



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Ninth session

New York, 14-16 June 2016

Report of the ninth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

I. Introduction

1. The ninth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 16 June 2016.
2. The Conference held six meetings. At the first and second meetings, on 14 June, chaired by Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), President of the Conference, one round of elections was held, in accordance with article 34 of the Convention, to elect nine members to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Three round tables were held at the 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 15 and 16 June. Round table 1, on eliminating poverty and inequality for all persons with disabilities, was chaired by Ellen Maduhu (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice-President of the Conference; round table 2, on promoting the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities, was chaired by Sebastiano Cardi (Italy), Vice-President of the Conference; and round table 3, on enhancing the accessibility of information and technology and inclusive development, was co-chaired by Pawel Radomski (Poland), Vice-President of the Conference and Gary Birch, representative of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities. At its sixth meeting, on 16 June, the Conference considered agenda item 6 (interactive dialogue on implementation of the Convention between States parties and the United Nations system), item 7 (decisions by the Conference of States Parties) and item 8 (closing of the meeting).
3. The text of the decisions adopted by the Conference is contained in annex I. The President's summary of the session is contained in annex II and the list of non-governmental organizations in annex III.



II. Opening of the Conference

4. The Conference was opened by the President of the Conference.
5. At the first meeting, the Conference adopted the provisional agenda (CRPD/CSP/2016/1) and agreed on the organization of work of the session.
6. Pursuant to rule 25, paragraph 5 (c), of the rules of procedure, 31 new non-governmental organizations were accredited to the Conference (see annex III).
7. Opening statements were made by the President of the Conference, Mogens Lykketoft, the President of the General Assembly, Edmond Mulet, the Chef de Cabinet on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, and a representative of civil society organizations, Yeni Rosa Damayanti.

III. Election of the members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

8. Under agenda item 4, the following nine candidates were elected as members of the Committee whose terms will begin on 1 January 2017: Ahmad Alsaif (Saudi Arabia); Monthian Buntan (Thailand); Imed Eddine Chaker (Tunisia); Jun Ishikawa (Japan); Samuel Njuguna Kabue (Kenya); László Gábor Lovász (Hungary); Robert George Martin (New Zealand); Martin Babu Mwesigwa (Uganda); and Valery Nikitich Rukhledev (Russian Federation).

IV. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: general debate

9. During the general debate (agenda item 5 (a)) which was on the theme “Implementing the 2030 development agenda for all persons with disabilities: leaving no one behind”, statements were made by 87 States and the European Union,¹ as parties to the Convention. Statements were also made by 2 signatories to the Convention,² 1 country group³ and 12 observers.⁴

¹ Statements were delivered by: Poland, New Zealand, Sweden, San Marino, Denmark, Jordan, Finland, Niger, India, Kenya, Malta, Russian Federation, Argentina, Portugal, Japan, Ukraine, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Malaysia, Estonia, United Republic of Tanzania, Namibia, Albania, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Italy, Brazil, China, Guatemala, European Union, Slovenia, Israel, Peru, Panama, Kazakhstan, State of Palestine, Spain, Viet Nam, Belgium, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Philippines, Thailand, Lithuania, Andorra, Australia, Senegal, Mexico, Paraguay, Turkey, Germany, Dominican Republic, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Bulgaria, Austria, Cyprus, Ecuador, Colombia, Indonesia, Canada, Norway, Myanmar, Switzerland, Singapore, Morocco, Kuwait, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Czech Republic, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Nicaragua, Chile, Bangladesh, Qatar, Burundi, Sudan, Cuba, Guinea, Ghana, Georgia, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Maldives and Antigua and Barbuda.

² The Netherlands, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

³ Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia.

⁴ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, European Disability Forum, International Disability Alliance, Inclusion International, Disabled People’s International, Rehabilitation International, Arab Organization for Persons with Disabilities.

V. Round-table discussions

10. The Conference held round tables at its 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings. Presentations were given by a panel of speakers, followed by interactive discussions.

Round table 1: eliminating poverty and inequality for all persons with disabilities

11. The round-table discussion was chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference (United Republic of Tanzania). Presentations, under agenda item 5 (b), were given by five panellists: Åsa Regnér, Ministry for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality, Sweden; Joelson Dias, Special Committee of Federal Council of the Brazilian Bar Association; Silvia Quan, Disability Ombudsperson, Guatemala; Abdallah Possi, Deputy Minister for Disability Issues, Prime Minister's Office, United Republic of Tanzania; and Emi Aizawa, Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Round table 2: promoting the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities

12. The round table was chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference (Italy). Presentations under agenda item 5 (c) were given by seven panellists: Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; Teresa Di Fiandra, Ministry of Health, Italy; Mesbah Ansari Dogaheh, Islamic Republic of Iran; Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympics International; Paul Deany, Disability Rights Fund; Mercedes Juan, National Commission for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Mexico; and Mark Mapemba, Parents of Disabled Children, Malawi.

Round table 3: enhancing the accessibility of information and technology and inclusive development

13. The round table was co-chaired by Pawel Radomski (Poland), Vice-President of the Conference, and Gary Birch, Council of Canadians with Disabilities, representing civil society. Presentations under agenda item 5 (d) were given by five panellists: Justyne Caruana, Ministry of Family and Social Solidarity, Malta; Rait Kuuse, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia; Mukhtar Al Shibani, Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments; Magino Corporan Lorenzon, National Council on Disability, Dominican Republic; and Theresia Degener, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

VI. Interactive dialogue on implementation of the Convention between States parties and the United Nations system: celebrating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

14. Agenda item 6 was addressed at the 6th meeting, which was chaired by the President of the Conference. Presentations were given by Lenni Montiel, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Facundo Chavez Penillas, Human Rights and Disability Adviser,

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Agnes Hurwitz, Senior Policy Advisor, New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Roi Chiti, Chief Technical Adviser, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and Charlotte V. McClain-Nhlapo, Global Disability Adviser, World Bank Group.

15. Presentations were also given by representatives of other bodies and mandate holders: the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities of the Human Rights Council; and Lenin Moreno Garces, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility.

VII. Decisions by the Conference of States Parties

16. Also at the 6th meeting, under agenda item 7, the Conference adopted unanimously three decisions proposed by its Bureau (see annex I).

VIII. Closing of the Conference

17. At the closing of the Conference, the meeting heard statements by the representatives of Poland, Italy, the United Republic of Tanzania and Brazil, Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

18. The President of the Conference, in his closing statement, expressed his appreciation to all States parties and to the Secretariat for their excellent cooperation and strong support in making the ninth session of the Conference of States Parties a success.

19. The President also informed the Conference that the Bureau-elect for the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Conference of States Parties would come from the following regional groups: President-elect, Bulgaria (Eastern European Group) and four Vice-Presidents of the Bureau-elect, Tunisia (African Group), Sri Lanka (Asia-Pacific Group), Ecuador (Latin American and Caribbean Group) and Germany (Western European and Others Group).

20. The Conference was adjourned at 6 p.m. on 16 June 2016.

Annex I

Decisions by the Conference of States Parties

At its ninth session, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted the following decisions:

Decision 1. Venue and timing of the tenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recalling General Assembly resolution 61/106 and taking into consideration rule 1, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the rules of procedure of the Conference, decides that its tenth session will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 15 June 2017.

Decision 2. Allocation of six meetings over three full days to the sessions of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities welcomes the decision of the General Assembly^a with regard to the conference servicing of six meetings over three full days, as provided during the ninth session of the Conference, and reiterates its recommendation that the Secretary-General continue the provision of adequate support to future sessions of the Conference.

Decision 3. Request to the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities decides to request the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Conference on its ninth session to all States Parties and observers.

^a General Assembly resolution 70/247.

Annex II

President's summary of the ninth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Opening of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

1. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea) opened the ninth session of the Conference of States Parties in his capacity as President of the Conference.

2. During the opening segment, the President of the Conference extended a special welcome to the States Parties which had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since the previous session.^a Acknowledging that 2016 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, the President reflected on the opportunity offered by the Conference for States Parties to learn from the experiences and lessons of the previous 10 years and to build on that progress to strengthen implementation of the Convention. He also underlined the great potential of the Conference in bringing together all stakeholders to advance the inclusive development for persons with disabilities.

3. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly, mentioned the significant international attention that had been given to disability in recent years, including in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He stressed that the links between the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals (see General Assembly resolution 70/1) needed to be further explored and exploited in order to translate the promise of the Agenda into concrete results for persons living with a disability. The President of the General Assembly further underlined the obligations of States Parties to take all necessary steps to fully implement the Convention in their countries, and called on all Governments to work together with other stakeholders to empower the over 1 billion persons with disabilities.

4. On behalf of the Secretary-General, Edmond Mulet, Chef de Cabinet, stated that the Convention was one of the most widely ratified United Nations treaties. He recognized that the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities were increasingly being integrated into international development frameworks. He also reflected on the strong international commitment to disability, through reference to recent international conferences and the prominence of disability in those processes and also within the United Nations itself. Strengthened coordination within the United Nations system was also taking place, particularly through the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He concluded by emphasizing that there was still a great deal more to do to implement the Convention and make rights a reality for persons with disabilities and that the United Nations would continue to support stakeholders in that regard.

5. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) congratulated the international community for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

^a Bahamas, Madagascar, Trinidad and Tobago, Gambia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Antigua and Barbuda, Sri Lanka, Brunei Darussalam and Finland.

Development and for the explicit references to persons with disabilities in a number of goals and targets. On behalf of the Committee, she stressed that all goals and targets, in their implementation, needed to empower persons with disabilities. She also emphasized the need to accord greater attention to persons with disabilities in conflict and crisis situations. The role of the private sector, national human rights institutions and civil society in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, together with that of Governments, was underlined. She also referred to the value of the work and comments of the Committee in guiding implementation of the Convention.

6. Yeni Rosa Damayanti, representing civil society, also made a statement. She pointed out that the Convention recognized that persons with disabilities must be consulted and engaged actively in decision-making processes that affected their lives, echoing the motto of the civil society movement “nothing about us without us”, which was well reflected in the achievement of including persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmental processes. She aired her concern about the continued need for persons with disabilities to fight for their involvement in the Conference as equal partners and, in that regard, stressing the importance of implementing article 4.3 of the Convention.

7. The Conference adopted the agenda of the Conference ([CRPD/CSP/2016/1](#)) and approved by consensus the accreditation of the 31 new non-governmental organizations that had applied to participate as observers to the Conference.^b

Round-table discussions

Round table 1. Eliminating poverty and inequality for all persons with disabilities

8. Ellen Maduhu, (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice-President of the Conference, chaired round table 1.

9. Åsa Regnér (Ministry for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality, Sweden) spoke about the need to pursue gender equality when mainstreaming the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities in development. She shared experiences in the five areas that Sweden was focusing on to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. Those areas covered inclusive labour markets, inclusive education, independent living, the provision of assistive devices and the access thereto and global partnerships. She stressed that the involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in dialogue with Governments must be ensured, to address poverty and inequalities.

10. Abdallah Possi, Deputy Minister for Disability Issues of the Prime Minister’s Office, United Republic of Tanzania, discussed the challenges faced by the country in advancing disability-inclusive poverty reduction. He stressed the importance of poverty-reduction policies for persons with disabilities, given that individuals with disabilities were likely to endure greater financial hardship than their peers without disabilities. He also shared a number of strategies that had been pursued to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the United Republic of Tanzania. The transformative power of employment creation and promotion as an economic and

^b Agenda item 3, organization of work.

social empowerment tool was stressed. The accessibility of essential services, including clean water, food and housing, was also discussed. Mr. Possi pointed out the ways in which stigma and stereotypes and their disabling effects further entrenched inequality and exclusion of persons with disabilities. Assistive devices and their importance for persons with disabilities were identified as being equally essential as the right to food for persons with disabilities.

11. Silvia Quan, a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Disability Ombudsperson, Guatemala, discussed relevant articles of the Convention as well as the interlinked and interdependent nature of human rights. She emphasized the need to pursue all human rights for persons with disabilities in an integrated way so as to effectively address key barriers and challenges faced by persons with disabilities. She discussed the main instruments that should guide the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities and their relationship to the 2030 Agenda. It was stressed that analysis of the 2030 Agenda should be pursued through a cross-sectional approach, particularly from the perspective of intersectionalities that took into consideration multiple forms of discrimination, marginalization and exclusion. Strategies needed to include specific measures which were broad in scope so as to adequately respond to the full spectrum of needs and interests of persons with disabilities and their diversity. The importance of independent monitoring mechanisms and disabled people organizations was also stressed. In closing, she suggested that States Parties pay particular attention to concluding observations of the Committee and key recommendations on accessibility.

12. Joelson Dias from the Special Committee of Federal Council of the Brazilian Bar Association, spoke about the relationship between poverty and disability. He shared information about persons with disabilities in Brazil and voiced concern about the disproportionate representation of persons with disabilities among the poor. Mr. Dias also shared examples of a number of initiatives and policies developed in Brazil to address extreme poverty of persons with disabilities, particularly those most marginalized, including indigenous persons with disabilities. He noted a number of areas where progress had been made in Brazil, including ending hunger and pulling 22 million people out of extreme poverty. He discussed the various dimensions of poverty and recognized the importance of addressing poverty through a multidimensional approach that recognized that full participation of persons with disabilities would support their economic, social and cultural advancement. Finally, the need to address inequalities of resources between the North and South were underlined as crucial for poverty reduction. Poverty and inequality posed a serious threat to sustainable development and the realization of human rights.

13. Mercedes Juan, National Commission for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Mexico, discussed some good practices in Mexico. She shared information about a national system for development and inclusion of persons with disabilities that coordinated and supported programmes which impacted on persons with disabilities. Efforts to support harmonization of policies, including national information systems, across the country, had also taken place to advance implementation of the Convention. Information on a project that was implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support mobility of children with disabilities in rural areas was shared as a good practice. Initiatives to bolster the participation of civil society to better address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities were also discussed.

14. Emi Aizawa, Japan International Cooperation Agency, shared some examples of good practices that Japan and its international cooperation agency had pursued to advance implementation of the Convention with the aim of addressing inequalities and reducing poverty among persons with disabilities. She mentioned that targeted programmes, implemented in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities could be effective in prompting disability mainstreaming initiatives more broadly. She stressed that disability mainstreaming must begin with efforts to change mindsets. In that regard, the active involvement of persons with disabilities was essential to respond to stereotypes and stigma. A multidimensional programme that was implemented in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia was provided as a good practice example. The programme had two main pillars, including job coaching and disability equality training, which resulted in improvements in the services provided by the private sector in Malaysia as well as the employment of over 650 persons with disabilities, of whom 60 per cent had intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. As a result of the 10-year partnership and achievements in advancing inclusive employment for persons with disabilities, Malaysia had shared its experiences and good practices with 20 other countries and an international network had been created to share good practices among countries and to further discussions between organizations of persons with disabilities and with Governments.

15. Representatives from Denmark, Argentina, Portugal, Morocco, Sudan, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, the European Union and Namibia made remarks from the floor.

Round table 2. Promoting the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities

16. Sebastiano Cardi (Italy), Vice-President of the Conference, chaired the second round-table discussion. In his opening remarks, Mr. Cardi addressed the need to empower persons with mental and intellectual disabilities. He emphasized the importance of advancing a human rights-based approach to facilitating full access and participation by persons with mental and intellectual disabilities.

17. Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, pointed out that the right to health was an essential right of all persons. However, it should not be pursued as an entry point for the realization of the rights of persons with mental or intellectual disabilities. The Convention signified a move away from a medical model towards a human rights model, although a huge gap persisted in implementation. A holistic approach that encompassed both social and medical care was called for. She also discussed the inadequacy of inclusive education in and of itself. Further opportunities for students with mental and intellectual disabilities also needed to be advanced. She noted that many social protection systems continued to fail in their protection of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities, resulting in homelessness and overrepresentation in prison systems. She stressed the responsibility of all stakeholders to form stronger partnerships that included extended family members and the communities of persons with disabilities, to advance the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities.

18. Teresa Di Fiandra, Ministry of Health, Italy, discussed the need to take a holistic approach and involve stakeholders from many different sectors to advance the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities. She discussed the World Health Organization Global Health Atlas as a valuable resource to guide services for persons with mental disabilities. She also shared information from the

context of Europe and discussed the efforts being made, including the “Gap Project”, to close quality gaps in service between European countries and make mental health services accessible and affordable to all. She also shared information on joint initiatives with the World Health Organization to provide quality care to persons with mental disabilities through a broad range of initiatives. She emphasized the need to invest in communities, services and quality care to promote the empowerment of persons with mental disabilities. Finally, she shared some good practice examples from the experience of Italy, including the participation of persons with mental disabilities and their families in campaigns to fight stigma.

19. Mesbah Ansari Dogaheh (Islamic Republic of Iran) said in his presentation that, according to the World Health Organization, 80 per cent of persons with serious mental health conditions did not receive proper care. He stressed that empowerment was key and that individuals needed to be respected and understood in their own societies. He referred to the *World Health Organization Mental Health Atlas 2014* as a comprehensive and useful tool, but said that challenges remained in terms of its implementation. He welcomed the 2030 Agenda and its inclusion of specific actions to advance psychosocial support and rehabilitation for people in need. He concluded by reiterating that accessibility needed to be conceptualized beyond physical barriers and to be applied to the broader context of environments that include also social environments to address accessibility barriers faced by persons with mental and intellectual disabilities.

20. Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympics International, described her personal experience as an individual with an intellectual disability. She described the impact of going through institutionalized care and sheltered employment and of feeling marginalized and excluded from society. She emphasized the need to acknowledge the important differences between intellectual and mental disabilities and the danger of treating persons with intellectual disabilities as though they had mental health issues. She also stressed the need to raise the awareness of persons with different types of intellectual and mental disabilities around the world to address negative stigma. Ms. Claiborne further described the transformative potential of sport as a means for empowerment and inclusion and discussed her experiences with the Special Olympics.

21. Paul Deany, the Disability Rights Fund, discussed some of the persistent violations of the rights of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities. He shared his experiences as a person with a mental disability, underscoring that stigma continued to pose barriers to inclusion for persons with psychosocial disabilities, including discriminatory legislation, practices that deprived individuals of the exercise of their legal capacity and liberty, and various acts of violence, abuse, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment on the basis of disability. He emphasized that urgent action was needed to address forced and sometimes brutal detention of persons with mental disabilities in various countries and shared some of the activities that his organization was pursuing to respond to some of those issues. Finally, he emphasized the need to move from a medical model for mental health towards a human rights-based approach that reflected the principles of the Convention. He also stressed the importance of empowering persons with mental disabilities, particularly in less developed countries, to enable greater visibility and advocacy for their rights.

22. Mark Mapemba (Parents of Disabled Children, Malawi) described the situation of many persons with intellectual disabilities and the limited options for living independently. He said that, in many cases, families continued to be the main source

of care and support for persons with intellectual disabilities throughout their lives. He emphasized the importance of self-advocacy and voiced his concern that the development of self-advocacy had been uneven and that in countries where self-advocacy was poorly understood, persons with intellectual disabilities continued to have no voice. He suggested that, in order to address this, self-advocates needed to be involved in decision-making processes at the community level. Greater inclusion in education was also key to breaking down barriers for persons with intellectual disabilities. He highlighted that children who participated in school were more likely to have meaningful relationships, find employment and be involved in the cultural and civic life of communities.

23. Statements and questions were issued from the floor by representatives of Mexico, the Syrian Arab Republic, Panama, China, New Zealand, Guatemala, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Disabled People's International, Rehabilitation International, the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (Europe), Dementia Alliance International, the World Federation of the Deaf and the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities.

Round table 3: Enhancing accessibility to information and technology and inclusive development

24. Round table 3 was co-chaired by the Vice-President of the Conference (Poland) and Gary Birch, Council of Canadians with Disabilities, representing civil society.

25. Justyne Caruana, Ministry of Family and Social Solidarity, Malta, shared some experiences in Malta in advancing the accessibility of information and communications technology (ICT). She described how accessibility to information and technology was a major pillar for the disability sector and was vital for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. She described a number of initiatives in Malta that were improving accessible ICT for persons with disabilities in a range of areas. From her experience, she stressed the importance of involving persons with disabilities in the decision-making and consultation process in the design and implementation of ICT accessibility. She also highlighted the importance of disability mainstreaming in all policies and of linking incentives for accessibility with all government departments, projects and funding schemes.

26. Rait Kuuse, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia, described sustainable and accessible ICTs as important aspects of the development plans of Estonia. He stressed the importance of securing commitment from all sectors, including the Government, the private sector, civil society and organizations of persons with disabilities, to develop and implement inclusive environments and ICT solutions. He described the importance of continued innovation for inclusive development policies and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities. Through the example of electronic health records in Estonia, he underlined the way in which innovation in the field of social services could be pursued and could benefit all. Finally, he stressed that accessible ICTs had universal benefits for all, not only for persons with disabilities, and therefore held great potential as a tool for inclusive development.

27. Mukhtar Al Shibani, Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments, shared information about the mission of the Global Alliance to promote understanding and implementation of accessibility in the sustainable, virtual and built environment. He shared some examples of initiatives to promote

accessible ICTs to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the area of employment, and to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in economic, political and social spheres. He noted that opportunities for persons with disabilities to access accessible ICTs remained a huge challenge, particularly in developing countries, owing to infrastructure limitations and prohibitive costs. He highlighted the opportunity for Governments to use public procurement to stimulate demand for universal design and accessibility as a way to encourage and support private sector innovation and the mainstreaming of accessible ICT goods and services.

28. Magino Corporan Lorenzon, National Council on Disability, Dominican Republic, said that over 90 million people in Latin America had a disability, most of whom lived in extreme poverty. He advocated that ICT systems could be important tools for inclusion, but could also perpetuate exclusion, marginalization and inequalities if they were not designed for all in an accessible manner. He shared some experiences and progress made in the Dominican Republic in advancing accessible information, including through the justice system, banking and a digital policy for accessible Internet. He underlined the importance of developing communication products that responded to the diverse needs of persons with disabilities, to promote access to education, and the need for regulatory policies to advance those goals.

29. Theresia Degener, a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, described the importance of the Convention in guiding a shift towards a social model and human rights-based approach to address the needs of persons with disabilities. She emphasized that accessibility was a cornerstone for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and discussed the scope of article 9 of the Convention. She also emphasized that accessibility must cover all three spheres of the physical environment: transportation, information and communication. She highlighted the important differences between reasonable accommodation and accessibility and stressed that accessibility was about both equality and dignity of persons. Some recurring recommendations that the Committee issued to States parties included the establishment of clear action plans with detailed time frames for implementation and to adopt an appropriate legal framework to support enforcement. She concluded by reiterating that accessibility was a human right that was relevant not only for persons with disabilities, but for all.

30. During the question and answer session, representatives from China, Mexico, Canada, the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies, the European Union, Rehabilitation International, Sierra Leone, the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, South Africa and Sweden took the floor.

Interactive dialogue on implementation of the Convention between States parties and the United Nations system: celebrating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

31. The President of the Conference opened the interactive dialogue on implementation of the Convention between States parties and the United Nations system: celebrating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

32. The Assistant Secretary-General, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, provided an overview of ongoing efforts of the Department to support States parties in incorporating the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities and the principles of the Convention in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He discussed efforts to help Member States translate global development frameworks into national actions for persons with disabilities. He shared a number of activities of the Department in the areas of research, data and statistics on disability, policy analysis and technical assistance that had been undertaken over the previous year. He also shared the plans of the Department to review progress made in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals for persons with disabilities through a flagship publication in 2018. The Assistant Secretary-General further reflected on the significant progress that had been made at the international level to incorporate the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities into global frameworks and conferences.

33. The Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities discussed the goals and activities of the Committee over the previous year. She mentioned the work of the Committee in providing capacity-building support to States parties to improve implementation of the Convention through a range of activities. She also mentioned some activities undertaken by the Committee to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention. She shared the intention of the Committee to adopt a general comment on women with disabilities as well as inclusive education at its next session. She also shared information about the Committee's plan to discuss simplified reporting mechanisms for periodic reviews of States' reports and work undertaken to support the participation of national human rights institutions in their sessions at the Committee.

34. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities reflected on the inclusive processes that led to the development of the Convention and emphasized the need to continue to involve persons with disabilities in all the work of the United Nations. She also reflected on the value of the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in guiding implementation of the Convention. She voiced particular concern about the ongoing challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities and reiterated the importance of ensuring that all persons with disabilities benefited from the 2030 Agenda. She also discussed the need to continue to strengthen efforts within the United Nations system to include persons with disabilities and for better coordination among agencies and programmes in that regard. The Special Rapporteur further mentioned active citizenship, inclusive development and diversity as areas of work on which she was particularly focusing.

35. Lenín Moreno, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, reiterated the importance of using the Convention to guide implementation of the 2030 Agenda to ensure that no one was left behind. He discussed some of the barriers faced by countries that had not yet ratified the Convention. He encouraged continued and collaborative efforts towards universal ratification. The Special Envoy also reflected on the work of the United Nations in supporting States parties, including in the recent earthquakes in Japan and Ecuador, and stressed the importance of ensuring accessibility as a priority in disaster responses. He also emphasized the importance of the forthcoming global report on disability, highlighting the need to reflect the diversity of geographical perspectives.

36. Facundo Chavez Penillas, Human Rights and Disability Advisor, OHCHR, encouraged the Conference to continue to build on efforts to ensure greater involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. He also expressed concern about the gender imbalance of the Committee as a result of the present year's Committee elections, with only one female member among a total of 18 Committee members whose terms would start from 2017. He shared information about progress made in the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action and emergency situations over the previous year. Mr. Chavez further encouraged States parties to continue to invest in research and exchange of good practices. He also shared information on the work of OHCHR to develop policy guidelines and human rights indicators for the Convention. Finally, reflecting on 10 years of progress, he encouraged observers to move towards universal ratification of the Convention.

37. Agnes Hurwitz, representing UNHCR, gave a presentation on behalf of the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention, as the rotating chair for the present session. She shared information on a number of areas that the Group had collaborated on, including the promotion of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities. She also discussed ways in which United Nations entities were working together to support States parties to strengthen the collection of internationally comparable data and statistics on disability, particularly in relation to monitoring progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. Roi Chiti, Chief Technical Advisor, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) discussed the forthcoming Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which would take place in October in Quito, and the opportunities that it presented to advance Sustainable Development Goal 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. He shared information about the preparatory processes over the previous year and highlighted that the agenda and vision that was emerging encompassed the three dimensions of sustainability. He emphasized the social functions of a city and the need to link social and economic elements to advance inclusive urban societies. He invited States parties to participate in the ongoing preparatory processes as the final informal negotiations took place over the following weeks and months.

39. Charlotte V. McClain-Nhlapo, Global Disability Adviser, World Bank Group, shared information about the commitment of the World Bank to supporting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in the areas of education, vocational training, employment, human settlements and access to transportation and markets. She discussed how the World Bank addressed disability as a cross-cutting issue in its work, and shared information about a number of efforts that had been made to strengthen disability inclusion. They included activities to build an evidence base, to mainstream and operationalize disability inclusion through a range of sectors and types of interventions and the development of partnerships with Governments, civil society and other external partners. She emphasized the need to strengthen statistical evidence as a way to drive policy change and to measure the impact of inclusion.

40. Following the panellists' statements, questions from the floor were received from the representatives of Mexico, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Russian Federation, Costa Rica, Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Closing of the Conference

41. The representatives of Brazil, Italy, Poland and the United Republic of Tanzania, Vice-Presidents of the Conference, in their closing statements, saluted the leadership of the President and the full cooperation received from States parties, including fellow Bureau members as well as the capable support from the Secretariat in the course of preparation and running of the programme of the Conference.

42. In his closing remarks, the President of the Conference noted that over 90 speakers had taken the floor during the general debate. He noted the significant progress in the implementation of the Convention over the previous 10 years, since its adoption. Some key messages that emerged over the three days of the conference included the imperative need to mainstream disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and, in that regard, the need to strengthen coordination to break down silos and actively engage persons with disabilities in decision-making processes. Accessibility that benefits all had also repeatedly been emphasized throughout the present session. Without accessibility, the gap between promises and practices would persist.

43. The ninth session, its programme and the extensive side events once again demonstrated the value of the Conference. Just as the Convention supported the historic inclusion of the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda, the Convention should continue to contribute to and guide implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Conference had great potential as a unique international multi-shareholder platform for sharing experiences and good practices in order to explore practical solutions for furthering inclusive development and the realization of rights for persons with disabilities. He hoped that the Conference would continue to play an important role in advancing the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development.

44. The President mentioned the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on an inclusive and accessible United Nations and said that there was still a great deal to be done in order to realize an accessible and inclusive environment for all delegates and visitors at the United Nations.

45. The President announced the members of the Bureau-elect: Bulgaria (President), Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador and Germany, and wished them success in their work.

46. The President expressed his great appreciation to the States parties for their collaboration in the organization of the Conference and reiterated his commitment to continuing to advance the implementation of the Convention, before announcing the closing of the meeting.

Annex III**Non-governmental organizations accredited to the
Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities at its ninth session**

1. African Disability Forum
2. Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland
3. Australian Federation of Disability Organizations
4. Bangladesh Protibandhi Unnayan Sangstha
5. Booker Autism Foundation
6. Canadian Association of the Deaf-Association des Sourds du Canada
7. Centre for Citizens with Disabilities
8. Consortium of Disability Organizations
9. Data-Pop Alliance
10. Disabled Peoples Organizations — Denmark
11. East Eagle Foundation
12. Enosh — The Israeli Mental Health Association
13. Fédération Guinéenne pour la Promotion des Associations des Personnes Handicapées
14. FESTAC-USA
15. Korean Network for Accessible Tourism
16. Kuwaiti Society for Guardians of the Disabled
17. Lumos Foundation
18. Network Forum for Women with Disability
19. Network of Accessible Environments for All (NAEA)
20. Network of Organizations Working with People with Disabilities, Pakistan
21. Organisation Constellée Pour le Développement Economique et Social de la Communes des Gonaïves (OCDESCG)
22. Pakistan Community Peace Foundation
23. People First of Canada
24. Physically-challenged Development Foundation
25. Red de Asistencia Legal y Social
26. Réseau des Associations des Personnes Handicapées au Burundi
27. Ryan Martin Foundation
28. San Marino Paralympic Committee
29. Turkey Education and Solidarity Foundation for People with Disabilities
30. Vision for the Blind Sierra Leone
31. Women with Disabilities Arts and Cultural Network