**UN Enable Newsletter**

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

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**STATUS OF THE CRPD**

162 ratifications/accessions and 160 signatories to the CRPD

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

Sri Lanka ratified the CRPD on 8 February 2016.

**Update on 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: eliminating poverty and inequality for all persons with disabilities; promoting the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities; enhancing accessibility to information and technology and inclusive development; and celebrating the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the CRPD. 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. The online application process for new NGO Accreditation to the COSP will take place from 1 March to 9 May 2016, the online NGO Registration opens: 1 April (closes: 1 June), and the Application for side-events opens: 1 April (closes: 15 May). (<http://bit.ly/crpdcosp9>)

**NEWS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS**

**Disability-inclusion at the 54th Commission for Social Development**

During its 54th session held at UN Headquarters from 3 to 12 February 2016, the Commission for Social Development (CSOCD54) held a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in light of the CRPD, where the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities delivered the keynote address. The panel reviewed the historical evolution of the work concerning   persons with disability within the UN system and the role played by the Commission in advancing disability in the global development agenda over the past decades. Panellists noted that the inclusion of disability in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marked a significant achievement for persons with disabilities. During meetings of the Commission, there was consistent support among delegations for the Commission to continue its role in advancing disability in development and to create an annual multi-stakeholder panel to share good practices and monitor progress made in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for persons with disabilities. In order to directly feed into the High-Level Political Forum, delegations proposed that the theme of the panel should consider following the annual theme of the High Level Political Forum. During CSOCD54, a side-event was also organized by DESA on “Addressing the structural issues concerning inequalities faced by persons with disabilities in society and development” that provided a forum for exchange of ideas that are strategically important for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society and development. (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/csocd54.html>)

**47th UN Statistical Commission: Side-event on disability statistics**

In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, a side-event will be held on 10 March during the upcoming session of the UN Statistical Commission (8-11 March). The side-event entitled: "Disability statistics and measurement: National experiences and opportunities for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" will provide an opportunity to learn more about national experiences on measurement of disability through censuses of the 2010 round. The event will also highlight work that is being carried out at the international level to improve the quality, relevance and availability of statistics on disability, as well as provide further information on country practices and experiences regarding the measurement of disability. (<http://bit.ly/undisabilitystats>)

**Side-event at CSW60 on women and girls with disabilities**

During the forthcoming 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60, 14-24 March 2016), DESA, in collaboration with UN Women and DFID, will organize a side-event on women and girls with disabilities, entitled: "Operationalizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for Women and Girls with Disabilities". The 2030 Agenda promises to close the gender gap, strengthen support for institutions in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It recognizes that the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial for the achievement of all goals and targets in the new global development framework. Women and girls with disabilities similarly have a critical role to play in the SDGs in order to effectively leave no one behind. A multistakeholder discussion will take place to explore priority issues and specific goals for the realization of the SDGs for women and girls with disabilities, as well as discuss how existing mechanisms can be used to strengthen links between gender, disability and sustainable development. The discussion will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share information on activities and actions to advance the rights and well-being of women and girls with disabilities in society and development.. Please send your interest to contribute to this event via email to Miranda Fajerman: [fajerman@un.org](mailto:fajerman@un.org). (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/women-and-girls-with-disabilities/csw60.html>)

**World Down Syndrome Day Conference, 21 March**

On 19 December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day (A/RES/66/149). The World Down Syndrome Day Conference will be organized by Down Syndrome International and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Brazil, India,  Iran, Israel, Japan, Mongolia, Poland and Singapore, UNICEF and UN DESA, and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). The panellists will include self-advocates with Down syndrome, family members and friends with personal insight of inclusion within their communities, Government and UN officials, experts and civil society participants. The discussion will cover the importance of including children and adults with Down syndrome and the benefits to them, their families and communities. ([www.worlddownsyndromeday.org](http://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org))

**New infographic highlights why disability statistics matter**

The new infographic draws attention to the lack of data and statistics on disability and shows how it contributes to the invisibility of persons with disabilities. This ongoing invisibility presents an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that would improve the lives and well-being of persons with disabilities, around the world. (<http://goo.gl/sw8BXe>)

**Call for input from all stakeholders for Secretary-General's report on accessibility for persons with disabilities at the United Nations**

The General Assembly in its resolution 70/170 dated 10 February 2016: “Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities” requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its 71st session, a comprehensive report on the status of accessibility at the United Nations, with a view to realizing an inclusive and accessible environment for persons with disabilities. In this connection, stakeholders, including civil society organizations have been requested to provide to the Secretariat the following information: (a) the status and application of existing regulations relating to accessibility of facilities and services for persons with disabilities, including reasonable accommodation and universal design within organizations; (b) areas that need improvement to ensure full accessibility for persons with disabilities; (c) best practices and views on the provision of accessibility, following universal design and reasonable accommodation; and (d) recommendations on how to better coordinate, facilitate and monitor practical accessibility measures in order to provide reasonable accommodation, in a cost-effective manner, to meet the needs of persons with disabilities for their participation at the United Nations, including in meetings, conferences and services, as well as the United Nations workplace. The information should include, but not be limited to, accessibility domains of physical facilities and services, information and documentation, meetings and services, information and communications technologies, and human resources. Please send your input of no more than 800 words, in the form of an editable electronic document (Microsoft Word) by 15 March 2016, via e-mail to: [doultonf@un.org](mailto:doultonf@un.org).

**NEWS FROM OTHER UN ENTITIES**

**WHS – Disability Dialogues at the World Humanitarian Summit**

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS, 23 to 24 May 2016) preparatory process is seeking better ways to meet the needs of millions of people affected by conflicts and disasters. In collaboration with Handicap International, and with the support of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), the WHS secretariat launched an online survey in three parts to collect the views of: persons with disabilities that have been affected by a humanitarian crisis, the organizations representing them, and the humanitarian actors. The purpose of these surveys was to identify gaps and good practices in humanitarian response and to find a way towards a more inclusive humanitarian system. (<http://bit.ly/1TlJOaf>)

**OHCHR – Report on realizing the right to work for persons with disabilities**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published a new report on the Realization of the Right to Work, with a full chapter on the right to work of persons with disabilities. The report is available in the six UN official languages and can be accessed at <http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A%2FHRC%2F3>

**OHCHR – Special Rapporteur submits report on the right of persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making**

The Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar submitted a report to the Human Rights Council that provides an overview of her activities undertaken since March 2015, as well as her thematic study on the right of persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making. In preparing the study, the Special Rapporteur received 144 contributions from Member States, national human rights institutions, agencies of the United Nations system, civil society organizations, and persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. (<http://goo.gl/Y3QGmg>)

**UNESCAP – Advancing the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022**

The Third Session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities will take place in Bangkok from 2 to 4 March 2016. The session is being organized by the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in cooperation with the Royal Government of Thailand through the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. The Session will review the progress in the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, including the decisions made by the Working Group at its Second Session, discuss issues relating to the preparation of the 2017 High-level intergovernmental Meeting for the midpoint review of the current regional decade on disability and consider other relevant matters. (<http://www.unescap.org/events/third-session-working-group-asian-and-pacific-decade-persons-disabilities-2013-2022>)

**UNDP – Better access to justice for persons with disabilities in China**

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) in China co-organized with the Wuhan University Public Interest and Development Law Institute (PIDLI) a multi-stakeholders’ consultation on access to justice for persons with disabilities. The consultation brought together around 30 Chinese experts and practitioners from academia, disabled persons organizations (DPOs), law firms, the local disabled persons’ federation (DPF) and other stakeholders, with the aim to initiate a baseline research to assess the needs and gaps with regards to access to justice for PwDs in China. Discussions focused on the scope, conceptual approach and methodology of the study, including stakeholders’ analysis and assessment tools. (<http://bit.ly/21HHlrC>)

**UNICEF - Disability Statistics: A Key to Inclusion, side-event at the 47th Statistical Commission**

UNICEF will conduct a side-event during the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission entitled: "Disability Statistics: A Key to Inclusion - New Data Collection Tools and Partnerships". The event will bring together national statistical offices, disabled people’s organizations and other stakeholders to discuss the importance of producing internationally comparable data to help achieve the 2030 Development Agenda. To address the need for comparable and reliable data, UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, in collaboration with numerous partners, have developed a survey module on child functioning for use in surveys and censuses. The module reflects current thinking around disability and can produce internationally comparable data. The module was presented, discussed, and revised at several expert consultations since 2011, involving representatives of disabled people’s organizations, academic institutions, international organizations and national statistical offices. The event will introduce the new UNICEF/Washington Group survey module on child functioning and launch a campaign "Count Me In" to advocate for the importance of collecting data on children with disabilities. The event will be held on Wednesday 9 March, 6:15 to 8:00 pm at UNICEF House. (<http://www.unicef.org/disabilities/>)

**UN Women – Strengthening the capacity of networks of women with disabilities on humanitarian action**

Women leaders with disabilities from the Network of African Women with Disabilities (NAWWD) representing 10 African countries, and refugee women with disabilities met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 11 to 12 February to participate in the workshop "Enhancing the Network's Humanitarian Advocacy at Regional and Global Events". The workshop was held as part of UN Women’s one year project on strengthening the capacity of networks of women with disabilities in humanitarian action, which is being implemented in partnership with the Women’s Refugee Commission and co-funded by the governments of Korea and Australia. Representatives of this workshop stressed that it is more important than ever before to ensure the participation of women and girls with disabilities. Of significance for women and girls with disabilities is that both gender equality perspectives and disability are mainstreamed in the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. (<http://bit.ly/1QpG6pI>)

**UN Women – Roster of Gender Experts and Trainers**

UN Women is inviting experts and trainers (individuals, not firms) on gender issues to share their professional experience and knowledge. Currently, the registration is open to specialists in the areas of gender equality, economic empowerment, political participation, peace and security, and HIV/AIDS. The database is expected to expand to provide more opportunities to register in other subject areas. The roster aims to help UN Women identify and mobilize a diverse range of experienced professionals and trainers on gender equality from around the world. Details on how to apply and become part of this roster are available at:  <http://bit.ly/1REzMNz>.

**ILO – Update on publication on Disability in the workplace: employers' organizations and business networks**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Business and Disability Network (GBDN) has gathered the latest initiatives and experiences of employers' organizations and national business and disability networks in making workplaces more inclusive of people with disabilities. Each of the 14 organizations featured in the publication present their structure and partners, their key activities and achievements in the area of disability inclusion as well as the lessons learned and key messages for other organizations that aspire to become more disability-inclusive. (<http://labordoc.ilo.org/record/464852?ln=en>)

**World Bank Group – Healing invisible wounds**

On 2 March, the World Bank Group organized a panel discussion entitled “Healing invisible wounds – Improving Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs in conflict-affected societies”. Panellists highlighted the need to respond to mental health needs in Fragile and Conflict States (FCS) and presented different approaches that have been adopted and adapted at the community and local levels taking into account cultural, social, fiscal and political realities, and involving communities and different sectoral stakeholders. The Panel worked to raise awareness on scaled up implementation of mental health and psychosocial support services in primary health care and community settings, particularly in FCS, matter for economic and social development, the achievement of the twin goals of ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity. It also showcased successful and promising practices and experiences in delivering integrated mental health and psychosocial support services in low-resource contexts, particularly at the community and local levels, in FCS. (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2016/03/01/healing-invisible-wounds-improving-mental-health-psychosocial-needs-in-conflict-affected-societies>)

**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**

**2 to 4 March: Third Session of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, Bangkok, Thailand**

(<http://www.unescap.org/events/third-session-working-group-asian-and-pacific-decade-persons-disabilities-2013-2022>)

**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](http://www.un.org/en/events/downsyndromeday))

**2 April: World Autism Awareness Day**

([www.un.org/en/events/autismday](http://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](http://www.disabledpeoplesinternational.org))

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

([www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/))

**25 to 27 April: VIII Latin-American Congress of the Blind, Montevideo**

([www.ulacdigital.org/montevideo2016](http://www.ulacdigital.org/montevideo2016))

**22 May: DESA/DSPD Public Forum on Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action, Istanbul, Turkey**

(Details forthcoming)

**23 to 24 May: World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, Turkey**

([www.worldhumanitariansummit.org](http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org))

**25 May: UN Inter-Agency Support Group to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities face-to-face meeting**

(Details forthcoming)

**13 June: International Albinism Awareness Day**

([www.un.org/en/events/albinismday/](http://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](http://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](http://www.un.org/disabilities))

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

([www.habitat3.org](http://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>)

**OTHER NEWS**

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**DPI's 9th World Assembly to celebrate the “10 Glorious Years of CRPD”**

Ambassador Luis Gallegos will be the Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremony of DPI's 9th World Assembly in New Delhi, India. The Assembly will be held from 11 to 13 April 2016 and feature a “Roundtable on Africa” and the “Roundtable on Asia-Pacific” on 10 April for DPI Member National Assemblies (MNAs) of those two Regions. The Roundtables will be organized to discuss regional and organizational matters with a view to strengthen DPI networks in these two Regions. Overall, more than 200 delegates from over 80 countries from all over the world will gather in New Delhi to deliberate on the theme: “Building Human Capital: Realizing SDGs for People with Disabilities”. The DPI World Assembly would also launch a mega celebration titled: “10 Glorious Years of CRPD”. (<https://www.facebook.com/DisabledPeoplesInternational/>; and <http://www.dpiworldassembly2016.com/>)

**An invitation to join in the IDA CRPD Forum**

The IDA CRPD Forum Listserv is an open discussion platform for the disability rights community around the world. Moderated by the International Disability Alliance (IDA), the Forum provides an inclusive and accessible platform for the exchange of information and experiences, particularly around the interpretation and implementation of the UN CRPD and the 2030 Agenda. Of the many uses of the Forum, the community shares information around the implementation and ratification of the CRPD in each country, region and at the global level. It is also where the expertise and experience of very diverse participants meet in the spirit of inclusion to work towards consensus, with emphasis on the respect for DPO leadership. Join this online community and stay up to date with news, events, workshops and opportunities around the UN CRPD, the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the CRPD Committee and Conference of States Parties, the Human Rights Council and ECOSOC, and more. To subscribe: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/IDA_CRPD_Forum/info> or by emailing [info@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:info@ida-secretariat.org) with a request to join the Forum.

**Civil society organizations presents joint response to the Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) welcomes the Report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)applauding the inclusion of the 11 indicators on disability in the overall ‘Final list of proposed Sustainable Development Goal Indicators’. They note the clear recognition of the importance of adequate data to monitor progress achieved for persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

(<http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/en/article/ida-and-iddc-response-report-inter-agency-and-expert-group-sustainable-development-goal>)

**A qualitative research study highlighting the voices of the marginalized**

Sightsavers, ADD International and HelpAge International are working together toward the 2030 Agenda commitment to leave no one behind. Using a community-based participatory approach, a qualitative research study was conducted in Tanzania, in partnership with Ifakara Health Institute. In this study, older people and people with disabilities were trained to collect stories from peers in their communities (rural or urban). They also analysed the stories in a workshop setting and provided concrete policy recommendations for the Tanzanian Government. ([www.sightsavers.org/voices](http://www.sightsavers.org/voices); and <http://www.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/VOTM-January-2016-Update.pdf>)

**Everybody counts: Testing the disaggregation of data**

Sightsavers is testing the disaggregation of data to learn how this can be done effectively. They are using the Washington Group short set of questions in the Madhya Pradesh Urban Slum Eye Care Programme in Bhopal, India and the Neglected Tropical Diseases Programme in Ruvuma, Tanzania. They are finding out what works and what doesn’t and developing an organisational approach to collecting disability disaggregated data in their health programmes. Results show that data disaggregation is possible, with the right planning, systems and flexibility. ([www.sightsavers.org/everybodycounts](http://www.sightsavers.org/everybodycounts);  and <http://www.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Everbody-counts.pdf>)

**DRF announces grant-making opportunity**

The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) announced a Request for Proposals for its first funding round in 2016. The application is open to DPOs in Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Malawi, and Myanmar. The deadline for proposals is March 14, 2016. (<http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/news>)

**DRF hosts CRPD reporting training for DPOs from Malawi and Rwanda**

In early February 2016, DRF hosted a three-day training for Rwandan and Malawian DPOs, who are working on alternative reports for submission to the CRPD Committee. The training was facilitated by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and two Kenyan disability activists, who were part of the alternative reporting process for Kenya and provided perspectives from marginalized groups, including persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities. (<http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/news>)

**Blind Day to raise awareness in Israel**

The 6th annual “Blind Day” will take place from 6 to 9 June in Israel, sponsored by the Center for the Blind in Israel along with other organizations of the blind.  The aim of “Blind Day” is to raise awareness of the issues of the blind community and to encourage greater societal integration. Activities will be conducted throughout the country to highlight the issues of blindness and low vision. Events this year will include a Jazz Blues Festival, a Stand-Up Comedian, price reductions at restaurants where customers are invited to eat with a blindfold over their eyes, and various sporting activities. Also included will be an art exhibition with works by the visually impaired that will be displayed in the Knesset (the Parliament) along with discussions with Parliamentary Committees on the status of the visually impaired. ([www.ibcu.org.il](http://www.ibcu.org.il))

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

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

Email: [enable@un.org](mailto:enable@un.org)

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