting accessibility and inclusion

The World Bank's Disability and Development team hosted a learning event learning event "Disability inclusion in the world of work" on Wednesday, December 7, aimed at World Bank staff and consultants. This was scheduled as a pre-event to the Harkin Inclusive Employment Summit. The World Bank invited a group of international experts, including business leaders, civil society, social enterprises to Washington DC for the Harkin Summit to share their work and engage in a discussion of effective practices on promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment and income generation activities with Bank staff. Presenters focused on skills development, bridging gaps, transition to competitive employment, and entrepreneurship. The World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery hosted an internal Brown Bag Lunch on "Implementing Accessibility Standards for more Inclusive Cities" for urban development and disaster risk reduction practitioners. David Capozzi and Marsha Mazz from the U.S. Access Board shared the United States' experience and perspective on the role of building regulation in providing accessibility in the built environment. The discussion highlighted the importance of effective building regulatory frameworks as a critical vehicle for implementing accessibility and disability-inclusive measures. (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability>)

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>.

8 March: International Women's Day

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

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

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

Zero Project Conference 2017

The Zero Project Conference 2017 was held in Vienna, Austria, where participants discussed innovative practices and innovative policies related to employment, vocational education and training to support the implementation of the CRPD, especially Article 27 on Work and Employment. Among the keynote speakers were Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development at DESA, Helga Stevens (MEP of the European Parliament), Justice Richard Bernstein (Supreme Court of Michigan/United States) and Patrick Romzek (Vice President of Cisco Networks). More than 500 participants from 70 countries attended. Over 165 speakers presented their expertise on innovations and models that work, in close cooperation with companies and company networks, universities, microfinance, self-entrepreneurship, internships and inclusive business strategies. Presentations and Webstreams are online in various accessible formats at <https://conference.zeroproject.org>.

WRC launches new publication on women in humanitarian action

The Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) launched a new publication entitled: "Strengthening the Role of Women with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action: A Facilitator's Guide" to support women leaders to provide training to members, colleagues and/or partners on humanitarian action. The training is intended to enhance the capacity of women with disabilities to effectively advocate on women's and disability issues within relevant humanitarian forums at national and regional levels by increasing understanding of the humanitarian system, helping participants identify gaps and opportunities for inclusion of women and girls with disabilities within the humanitarian system, and for developing advocacy plans to strengthen access and inclusion. WRC developed this Facilitator's Guide in collaboration with organizations of women with disabilities in Africa and South Asia. Download the Facilitator's Guide in English in PDF, EPUB and DAISY formats at: <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/populations/disabilities/research-and-resources/1443-humanitarian-facilitators-guide>.

IFHOH accessibility conference on hearing technology

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is holding an Accessibility Conference on Hearing Loops and Hearing Technology in Berlin, Germany from October 6 to 8, 2017. An IFHOH member organization, Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund, is planning the 4th in a series of international conferences devoted to hearing loops and technology. The conference focuses on the latest

loop technology and alternatives for providing access in public places. Participants will share their technical expertise, experience in loop design, and knowledge of accessibility for people with hearing loss. The deadline for the Call for Proposals is April 3. (<http://www.schwerhoerigen-netz.de/IFHOH-2017/english>)

GLAD meeting work to realize the promise of the SDGs

The Global Action on Disability (GLAD) met from 2 to 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), hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ). The Network meeting provides space for members to exchange and intensify joint action on inclusion within the context of the 2030 Agenda principle that promises to "leave no one behind". (<http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/glad>)

HRW research on situation of children in orphanages

On Feb 22, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a [report](#), [easy-to-read](#) version, and [video](#) about the thousands of children with and without disabilities living in residential institutions who face neglect, isolation, and needless separation from their parents and relatives. Living in an institution negatively impacts children's cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Many international donors perpetuate a country's reliance on orphanages and other institutions as the main mechanism for helping vulnerable children, including children with disabilities and children from families facing poverty and unemployment. Without quality education and other services in the community, many children are at risk of remaining in abusive, closed institutions. For more information, please contact Jane Buchana, buchanj@hrw.org. (<https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/02/22/when-will-i-get-go-home/abuses-and-discrimination-against-children-institutions>)

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Email: enable@un.org

Call for volunteers to translate the UN Enable newsletter in other languages

Volunteer your time to translate the UN Enable newsletter in an official UN language or your own local language. More information:

<http://bit.ly/enablenewslettervolunteer>

We are grateful to the following for their kind assistance in consistently submitting translations to the UN Enable Newsletter: French, Spanish, Hebrew, Korean, We are looking for volunteers to translate the newsletter in to the UN official languages of **Arabic**, **Chinese** and **Russian**.

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