UN Enable Newsletter
May 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

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

Finland ratified the CRPD and its OP on 11 May.

Countdown the 9th session of the Conference of States Parties

The 9th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD will be held from 14 to 16 June 2016 at UN Headquarters in New York. The overarching theme of this year's session is "Implementing the 2030 development agenda for all persons with disabilities: Leaving no one behind". The sub-themes are: i) Eliminating poverty and inequality for all persons with disabilities; ii) Promoting the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities; iii) Enhancing accessibility to information and technology and inclusive development; and iv) Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the CRPD. This year's Opening session will be held in the General Assembly Hall. The provisional agenda, programme and documents, including the revised background paper "Promoting the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities", are posted on the UN Enable website. This year, there will be over 70 side-events organized by Governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. (http://bit.ly/crpdcosp9)

CRPD Committee elections

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is composed of 18 independent experts. In accordance with article 34, paragraph 7, the term of nine of the members elected will expire on 31 December 2016. At this year's COSP, elections will be conducted for nine members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to replace those whose terms are due to expire in December 2016. (http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Elections2016.aspx)

DESA organized side-events

"Disability # inability": Equality and Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Enhancing Coordinated Response

The aim of this side event, jointly organized by DSPD and the Council of Europe is to explore the link between disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as enhancing concerted action, cooperation and partnerships between regional and international organisations to ensure full protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities in the context of achieving internationally agreed development goals. (14 June, 1:15 – 2:30 pm, CR4)

Forum: Ways Forward Towards a Disability Inclusive and Accessible New Urban Agenda

The Forum is organised by Division for Social Policy and Development of UNDESA in collaboration with and support from the UN Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, Permanent Mission of Ecuador, Germany, UAE, Kazakhstan, Global Alliance on Assistive Technologies and System, Disability People's International, Rehabilitation International, The Nippon Foundation and Essl Foundation. The Forum aims to promote the world´s urban development to be inclusive of and accessible to all including persons with disabilities. Through a moderated dialogue among policy makers and experts on pertinent issues concerning disability inclusion and accessible urban development, the Forum expects to make a concrete contribution to inform the ongoing Habitat III processes, especially the negotiations for the outcome of the Habitat III New Urban Agenda. (14 June, 1:15 – 2:30 pm, CR7)

Implementation of Global Development and Humanitarian Goals – the Leadership Role of Women with Disabilities

This meeting, co-organized by SCRPD / DESA, UN Women, Women's Refugee Commission, Women Enabled International and International Disability Alliance, will provide an opportunity for networks of women with disabilities and other key stakeholders to engage in substantive dialogue around the leadership of women with disabilities and their representative organizations in advancing global development and humanitarian goals. This meeting will build upon the initiatives of partners at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) and the World Humanitarian Summit. (14 June, 3 – 6pm, CR12)

Universal Access to Information using ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Digital Empowerment for Inclusive Development

The side event, organized jointly by UNESCO and UNDESA, will cover a wide range of issues around digital empowerment of persons with disabilities, understood as an individual capacity to participate in society in most meaningful and effective manner by taking full advantages and benefits provided by the digital solutions and resources. Speakers will share concrete examples on how digital empowerment as a result of successful measures taken at national, regional and international level improved the quality of life of persons with disabilities, provided access to information and knowledge, facilitated learning and employment, as well as built an enabling environment and opportunities for self-realization. (15 June, 10 – 11.30am, CR12)

Developing strong and inclusive institutional frameworks for the CRPD

States parties' obligations relating to national implementation and monitoring are outlined and guided by CRPD. National coordination mechanisms are common among States parties, but their structure, mandates and responsibilities can take many different forms. In some countries, coordination mechanisms are complemented by other structures such as advisory committees or specific government agencies or bodies. Monitoring frameworks are equally diverse, not least with regards to the operationalization of CRPD including Article 33 on the full involvement and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process. The side event, organized by DSPD and ESCWA aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss national experiences and concrete policy options on institutional frameworks for implementing and monitoring the CRPD. (15 June, 1.15 – 2.30pm, CR12)

For a complete list of side-events, please visit: http://bit.ly/cosp9_side-events.

NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

PGA meeting on the follow-up to the HLMDD (13 June 2016)

The President of the UN General Assembly (PGA) will organise a panel discussion to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development (HLMDD, 23 September 2013) and to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as noted in General Assembly resolution 69/142. The panel discussion will take place on 13 June, 3 to 6 p.m. at UN Headquarters in New York. (www.un.org/disabilities)

World Humanitarian Summit

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) was held in Istanbul from 23 to 24 May 2016. The Summit offered an opportunity for all stakeholders to commit to strengthen the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, opened the WHS Special Session on People with Disabilities in Humanitarian Actions and it was chaired by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Human Rights Council. Disability rights advocates and other stakeholders adopted a Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. The Charter reaffirms the determination of the international community to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities that will promote the protection, safety and respect for the dignity of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. Several Member States, UN entities and civil society organisations spoke and reaffirmed their commitment to the Charter and pledged concrete actions to strengthen disability inclusion in humanitarian responses. Moving forward, the UN Inter-Agency Support Group for the CRPD has committed to the development of system-wide guidelines and standards to guide the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all humanitarian work. https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/whs.html, http://humanitariandisabilitycharter.org

DESA DSPD Forum on Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action at the World Humanitarian Summit

A DSPD/DESA Forum was organised in the lead up to the WHS to strengthen the platform for inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian responses and reconstruction efforts. The Forum brought together actors from the humanitarian, development and disability spheres to discuss and share experiences and expertise and to explore ways in which humanitarian action can be more inclusive of persons with disabilities. The Forum provided an opportunity for sharing of experiences and good practices, including by reviewing and building on lessons learned from the Sendai process and experiences in disability-inclusive disaster reduction (DiDRR), as well as existing disability-inclusive efforts at local, national and international levels. The Forum took place at the Istanbul Technical University on 22 May 2016, and was attended by over 100 participants who work at global, regional, national and local levels in humanitarian aid, development and human rights. (http://bit.ly/1sycTUz)

HABITAT III

Global Network to promote accessible and disability inclusive urban development

An informal global Network on Accessible and Disability Inclusive Urban Development was recently established in response to a proposal from Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities of DESA/DSPD. The Network aims to build and enhance networking among multi-stakeholders including policy-makers in Government, urban development and disability professionals, academics, disability rights advocates and development cooperation partners to make concerted efforts and contribute to the ongoing Habitat III processes including New Urban Agenda which is under negotiation that is expected to be adopted in Quito during Habitat III – the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – in October 2016. On 6 May, the Habitat III Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda was released prior to the forthcoming negotiations of the outcome document of Habitat III. The Network and its members contributed inputs and proposals to the UN Habitat III consultations including at the Informal Hearing with Stakeholders in early June. The draft which consists of two major parts, including (1) Quito Declaration on Cities for All and (2) Quito Implementation Plan for the New Urban Agenda is being negotiated by Member States in three rounds of " Informal intergovernmental meetings" in New York, before being presented to the 3rd session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III (25 to 27 July, Surabaya, Indonesia) and Habitat III in Quito that opens on 17 October. The New Urban Agenda is expected to guide the sustainable and inclusive development of the

world's cities for next 20 years. More information about the issue is available in a DESA paper at:
https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/uncategorized/urban-dialogue-on-the-zero-draft-of-the-new-urban-agenda.html.

NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES

UNDP New study on disaster, disability, and difference

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has published a new study Disaster, Disability, & Difference: A Study of the Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities in Post-Earthquake Nepal. This research-based report seeks to empirically assess the contemporary landscape of disability in Nepal, with a focus on the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the wake of the earthquakes that devastated Nepal in April and May of 2015. The report argues that the current historical moment of post-disaster recovery in Nepal and its focus on 'building back better' affords policymakers an important opportunity to recognize and operationalize the core principles of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (PDF: http://bit.ly/1XKCwPz)

ILO meeting on "Opening pathways into 'unusual´ employment for persons with disabilities"

An expert meeting hosted by the ILO on 26-27 April, discussed opportunities for waged employment for persons with disabilities, with an emphasis on developing countries. Participants were experts and practitioners with representation from UN organizations, governments, international NGOs, and businesses.
The meeting drew attention to successful examples of employment of persons with disabilities in a wide range of contexts, ranging from multi-national companies to large technology production lines, such as Jabil in Guangzhou, China, or the ready-made garments sector in Bangladesh. These examples showed the relevance of employment of persons with disabilities to the private sector in very different national, social and economic situations.
(http://bit.ly/1s5dpt1)

WIPO – Moving closer towards the 20 signatories for the entry into force of the Marrakesh Treaty

The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (MVT) is close to reaching the 20 ratifications or accessions required for its entry into force.

Since the end of 2015 it has welcomed six countries as Members, namely Australia (December 10), Brazil (December 11), Peru (February 2, 2016), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (February 19, 2016), Israel (March 21, 2016) and Chile (May 10, 2016).
The MVT was adopted by the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization on June 27, 2013. To date, the Treaty has been ratified or acceded to by seventeen countries. For further information on the MVT and its status of ratification http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/marrakesh/

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

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

13 to 14 June 2016: M-Enabling Summit, Washington, D.C., USA
(http://www.m-enabling.com/)

13 June: Panel on follow-up to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development, organized by the PGA
(Details forthcoming)

14 to 16 June: 9th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD
(http://bit.ly/crpdcosp9)

25 to 27 July: Habitat III - 3rd session of the Preparatory Committee, Surabaya, Indonesia
(https://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/preparatory-committee)

18 to 25 August: IX General Assembly of the World Blind Union
(www.worldblindunion.org/English/general-assembly/Pages/default.aspx)

7 to 18 September: 2016 Paralympic Games, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
(http://www.paralympic.org/rio-2016)

27 to 29 September: 2nd CBR World Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(http://www.2ndcbrworldcongress.com/)

16 October: DESA DSPD Forum on Accessible and Disability Inclusive Urban Development, Quito, Ecuador
(www.un.org/disabilities)

17 to 20 October: HABITAT III, UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Quito, Ecuador
(www.habitat3.org)

25 to 27 October: 23rd Rehabilitation International (RI) World Congress, Edinburgh, UK
(http://www.riglobal.org/save-the-date-ri-world-congress-2016)

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

22-26 May 2017: UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
(http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform)

8 to 10 November 2017: 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf, Budapest, Hungary
(golob@congressline.hu, http://wfdbudapest2017.com)

24 to 26 May 2017: UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disabilities
(http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform)

OTHER NEWS

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Zero Project 2017: Call for Nominations in Employment Practices
The Zero Project team would like to invite leading experts and organizations to nominate innovative practices concerning this year's topics: Inclusive Education, Work and Vocational Education and Training (VET). The "Innovative Practices

and Innovative Policies 2016" will be selected by the Zero Project network of experts in a multistep process, and will be featured in the Zero Project Report 2017 and their representatives will be invited to speak at the Zero Project Conference in Vienna (Austria) in February 2017. Nominations can be submitted via the new Nomination-Online Tool. Anyone can nominate any project, and self-nominations are also accepted. Deadline: 17 June 2016.
(http://zeroproject.org/category/from-zeroproject/, office@zeroproject.org)

Disabled People's International and the second MEDD meeting

Disabled People's International (DPI) participated in the Second Meeting of the Global Network on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-Inclusive Development (MEDD) on 3-4 May, 2016 at UN Headquarters. Picking up from the discussions held during DPI's 9th World Assembly and the resulting outcome document, DPI called for a disability data revolution led by Governments and international agencies and DPOs by developing and promoting standardised tools and methodologies and capacity building of relevant actors which will catalyse not just disability based data disaggregation but also lead to reliability and comparability of the data. While making a statement on the 'Key Issues for Disability Inclusive Development in the Context of the 2030 Agenda', DPI emphasized on the need for bridging the knowledge gap between grassroots and the global level in order to create ownership since the advocacy for implementing disability inclusive development will be led by these grassroots organisation and therefore, a lack of capacity will affect the preparedness of Global South countries to collect disability data. DPI further remarked that SDGs and CRPD are not mutually exclusive of each other and that SDGs should be made a part of the CRPD related activities that are ongoing at the grassroots.
(https://www.facebook.com/DisabledPeoplesInternational/posts/1329499527076634)

Campaign on the absolute prohibition of commitment and forced treatment

The Center for the Human Rights of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (CHRUSP) organized a Campaign to Support the CRPD Absolute Prohibition of Commitment and Forced Treatment, which requested survivors and allies in all fields to participate by writing blog posts to promote the abolition of commitment and forced treatment as required by CRPD Articles 12, 14 and 15, and made explicit in General Comment No. 1 and the Guidelines on Article 14. Contributors included family members writing about their loved ones who died in psychiatry, survivor testimonies, legal arguments and advocacy, scientific and clinical perspectives, and more. (https://absoluteprohibition.wordpress.com)

New resource portal for disability rights implementation

The RightsNow! consortium has launched a new website to provide knowledge and tools that disability rights advocates around the world can use to make disability-inclusion a reality in their communities. The Global Disability RightsNow! Website draws on U.S. experience and actions taken by disability rights activists everywhere. It is meant for disabled people's organizations (DPOs), government personnel, legislators, and civil society organizations globally. But it is especially designed for RightsNow! partners in Armenia, Kenya, Mexico, and Vietnam. Although most content is in English, some resources are available in Spanish, Armenian, Vietnamese, and International Sign (IS). (www.GlobalDisabilityRightsNow.org)

Malta enacts autism acceptance law

Last month, Malta became the first country to adopt an autism acceptance law. Autistic Minority International (www.autisticminority.org) provided input on the draft bill earlier this year, including the suggestions to aim for autism acceptance, not just awareness, acknowledge the existence of undiagnosed adults on the autism spectrum, and promote research into ageing on the autism spectrum. The "Persons within the Autism Spectrum (Empowerment) Act" now includes provisions that may serve as a model for similar legislation in other countries and jurisdictions, such as the mandate of the soon to be established Autism Advisory Council to "create awareness raising initiatives for the general public inter alia to achieve autism acceptance within society" and "focus on the need to improve identification of undiagnosed adults within the autism spectrum through a person-centre[d] diagnostic approach, addressing also the topic of autism and ageing", and to "give advice on [...] the promotion of self-determination of persons within the autism spectrum" as well as "the enhancement of access to appropriate support services and equal opportunities for inclusion and participation in society". (e.kofmel@autisticminority.org)

The employment experience of women with depression

Research indicates that women are two to three times more likely than men to suffer from depression, notes a story on Empowerwomen.org. Risk factors include physical and sexual abuse; lower socioeconomic status and unemployment; and puberty, hormonal changes, childbirth and menopause. According to three different population based studies, unemployment among women who depression was 26-50 per cent while it was 13 per cent in general population. (http://bit.ly/1XecqDq)

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