



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Distr.: General
11 January 2010
Original: English

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

Second Session

New York, 2-4 September 2009

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

I. Introduction

1. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by General Assembly resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006, and entered into force on 3 May 2008. In accordance with article 40 of the Convention¹, and as agreed during the first session, the second session of the Conference of States Parties was convened in 2009 to discuss the implementation of the Convention. The theme of the session was “Legislative measures to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”.

2. The Conference had four formal meetings. During its first meeting, on 2 September, the Conference had a high level panel. Two interactive round tables entitled “Accessibility and reasonable accommodation” and “Equal recognition before the law, access to justice and support and decision-making” were held during the second and third meetings in the mornings of 2 and 3 September respectively. During the fourth meeting, there was an “Interactive dialogue on United Nations system support for the implementation of the Convention” followed by a presentation of the informal session on emerging issues held on 3 September co-chaired by the Bureau and civil society, entitled “The Global Economic Crisis, Poverty and the Implementation of the Convention”.

¹ According to Article 40 of the Convention, the States Parties are to meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties to consider any matter related to the implementation of the Convention, as well as elect members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General biennially or by a decision of the Conference of States Parties.

3. The Conference agreed to hold its third session in September 2010. During the upcoming session there will be elections of members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and of the bureau of the Conference.

II. Opening of the meeting and high-level panel on legislative measures to implement the Convention

4. The second session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held on 2 to 4 September 2009.

5. The first meeting was called to order on 2 September by the President of the Conference, H.E. Amb. Claude Heller (Mexico). The Conference adopted the provisional agenda contained in CRPD/CSP/2009/1.

6. Pursuant to Rule 25, paragraph 5 (c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of States Parties (CRPD/CSP/2008/3) and on the basis of a non-objection procedure ten non-governmental organizations were accredited to the Conference (Annex 1). The Conference decided that National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights could participate in the Conference.

7. As part of the opening [agenda item 1, Opening], statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social, the Director of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights New York Office, and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Mr. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh, and representing civil society, Mr. Jan-Peter Strömngren, Chairperson of the International Disability Alliance-CRPD Forum.

8. The Conference proceeded to the consideration of agenda item 3 (a) Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: High-level panel on the theme “Legislative measures to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”.

9. The second meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was called to order on 2 September 2009 by the Vice-Chairperson, H.E. Amb. Gábor Bródi (Hungary). The high level segment continued during the first part of this meeting. During the high level segment, thirty-three States informed the Conference of progress made in the implementation of the Convention, particularly on legislative measures to implement the Convention.² Non-governmental organizations also made statements.

III. Interactive round-table on legislative measures and accessibility and reasonable accommodation

² Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Malawi, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Philippines, Qatar, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, and United States of America.

10. After the High Level Segment, also at its second meeting, the Conference initiated consideration of agenda item 3 (b), entitled Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: Interactive round tables on the theme “Legislative measures to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. An interactive Roundtable entitled “Accessibility and reasonable accommodation” took place. The roundtable was chaired by H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) and composed by two members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Mr. Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury and Ms. Ana Peláez Narváez, and two experts from civil society, Mr. Wilfredo Guzmán Jara of Disabled Peoples’ International and Ms. Anne Hawker of Rehabilitation International. Following the presentations, representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations made interventions.

IV. Interactive round-table on legislative measures and equal recognition before the law, access to justice and decision-making

11. The third meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was called to order on 3 September 2009. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Ms. Noluthando Agatha Mayende-Sibiya, Minister of Women, Youth, Children and Persons with Disabilities (South Africa) and H.E. Amb. Jim McLay (New Zealand). During the meeting, an interactive roundtable entitled “Equal recognition before the law, access to justice and support and decision-making” took place. The roundtable was comprised of two members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Edah Wangechi Maina, Vice-Chairperson, and Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, and two experts from civil society, Ms. Tirza Leibowitz of Survivor Corps and Ms. Tina Minkowitz of World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry. Following the presentations, representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations made interventions.

V. Interactive dialogue on United Nations system’s support for the implementation of the Convention

12. The fourth meeting of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was called to order on 4 September 2009. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Amb. Claude Heller (Mexico) and H.E. Amb. Jim McLay (New Zealand). During that meeting the Conference initiated consideration of agenda item 3 (c), entitled “Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: Interactive dialogue on United Nations system support for the implementation of the Convention.”

13. During the interactive dialogue, presentations were made by the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Deputy Director of the New York Office of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Ms. Amna Ali Al Suweidi, member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Management and Executive Director, Capital Master Plan; Senior Policy Advisor and Cluster Leader for Inclusive Development

and Poverty Group in the bureau for Development Policy of the United Nations Development Programme; and the Deputy Director, Policy and Practice of the United Nations Children's Fund. Following the presentations, representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations made interventions.

VI. Summary of the informal session on emerging issues: the global economic crisis, poverty and the implementation of the Convention

14. The interactive dialogue was followed by the presentation Ms. Regina Maria Melo Atalla, Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS). Ms Regina Maria Melo Attala presented the summary of the informal session on emerging issues held on 3 September, entitled "The Global Economic Crisis, Poverty and the Implementation of the Convention", which was co-chaired by H.E. Amb. Jim McLay (New Zealand) on behalf of the bureau and Ms. Catalina Devandas on behalf of the Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS). Following the presentations, representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations made interventions.

VII. Other matters and closing of the Conference

A. Elections

15. Also at its fourth meeting the Conference initiated consideration of agenda item 4 entitled "Other matters". The President of the Conference noted that in accordance with article 34, paragraph 7, of the Convention the term of six experts whose names were chosen by lot during the first session of the Conference would expire at the end of two years. During its third session the Conference would elect six members to replace those whose term expires on 31 December 2010.³

16. The President also noted that as established in Article 34, paragraphs 2 and 6, of the Convention, should there be eighty ratifications or accessions to the Convention, at least four months before the date of the election of members of the Committee, the membership of the Committee shall increase by six members, attaining a maximum number of eighteen members. Also, as established in Article 34, paragraphs 6, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit the nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the State Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.

³ The six experts whose term expires on 31 December 2010 are: Mr. Lotfi Ben Lallahom; Mr. György Könczei; Ms. Edah Wangechi Maina; Mr. Ronald McCallum; Mr. Germán Xavier Torres Correa; and Mr. Cveto Uršič.

17. The President further noted that pursuant to Rule 9 the Rules of procedure for the Conferences of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the term of the members of the bureau—one President and four Vice-Presidents—is of two years. The term of the members of the current bureau (Hungary, Jordan, Mexico, New Zealand, and South Africa) ends on 30 October 2010. During its third session, the Conference will also elect the members of the bureau.

B. Documentation

18. The Conference had before two background documents: (a) a compilation on legislative measures to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁴, and (b) “Thematic Study by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on enhancing awareness and understanding of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (A/HRC/10/48).

19. The Conference requested the Secretariat to (a) continue to update the compilation on legislative measures to implement the Convention; (b) prepare a compilation of good practices on accessibility and reasonable accommodations; and (c) prepare a compilation on good practices on equal recognition before the law, access to justice and support and decision-making.

20. Statements made at the opening, interactive roundtables and discussion of the second session of the Conference of States Parties, as well as other related information, can be accessed, and submitted to the Secretariat, at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1479>

C. Date of the next session of the Conference of States Parties

21. The Conference agreed to hold its third session during the first week of September of 2010, and that the exact dates would be determined pending consultations on the availability of conference services.

⁴ The compilation of legislative measures undertaken in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is based upon data available to the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as of 26 August 2009. The sources of the data are: (a) information received from States Parties and Signatories to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities in response to the request by the President of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention dated 18 June 2009 to provide inputs on recent legislative measures; (b) information received from Member States in response to two Note Verbales of the Secretary-General dated 22 April 2009 requesting inputs to two reports of the Secretary-General to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly; and (c) other independent inputs and submissions from States Parties and Signatories.

Annex I

Non-governmental organizations accredited to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during its second session

In accordance with rule 25, paragraph 5 (c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, following a no-objection procedure, the following non-governmental organizations were accredited:

1. AIDS-Free World
 2. Barbados Council for the Disabled (BCD)
 3. Colombian Centre for Integrated Rehabilitation (CIREC)
 4. Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI)
 5. Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)
 6. Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD)
 7. Koshish: National Mental Health Self-help Organisation
 8. Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS)
 9. Somaliland National Disability Forum (SNDF)
 10. ZELDA
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