

## **UN Enable Newsletter**

May-July 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](http://www.un.org/disabilities).

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### **STATUS OF THE CRPD**

**174** ratifications/accessions and **160** signatories to the CRPD  
**92** ratifications/accessions and **92** signatories to its Optional Protocol (OP)  
Fiji ratified the Convention on 07 June 2017.  
More on the CRPD at: [http://bit.ly/UN\\_crpd](http://bit.ly/UN_crpd)

### **10th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD**

The 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP10) took 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! This year, over 1300 delegates and civil society representatives attended COSP10, and participated in over 80 side-events, workshops, receptions and exhibitions. On 12 June, day prior to the opening of COSP10, the CRPD Civil Society Forum was organized by civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities. Statements, documents, webcast archives and CART transcripts of the official meetings are posted on the UN Enable website at: [http://bit.ly/crpd\\_cosp10](http://bit.ly/crpd_cosp10).

### **NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS**

#### **Forum on advancing accessible and inclusive urban development for all**

In conjunction with COSP10, DESA and the Habitat III Secretariat organized the Forum with a view to follow up its High Level Forum on Disability Inclusion and Accessible Urban Development held in Quito in October 2016. The Forum aimed

at making a contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda from a perspective of accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities, older persons, children and other vulnerable social groups. The Forum brought together experts, urban policy-makers and practitioners from Governments UN system and civil society active in both urban sectors and disability communities to share expertise in promoting universal design and accessibility, including through taking an integrated approach and capturing socio-economic benefits of accessibility in urban development contexts. The Forum also worked to generate a set of recommendations for action and partnership at global and local levels for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs, and for the promotion of an accessible and inclusive urban development for all. ([http://bit.ly/urban\\_forum\\_2017](http://bit.ly/urban_forum_2017))

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

The Expert Meeting on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development was held from 10 to 11 May 2017 at ILO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting organized by DESA and hosted by ILO, aiming 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. The meeting included 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 especially in policy-analysis, monitoring and evaluation relevant for disability-inclusive development. The outcome of discussions will contribute to the 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). ([http://bit.ly/enable\\_egm\\_may2017](http://bit.ly/enable_egm_may2017))

### **NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES**

#### **OHCHR: 18th session of the CRPD Committee, 14 to 31 August 2017**

The 18th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 14 to 31 August. The meeting will be followed by the 8th meeting of the pre-session working group, 4 to 8 September. The following countries are coming up for consideration by the Committee: Latvia, Luxembourg, Panama, Morocco, Montenegro, and United Kingdom. The Committee will also adopt list of issues regarding the following countries: Bulgaria, Nepal, Oman, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Slovenia, and Sudan;

as well as list of issues prior to reporting on: Argentina, Australia, Ecuador and Tunisia. (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>)

### **OHCHR: Easy Read Draft General Comment on Independent Living**

The CRPD Committee has made available on the OHCHR website an Easy to Read version of the Draft General Comment no. 5 on Article 19, Living independently and being included in the community.

(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/DGCArticle19.aspx>)

### **ECLAC: Regional meeting on disability measurement**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), organized a Regional Meeting on Disability Measurement and Statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. The Regional Meeting took place from 20 to 22 June 2017 in Santiago, Chile. The purpose of the Meeting was to compile national experiences, including challenges faced and lessons learned, regarding approaches taken to measure the population with disabilities during national censuses of the 2010 round. The meeting also provided an opportunity to initiate a discussion on the way forward towards compilation of data on disability for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the meeting enabled sharing of national experiences among participating countries.

(<http://bit.ly/2spkRUH>; <http://www.cepal.org/en/node/41425>)

### **ESCWA: Regional meeting on disability policy implementation**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities of Jordan will hold the second meeting of the ESCWA Committee on Social Development Inter-sessional Group of Experts on Disability (IGED) on 4-5 July 2017 in Amman, Jordan. The objective of the group of experts is to strengthen ties and exchange information on disability policy and advancing the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region. The meeting theme will center around the subject of the "implementation gap" of disability laws and policies and how to effectively translate them into administrative practice. For more information please contact Ms. Angela Zettler ([zettler@un.org](mailto:zettler@un.org)).

### **UNICEF: A new way to measure child functioning**

UNICEF has been working with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to develop a new way of collecting data on children with disabilities that is devoid of labels and diagnoses. The new Module on Child Functioning covers children between 2 and 17 years of age and assesses functional difficulties in different domains including hearing, vision, communication/comprehension, learning, mobility and emotions. It focuses on the presence and extent of such difficulties rather than on body function and structure or conditions. The questions can be incorporated into existing data collection efforts and address the need for nationally comparable and internationally harmonized data. The module is now included into the current round of the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey programme (MICS) that will be implemented in more than 35 low-and middle-income countries over the next three years.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ij6iqkaSCGQ>,  
<https://data.unicef.org/resources/module-child-functioning/>)

### **UNICEF: Making Schools Accessible to Children with Disabilities**

UNICEF India has developed a guidebook: “Making Schools Accessible to Children with Disabilities” with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Samarthyam, a Disabled Persons Organization (DPO), as part of the Prime Minister’s Accessible India Campaign. Aimed at school administrators, school management committees and parents, the guidebook details the common infrastructural barriers children with disabilities may face within schools and offers possible solutions to address these barriers. A checklist is included that which can be used as a tool to assess the accessibility of schools and to identify areas need improvement. Clear standards and specifications are provided, with photos and illustrations, which can be used with civil works personnel, towards making necessary changes or during construction.

[http://unicef.in/Uploads/Publications/Resources/pub\\_doc119.pdf](http://unicef.in/Uploads/Publications/Resources/pub_doc119.pdf)

### **UN Women: Amplifying the voices of women with disabilities**

At the 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 3-15 June, UN Women contributed to amplify the voices of women with disabilities and highlight the importance of their representation in decision-making. UN Women co-sponsored and participated in several side events. In the Interactive dialogue between States parties (to the Convention) and the United Nations, UN Women presented its initiatives in support of the implementation of the Convention. For women’s voices see:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/6/compilation-amplifying-the-voices-of-women-with-disabilities>

## **UN Women: Voices of women leaders with disabilities and the SDGs**

Casar Jacobson, a disability rights activist and a UN Women Youth Champion, shares her personal story of living with hearing disability and carving out a place in the world of work. She stresses on the power of technology in ensuring that no one is left behind. See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/4/from-where-i-stand-casar-jacobson#sthash.IRT6Lf7V.dpuf>.

For Pratima Gurung from Nepal, empowering indigenous women with disabilities starts with making them count as active participants and decision-makers. She points to the need to strengthen their voices in disability fora, as well as indigenous peoples' fora. See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/4/from-where-i-stand-pratima-gurung#sthash.GieRAgTl.dpuf>

## **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 of mental health and human rights practitioners, people with psychosocial, intellectual and cognitive disabilities, people using mental health services, their families and care partners, NGOs, DPOs and others. To access the materials visit:

[http://who.int/mental\\_health/policy/quality\\_rights/guidance\\_training\\_tools/en/](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](mailto:drewn@who.int).

## **WIPO: Strengthening partnerships; improving accessibility**

On 22 June, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) organized an interagency roundtable on physical accessibility for persons with disabilities that brought together, for the first time, UN entities and non-UN international organizations based in Geneva, with the objective to strengthen the network of those who manage premises and those who work on the rights of persons with disabilities. Some 15 international organizations, as well as the Swiss authorities discussed the human rights framework and practical ways to improve accessibility of facilities. The group also discussed the strategic and inclusive transition towards improving physical accessibility that benefits everyone. (More information: Isabelle Boutillon [Isabelle.boutillon@wipo.int](mailto:Isabelle.boutillon@wipo.int), Kaori Saito [kaori.saito@wipo.int](mailto:kaori.saito@wipo.int))

## **World Bank: Disability update**

The World Bank's disability and development team continues to provide technical assistance and knowledge to internal thematic units on disability-inclusive development. As part of this effort, the World Bank recently hosted Light for the

World and IDDC for lunch panel event on the [“#CostingEquity Report”](#) that looks at the benefits of financing disability - inclusive education, the current state of education financing with regard to inclusion, and what needs to change in order for education financing to realize of SDG 4 and Article 24 of the CRPD. In addition, the Bank organized an internal knowledge sharing workshop on building accessible, inclusive and safe cities. (<https://iddcconsortium.net/resources-tools/costing-equity>). The World Bank Expert Meeting on Disability and Non-Discrimination took place on 17 June to discuss the Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and the Bank non-discrimination Directive as they relate to persons with disabilities. Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo chaired the meeting and gave a presentation about the ESF from a disability angle. UN and civil society representatives gave feedback and advice on the topic in view of the preparation of an ESF Good Practice Note on 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](mailto:enable@un.org). Now also available on the UN Enable website at:

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

**10 to 19 July: High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), UNHQ, New York**  
(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>)

**14 to 31 August: 18th session of the CRPD Committee**  
(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>)

**18 to 24 September: WFD - International Week of the Deaf 2017**  
(<https://wfd deaf.org>)

**9 to 11 October: 33rd Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, Hawaii, USA**  
(<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu>)

**8 to 10 November: 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf, Budapest, Hungary**  
([golob@congressline.hu](mailto: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**

(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.)

### **Annual Pacific Rim International Conference**

The 33rd Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity will be held on 9-11 October 2017 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki Beach Resort & the Modern Honolulu. The Call for Proposals is now open.

(<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu>, [prinfo@hawaii.edu](mailto:prinfo@hawaii.edu))

### **WFD issues a position paper on language rights for deaf children**

The CRPD commits governments to recognizing the importance of sign languages and promoting their use. The UN CRPD also entitles deaf people, on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture. Being allowed to develop their cultural and linguistic identities – including in educational settings – is a key right of deaf children.

The Position Paper is available on the WFD website <https://wfdeaf.org/news/wfd-position-paper-language-rights-deaf-children>. International Sign is also available for each topic inside the Position Paper.

### **New Human Rights Watch research on persons with disabilities in humanitarian action**

On June 21, Human Rights Watch released a [report](#) and [video](#) documenting how persons with disabilities have faced violent attacks, forced displacement, and ongoing neglect in the humanitarian response. Research shows that people with a range of disabilities are often unable to flee violence, are especially at risk of attack while trying to flee, and face unsafe and unhealthy conditions in displacement camps. For more information, please contact Lewis Mudge, [mudgel@hrw.org](mailto:mudgel@hrw.org) (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/21/central-african-republic-people-disabilities-high-risk>)

## **New Human Rights Watch research on persons with disabilities and older people in a conflict situations**

On May 31, Human Rights Watch released a [report](#) and [video](#) on persons with disabilities and older people in a conflict situation. Persons with disabilities are at greater risk of being left behind during attacks and are often the target of grave abuse and violence by the warring parties. Older people and persons with disabilities who are able to flee the violence to Protection of Civilians sites often face barriers to accessing essential humanitarian assistance. This includes using latrines and accessing food distribution sites. The report calls for aid workers and donors to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to humanitarian services on an equal basis as anyone else. Persons with disabilities should be consulted every step of the way. For more information, please contact Jonathan Pedneault, [pedneaj@hrw.org](mailto:pedneaj@hrw.org). (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/05/31/south-sudan-people-disabilities-older-people-face-danger>)

## **LCD initiative on inclusive education for children with disabilities in Tanzania**

Children with Disabilities in Tanzania will benefit from Leonard Cheshire Disability's newest inclusive education project, with 10 primary schools opening their doors to children with disabilities for the first time.

<https://www.leonardcheshire.org/support-and-information/latest-news/news-and-blogs/1000-disabled-children-tanzania-will-access>

## **Promoting blind awareness on World Sight Day**

Project BlindWalk is an experience for sighted persons to experience what it means to be blind. Led by blind persons themselves in a public space, participants get a first-hand experience of blindness. The project hopes that this initiative would lead sighted persons to better understand blindness and blind persons, as well as pledge to donate their eyes and become a Vision Ambassador. Project vision encourages people to participate in BlindWalk on World Sight Day – 12 October with a view to promote the cause of blindness. (<http://www.theprojectvision.org>)

## **G3ict & IAAP Launch Web Accessibility Specialist Certification**

The International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP), a division of G3ict, recently launched a first of its kind international certification program for Web Accessibility Specialists. This Technical-level exam is the ideal credential for those who personally design, develop, implement, evaluate, or manage the technical details of accessible web solutions. It aims to address the growing

demand for web accessibility professionals as more and more countries ratify the CRPD and adopt standards like WCAG 2.0. The lack of skilled personnel to implement ICT accessibility was also raised at a side-event organised by G3ict at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties to the CRPD in June.

Website: <http://www.accessibilityassociation.org/>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
S-2906, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY 10017, USA

## **BE INFORMED! GET INVOLVED!**

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Twitter: [http://twitter.com/UN\\_Enable](http://twitter.com/UN_Enable)

Website: [www.un.org/disabilities](http://www.un.org/disabilities)

Email: [enable@un.org](mailto: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. We are looking for volunteers to translate the newsletter in to the UN official languages of **Chinese** and **Russian**.

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

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