

Interagency Support Group  
on the Implementation of the UN Convention  
on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (IASG)  
December 13, 2010  
Washington, DC  
Minutes Dec. 13 conference call

IASG participation included:

- Barbara Murray, International Labour Organization (ILO)
  - Susan Schorr, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
  - Julia Kercher, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
  - Luz Melo, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
  - Tom Shakespeare, World Health Organization (WHO)
  - Aleksandra Posarac and Karen Peffley, World Bank
  - Daniela Simioni, United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office
  - Maren Andrea Jiménez, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
  - Gisela Nauk, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
  - Nanda Krairiksh, Akiko Akiyama, Victoria Ayer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
  - Kristin Lange, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- United Nations Secretariat:
- Akiko Ito and Shifaana Thowfeequ, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
  - Satya Jennings, Simon Walker and Safak Pavey, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

**Introductions and Opening Session**

(i) IASG co-chairs A. Ito, DESA and S. Walker, OHCHR opened the meeting. J. Kercher (UNDP) requested an additional agenda item. It was agreed that item, to discuss the creation of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, would be added to the agenda. The meeting ran 1 hour longer than scheduled. The revised agenda is attached in Annex One.

(ii) A. Posarac assumed the Chairmanship. Adoption of the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> IASG meeting (May 6-7, 2010) was discussed. It was agreed that IASG members will submit edits to the third Chair by Friday, December 17, 2010. The revised minutes will be then circulated for approval on a no objection basis.

(iii) The Status of the Endorsement of the Strategy and Action Plan

The IASG meeting participants informed the meeting about the status of the endorsement of the Strategy and Action Plan. A. Posarac reminded members that as an observer, the World Bank will not be endorsing the IASG Strategy and Plan of Action, but the HDNSP Disability & Development team can take action consistent with their objectives. Subsequent to the meeting, S. Walker circulated the list of six agencies (WHO, ILO, DESA, UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR) that have endorsed the IASG Strategy and Plan of Action (attached in Annex Two).

(iv) The floor was opened for tour de table for activity updates since the 5<sup>th</sup> IASG meeting. In the interest of time, comments were limited to one or two highlights, however IASG members were invited to amend and extend comments for submission into the draft minutes. The following are the agencies highlights including both oral and subsequent written:

#### A. Ito DESA

- The Conference of States Parties met, electing new members to expand the membership.
- The draft resolution “Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond” (A/C.3/65/L.12/Rev.1) was adopted. In order to strengthen future efforts, DESA is preparing a background paper for the high-level meeting to be held in 2012.
- In keeping with this work, and in recognition of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, DESA hosted a panel, "Keeping the promise: Mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals towards 2015 and beyond", on December 3, 2010.
- In order to promote accessibility internally, DESA is part of the taskforce to address all the facets of accessibility across the institution, starting with conference services. The third meeting of the task force is scheduled to address access in country offices. DESA welcomes lessons from other groups.

#### S. Walker, OHCHR

- The CRPD Committee held its 4th session between 4 and 8 October 2010, in Geneva. They have formally adopted 19 decisions as attached, which summarizes the session activities. We encourage IASG members to refer to these publicly announced decisions and follow-up as necessary and as relevant to their mandates.
- The CRPD Committee held a Day of General Discussion (DGD) on "Accessibility" on 7 October, 2010 during its session, to which various State Parties, IGOs, NGOs, academics and individual experts contributed. Submissions and statements during the panel sessions are available on the CRPD Committee website. Following the DGD, the CRPD Committee has established a Working Group that will eventually draft a General Comment on "Accessibility".
- The Committee will convene its 5th meeting between 11 and 15 April 2010 in Geneva and IASG members are welcome to participate in public meetings. The IASG members are also welcome to share any suggestions for discussion in specific closed meetings with the Committee. For further information, including the List of Issues for Tunisia, please visit the CRPD Committee website: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>
- OHCHR finalized its thematic study on 'The Role of International Cooperation in Realizing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' which will be discussed at a Panel in the context of the Human Rights Council on 4 March 2011 (according to the current timetable). The report examines the normative basis of international cooperation under the CRPD, reviews cooperation between States and in partnership with IGOs, regional organizations and civil society and makes conclusions. OHCHR thanks IASG members who contributed to the report as well as DESA for providing comments on the draft.

#### T. Shakespeare, WHO

- Progress has been made on two fronts: internally a Disability and employment policy has been approved. Externally, WHO is finalizing a funding relationship with AusAid for mainstreaming in the Asia Pacific region. A project promote reproductive rights of women with disabilities in also in development.
- The World Report on Disabilities is being launched on June 9, 2011.

#### J. Kercher, UNDP

- Internal guidelines on disability are presently undergoing peer review
- An audit of the accessibility of premises has been conducted and is being analyzed so that Action steps and guidance can be developed.

#### L. Melo, UNFPA

- Editing global assessment on accessibility of health and women with disabilities; working on background on UNFPA strategy for next year.

#### B. Murray, ILO

- The first meetings of the ILO Global Network on Business and Disability Network were hosted in Paris and New York. A third meeting is scheduled to take place in India in early 2011. To date the Network involves 30 companies and 11 employers' organizations around the world. The Network aims include exchanging information on good practice; developing joint products and services for employers and companies to facilitate hiring; as well as providing advice to the ILO relating to activities, projects and products intended to increase workplace diversity, open new markets, create job and training opportunities for disabled persons.
- Moving forward on a number of fronts regarding opening general vocational training centres to person with disabilities.

#### I. Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, UNESCO

- UNESCO published a policy on disability and employment issues
- With ITU, UNESCO participated in India conference and prepared final report on promising practices in the South Asia region. They will be replicating the work in other regions and for summer publication
- Working on internal document on accessibility guidelines of publications
- Organized and participated in a number of International event side events

#### N. Krairiksh, ESCAP

- ESCAP recently launched regional preparations for the final review of the outcome of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, which would culminate in a regional intergovernmental meeting to be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in October 2012.
- In the lead-up to the above-mentioned High Level Meeting, stakeholder consultations, a survey of national implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and the Biwako Plus Five, guidelines to enhance accessibility, advocacy campaigns on the CRPD and action research on the well being and livelihood of persons with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region would be undertaken.

#### K. Lange, UNRWA

- UNRWA adopted an internal disability policy and strategy.
- Internal guidelines are being developed for disability inclusive service delivery at UNRWA

#### G. Nauk, ESCWA

- ESCWA work on disability is conducted within the framework of social integration - as mandated by the Copenhagen Conference in 1995 and subsequent reports and resolutions. Following up on the recent resolution of ECOSOC 2010/12 and in the framework of the Arab Decade on Disability 2004-2013 we are working with the member countries in order to evaluate the situation and to build policy capacity in the member countries.
- Recently we completed two studies: (i) a review of the inter linkages between disability and poverty and (ii) a review of efforts to include persons with disability in the labour market.
- The first study will be submitted to an inter-governmental meeting of ESCWA member countries (the Committee on Social Development) early next year. The second will be presented to an expert group meeting in March 2011. Both meetings are expected to generate discussions on the status and common agreement on the priorities to go forward.

S. Schorr, ITU

Main ITU Activities on Persons with Disabilities

June-Dec 2010

- Publication of the ITU Connect a School, Connect a Community toolkit module on Using ICTs to Promote Education and Job Training of Persons with Disabilities at <http://www.connectaschool.org/itu-module/15/331/en/persons/w/disabilities/connectivity/introduction/>
- Publication of the print version of the ITU-G3ict e-Accessibility toolkit [http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Documents/e-Accessibility\\_Final .pdf](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Documents/e-Accessibility_Final.pdf)
  - This is an abridged version of the online e-accessibility toolkit (<http://www.e-accessibilitytoolkit.org/>)
  - ITU has posted the Braille version of this document on its website at [http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Documents/e-Accessibility\\_Handbook\\_Braille\\_format.brf](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Documents/e-Accessibility_Handbook_Braille_format.brf)
- A number of meetings were organized by ITU to raise awareness among government decision makers about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
  - A side event at the ITU quadrennial Plenipotentiary Conference on Accessible ICTs for Persons with Disabilities at <http://www.itu.int/plenipotentiary/2010/side-events/index.html> The Plenipotentiary Conference is the key event at which ITU Member States decide on the future role of the organization, thereby determining the organization's ability to influence and affect the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) worldwide.
  - Europe and CIS Regional Workshop on ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, Odessa, Ukraine, 1-2 November 2010 [http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Seminars/Ukraine/Odessa\\_workshop.html](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Seminars/Ukraine/Odessa_workshop.html)
  - [Enabling Access to Education Through ICT, organized by the Centre for Internet and Society In Cooperation with G3ict, with the support of the World Intellectual Property Organization, UNESCO and ITU. 27-29 October 2010, New Dehli](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Seminars/Ukraine/Odessa_workshop.html) <http://edict2010.in/>
  - A workshop on e-Accessibility at the Internet Governance Forum in Vilnius, Lithuania on 16 September at <http://www.itu.int/themes/accessibility/dc/workshops/201009/index.html>
  - [ITU-EBU Joint Workshop on Accessibility to Broadcasting and IPTV - ACCESS for ALL](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Seminars/Ukraine/Odessa_workshop.html) (Geneva, Switzerland, 23 - 24 November 2010) <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/accessibility/20101123/index.html>
- Resolutions passed by ITU Member States on Persons with Disabilities at ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and World Telecommunication Development Conference
- Creation of a task force on disability issues for ITU (with a terms of reference on issues including meeting, document and building accessibility as well as human resource policies). First meeting held in October 2010.

A. Posarac, World Bank

- The WHO and World Bank launch World Report is scheduled for June 9, pending review after the final draft is prepared. An internal guidance note to staff on how to include accessibility in the Bank's projects is in development. A study on poverty in disability in 15 developing countries is in the final stage of drafting. Analytical work and documentation of good practice on disability social insurance and disability certification was initiated.
- Future activities include training for focal points of major multilateral donor in development aid via the Global Partnership on Disability and Development (GPDD) meeting in Brussels, May 2011.

- The Disability & Development team secured US \$40 M from Japanese government to finance grants to client countries for disability in conjunction with existing projects – internal call for proposal to be released the week of December 13, 2010.
- Internal issues - All of the World Bank's owned buildings are functionally accessible (not all rented building met that standard yet) and staff policies and Disability Accommodation Fund (DAF) remain in place. Training and a toolkit for Managers on Disability in development by the internal working group on Disability, lead by the Diversity Unit of the Human Resources Department.

(v) Update on Guidance Note publication status and dissemination plan

S. Thowfeequ (DESA) updated the IASG members on the Status of the reproduction of the UNDP Guidance Note:

- The Task force on the development of the Guidance Note concluded its work in October.
- The task team for the UNDP guidance note met on reproduction of guidance note and publication department on layout and printing. The Department of Public Information will assist dissemination. The document is already available on the internet.
- UN Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO) will transfer funds in the amount of \$9600 to printing and CD-rom. An accessible version of CD covered by \_\_\_\_\_. DESA is seeking funds in the amount of \$12,000 in order to translate the document into French and Spanish.
- No plans have been made regarding translation into other languages due to lack of funding, therefore any translations or contributions by IASG members, particularly by regional offices, are welcome. Ideas and contribution regarding dissemination are also sought.

In the discussion that followed, comments were made by A. Ito (DESA), B. Murray (ILO), S. Walker (OHCHR) and A. Posarac (World Bank). The following statements and actions were agreed to:

- DESA, ILO, OHCHR and DPI are recognized for the considerable financial and financial contributions to the preparation of the guidance note thus far.
- DESA will circulate draft print layout.
- The dissemination plan, as developed in the Oct. 2010, will be circulated for comments.
- All members will circulate at least one action between now and June, 2011 that they can undertake on dissemination. IASG members, particularly regional counterparts and those agencies that did not participate on the Task Force, would seek funding to contribute to the translation of the Guidance Note.

(vi) Proposal for an IASG Monograph with expression of solidarity

A. Ito (DESA) raised the possibility of creating a publication which spells out IASGs mission to implement that CRPD. She said that an IASG Monograph would be a helpful promotional tool to meet the IASG goals, specifically, in regards to the numerous inquiries by Governments and Civil Society about the work of the IASG and agency-specific initiatives. She further notes that during the UN Decade of Disabled Persons DESA produced a well-received coffee table book to introduce work of each agency. Building on that success, the IASG members were asked to consider a new volume. A small amount of money may be available for the project.

Opinions on whether IASG should produce a promotional publication were split. T. Shakespeare (WHO), B. Murray (ILO), and S. Walker (OHCHR) suggested that the possibility should not be further explored given limited time and financial resources, since reporting already occurs in other venues and that IASG efforts should promote convention, not IASG work itself. L. Melo (UNFPA) and A. Posarac (World Bank) supported the publication given both that the comparatively low costs and that the content could be

relatively easily gathered from existing reporting mechanisms, that it would further promote the CRPD, not the IASG, and that DESA has funding available.

A third option was discussed. S. Schorr (ITU), J. Kercher (UNDP) and S. Thowfeequ (DESA) raised the possibility of using the web as the promotional tool. Specifically, the IASG portion of the UN Enable website could be constructed with links that each organization could update following each IASG meeting. Rather than a book, each agency can print IASG materials from the website to use as handouts.

In conclusion, A. Ito (DESA) agreed to circulate a proposal for a monograph further discussion.

(v) Pending IASG procedural issues

B. Murray (ILO) noted that pending procedural issues were noted in the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> IASG meeting concerning communication and clarity of the institutional role of the two chairs of the Joint Secretariat. During the in-person IASG meeting on May, 2010, it was noted that continuity remains difficult given high turnover of participants from different institutions contributing to the IASG.

S. Walker (OHCHR) proposed that past chairs can make note of outstanding concerns for bilateral discussion. Subsequent to the meeting, at the request of S. Schorr (ITU), S. Jennings and S. Walker (OHCHR) circulated a revised list of members (attached in Annex Three) for review by all IASG members.

(vi) Discussion of proposal to create an MDTF

J. Kercher (UNDP) and S. Walker (WHO) introduced a proposal to create a UN Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF).

- The purpose of the fund would be to give grants to the regions and partners.
- Interest is high for creation of such a fund; Sr. Management in both UNDP and OHCHR support the initiative.
- The Terms of Reference are in development and other agencies are welcome to join.
- Initial discussions envision a Policy Board that would consist of the UNDP and OHCHR and three other actors (2 other UN agencies (possibly DESA and a country level team) and an external DPO).
- International Disability Alliance (IDA) approached UNDP and OHCHR about this possibility. It was noted that IDA seeks rapid creation and implementation of a MDTF, however UNDP and OHCHR are using an appropriate step-by-step process which takes time to fully realize a MDTF.

In discussion, both A. Posarac (World Bank) and A. Ito (DESA) stated that an MDTF is a good idea in principle, however the details of such a fund are critical, and both offered to share their experiences with similar discussions and implementation of such a fund.

It was agreed that UNDP/OHCHR would circulate further information as it becomes available.

(vii) Transfer of Third Chair

B. Murray (ILO) took over chairing the meeting, noting that it was an honour for ILO to serve as the third chair of the IASG for the next year and raising two issues for discussion. The first issue is the timing of the 6<sup>th</sup> in-person meeting and the second issue is the topic of the technical portion of the meeting. Both issues were discussed by A. Posarac (World Bank), and T. Shakespeare (WHO), S. Walker (OHCHR), I. Kasinskaite-Buddeberg (UNESCO), A. Ito (DESA), L. Melo (UNFPA), S. Pavey (OHCHR) and B. Murray (ILO).

Timing was discussed in conjunction the April, 2011 meeting of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) or the June 2011 launch of the World Report on Disability. It was further noted that the HRC schedule was already extended and side meetings were not feasible until the September 2011 meeting and that a June meeting would be very difficult for the ILO to organize, given the lack of availability of conference services as the International Labour Conference takes place at the same time.

In terms of topics, the implementation of the CPRD in conjunction with the World Report on Disability, data, and substantive issues around the Plan of Action were raised as possibilities. B. Murray noted that the technical portion of the meeting is to fall within the mandate of the third chair, as agreed at the 5<sup>th</sup> IASG meeting. It would be difficult for ILO to garner funds for an event on a topic not within ILOs area of expertise, thus she suggest the topic segregated and inclusive vocational education and that CSO participation in this part of the meeting would be encouraged, as agreed at teh 5<sup>th</sup> IASG meeting in May 2010.

The following decisions and actions were agreed to:

- It was agreed that a decision on the timing and topic should be made by the end of January, 2011, and communication would be done by email, unless the ILO, as third chair, requests an additional audio conference to finalize the decision. B. Murray (ILO) will also check on conference room availability.
- T. Shakespeare (WHO) will send around concept note, chapter topics and outline of the June 2011 event to launch the World Report on Disability.

Meeting Concludes.

Agenda  
Inter-Agency Support Group on the  
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
**December 13, 2010**

<b>December 13, 2010</b>	
<b>Washington &amp; New York</b>	<b>Geneva &amp; Paris</b>
<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>2:45 PM</b>
	<b>Call-in line available</b>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
	<b>Opening of meeting</b> <i>Chair: World Bank</i> Approval of the Agenda Approval of the Minutes of the 5 <sup>th</sup> IASG meeting Status of Endorsement of Strategy and Action Plan Update on Individual Institution Activities Update on Guidance Note publication status and dissemination plan Proposal for an IASG Monograph with expression of solidarity Discussion of proposal to create an MDTF
<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
	<b>Transfer of Third Chair to ILO</b> Proposal for Date and Thematic Topic of the in-person 6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IASG IASG next Steps <i>Chair: ILO</i>
<b>12:00 AM</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
	<b>Meeting Concludes</b>

List of endorsements of the IASG Strategy and Plan of Action  
Status 15 December 2010

1. DESA

DESA sent the following phrasing to the OUSG, which might be useful to clarify the process for endorsement:

*On behalf of DESA, the Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, I endorse the IASG Strategy and the Plan of Action that operationalize the Joint Statement and the Commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. DESA understands that while the Strategy is an agreed document by the IASG and endorsed by its member agencies, the Plan of Action is to be reviewed periodically for revisions, reflecting necessary changes at different stages).*

2. ILO

The ILO Director General endorsed the Strategy and Action Plan, following consultations on its implications for ILO workplans and resources.

3. UNDP

At UNDP, the internal Task Force on Disabilities endorsed the Strategy and Action Plan. The Task Force is chaired by two colleagues at D2 level (director of HR and director of the poverty reduction unit). One of the task force members raised a few points which were however more related to internal follow up on the commitments.

4. UNICEF

Endorsed at the Director level.

5. WHO

Endorsement at the Director level.

6. OHCHR

The High Commissioner endorsed the Strategy and Plan of Action.

**MEMBERS AND FOCAL POINTS OF THE IASG FOR CRPD**  
**Updated December 2010**

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Annex Three: Revised IASG Focal Point member list

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	Ms. Gisela Nauk		nauk@un.org		
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Annex Three: Revised IASG Focal Point member list

<b>OBSERVERS</b>	<b>FOCAL POINT</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>Phone/fax</b>	<b>address</b>
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