

UN Enable Newsletter

November 2016

The UN Enable Newsletter is prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (DESA/DSPD) 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

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

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

Central African Republic Ratified the CRPD and OP on 11 October.

New Zealand accessed to the OP on 4 October.

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

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, 3 December

Countdown to IDPD 2016!

Are you ready to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) in your local community? Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been celebrated annually on 3 December around the world. The theme for this year's International Day is "Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want". This theme notes the recent adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of these goals in building a more inclusive and equitable world for persons with disabilities. This year's objectives include assessing the current status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and SDGs and laying the foundation for a future of greater inclusion for persons with disabilities. The observance of the 2016 IDPD coincides with the 10-year anniversary of the

adoption of the CRPD – one of the quickest and widely ratified international treaties put forth by the United Nations to-date. Be involved, be informed! See the new **IDPD2016 infographic**.

(http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/idpd/idpd_infographic2016.jpg,
http://bit.ly/un_idpd2016)

Register to attend IDPD events on Friday, 2 December at UN Headquarters

At UN Headquarters, events will be held throughout the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) to celebrate the gains achieved in the ten years since the adoption of the CRPD, and the road ahead in achieving the 17 SDGs for persons with disabilities. See the Day's programme and register online at http://bit.ly/un_idpd2016.

PGA High-level panel discussion on IDPD at UN Headquarters in New York

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/145 of 17 December 2015, a high-level panel meeting to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be convened, aimed at promoting its universalisation. The meeting will be a part of the Official Programme held on occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Friday, 2 December 2016, from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, in Conference Room 4. The PGA has also requested civil society organizations to nominate participants to speak at the panel discussion. **Submit NGO nominations by 10 November:** http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/idpd/idpd2016_pga_ngo_form.docx.

Call for films for the UN Enable Film Festival

Submissions are now being accepted for the [UN Enable Film Festival](#) that is held each year at UN Headquarters on IDPD. The Festival presents short disability-related films selected on the basis of their content and message that can help raise awareness of disability issues to promote equality and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society and development. **Deadline for submitting films: 20 November.** (<http://bit.ly/unenablefilmfestival>)

Send us your photographs for the UN Enable Photograph Exhibition

Submit your photographs for the [UN Enable Photo Exhibition](#) 2016 entitled: "The CRPD and you". In light of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, this year the photograph exhibit will showcase your photographs to highlight the positive ways in which the Convention has impacted the lives of people around the world. **Deadline for submitting photographs: 20 November.** (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/unepe.html>)

Join the global network of 1 Billion Voices!

You are invited to make your voice “heard” at the United Nations during the International Day of Persons with Disabilities by 1 Billion Voices. Submit your picture with the message on what you would like to thank the CRPD for. From the messages received, the 1 Billion Voices team will produce a video that will be presented at the UN Headquarters on the 2 December 2016. Share your message using the online form at 1billionvoices.org or send an email to info@1billionvoices.org. **Deadline for submission: 26 November**. For more details, please visit our website at <http://1billionvoices.org> and click on CRPD10.

Share your IDPD event on the UN Enable website

Tell us how you will be commemorating IDPD 2016 in your community and we will post the information and link to your event on the UN Enable website. (enable@un.org; max. 50 words)

NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

Third Committee negotiate resolution on disability and the SDGs

The Third Committee of the General Assembly is discussing a draft resolution on realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and other international efforts 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. The resolution is also expected to strengthen data collection and statistics on disability. The Committee also reviewed the following key reports on disability including the report of the Secretary-General on realization of internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities and progress made in the implementation of the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development (A/71/214) and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Toward the full realization of the an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities” (A/71/344). The Assembly also reviewed the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (A/71/314) and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/71/304), as well as the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism (A/71/255). The reports are available at:

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

UN Expert Group Meeting on women and girls with disabilities

DESA and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will organize an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) under the theme “Advancing the rights and perspectives of women and girls with disabilities in development and society” in Santiago, Chile, from 15 to 17 November 2016. The meeting will include experts and researchers in disability and women’s rights, gender equality and empowerment of women, social and economic development. The EGM is expected to result in a set of recommendations that will work to guide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promote greater gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities. The outcome of the meeting is also expected to contribute towards a forthcoming General Assembly report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls with disabilities. (https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/expert-group-meetings/egm2016_women_chile.html)

Special Rapporteur calls for disability-inclusive development strategies

Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities presented her report at the 71st session of the General Assembly. The Special Rapporteur sought to draw the attention of the Assembly on four issues that are critical for the formulation and implementation of policies, including anti-discrimination frameworks that prohibit all forms of discrimination on the basis of disability. She also highlighted the importance of accessibility, availability and provision of support services and devices, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes. She concluded her presentation with an ardent message calling for disability-inclusive development strategies stating that “Times are changing... no more excuses. Nothing without persons with disabilities!” (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20764&LangID=E>)

Calling for action to reduce violence against persons with albinism

Ikponwosa Ero, the first Independent Expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to monitor, report and advice on the situation of persons with albinism, called upon Governments to take swift action to end a growing problem of violence and severe discrimination against people with albinism. She provided a preliminary survey on the root causes of attacks and discrimination against

persons with albinism, and made recommendations on public education, legal action, health intervention, among others, to encourage States take concrete actions to improve the situation.

(<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55403>)

NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES

UNSD-DESA – Meeting on disability measurement and statistics in Africa

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), DESA, in collaboration with the African Centre for Statistics of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ACS-ECA) and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, is organizing 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 for the African region. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss strategies for compilation of data on disability for the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals. It will also foster intra-regional cooperation aimed at enhancing national capacity in disability measurement and improving the quality of data for monitoring the SDGs.

(<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/events/eventdetail.cshtml?i=385>)

HABITAT III concludes with an accessible and inclusive new urban agenda

At HABITAT III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development held in Quito, Ecuador from 17 to 20 October, Governments adopted a New Urban Agenda that will guide future sustainable and inclusive development of the world's cities. DESA in close collaboration with the Government of Ecuador and civil society organizations convened a high-level forum on inclusion and accessible urban development that contributed to Habitat III. The report of the Forum is now available. The informal Global Network on Accessible and Disability Inclusive Urban Development, a multi-stakeholder network of policy-makers in Government, urban development and disability professionals, academics, disability rights advocates and development cooperation partners, carried out concerted efforts to include disability in all Habitat III processes, including the text of the new urban agenda.

(http://bit.ly/unenable_urbandev).

OHCHR – Using Laws and Policies to include persons with disabilities

The easy-to-read version of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities entitled "Using Laws and Policies to include persons with

disabilities" is now available on the OHCHR website. The Report, published annually by the Special Rapporteur Ms. Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, provides recommendations to support countries implement the CRPD at local and national levels, to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in society. Download the report at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Disability/A-71-314_EasyReadVersion.pdf 29MB)

OHCHR - 2016 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council

The 2016 Social Forum took place from 3 to 5 October 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Forum focused on the promotion and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities in the context of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the CRPD. Aiming to move forward the international human rights agenda, the Social Forum is an annual three-day meeting that provides a unique space for open and interactive dialogue between Governments, intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies and civil society.

(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/SForum/Pages/SForum2016.aspx>, and <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/events/social-forum-2016>)

UNMAS - Helping survivors of mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW)

At the sixteenth session of the Meeting of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) highlighted that every day, more than ten* people fall victim to landmines and other explosive remnants of war. UNMAS is working with affected states to develop their capacity to assist survivors. For instance, in 2015, the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan** completed five projects in support to victims and persons with disability in 49 communities. Survivors of mine and ERW must not be forgotten. (Web links: * <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2015/landmine-monitor-2015/casualties-and-victim-assistance.aspx>, ** <http://www.macca.org.af/macca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/1394-MAPA-Annual-Report.pdf>)

UNICEF – Inclusive education gives children room to grow in Cuba

UNICEF contributes to the inclusive education in Cuba, training teachers and raising awareness among the families. It is estimated that there are nearly 10,000 children with disabilities studying in mainstream schools, however many of the teachers do not have the experience with students with disabilities. With the support of UNICEF, teachers in mainstream schools now have access to inclusive training and teaching tools, and build up their capability in helping the

children with disabilities to achieve their educational objectives. As Reiner, a Journalism student with visual impairment from the University of Havana, said “It’s made of steel, isn’t it? So it can do many things”, so as many children with disabilities, as long as the inclusive education provides them the room to grow. (http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cuba_93023.html)

ITU - Accessible Americas-Information and Communication for All

From 28 to 30 November 2016 in Mexico City, the Americas Region will be holding its 3rd Accessible Americas-Information and Communication for All meeting that aims to encourage Governments, industry, academia and other stakeholders to promote ICT accessibility in order to create fair and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The event will emphasise the importance of promoting accessibility policies; motivate policymakers of these policies, regulators and industries; and encourage stakeholders to work together with the PCD for the expansion and inclusion of accessibility in all processes. Additionally, the winners of the ITU Regional Competition for creation of mobile applications to benefit persons with disabilities will participate in this event. (<http://bit.ly/2cUj1OP>)

UNESCO – Inclusive education workshop in Khartoum

The Khartoum Office of UNESCO, in collaboration with the Special Education Department of the Sudanese Ministry of Education (MoE), the Sudanese National Commission for Education, Science and Culture, organized a workshop on 26 October, to discuss a teacher’s manual for the schools and centres with deaf students covering basic and secondary levels of formal education. The workshop aimed to promote the development of inclusive education in Sudan, addressing issues related to deaf students and their integration in society. The workshop also helped build the capacity of teachers and education professionals in the inclusive education process. (<http://en.unesco.org/news/inclusive-education-workshop-deaf-teacher-guide-khartoum>)

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

2016

15 to 17 November: EGM on Advancing the rights & perspectives of women and girls with disabilities in development and society, Santiago, Chile
(https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/expert-group-meetings/egm2016_women_chile.html)

28 November: Developing partnerships for the SDGs – Asia & Pacific, Bangkok
(<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdination/Developing-Partnerships-for-SDGS-Asia-Pacific>)

28 to 29 November: 3rd Meeting of the Global Network on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development
(<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/medd3.html>)

3 December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
(http://bit.ly/un_idpd2016)

10 December: Human Rights Day
(<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>)

2017

15 to 18 January 2017: 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>)

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>)

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

13 to 15 June: 10th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, UNHQ, NY
(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>)

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.)

Including persons with leprosy in society and development

In view of the global commitment to “leave no one behind” and the mandate of Disabled People’s International (DPI) to integrate persons with leprosy and leprosy – a neglected disability – into the larger disability movement worldwide, DPI in partnership with The Nippon Foundation will organize a two-way discussion on Leprosy in New Delhi, India from 7 to 9 November 2016. A delegation consisting of representatives from the leprosy and disability sectors in India, Indonesia and Nepal will participate in a field visit to the leprosy colonies in and around the national capital. The three-day visit will also include an interaction with leprosy organizations and a one-day “Roundtable on Leprosy Issues”. These events will facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange of views and strategies on advocacy efforts, including best practices and case studies.

http://www.disabledpeoplesinternational.org/Neglected_Disabilities-Leprosy

International Association of Accessibility Professionals

A strategy meeting of the International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP), a division of G3ict, was held in Baltimore. It was decided to expand the availability of the IAAP "Certified Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies" exam to 900 test centers around the world with additional certificates to be offered for web developers and digital content creators. Certification exams are offered with special rates for Global South countries. IAAP also announced chapters in Australia, Canada, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Funka was appointed as the representative of G3ict and IAAP to the European Union.

<http://www.g3ict.org>; <http://www.accessibilityassociation.org>

Autism, disability inclusion and sensory motor rehabilitation

To address a twenty-first-century challenge of using technology to build up relationships and communication for persons with autism, the paINTeraction project offers highly innovative sensory motor rehabilitation that can have a extraordinary and lasting impact in social inclusion for people with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. The paINTeraction software aims to facilitate an intuitive interaction through affordable technological equipment, as well as a multilayer interaction among professionals, families, friends and teachers. The project includes researchers from University of Parma and University of Perugia that study neurobiology and social outcomes, sponsored by Fondazione Charlemagne Onlus. The developers of the project aim to promote the usage of the system worldwide and develop a larger scientific community to

validate it. (Contact: Simone Donnari, Associazione Sementera Onlus, Italy
s.donnar@tin.it)

Korean Spinal Cord Injury Association International Seminar

On 20 October, Korea Spinal Cord Injury Association (KSCIA) held its International Rehabilitation Seminar titled “Spinal Cord Injury Statistics, Rehabilitation, and Policy”. The Seminar was attended by participants around the world including Dr. Fin Biering Sorensen from International Spinal Cord Society, and Dr. Yuying Chen from National Spinal Cord Injury Statistics Center in United States. Furthermore, the President of Health and Welfare Committee, Yang Seung Jo, participated with a view to add support to policy-making based on statistics. KSCIA will continue to advocate for increase in statistics and data on spinal cord injury and other related issues. (msung77@kscia.org).

Hurricanes in my backyard: Disability and disaster reduction

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the Haitian disability community has shown why inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction is of utmost importance. Emilio Neas, of RANIPH Sud (National Association Network for the Integration of Disabled Persons, Southern Coalition) contributed to "Hurricanes in My Backyard", a series of Disability Rights Fund (DRF) blog posts that looks at the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities in times of disaster. The three-part feature highlights the CRPD Article 11 (Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies) in disaster preparation and response efforts to ensure the safety and inclusion of persons with disabilities.
(<http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/2016/10/12/hurricanes-in-my-backyard-lessons-from-hurricanes-katrina-and-matthew/>)

Opportunities in support of inclusive higher education at Taishoff Center

The Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education at Syracuse University, New York, is dedicated to providing full and equitable participation of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in higher education. Established in 2009, the Center has secured more than \$6.2M in private and public grants for research and inclusive programming and is regarded as a national model of access, inclusion, and community for college students with disabilities. The Center is home to the InclusiveU initiative, which offers an inclusive college experience at Syracuse University including individualized coursework, person-centered planning, a job readiness internship program, and

extracurricular activities. The Taishoff Center provides international technical assistance to others looking to bring full inclusion to their campus.

(<http://taishoffcenter.syr.edu/>)

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BE INFORMED! GET INVOLVED!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/United-Nations-Enable/196545623691523

Twitter: http://twitter.com/UN_Enable

Website: www.un.org/disabilities

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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