UN Enable Newsletter
January 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.

In this issue:

- Status of the CRPD
- News from UN Headquarters
- News from other UN entities
- Calendar of international disability events
- Other news

STATUS OF THE CRPD

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

Antigua and Barbuda ratified the CRPD on 7 January 2016.

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. This year's session will include elections 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://bit.ly/crpdcosp9)

NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS

Commission for social development to discuss disability issues
The 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD54) will take place from 3 to 12 February 2016 at UN Headquarters in New York under the priority theme: "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world". The official programme includes a multi-stakeholder panel discussion entitled: "Implementation of the 2030 development agenda in light of the CRPD". The panel discussion will highlight existing mechanisms within the UN system that could contribute to mainstreaming disability and cooperation at all levels on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. The Commission will also consider the possibility and modalities of another international monitoring mechanism on disability. A side-event on "Addressing the structural issues concerning inequalities faced by persons with disabilities" will be organized to address the inequalities faced by persons with disabilities and promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society and development. (https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/csocd54.html)

Disability indicators for monitoring the SDGs

The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) released their report that has nine indicators that explicitly refer to persons with disabilities, and also calls for data disaggregation by disability. The IAEG-SDGs is the focal point on developing a global indicator framework for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the corresponding targets. The IAEG-SDGs Member States and observers increasingly recognize the need to integrate disability in the SDGs indicator framework, which is now reflected in their report to the 47thsession of the UN Statistical Commission. The Commission will meet in March 2016 where it will decide on the adoption of the proposed list of SDG indicators. The nine indicators are under six SDGs focusing on poverty eradication (Goal1), education (Goal 4), employment (Goal 8), reducing inequalities (Goal 10), inclusive cities (Goal 11), and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies (Goal 16). (http://bit.ly/newsiaegsdgs)

Leaving no-one behind in humanitarian and emergency situations

Persons with disabilities, when compared to the general population, face higher risks in conflict situations and natural disasters. Research shows that the mortality rate among persons with disabilities tends to be two to four times higher than among the general population, as demonstrated in cases such as the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami and hurricane Katarina in the United States. Moreover, for every person who dies during a disaster, it is estimated that three people sustain an injury, many causing long-term disabilities. To compound matters, persons with disabilities are disproportionately more likely to be left behind in emergency responses and to fail to benefit from humanitarian services due to ability range of environmental, physical and social barriers. The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), set to take place in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-24 May 2016, provides a timely opportunity to ensure that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, together with other important international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are effectively and efficiently implemented on the ground. https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/whs.html

NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES

OHCHR: 15th Session of the CRPD Committee

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will hold its 15th session from 29 March to 21 April 2016. The Committee will examine the initial reports of Chile, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Thailand and Uganda. It will adopt a general comment on article 6 - women and girls with disabilities and continue making progress in the drafting of a general comment on the right to inclusive education. On 19 April, the Committee will hold a day of general discussion on the right to live independently and being included in the community. (http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx)

ECLAC: Studies on the situation of persons with disabilities in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

The UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) announced two studies (available in Spanish) related to persons with disabilities in the region, one on institutional and legal frameworks on disability in Haiti entitled: "Institucionalidad y marco legislativo de la discapacidad en Haití" (http://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/institucionalidad-marco-legislativo-la-discapacidad-haiti) and the other related to training entitled: "Capacitación para personas con discapacidad" (http://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/39364-capacitacion-personas-discapacidad). Also, on 20 January, the Chilean Ministry of Social Development and the National Disability Service (SENADIS) presented the results for the Second National Study on Disability (ENDISC II), which gathered information on adults in areas such as severity of disability, educational attainment and labour force participation, among others. (http://www.senadis.gob.cl/sala_prensa/d/noticias/5255/informacion-sobre-el-ii-estudio-nacional-de-la-discapacidad)

ESCAP: Publication highlights employment for persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) launched its fifth edition in the Disability at a Glance series "Disability at a Glance 2015: Strengthening Employment Prospects for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific", which focuses on barriers to the employment of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, and offers solutions to strengthen their employment prospects. The publication offers a regional overview of disability legislation, policies and practices, as well as relevant country-specific information with a particular emphasis on the employment of persons with disabilities. The information is drawn from a targeted disability survey carried out in 2015 by the ESCAP secretariat, and research undertaken by other organizations and

scholars. The publication consists mainly of two parts.
(http://www.unescap.org/resources/disability-glance-2015-strengthening-employment-prospects-persons-disabilities-asia-and)

UNDP: Review on the Marrakesh Treaty in the Asia Pacific region

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) Bangkok Regional Hub announced a new joint publication along with the World Blind Union – Asia-Pacific, entitled "Our right to knowledge: Legal reviews for the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities in Asia and the Pacific". The report is intended to facilitate policy dialogue, legal reforms and community engagement in the Asia-Pacific region with respect to efforts to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled and ensure that those with disabilities can realize their rights guaranteed in international law. The report is available in pdf as well as accessible formats including electronic braille, DAISY and audio files
(http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/democratic_governance/hiv_aids/our-right-to-knowledge--legal-reviews-for-the-ratification-of-th/)

UN Habitat: New publication on the right to housing

"The Right to Adequate Housing for Persons with Disabilities Living in Cities" is a new publication from UN-Habitat, the UN Human Settlements Programme This study reviews the literature on the meaning and impact of the right to adequate housing for persons with disabilities in cities. It uses the foundational framework of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and demonstrates how the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provides a new understanding of this complex right. The authors link the right to adequate housing not only to other international treaties, but also to the diverse groups of individuals who are persons with disabilities and the complexity of the identities involved. They outline major types of barriers that persons with disabilities encounter (physical inaccessibility, lack of access to transportation services, insecurity of tenure, among others), and identify trends in relation to policy and legal framework and national and sub-national solutions to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.
(http://unhabitat.org/books/the-right-to-adequate-housing-for-persons-with-disabilities-living-in-cities/)

UNICEF: Promoting European action for children with disabilities

UNICEF and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) joined forces to present new global data on violence against children with disabilities and the first

EU-wide report looking at forms, causes and settings where violence occurs and the legal and policy frameworks as they currently function. The FRA study urges countries to ban placing children in institutions and calls for more training, and better monitoring, to strengthen national child protection systems. As a follow up, in February 2016, the European Parliament plans to convene a meeting of parliamentarians interested in child rights and disability rights. (https://blogs.unicef.org/blog/growing-european-action-for-children-with-disabilities/)

UN Women: Fund recipients include women with disabilities

UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality grantees in the 2016-2018 Grant Cycle include women with disabilities in their programmes. In Cambodia, Honduras, and the State of Palestine, the programmes aim to increase women's economic opportunities in rural areas, ensure decent work and social protection to women maquila workers, and improve working conditions in low wages profession, respectively. In Egypt, the programme seeks to enhance women's political participation and prepare women leaders for the electoral process in disadvantaged areas. (http://www.unwomen.org/en/trust-funds/fund-for-gender-equality)

WHO: Transforming mental health services in Jamaica

The World Health Organization's (WHO) QualityRights Project is transforming mental health services in Jamaica. Poor quality treatment and wide-ranging human rights violations of people with psychosocial disabilities are all too common across the world. With support from WHO, the Jamaican Ministry of Health plans to tackle this situation by assessing current conditions in mental health services in the country and then improving them. The stakeholders will receive training on the WHO QualityRights toolkit and methodology for assessing and reporting on conditions in mental health services. (http://www.who.int/mental_health/policy/qrs_jamaica/en/)

WHO: Technical Expert Consultation on Functioning and Disability Measurement

Last month, the world's leading experts on disability statistics from five WHO regions convened at WHO Headquarters with a view to developing a brief version of the Model Disability Survey (MDS). The outcome of the meeting was a proposal for a brief version of the MDS that contains the most relevant and essential functioning domains and their associated questions. It will be feasible to implement as a self-report survey in any data collection platform or population survey, while preserving all essential information relevant for a full understanding

of functioning and disability.
(http://www.who.int/disabilities/media/news/data_dec_2015/en/)

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

2 to 12 February: 54th session of the Commission for Social Development
(http://undesadspd.org/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2016.aspx)

9 to 11 February: AccessAbilities Expo, Dubai, UAE
(http://www.accessabilitiesexpo.com)

10 to 12 February: Zero Project Conference 2016 on Inclusive Education and/or Information and Communication Technologies, Vienna, Austria
(http://zeroproject.org/)

18 to 19 February: Disability in the SDGs: forming alliances and building evidence for the 2030 agenda, London, UK
(https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-conference-evidence-in-global-disability-and-health-registration-16725522488)

14 to 24 March: 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
(http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016)

21 March: World Down Syndrome Day
(www.un.org/en/events/downsyndromeday)

2 April: World Autism Awareness Day
(www.un.org/en/events/autismday)

11 to 13 April: 9th World Assembly of Disabled People's International (DPI), New Delhi, India
(www.disabledpeoplesinternational.org)

25 to 26 April: Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, Hawaii

(www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/)

25 to 27 April: VIII Latin-American Congress of the Blind, Montevideo
(www.ulacdigital.org/montevideo2016)

23 to 24 May: World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, Turkey
(www.worldhumanitariansummit.org)

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

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

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, Jakarta, 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 2016: 2nd CBR World Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
(http://www.2ndcbrworldcongress.com/)

16 October: DESA 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)

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.)

GLAD for disability-inclusive development

Last month, the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) group met for the first time in London, hosted by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The GLAD was established to facilitate exchange of information and donor coordination on development inclusive of persons with disabilities. The main objective is to increase global commitments towards the rights of persons with disabilities in development. The discussion covered responsibilities of the international and donor community in implementing global commitments and policy frameworks for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development, namely the CRPD, the Outcome Document of the High Level meeting on Disability and Development, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DFAT, will co-chair GLAD in 2016.
(https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-new-disability-framework)

Civil society responds to IAEG-SDGs report on SDG indicators

On 27 January 2016, representatives from civil society and stakeholders to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development met at UN Headquarters along with UN Member States to discuss their responses to the Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). Although the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals were agreed in September 2015, the specific data sets and specific indicators for measuring the progress of Goals and targets are yet to be finalized. As the IAEG-SDGs is the central body for this process, civil society and other stakeholders continue to be actively engaged to ensure that the implementation of the SDGs remain inclusive and leave no one behind.
(http://internationaldisabilityalliance.org/en/article/civil-society-responds-latest-report-sdg-indicators)

G3ict capacity building seminar at DPI World Congress

The Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict) will be conducting a Capacity Building Seminar on Technology during the next Disabled People's International (DPI) 9th World Assembly to be held in New Delhi, India from 11 to 13 April 2016. The half-day session on advocacy training will discuss international best practices in advocating for ICT Accessibility. Policy case studies for web, mobile, computers, electronic voting and accessible ICTs in education and the workplace will be discussed, as well as accessibility barriers and successful solutions. Furthermore, the seminar will also cover CRPD obligations, global policy-making activities and discuss ways to leverage public procurement in countries to promote accessibility. (https://www.facebook.com/DisabledPeoplesInternational/ and http://www.dpiworldassembly2016.com/)

WDU: Annual General Assembly and international activities

The World Disability Union's (WDU) international activities will be held from 21-22 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. WDU is made up of 400 organizations from 80 member countries. The activities will include the World Disability Union Annual General Assembly (WDU4), International Accessibility and Accessible Tourism Congress and the International Accessible Technologies Congress, as well as international side events that will be held as part of WDU application projects. (www.worlddisabilityunion.org, www.whf.org.tr, www.ustadcertification.org or nozturk@whf.org.tr, info@whf.org.tr)

RIADIS: Latin America Bridge Report

BRIDGE is a training course developed by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) that focuses on a common curriculum on the CRPD addressing development issues. BRIDGE works to train leaders with disabilities to better understand the CRPD in an integral and inclusive way and to link that to creating inclusive public policies for persons with disabilities. For the first time, BRIDGE was presented in Latin America, focusing on the CRPD in legal frameworks, policies and programmes, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The training facilitated an exchange of participants' CRPD experiences and knowledge, as well as increased their understanding of the SDGs, the CRPD, human rights and monitoring techniques. (ximena.serpa@riadis.org or www.riadis.org)

Enabling National DPO participation in CRPD Committee elections

During the 9th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP, 14-16 June 2016), elections will be held for nine of the eighteen seats of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. National DPOs have a significant role to play in disseminating information and being consulted to ensure applications from highly qualified candidates for nomination by their Government. IDA has prepared step-by-step guidance on the election process, specifically how DPOs can participate in the nomination process, as well as highlighting good nomination practices and providing information on the suggested profile for a Committee member. Available in English and Spanish. (http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/en/article/2016-crpd-committee-nominations-and-elections)

WFD-WASLI International Sign Interpreter Accreditation System

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and the World Association of the Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) have recently established an International Sign (IS) Interpreter Accreditation system. The Accreditation aims to set, maintain and promote standards in International Sign Interpretation, and acts as a quality-assurance system for credentialing practitioners who meet those standards. Since its inaugural appearance at the WFD Congress in 1987, demand for International Sign Interpreting has grown over time. It now consists of both hearing International Sign interpreters as well as Deaf International Sign Interpreters.(http://wfdeaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/WFD-WASLI-International-Sign-Interpreter-Recognition-Interim-Policy-and-Guidelines.pdf)

Children with disabilities and disaster preparedness: a case study

Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online presents exploratory research on children with disabilities in disaster situations entitled: "Children with disabilities and disaster preparedness: a case study of Christchurch - New Zealand". The study presents key issues and highlights challenges in disaster preparedness for children with disabilities drawing from a wide range of sources, including interviews with children with disabilities. (http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1177083X.2015.1068185)

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!

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

To subscribe: http://bit.ly/unenablenewsletter
To unsubscribe:
http://esamail.un.org/u?id=%%memberidchar%%&o=%%outmail.messageid%%&n=T&e=%%emailaddr%%&l=enable_news