



**SÃO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT
State Secretariat for the Rights
of the Person with Disability**

REPORT

Rio+20 Side-Event:

“Promoting Disability-Inclusive Development for a Sustainable Future”

Rio de Janeiro, June 17th, 2012

Aiming at inserting disability-related issues in discussions on the elaboration of strategies and public policies for sustainable development, it was held, concomitantly to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, the forum “Promoting Disability-Inclusive Development for a Sustainable Future”, at the Multi Purpose Pavilion of the Athletes Park, in Rio de Janeiro.

The event was organized in collaboration by Rio+20 National Organizing Committee, the Latin-American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RADIS), the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the São Paulo State Secretariat for the Rights of the Person with Disability, counting on the participation of Government, Parliament, Civil Society and Academy representatives, as shown below:

13h00 – UN Rio+20 Conference Accessible for All

- **Izabel de Loureiro Maior**, Rio+20 National Organizaing Committee and Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, UFRJ.
- **Regina Cohen**, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, UFRJ.

13h30 – Promoting Disability-Inclusive Development for a Sustainable Future

- *Establishing the Agenda for the 5th CoP (Sep.2012)*
 - **Marco Antônio Pellegrini**, Deputy São Paulo State Secretary for the Rights of the Person with Disability, SEDPcD.
 - **Wanderley Marques de Assis**, Chairman, São Paulo State Council on the Matter of Persons with Disability.
- *Children with Disability*
 - **Cesar Yumi Yaule**, International Disability and Development Consortium, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) – Foundation for Indigenous Development (FUIDE) – Ecuador.
 - **Gilka Gattás**, Medical College, University of São Paulo.
 - Special participation of **Bruno Covas**, São Paulo State Secretary for the Environment.
- *Accessibility and Technology*
 - **Mara Gabrielli**, São Paulo Congresswoman.
 - **Moisés Bauer Luiz**, Chairman, National Council on the Rights of the Person with Disability, CONADE.



**SÃO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT
State Secretariat for the Rights
of the Person with Disability**

- *High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development (Sep. 2013)*
 - **Regina Atalla**, Chairman, Latin-American Network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families, RIADIS.
- *Disability and the post-2015 Global Development Agenda*
 - **Arnaud Peral**, Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Development Program, UNDP.
- *The Proposal from São Paulo*
 - **Linamara Rizzo Battistella**, São Paulo State Secretary for the Rights of the Person with Disability, SEDPcD.

16h – Happening “Celebrating the Most Accessible Conference in the History of the United Nations”

The main subjects discussed were:

- **Dr. Izabel Loureiro Maior** presented Rio+20 accessibility project, the most accessible Conference in the history of the United Nations, according to Universal Design principles and technical norms in vigor, aiming at assuring the participation of all society segments, making it a role model in the organization of big events for Brazil and the entire world;
- **Marco Antônio Pellegrini** highlighted the need for government bodies and civil society to play a more incisive role in the global development agenda, which embraces, among other subjects, the 5th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (Sep/2012), the General Assembly High Level Meeting on Disability and Development (Sep/2013), and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals;
- **Cesa Yumi Yaule** reported his inclusive actions held with persons with disabilities in indigenous communities in Ecuador;
- **Dr. Gilka Gattás** presented the work done by the São Paulo State Government relating to missing children and the Way Back Program, of the University of São Paulo’s Medical College, emphasizing statistics and information referring to missing children with disabilities;
- Congresswoman **Mara Gabrilli** narrated achieved advances in physical and communication accessibility in the National Congress, so legislators with disabilities can participate at debates and voting, and fully exercise their attributions. The Representative also highlighted Brazilian transportation issues and the long way to be covered in making them entirely accessible;
- **Moisés Bauer Luiz** reported CONADE’s significance, whose institutional attributions are now under jeopardy due to the limits inflicted upon his actions, including due to the restriction of resources allocation, allowances and air tickets imposed by the National Undersecretariat for the Promotion of the Rights of the Person with Disability and the Human Rights Secretariat



**SÃO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT
State Secretariat for the Rights
of the Person with Disability**

of the Republic's Presidency, once the Council has no autonomous budget, which would guarantee the independency it should have.

- **Regina Atalla** proposed a disability-related international agenda, aiming at its inclusion in the UN forums to come, like the 5th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (Sep/2012), the General Assembly High Level Meeting on Disability and Development (Sep/2013), and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals
- **Arnaud Peral** stressed the event's significance, regretting the lack of its theme at the Sustainable Development Dialogues, once, currently, it is impossible to lead such a discussion disregarding this segment of world population, which is estimated at 1 billion persons.
- **Dr. Linamara Rizzo Battistella** presented São Paulo's proposal to the promotion of inclusive sustainable development, recommending, according to the example set by the State and City of São Paulo, the creation of government bodies specialized in disability-related issues in every level of public administration, with a special emphasis at the local/municipal level. She also proposed the creation of a specific agency in the UN System, as a way to assure this theme receive proper attention in the international agenda (full Proposal is attached).

After the closing ceremony, attendants were invited to participate of a cocktail in the pavilion of the São Paulo State Government, where **Dr. Izabel Loureiro Maior** was paid homage for her work with the National Organizing Committee to make Rio+20 the most accessible conference in the history of the United Nations.

Final Remarks

The side-event "**Promoting Disability-Inclusive Development for a Sustainable Future**" was developed to fill the unacceptable strategic and thematic gap the Brazilian Federal Government and the United Nations were unable to close including disability-related issues among Rio+20 official themes and Sustainable Development Dialogues.

As the only one of its kind within the Conference's scope, yet as a side-event, it has achieved the possible objectives, gathering renowned speakers and promoting high level discussions on the role persons with disabilities shall play in sustainable development strategies and public policies.

Although the Conference's Outcome Document had five different mentions to persons with disability, this issue is still far from being duly considered in the international development agenda.

In this sense, we should intensify our efforts to enhance public understanding of this subject in a manner to avoid the recurrence of such strategic errors in the future, promoting the rights of persons with disability and including them into the development agenda.



**SÃO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT
State Secretariat for the Rights
of the Person with Disability**

Thus, SEDPCD's proposal is potentially significant, once it presents a well-succeeded model for the implementation of inclusive public policies, through the creation of specialized government bodies in every level of public administration (national, state/regional, and municipal/local, with a special emphasis at the last one).

Concurrently, it also proposes the UN to create a specific agency devoted to the rights of persons with disabilities, following the example of other agencies and programs lead by the Organization.

To repeat the last paragraph of São Paulo's Proposal, without the full participation of persons with disabilities, it is impossible even to think about sustainable development, not only due to the growing numbers of this society segment, but, fundamentally, to acknowledge that humanity, as well as the planet itself, is diverse, and that within this diversity we can find our greatest wealth.

**International Relations Advisory
Institutional Relations Coordination
São Paulo State Secretariat for the Rights of the Person with Disability**