United Nations IASG/2017/2



24 – 25 April 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**

* **Brief version**

***Summary***

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 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 3May 2008.

The meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention provides a platform to plan the common activities that stakeholders are taking to advance the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Updates and next steps were discussed on the various IASG working groups: 1) Community initiatives to implement the CRPD; 2) UN System-wide Disability Action Plan (SWAP); 3) Upholding the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies; and 4) Human rights of women and girls with disabilities.

# I. Background

The annual face to face 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 Organization (WHO) in Geneva as rotating Chair for 2017 organized the meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 and 25 April.

# II. Opening of the meeting

Dr Etienne Krug, Director of the Department for Management of Noncommunicable diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, welcomed all participants to the meeting on behalf of the WHO. Dr Krug thanked the co-secretariat of the IASG, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), for their assistance in coordinating the group and for facilitating the tasks of the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted by the IASG members participating at the meeting. Previous minutes were approved. The IASG reporting matrix was discussed.

***Actions***

1. WHO will send the IASG reporting matrix to all participants after the meeting. The matrix should be submitted to the secretariat after completion. The matrix of each UN agency should only be 1 page long, and should only include joint activities that are directly relevant to IASG members.

# III. Update and discussion on the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its engagement with the IASG

Mr. Jorge Araya, from the Secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities acknowledges the current gender imbalance within the CRPD committee. There are also currently discussions taking place on the implementation of accessibility standards across the UN, particularly in regard to reasonable accommodation.

The Committee recently started its second reporting cycle where state parties are presenting. This is a critical entry point for the collaboration of UNCTs through UN agencies.

The Committee provided a draft of the General Comment on the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community. IASG members are invited to provide input before 30th June.

***Actions***

1. When appropriate, IASG members to advocate on issues around gender, accessibility standards within the UN, and the collaboration of UNCTs through UN agencies with the Committee.
2. Interested IASG members to provide comments on the draft of the General Comment on the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, before 30th June.

# IV. Update on the activities of the IASG Working Group 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

The working group (WG) is contributing to guidelines for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The IASC will do an analysis on current resources for persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, and develop an outline for the guidelines (likely completed by June). The first draft of the guidelines will be tested at a national level, at which point the UN agencies will provide input. Simultaneously, the WG members are providing input into the UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2018. WG members are also working collaborating with Handicap International on the use of Washington Group on Disability Statistics questions at a national level in emergency context for disaggregation of data.

***Actions***

1. IASG members to contact UNICEF and OHCHR if they are undertaking any initiatives that are relevant to Article 11.
2. IASG members to contact UNICEF and OHCHR if they are interested in contributing to the Flagship Report that are relevant to Article 11.

# V. Update on the activities of the IASG Working Group 6 on Women and Girls with Disabilities

The objectives of the WG on Women and Girls with disabilities are to review, develop and disseminate information and tools related to women and girls with disabilities.

Current outputs of the WG include:

* A factsheet to be updated every year.
* A webpage with information available.
* Provide input for the UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2018.
* WG members will be involved in a number of side events during the upcoming Conference of States Parties.

***Actions***

1. UN Women will provide any relevant updates to IASG members on the side events.
2. IASG members to notify if they wish to join the group.

# VI. UNPRPD update

Mr Emanuele Sapienza from United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) reports that a new Strategic and Operational Framework has been developed, outlining its overall objectives and operating modalities of the partnership.

The new framework continues to support joint programs at a country level, but there is also a complimentary component focusing on programs at a global and regional level.

On 3rd December 2016, a third round of funding was launched. UNPRPD will soon be calling for proposals for global level initiatives. The UNPRPD secretariat will soon develop a discussion paper on the partnerships mid to long term plan. IASG members are welcome to provide input and suggestions for this.

***Actions***

1. UNPRPD will share with IASG members:

* The list of countries and topics that were invited to participate in the second phase of the third UNPRPD funding round and the final list of selected countries, once available.
* The UNPRPD Strategic and Operational Framework focusing on programs at a global and regional level.

1. IASG members to provide input into the UNPRPD discussion paper on the partnerships mid to long term plan, where appropriate.

# VII. Coordinating the topic and activities of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2017

The theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, on 3rd December, sometimes varies between UN offices and Member States. At UN headquarters in New York, a new theme is selected annually, along with subthemes. The 2017 theme will be decided in summer. In Geneva, the relevant UN agencies last year united under a larger platform using the slogan “A day for all”, in order to propose a communication proxy to develop specific initiatives.

***Discussion***

The general consensus amongst IASG members is that all UN agencies should collaborate in the decision of adopting a thematic focus and follows it, and that the theme should be clear and simple, to ensure strong and consistent messaging with the general public. The theme should be ideally broad enough to include the concerns and perspectives of all persons with disabilities.

UNDESA reminded the group that there was a General Assembly resolution[[1]](#footnote-1) which defines what the purpose of the day is: “The resolution invites all Member States and organizations concerned to intensify their efforts aimed at sustained effective action with a view to improving the situation of persons with disabilities”.

***Actions***

1. Where possible, UNDESA to include IASG members in the decision making process of choosing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities theme.
2. UNDESA with support of OHCHR will draft a document by June 2017, outlining:

* The conceptual framework for the 2017 International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
* Thematic approach to be considered.

# VIII. Discussion on the Conference of States Parties (CoSP)

## Update on preparations for the 10th session of the CoSP

The conference will take place from 13 to 15 June. The overarching theme of the conference is “The Second Decade of the CRPD: Inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation of the Convention”.

The program will include a general debate, round tables discussions around the 3 subthemes:

* Addressing the impact of multiple discrimination on persons with disabilities and promoting their participation and multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving the SDGs in line with the CRPD;
* Inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action;
* Promoting inclusive urban development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda –Habitat III.

It was suggested that the IASG chair represent the group during the interactive dialogue on addressing implementation of the Convention on 15 June. UNDESA encourage other UN agencies to participate in the next session of the Conference of States Parties including in the general debate component of the meeting if resources and time permit.

IASG members expressed their interest in contributing to the composition of the panels and in providing input into the draft background papers prepared for every roundtable of the COSP, in future years. UNDESA, as the secretariat of the Conference of States Parties, indicated that a challenge could be lack of sufficient time for consultations, particularly due to the delayed decision of the bureau in considering themes and subthemes, as was the case this year.

***Actions***

1. UNDESA to confirm if the IASG's chair and both secretariats will be at the UN dialogue in the afternoon of June 15.
2. For the next CoSP (and thereafter), UNDESA to:

* Offer the bureau the expertise of IASG members to populate the panels and contribute to the thematic background notes of the COSP.
* Suggest sufficient time is given for IASG members to contribute to the work of the COSP including that on the background notes for the COSP’s roundtables, and to allow DESA to collect and compile inputs from agencies and other stakeholders.

## IASG activities for the CoSP

The application for side events closes on 5th May. An extensive list of side events were discussed. The full list of side events can be found on the CoSP official website[[2]](#footnote-2).

## Discussion of joint statement

A brief joint statement will be made around the 3 subthemes of the CoSP.

***Actions***

1. WHO will develop a draft of the joint statement, and IASG members will have the opportunity to provide input. WHO will then integrate all input in a final statement.

# IX. AOB

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## GLAD request

The Global Action on Disability Network (GLAD) has invited IASG to be part of their steering committee. The role would facilitate information exchange between GLAD and IASG. The next meeting will take place in New York on 16th June.

***Actions***

1. IASG will accept the invitation to join the GLAD steering committee.
2. The IASG will be represented by the chair for the purpose of exchanging information but not with decision or endorsement capacity.

## Coordinating with UN Country teams

UNDP emphasizes the importance of supporting UN Country Teams (UNCTs). A number of opportunities are coming up in the next 6-8 months.

Previously there were 8 working groups of the UNDG, but these working groups have been abolished and will be replaced by a pillar structure around 5 pillars of work of the UNDG, and issues will be categorized under these. We need to ensure that disability is aligned with the relevant pillars, as UNDG discussions within these pillars will inform support to UNCTs.

ILO suggested IASG consider updating the UNDAF guidance document developed in 2011, to align with the new structuring.

***Actions***

1. UNDP will share the key document that was discussed (including the pillar structuring), with IASG members.
2. Revision is needed of the UNDG guideline note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in the UN programming at the country level, given the changing global development, especially the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. UNDESA will email IASG members seeking their input.

## Training on the CRPD

In 2016 United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in collaboration with the IASG, developed an e-learning course called ‘a human rights based approach to disability’. The course will likely be launched later this year. The platform is currently available for IASG internal use only, and can be used for capacity building.

## Coordination of reports and reporting requests

UNDP suggests that IASG play a role in coordinating all relevant reports.

***Actions***

1. UN agencies will inform the IASG chair of any disability relevant reports that they are working on.
2. The IASG chair will consolidate and distribute all relevant information to the group.

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

The objective of the WG is to explore:

* IASG member activities in relation to community initiatives.
* The extent to which community initiatives related to disability can be coordinated.
* The extent to which that coordination can be done with the involvement of UN agencies.

(The powerpoint presentation by the WG is attached in a separate document).

Potential next steps of the WG include:

* Defining parameters to classify existing initiatives and identify good examples.
* Define parameters to make sure the initiatives conform to the CRPD and the human-rights based approach to disability.

Feedback provided on the WG mapping exercise: Further responses from other UN agencies is needed; if future mapping takes place, it was suggested that both targeted and mainstreaming initiatives be captured. There was mixed opinions on the goal of gaining a common understanding of ‘community’ amongst UN agencies. Possible uses of the mapping exercise were discussed.

***Actions***

1. UNMAS, Special Rapporteur, and UNRWA to join the WG.
2. UNDP will contribute to the WG mapping exercise, by sending a summary of a few good examples of community initiatives.
3. WHO and UNHCR to discuss IASG member feedback with the WG at the next meeting, in order to clarify the group’s next steps.

# XI. Support services for persons with disabilities

Ms Catalina Devandas, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and

Mr Alberto Vásquez from the office of the Special Rapporteur presented on community based support (Powerpoint presentation attached in a separate document).

Support for persons with disabilities encompasses a wide range of formal and informal interventions, including live assistance and intermediaries, mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies for: decision-making, communication, mobility, personal assistance, living independently in the community and access general services.

A Special Rapporteur report was recently published on support services more generally[[3]](#footnote-3). Another report will be drafted for the next UN Human Rights Council, focusing on supportive decision making (legal capacity).

***Actions***

1. ILO, WHO, UN Women, UNRWA and UNDP were identified as key UN agencies to be involved in future discussions around support services, and the economy of care.

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

The Working Group is exploring options for potentially using SWAP as a strategy to address challenges in the implementation of the CRPD. The IASG working group on SWAP have collaborated with the SWAP team on gender.

Mr Tony Beck, from the SWAP on gender, presented a summary of their experiences including their successes, challenges, as well as possible implications for mainstreaming the disabilities through the UN (Powerpoint presentation attached in a separate document).

***Actions***

1. OHCHR will send out another invitation for UN agencies to join the WG on SWAP.
2. The IASG WG on SWAP will organize a meeting to decide on the chair and co-chair, and to discuss the next steps. Relevant information will then be circulated to the rest of the IASG members.

# XIII. Closing

Key outcomes of the meeting were discussed.

The next IASG meeting will take place at the end of the year, in October 2017. During this meeting the next chair will be decided.

# Annex I. Agenda of the meeting

**24 April 2017**

|  |  |  |
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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** | **Speaker(s)** |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Opening of the meeting   * Welcome remarks by WHO * Introduction of participants * Adoption of the provisional agenda * Approval of last meeting’s minutes * Reporting matrix | WHO  UNDESA  OHCHR  All |
| 11.00 – 11:30 | Update and discussion on the work of the CRPD Committee and its engagement with the IASG | CRPD Committee |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | *Coffee break* | |
| 12.00 – 12:30 | Update on the activities of the IASG Working Group 11 on situation of risk and humanitarian emergencies | UNICEF  OHCHR |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Update on the activities of the IASG Working Group 6 on Women and Girls with Disabilities | UN Women  UNRWA |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | *Lunch break* | |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | UNPRPD update | UNPRPD |
| 14:45 – 15.30 | Coordinating the topic and activities of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2017 | UNDESA  OHCHR  UN Special rapporteur |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | *Coffee break* | |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Discussion on the Conference of States Parties (CoSP)   * Update on preparations for the 10th session of the CoSP * Discussion of IASG activities for the CoSP * Discussion of joint statement | UNDESA, OHCHR, WHO |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | AOB | All members |

**25 April 2017**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Agenda Item** | **Speaker(s)** |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Activities of the IASG Working Group on community initiatives to implement the CRPD   * Motivation * Objectives of the WG * Work plan * Presentation of mapping exercise | UNHCR,  WHO and all members |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | *Coffee break* | |
| 11.30 – 12:30 | * Support services for persons with disabilities * Next steps | UN Special rapporteur  UNHCR,  WHO and all members |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | *Lunch break* | |
| 13:30 – 15.00 | Activities of the IASG Working Group on UN System-wide Action Plan (SWAP)   * Motivation * Objectives of the WG * Work plan * SWAP experiences | Chair WG and all members  Tony Beck |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | *Coffee break* | |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Activities of the IASG Working Group on UN System-wide Action Plan (SWAP)   * Other accountability experiences (OHCHR (inequalities) – 15 minutes) * Discussion and feedback | Chair WG and all members |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Closing | UNDESA  UNHCR  WHO |

# Annex II. List of Participants

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1. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/47/a47r003.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/conference-of-states-parties-to-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2/cosp10.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/34/58> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)