United Nations IASG/2017/2



2 November 2017

English only

**Inter-Agency Support Group for the**

**Convention on the Rights of Persons with**

**Disabilities**

**Meeting report of the Inter-Agency Support Group on the**

**Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Videoconference, 2 November 2017 15:00-18:00** (UTC+01:00)

***Summary***

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2006 and opened for signature on 30 March 2007. The CRPD and its Optional Protocol entered into force on 3 May 2008.

The Inter-Agency Support Group on the CRPD is tasked with promoting compliance with the Principles of the Convention and increasing the scale and effectiveness of the United Nations’ involvement in disability issues. The meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on the CRPD provides a platform to plan the common activities that stakeholders are undertaking to advance the implementation of the Convention, and to provide updates on relevant initiatives taking place in each respective UN agency.

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# I. Background

The videoconference meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was hosted by the rotating Chair of the IASG. The World Health Organisation (WHO) as rotating Chair for 2017 coordinated the meeting from their headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 November 2017. Representatives of UN agencies and relevant civil society organizations joined the meeting via videoconference. The meeting agenda, and final list of participants can be found at Annex I and Annex II, respectively.

# II. Opening of the meeting

Dr Alarcos Cieza, from the Department for Management of Non-Communicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention welcomed all participants to the meeting on behalf of WHO.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted by the IASG members participating at the meeting. Previous minutes from the April face-to-face meeting were approved.

# III. 56th session of the Commission for Social Development in 2018

***Information presented***

**The 56th Session of the Commission for Social Development will take place in New York from 29 January to 7 February 2018. The Session’s theme is ‘Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all’.**

**UNDESA reports that a panel on persons with disabilities will take place during the afternoon session on 31 January. The theme of the panel is ´Towards inclusive resilient and sustainable development: an evidence-based approach to the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda 2030´. The panel will discuss inclusive development in the context of achieving sustainable development and building resilience for persons with disabilities. They will also discuss the lack of high quality data of persons with disabilities, and the impact this has on progressing inclusive implementation and monitoring of the CRPD and the SDGs. The panel will endeavour to clarify these issues, and further inform policy implementation. UNDESA has put forward a number of panellists for consideration, including the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Bureau is currently consulting Member States and will release the list of panellists in the coming days.**

**UNDESA will be supporting the Bureau in the main event and broader program. UNDESA encourages IASG members to consider opportunities to contribute to the event, including organizing side events related to the overarching theme.**

***Discussion***

There were several enquiries from the group regarding selection and nomination of panelists. **ITU discussed Transport Information and Control Systems (TICS), that facilitate social and economic development, and align with the Session’s focus on inclusive development. ITU are interested to share relevant resources for the session’s event.**

***Actions***

1. If IASG members have comments or ideas for the panel, send them to IASG chair by Monday 6November. IASG chair will then send the information to Bureau chair - Iceland.

# IV. 72nd session of the General Assembly

***Information presented***

The Third Committee of the General Assembly has been discussing issues related to disability under 2 agendas: Social development and human rights. For this session, UNDESA drafted a report for the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls with disabilities and the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol thereto for review, following consultation with other UN agencies.

Member States have negotiated a new resolution, to address concerns of Member States, namely multiple discrimination, violence against women and girls with disabilities, and equal access to health care services (including reproductive services). A Draft 0 resolution A/C.3/72/L.18/Rev.1 is currently under development. The draft will request a new Secretary-General report which will be presented at the 74th Session (in two years), with a thematic focus on accessibility. IASG members will have an opportunity to provide input on the report (e.g. practices, policy development).

***Discussion***

ITU recommend including existing UN resources that assist Member States in the implementation of accessibility in their own countries. ILO offered to make a contribution for the private sector if relevant. Relevant resources from ITU and UNESCO were discussed. OHCHR highlighted the importance of the report on accessibility to focus on practices, policy developments in line with the CRPD and national examples of accessibility implementation processes. It also encouraged UNDESA to issue calls for contributions to the report, including civil society and organizations of persons with disabilities, as soon as possible giving a good time-frame for stakeholders to reply, as practice collection is time consuming for States and other stakeholders.

***Actions***

1. UNDESA will circulate relevant information to IASG members, and seek their input on the report when appropriate.

# V. International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2017

***Information presented***

UNDESA informed that a decision was made at the last IASG meeting in April, to align this year’s IDPD theme with the overarching themes UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The 2017 IDPD theme will be “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”.

***Discussion***

A number of UN agencies reported on their local events for IDPD:

* UN headquarters in New York will be celebrating IDPD on 1 December 2017. The opening session will involve a number of honourable guests, and will be followed by 3 panel discussions, a dance installation, 3 video presentations and a musical performance.
* UNESCO will host an event in Paris in collaboration with Member States, focusing on sustainable societies and inclusive arts. The event will include a theatre performance, a round table discussion, and a concert by Artists for Peace. Smaller events will also be taking place at UNESCO field offices.
* A number of UN agencies in Geneva are joining together to organize a panel discussion and art exhibition, in collaboration with a number of Permanent Missions and civil society organizations. The event will take place at Palais des Nations on December 4.
* APMBC will be holding a photo exhibition in Geneva.
* ILO will be holding an event in Geneva, focusing on challenging stereotypes and employment.
* UNHCR will share a number of short videos on social media, focusing on refugees from the field with disabilities and their active role in their communities.
* UN ECLAC, together with Fundación Luz, will organize a musical performance by children who are blind at ECLAC headquarters on Monday December 4.

***Actions***

1. OHCHR will circulate the concept note for the Geneva based IDPD event, to relevant IASG members.
2. UN agencies to contact UNDESA with details of their IDPD event, so that it can be advertised on the ENABLE website.

# VI. Activities of the IASG Working Group 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

***Information presented***

UNICEF reported that the working group engaged in various side events at the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP). There were 10 side events on humanitarian action and disability, and a roundtable on humanitarian issues, demonstrating the importance of this topic within the overall disability rights agenda.

The working group also significantly contributed to a chapter on disasters, humanitarian crises and climate change within the UN Flagship report on disability, which is coordinated by UNDESA. The working group members are also engaging closely with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee task team on guidelines for inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, including the multi-stakeholder workshop that took place in Geneva in October.

The working group is exploring options with UNHCR and the IASC to contribute to the Global Compact for migration and Global Compact on refugees, potentially as a joint submission.

***Actions***

1. The co-chairs, UNICEF and OHCHR, will advise the date of the next working group meeting.

# VII. Activities of the IASG Working Group on community initiatives to implement the CRPD

***Information presented***

The working group was established this year, co-chaired by WHO and UNHCR. UNHCR reported that the group is developing a guidance document on promoting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in community initiatives. 2 meetings have taken place to date, and a draft outline of the document has now been developed. Co-chairs are currently undertaking phone interviews with each agency to seek feedback on the draft outline. This process will likely finish early 2018. Other interested agencies are encouraged to join the working group.

***Actions***

1. Working group co-chairs to share with IASG members the outcome of the interview with UN agencies.

# VIII. Activities of the IASG Working Group on UN System-wide Action Plan (SWAP)

***Information presented***

ILO advised that the working group had their first meeting on 17 October. It was decided that UNDP, IDA and ILO will be co-chairs of the group. Mr Tony Beck, an independent consultant for the UN with extensive experience on the UN-SWAP on gender, is moving this work forward. Mr Beck has developed a concept note on the UN-SWAP on disability, and is currently holding bilateral meetings with different UN agencies. Other interested agencies are encouraged to join the working group.

***Discussion***

The working group has reached out to the UN-SWAP on gender, youth and indigenous people during the planning stages. UNDP stated that for the UN-SWAP to move forward, more time and resources are needed to support the consultant in their work. The importance of linking to broader system wide processes was also highlighted, such as the UNDG guidance on leaving no one behind.

UNDESA expressed interest in being involved in the UN-SWAP on disability.

***Actions***

1. Working group co-chairs to provide information to UNDESA.

# IX. Activities of the IASG Working Group 6 on Women and Girls with Disabilities

***Information presented***

UN Women reported that there were between 10 to 12 side events related to women and girls with disabilities at the CoSP. The 72nd session of the General Assembly had before it the report for the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls with disabilities and the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls with disabilities.

Additionally, the Commission on the Status of Women may select empowerment of women and girls with disabilities as an emerging issue. The topic will be linked to the priority theme, which is rural women, as well as the review theme which is ICTs and empowerment of women. The Bureau will confirm their final decision on this in November. If this topic of women and girls with disabilities isn’t selected, UN Women suggested the working group explore options to progress this topic further.

Members of the IASG were invited to contribute input to the chapter on SDG 5, gender equality and empowerment of women with disabilities, of the UN Flagship report on disability.

***Discussion***

The Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibilitymentioned International Women’s Day on March 8,highlighting the Day as an opportunity to discuss issues related to women and children with disabilities. UN Women informed that the theme for the year is decided by the IANWGE. The Special Envoy expressed her availability as a potential speaker for the Day.

***Actions***

1. UN Women to advise IASG members on the emerging issue selected for the Commission on the Status of Women.
2. If IASG members are interested in contributing to the UN Flagship report on disability chapter on gender equality and empowerment of women with disabilities, please contact UN Women ([maribel.derjani-bayeh@unwomen.org](mailto:maribel.derjani-bayeh@unwomen.org)).
3. The working group chair will send an invitation for the next meeting.

# X. 2018 - 10 years since entry into force of the Convention, and establishment of IASG: Opportunities and lessons learned

***Information presented***

UN Women suggested that we take advantage of this occasion to do an internal evaluation of the IASG, to identify gaps, identify resources, and discuss opportunities for improvement.

***Discussion***

UN Women noted that, although there are many IASG members, a limited number of these members participate in the meetings. Options to encourage further participation were discussed. One suggestion was a letter from the IASG chair and co-secretariat inviting agencies to increase the engagement of members in the IASG. The process could be complementary to the UN-SWAP or separate, further discussion is needed on this. OHCHR advised that a similar process took place at the Convention 10 year celebration in 2015.

***Actions***

1. Further discuss this agenda item at next IASG face to face meeting in 2018.
2. In 2018, IASG chair and co-chairs to consider drafting a letter to UN agencies to promote engagement and participation in IASG, and assist in developing disability focal points.
3. The UN-SWAP working group to also consider this proposal when moving forward in their planning.

# XI. Annual joint focus for IASG: Proposal for 2018

This agenda item was held over to the next IASG face-to-face meeting in 2018.

# XII: IASG participation in GLAD

***Information presented***

WHO stated that this agenda item was discussed at the previous IASG face-to-face meeting, after an invitation was received from GLAD to be a full Steering Committee member. At the last IASG meeting it was proposed that the chair represent IASG at GLAD meetings in an advisor role, due to concerns around IASG being a full member. Key concerns related to full membership responsibilities (such as voting and making decisions on behalf of all IASG members) and the fact that some IASG members are already independent members of GLAD. In an advisor role, the IASG chair will exchange information between GLAD and IASG members. The IASG chair has already shared relevant GLAD documents with all IASG members.

***Discussion***

IASG members participating in the videoconference agreed on the decision for IASG chair to accept the invitation in an advisor role. If individual UN agencies wish to have a more active role within GLAD, they can explore options to become an independent member.

***Actions***

1. IASG chair to contact GLAD, and formally accept the invitation to join GLAD as an advisor.
2. IASG chair to participate in future GLAD meetings.

# XIII. Chair for 2018

UN Women was nominated to be IASG chair for 2018. There were no objections to this proposal by IASG members participating in the videoconference. UN Women formally accepted the proposal.

***Actions***

1. UN Women to commence role as IASG chair beginning January 2018.
2. WHO (current chair) to handover to UN Women in January 2018.

# XIV. Date and venue of 2018 IASG Face to Face Meeting

***Information presented***

UN Women proposed that the next face to face IASG meeting take place after the CoSP, on Friday 15 June.

***Discussion***

OHCHR and WHO advised that the face to face IASG meeting has previously taken place in April or May, to allow at least 1 month to prepare for the CoSP and joint actions. This timeframe has worked effectively. UN Women will consider this alternative timeframe.

***Actions***

1. UN Women to confirm date of next IASG meeting.

# XV. AOB

## CoSP

***Information presented***

UNDESA reported that the 10th CoSP session is now available on the ENABLE website.The 11th session of CoSP is planned to take place from 12-14 June 2018. UNDESA proposed to the Bureau to commence preparations for the next session after IDPD, so that there is sufficient time for information exchange and contribution by IASG members.

***Discussion***

OHCHR highlighted the importance of the participation of representative organizations for persons with disabilities in the preparations of the CoSP and in accessing to preparatory and background documentation, and requests that UNDESA include this in their concept note and discussions with the Bureau.

***Actions***

1. If any IASG members have ideas of contributions at this stage, please contact UNDESA.

## UNPRPD update

***Information provided after meeting***

### Launch of the 3rd UNPRPD funding round for country level projects

On December 3 2016, the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) launched its third funding round. On 12 October 2017, the UNPRPD Management Committee made final decisions on countries to be awarded funding as part of the third round to undertake joint UN programmes for the implementation of the CRPD.

A two stage selection process was followed entailing first the submission of an expression of interest followed by a full proposal by UN Country Teams (UNCTs). Expressions of interest were received from 50 UNCTs of whom 39 UNCTs received an invitation to submit full-fledged proposals. In response, a total of 38 full proposals were submitted.

Following a review by an external panel of experts and the UNPRPD Management Committee members, submissions by 14 UNCTs were approved funding, with 12 of them being granted funding in the immediate future and 2 of them being granted funding provisional to suggested amendments to their proposals as outlined below.

1. **Country proposals identified for funding**

The following 12 proposals have been identified for immediate funding:

| **Africa** | **Asia and the Pacific** | **Europe and**  **Central Asia** | **Latin America and the Caribbean** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Benin  Malawi  Zambia  Zimbabwe | Bhutan  Cambodia  Timor Leste | Macedonia FYR  Serbia | Guatemala  Peru  Uruguay |

1. **Country proposals identified as fundable with changes**

Two additional proposals were identified as potentially fundable on the condition that appropriate modifications are introduced on the basis of technical feedback to be provided by the Management Committee. These proposals are:

| **Asia and the Pacific** | **Arab States** |
| --- | --- |
| Pakistan | Morocco |

### UNPRPD launch of a call for proposals for global initiatives

A call for proposals for global initiatives for UNPRPD participating entities is expected to be launched before the end of 2017.

## Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility

***Information provided after meeting***

### Terms of reference

The Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, aims to advocate for the advancement of persons with disabilities in society and development, and for their rights and universal accessibility, sending a strong message to the international community on the implementation challenges in the field of rights and sustainable development.

### Mandate

* Support the UN Secretary General’s efforts aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda for persons with disabilities, furthering their rights, and promoting accessibility.
* Engage in advocacy and encourage commitments of Member States, the UN system, civil society, private sector and academia for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for persons with disabilities.
* Identify strategic partners and opportunities to mainstream disability in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and the CRPD.
* Promote accessibility as a priority for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
* Support the ongoing efforts to advance disability issues in the work of the United Nations system.
* Undertake other relevant activities as requested by the Secretary-General.

**Proposed IASG support and collaboration**

1. Maintain information exchange on the international agenda in relation to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda.
2. Receive the information corresponding to the 2018 agenda in advance, in order to adjust the Special Envoy’s agenda.
3. Help with dissemination of messages from the Special Envoy.
4. Support the Special Envoy in searching for resources for the activities of her mandate.

## UNDP new strategic plan

***Information presented***

UNDP are developing a new strategic plan, that includes information on disability data disaggregation and the inclusion of persons with disability in country programs. UNDP are also updating their guidance note on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and request further information on the guidance note being developed by UNDESA.

***Actions***

1. UNDESA will contact UNDP to discuss their guidance note.

## [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](http://untf.unwomen.org/)

***Information presented***

**Call for proposals:** [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](http://untf.unwomen.org/) (UN Trust Fund) is currently accepting applications for multi-year grants up to USD 1 million. This year it opened as a special window on addressing violence against women and girls with disabilities. The online application will be available from 31 October until 5 December 2017 on the [UN Trust Fund website](http://untf.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/grant-making/application-guidelines). More information at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/trust-funds/un-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women> .

# XVI. Closing

Key outcomes of the meeting were discussed. Specific actions for each agenda item were presented by WHO. WHO thanked the secretariat for their support throughout the year.

The date of the next IASG meeting will be announced by UN Women.

# Annex I. Agenda of the meeting

**2 November 2017**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Agenda Item** | **Speaker(s)** |
| 1. | Opening of the meeting:   * Welcome remarks by WHO * Introduction of participants * Adoption of the provisional agenda * Approval of last meeting’s minutes | WHO  UNDESA  OHCHR  All |
| 2. | 56th session of the Commission for Social Development in 2018:   * **‘Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all’** | SCRPD |
| 3. | 72nd session of the General Assembly:   * Highlights and outcomes * Possible Secretary-General report on accessibility in two years | SCRPD |
| 4. | International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2017:   * Update | UNDESA  OHCHR |
| 5. | Activities of the IASG Working Group 11 on situation of risk and humanitarian emergencies | UNICEF  OHCHR |
| 6. | Activities of the IASG Working Group on community initiatives to implement the CRPD | UNHCR  WHO |
| 7. | Activities of the IASG Working Group on UN System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) | ILO  IDA  UNDP |
| 8. | Activities of the IASG Working Group 6 on Women and Girls with Disabilities | UN Women  UNRWA |
| 9. | 2018 - 10 years since entry into force of the Convention, and establishment of IASG:   * Do we use the opportunity to promote higher level engagement and increase IASG partnerships? * Lessons learned - what works, the challenges, and the way forward | UNWomen |
| 10. | Annual joint focus for IASG: Proposal for 2018 | UNWomen |
| 11. | IASG participation in GLAD | OHCHR |
| 12. | Chair for 2018 | WHO  UNDESA  OHCHR |
| 13. | Date and venue of 2018 IASG Face to Face Meeting | UNWomen |
| 14. | AOB | All members |
| 15. | Closing | WHO  UNDESA  OHCHR |

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