

## **UN Enable Newsletter**

October 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](http://www.un.org/disabilities).

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### **STATUS OF THE CRPD**

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

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

Iceland ratified the CRPD on 23 September 2016

New Zealand acceded to the OP on 4 October 2016

More on the CRPD at: [http://bit.ly/UN\\_crpd](http://bit.ly/UN_crpd)

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, 3 December**

#### **Plan! Organize! Take action!**

By now you should be preparing to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) in your local community! The theme for IDPD 2016 is “Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want” that draws attention to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and how these goals can help create a more inclusive and equitable world for persons with disabilities. See the new **IDPD2016 infographic**.

([http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/idpd/idpd\\_infographic2016.jpg](http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/idpd/idpd_infographic2016.jpg),  
[http://bit.ly/un\\_idpd2016](http://bit.ly/un_idpd2016))

## **Commemorating IDPD at UN Headquarters in New York**

To commemorate IDPD at UN Headquarters in New York, the President of the General Assembly will convene a high-level panel discussion on the ten years of the CRPD on Friday, 2 December. Throughout the day, events will be held to celebrate the gains achieved in mainstreaming disability in human rights development, and the road ahead in implementing the 17 SDGs for persons with disabilities. More information and registration details to attend UNHQ events will be posted on the UN Enable website. (<http://ww.un.org/disabilities>)

## **UN Enable Photograph Exhibition**

Submit your photographs for the [UN Enable Photo Exhibition](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/unepe.html) 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: **31 October**. (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/unepe.html>)

## **UN Enable Film Festival**

Submissions are now being accepted for the [UN Enable Film Festival](http://bit.ly/unenablefilmfestival) 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>)

## **Share your IDPD event on the UN Enable website**

You 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](mailto:enable@un.org); max. 50 words)

## **NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS**

### **DESA – Including women and girls with disabilities in humanitarian action**

On 19 September, the UN General Assembly convened a high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants – The Refugee Summit. Although the international normative framework has broadly recognized the importance of addressing the needs of persons with disabilities in the fields of

human rights and development, it has historically overlooked disability subgroups in the context of migration, including migrant workers with disabilities and refugees with disabilities. To address the barriers to inclusion and double discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities in displacement, DESA, the Government of Japan, the Women's Refugee Commission and other stakeholders organized an event on 16 September, to bring together actors in both the development and humanitarian fields to share experiences, strategies and lessons learned from pursuing integrated responses to women and girls with disabilities in displacement. The event explored approaches to address the cross-sectionalities among disability rights, gender empowerment and issues that guide humanitarian action and development.

[\(http://unsdn.org/2016/09/19/including-women-and-girls-with-disabilities-in-humanitarian-action/\)](http://unsdn.org/2016/09/19/including-women-and-girls-with-disabilities-in-humanitarian-action/)

## **HABITAT III**

### **HABITAT III and an inclusive New Urban Agenda**

This month, from 17 to 20 October, HABITAT III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development will be held in Quito, Ecuador. At the Conference, Governments are expected to adopt the New Urban Agenda that will guide future sustainable and inclusive development of the world's cities. 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](http://bit.ly/unenable_urbandev))

### **High-level forum on disability-inclusion and accessible urban development**

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Ecuadorian Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MIDUVI) in collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, Secretariat of UN Habitat III, Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES), Rehabilitation International, Disabled People's International, Essl Foundation, The Nippon Foundation and the Global Network on Disability Inclusion and Accessible Urban Development, will convene a high-level forum on disability-inclusion and accessible urban development in Quito on 16 October, a day prior to the opening of HABITAT III. Participants at the Forum will include Governments, UN agencies, urban policy-makers and practitioners, DPOs as well as other stakeholders. The Forum will work to ensure that the

implementation of the New Urban Agenda will be fully inclusive of and accessible to all, particularly to persons with disabilities. It will also facilitate an exchange of practical and technical expertise, as well as provide an opportunity for a call for commitments for action to further advance the creation of inclusive cities for all. (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/desa-forum-ecuador-oct2016.html>)

### **DESA – Good practices of accessible urban development**

SCRPD/DSPD at DESA in collaboration with the Essl Foundation (Zero Project) and others have prepared a new publication entitled: "Good practices of accessible urban development". In light of HABITAT III and the New Urban Agenda, the publication provides case studies of innovative practices and policies in housing and built environments, as well as transportation, public spaces and public services, including information and communication technology (ICT) based services. The publication concludes with strategies and innovations for promoting accessible urban development. ([http://bit.ly/unenable\\_urbandev](http://bit.ly/unenable_urbandev))

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

#### **DESA-ECLAC 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 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](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/expert-group-meetings/egm2016_women_chile.html))

#### **OHCHR - The 2016 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council concludes**

The 2016 Social 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. The Forum took place from 3 to 5 October 2016 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva,

Switzerland. The Social Forum is an annual three-day meeting convened by the Human Rights Council. It is a unique space for open and interactive dialogue between civil society actors, representatives of Member States, and intergovernmental organizations. The Social Forum provides an inclusive platform that moves forward the international human rights agenda.

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

### **Special Rapporteur - Call for submissions on the provision of support to persons with disabilities**

The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Ms. Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, is currently preparing a study on the provision of support to persons with disabilities that will be presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2017. The Special Rapporteur welcomes inputs, in accessible formats (Word), in English, French, Russian or Spanish, from Member States, international and regional organizations, UN agencies, funds and programmes, organizations of and for persons with disabilities, civil society, national human rights institutions and other national independent mechanisms designated or established to monitor the implementation of the CRPD, disability or equality Ombudspersons, scholars, research institutions and policy think tanks, private sector businesses and networks, community movements, and individuals. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to: [sr.disability@ohchr.org](mailto:sr.disability@ohchr.org) by **21 October 2016**. Concise responses are encouraged, inclusive of relevant attachments where available. (<http://bit.ly/2duA11e>)

### **ECLAC – Promoting the collection and analysis of data on disability**

The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, as coordinator of the Working Group on Disability Measurement of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), in conjunction with UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the UN Statistics Division organized the "First regional seminar - workshop on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and its implementation in the collection and analysis of data on disability". The Seminar - Workshop was held from 20 to 23 September in Mexico City and aimed to raise awareness among SCA Member States of the ICF, the Washington Group recommendations, as well as to promote the application of comparable measurement instruments. (<http://bit.ly/2dL07uF>)

## **ESCWA - Launches the Inter-sessional Expert Group on Disability**

The first meeting of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Inter-sessional Expert Group on Disability was held on 20-21 September 2016 at the UN-House in Beirut. The group was formed as a result of a call by the Committee on Social Development (CSD), which oversees the work of the Social Development Division of ESCWA, to intensify cooperation on disability policy between ESCWA and its Member States. The meeting brought together officials and disability experts nominated by their Governments from seven countries across the Arab region. Given the high levels of commitment in Arab countries to better integrate persons with disabilities in society, the network will work to exchange experience and information on national approaches towards implementing the CRPD. (<https://www.unescwa.org/news/inaugural-meeting-escwa-inter-sessional-expert-group-disability>)

## **UNICEF – Survey on the needs of wheelchair users in emergency situations**

The International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) and UNICEF are conducting research on the needs of wheelchair users in emergency situations. If you are a wheelchair user, a caretaker, a disaster relief volunteer, a clinician, or an expert in corresponding fields, we invite you to participate in the emergency preparedness and relief for individuals with mobility needs survey: <http://bit.ly/2e2SAeN>. (<http://www.wheelchairnet.org>)

## **UNISDR - International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13 October**

**Live to tell!** The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) would like you to use the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) to tell the world about the ways in which people are becoming better risk-informed? Have you become more inclusive in your outreach with early warnings? What you are doing to implement the Sendai Framework in order to reduce mortality and improve health outcomes from disasters? The UN General Assembly designated 13 October as the day to commemorate the IDDR, to promote a global culture of disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. Since it began 25 years ago, the day has grown into a major global awareness event celebrated in many ways to encourage efforts to build more disaster-resilient communities and nations. UNISDR is now launching the Sendai Seven Campaign to promote each of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted in Sendai, Japan in March 2015. A life saved is the greatest benefit of reducing disaster risk. (<http://www.unisdr.org/2016/iddr/>, #LiveToTell, #switch2sendai, #IDDR2016)

### **ITU - E-Accessibility Policy Forum for East Africa, 6 to 7 October 2016**

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) supports its Member States in implementing ICT accessibility policies in their respective countries and developed a Model Policy Report (<http://bit.ly/2dK0khO>). ITU will hold a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, from 6 to 7 October 2016 in collaboration with East Africa Community Secretariat (EAC). The recommendations will be addressed to policy makers in EAC Member States, and provide a valuable benchmark for replication across Africa. ([http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/E\\_accessibility\\_EastAfrica.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/E_accessibility_EastAfrica.aspx))

### **III Accessible Americas-Information and Communication for All: Mexico City, Mexico 28-30 November 2016**

From 28 to 30 November 2016, the Americas Region will be holding its 3rd Accessible Americas-Information and Communication for All event aiming to encourage governments, industry, academies 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>)

### **Online course of Public Procurement of accessible ICT's**

In November 2016, ITU will conduct an eLearning training that provides participants with knowledge, understanding and skills required to support ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities in their public procurement of information and communication technology (ICT) products and services. The training will also provide participants with an understanding of relevant international standards for accessible ICT. (<https://academy.itu.int/index.php?lang=en>)

### **WHO - World Mental Health Day - 10 October**

World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide. The theme of this year's World Mental Health Day, is "Psychological First Aid", which covers both psychological and social support. Efforts in support of the Day will focus on basic pragmatic psychological support by people who find themselves in a

helping role whether they be health staff, teachers, firemen, community workers, or police officers. ([http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/world-mental-health-day/2016/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/world-mental-health-day/2016/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](mailto:enable@un.org). Now also available on the UN Enable website at <http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/calendar.html>.

### **2016**

#### **10 October: World Mental Health Day 2016**

([http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/world-mental-health-day/2016/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/world-mental-health-day/2016/en/))

#### **13 October: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**

(<http://www.unisdr.org/2016/iddr/>)

#### **13 to 14 October: 5th DEEP 2016 - Designing Enabling Economies and Policies & ICT Discovery Lab, at OCAD University in Toronto**

(<http://deep.idrc.ocadu.ca/>)

#### **16 October: DESA DSPD Forum on Accessible and Disability Inclusive Urban Development, Quito, Ecuador**

(<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/desa-forum-ecuador-oct2016.html>)

#### **17 to 20 October: HABITAT III, UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Quito, Ecuador**

(<http://www.habitat3.org>)

#### **25 to 27 October: 23rd Rehabilitation International (RI) World Congress, Edinburgh, UK**

(<http://riworldcongress.com>)

#### **3 December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

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

**2017**

**January 2017: UN World Data Forum, Cape Town, South Africa**

(<http://sd.iisd.org/events/world-forum-on-sustainable-development-data-world-data-forum/>)

**22 to 26 May 2017: UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun, Mexico**

(<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform>)

**10 to 19 July 2017: High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), UNHQ, New York**

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

**8 to 10 November 2017: 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf, Budapest, Hungary**

([globob@congressline.hu](mailto:globob@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.)

### **Defining digitally inclusive accessible smart cities**

The Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ict) and World Enabled have launched a global campaign to spearhead the Digital Inclusion in Smart Cities initiative. This campaign will work to highlight the current lack of awareness on the issue of digital inclusion and the compelling business opportunity for it. A Roundtable of experts from Government, industry, academia, and civil society will be held in Quito in conjunction with Habitat III. The Roundtable will be one of the four Roundtables that will contribute to the development of a set of policy and standards tools to support the implementation of the CRPD in relation to accessible technology for Smart Cities.

(<http://www.g3ict.org>)

### **Celebrate CRPD10 with Art Beyond Sight**

Join UNESCO NGO Art Beyond Sight (ABS) [community](#) in early December for its **Free International Virtual Meeting of Minds**: network, share best practices for inclusion, take in professional development resources, and engage people with

disabilities. ABS's global Awareness Month unites people, institutions, and communities in advocacy and learning. Celebrate the inclusion of people with disabilities in the richest parts of life — arts, culture, sport, entertainment, and social engagement. [Share your stories](#), best practices, professional development and questions. Host a discussion or training, give an accessible tour, join dozens of nations in starting your own ABS Awareness Month, and share [your events](#), with the world. Let's come together globally in ways big and small to make a more welcoming world for people of all abilities!

Visit [www.projectaccessforall.org](http://www.projectaccessforall.org) for more details. Or tweet us on @Access4\_all.

### **Hercules Project empowering people with disabilities through fitness**

The Hercules Project by Warriors on Wheels provides free rehabilitation equipment to landmine survivors, people with disabilities and those that serve them in war-torn and poverty-stricken areas, around the world. Warriors on Wheels is a fitness/rehabilitation program for people with disabilities. Since 1988 the programme has used strength and conditioning fitness exercise and rehabilitative techniques to empower people with disabilities to greater independence and a life enhancing experience. Hercules Project packages have been sent to areas around the world, including Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Darfur, Eritrea, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe. The Warriors on Wheels Hercules Project partners with others organizations to send out packages to under-served people with disabilities, Landmine survivors and other related programmes, specifically to war-torn and developing countries. In 2014, program founder Ned Norton was named a top 10 CNN Hero. (<https://www.warriorsonwheels.org>, Email: [warriorsonwheels@yahoo.org](mailto:warriorsonwheels@yahoo.org))

### **DRF – Promoting the rights of women with disabilities**

Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRF/DRAF) team members along with women with disabilities from different regions of the world travelled to Brazil for the Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID) 13th International Forum entitled "Feminist Futures: Building Collective Power for Rights and Justice". During the Forum, women with disabilities participated in two DRF co-sponsored panels sharing their expertise on rights issues faced by women with disabilities and ways to build bridges with the women's rights movement. At the close of the Forum, a delegation of women with disabilities presented recommendations to women's rights advocates on inclusion thus using the forum as an opportunity to engage in cross-movement building and increase solidarity with other women's rights advocates.

(<http://conta.cc/2dLEiAf>)

## **Source: An International online resource centre on disability and inclusion**

Source, a Handicap International project, is an international online resource centre designed to strengthen the management, use and impact of information on disability and inclusion. Its E-Bulletin is made out of a selection of 25 recently added resources that also features new and updated key lists.

(<http://www.asksource.info/node/71637/>, [source@hi-uk.org](mailto:source@hi-uk.org))

## **Call for good practices related to gender and disability in Africa**

The Handicap International Making It Work Initiative on Gender and Disability is seeking good practices on the prevention, reduction and response to gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities in Africa. This call is part of a Making it Work initiative called “Towards Enhanced Inclusion of Women and Girls with Disabilities through Evidence-Based Advocacy and strengthened accountability”, which continues the work on documentation started in 2014 by the Making It Work Initiative “Gender and Disability Inclusion: Advancing Equity for Women and Girls with Disabilities”. The good practice call, and its related documentation, is available in English, French, Arabic, and soon in Portuguese. Submissions can be made in English, French, Arabic and Portuguese.

Deadline: **9 November 2016**. ([lfenu@handicap-international.org](mailto:lfenu@handicap-international.org), <http://bit.ly/2duK0DZ>)

## **WDU E-Mobility International Digital Accessibility Workshop**

The World Disability Union (WDU) will organize a workshop on their inclusive disability application model WDU E-MOBILITY that is an innovative and inclusive digital portal, which aims to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities to be involved and to contribute actively to society through technological means. It address daily life needs, including as health, education, travel, sports and entertainment for persons with disabilities, worldwide. The WDU is based in Istanbul, Turkey and includes 300 members from 75 countries.

(<http://worlddisabilityunion.org>, Project Coordinator: [elif.derya@wdudigital.org](mailto:elif.derya@wdudigital.org))

## **Washington Group on Disability Statistics: New website**

Under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission, The Washington Group on Disability Statistics was established to address the urgent need for cross-nationally comparable population based disability measurement. The Washington

Group Short Set of Questions are recommended by UN Statistical Commission for the upcoming 2020 round of censuses and UN DESA for monitoring and evaluating the Sustainable Development Goals. With funding from Australia's Department of Trade and Finance (DFAT), the Group working with Leonard Cheshire Disability has just launched a new website to provide guidance, training and resources on implementing the Washington Group tools. The website also provides information on upcoming meetings, and how to seek further advice from the Secretariat: <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com>.

## **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](http://www.facebook.com/pages/United-Nations-Enable/196545623691523)

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. 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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