



**Inter-Agency Support Group for the  
Convention on the Rights of Persons with  
Disabilities**

6 May 2010

English only

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**Report of the fourth meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group for  
the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (IASG)**

*Summary*

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2006 and opened for signature on 30 March 2007. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol entered into force on 3 May 2008.

During its fourth meeting from 18-19 November 2009 hosted by UNHCR in Geneva, the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention (IASG) and concerned civil society organizations: (a) shared good practices and challenges; (b) discussed IASG and civil society collaboration modalities; (c) finalized the Strategy and Plan of Action; (d) discussed mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and emergencies; (e) conferred on the next phase of the IASG/UNDG Task Team and (f) discussed the Guidance Note on CRPD for UNCTs.

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## Contents

I.	Background	3
II.	Participants	3
III.	Session 1: Opening and introduction	4
IV.	Session 2: Good practices, challenges and opportunities to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	5
V.	Session 3: Organizing and structuring collaboration between civil society and the IASG	8
VI.	Session 4: Presentation and discussion of the IASG Strategy for the CRPD	9
VII.	Session 5: Presentation and discussion of the Plan of Action	9
VIII.	Session 6: Mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies	9
IX.	Session 7: Universal design principles- Inclusive Design for humanity/ How is it implied in real life?	11
X.	Session 8: Joint IASG/ UNDG Task Team for Developing the Guidance Note on the CRPD for UNCTs	11
XI.	Session 9: Invigorating the IASG for CRPD	13
XII.	Next steps	14
	Annex 1: Agenda	15
	Annex 2: List of Participants	18

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## **I. Background**

1. The fourth meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at its headquarters in Geneva from 18-19 November 2009.
2. Since its establishment, the IASG adopted its terms of references and its Joint Statement to the Convention in 2008. At the fourth meeting, the IASG finalized its Strategy and Plan of Action, which were initiated in the IASG planning workshop hosted by OHCHR in Geneva on 17-18 November 2008 and were further developed during the third IASG meeting hosted by UNFPA in New York on 30-31 March 2009.

## **II. Participants**

3. Representatives of the following United Nations and other intergovernmental agencies, funds, programs and departments attended: Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Mine Action Office (UNMAO), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO), World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as the host agency. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to the present report.
4. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities also participated: Handicap International (HI), International Disabilities Alliance (IDA), International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD), Women's Refugee Commission (WRC), World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP), Norwegian Design Council (NDC), and the Royal college of Art/ Hellen Hamlyn Centre.
5. Representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) participated to the meeting as observers.

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### III. Session 1: Opening and introduction

6. Mr. Volker Türk, Director, Division of International Protection Services (DIPS), welcomed the participants of the meeting on behalf of the UNHCR. He saluted the hard work done as well as the commitment of all organizations in regard to the Convention. Mr. Türk stated that in relation to the implementation of the Convention, he wished the attention not only to be focused on nationals but also on non-nationals and other persons of concern. These latter groups seem to receive less attention during implementing procedures due to their legal status as non-nationals as observed in some countries. He also welcomed the Women's Commission report which is important in understanding the needs for the implementation of the CRPD.
7. Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli, Co-chair of the meeting and Adviser on Human Rights and Disability in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed the importance of the meeting in progressing with the work done since the establishment of the IASG. She highlighted the importance of finalizing the discussion on the Strategy and Plan of Action of the IASG, so that both documents can be endorsed by the members and formally adopted in the next IASG meeting. She also highlighted the importance of the planned discussions on mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations humanitarian and development frameworks as important entry points for operationalizing the Convention.
8. Ms. Akiko Ito, Co-chair of the meeting and Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SCRPD) at DESA, stated that DESA has conducted multiple activities in line with the CRPD and briefed on the United Nations intergovernmental process that addresses the issue of disability. The draft General Assembly Resolutions "Realizing the MDGs for persons with disabilities", and "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto," were adopted in December 2009<sup>1</sup>. DESA continues to provide substantive support to meetings of the plenary and the second and third committee, the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD and the ECOSOC's special rapporteur on disability. She also talked about DESA's collaborations within the United Nations system and beyond to support the goals of the IASG Strategy. The Enable monthly newsletter by DESA is distributed to over 4000 recipients to provide an update on the CRPD as well as news and information on the work of the UN system concerning persons with disabilities. Work is underway to produce a number of resource materials and tools to raise awareness, strengthen capacity building and promote accessibility. This includes teaching modules, technical monographs on accessibility and a publication on the MDGs and persons with disabilities. In April 2009, DESA in collaboration with WHO held an expert group meeting in Geneva to identify entry points for mainstreaming disabilities in MDG policies, processes and mechanisms. DESA continues to

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<sup>1</sup> The final symbols of the resolutions are A/RES/64/131 and A/RES/64/154 respectively and were adopted by the plenary of the General Assembly on 18 December 2009.

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work with the UN Department of Management to ensure that accessibility is incorporated into the Capital Master Plan for UNHQ renovations.

#### **IV. Session 2: Good practices, challenges and opportunities to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

*In this session, IASG members presented developments accomplished by their organizations since the third meeting. Other participants presented afterwards their comments as well as their good practices of 2009.*

9. Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, Deputy Director of the Department of International Protection Services (DIPS) of UNHCR, opened and chaired this session.
10. Mr. Wélla Kouyou of UNHCR spoke on the relation between the CRPD and the Convention related to the Status of Refugees. He stated that a growing number of States have recognized that persons with disabilities constitute a particular social group which is under the five protected grounds listed in the refugee definition. In July 2009, UNHCR initiated a study which looks at the right to asylum for people with disabilities including legal standards, challenges and key points of law. The results of the research will help the agency to develop further standards in this area of refugee law. In September 2009, the Community Services, Gender Equality and Children Section (CDGECS) in UNHCR held discussions with its training colleagues of the Global Learning Centre (GLC) in Budapest on the possibility of incorporating an e-learning program which includes a section on persons with disabilities. He made reference to the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) website which contains information on persons with disabilities. The UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs, held from June 29- July 1, 2009, featured a side event on the theme of "Disabilities in Displacement", in which several non-governmental agencies participated.
11. Mr. Jason Sigurdson of UNAIDS stated that a UN Agency Work Plan on Disabilities is expected soon. It would be a much needed support document to the work of the colleagues at country level.
12. Ms. Nicola Brandt of UNICEF presented *It's About Ability: Learning Guide on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, a companion to the child-friendly version of the CRPD, which UNICEF developed with the Victor Pineda Foundation and the support of the German Committee to UNICEF. As part of UNICEF's active engagement in helping make the CRPD and its provisions known the Learning Guide, again developed in a collaborative effort, is to be used by youth leaders, peer educators, teachers and community workers in order to empower children and young people with and without disabilities to speak out on the CRPD, advocate for their rights, and make their communities more inclusive. Ms. Brandt also presented the UNICEF publication *Monitoring Child Disability in Developing Countries*,

which was done in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This publication provides an assessment and analysis of the results of the Ten Questions Screen (TQ) for childhood disability, a measure of children at risk for disability which UNICEF implemented through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) program. By including the TQ, MICS has become the largest source of internationally comparable data on children with disabilities for developing countries.

13. Ms. Luz Angela Melo of UNFPA stated that UNFPA's work is at global, regional and country level. UNFPA supports national efforts to promote sexual and reproductive health of persons with disabilities and to ensure that national plans and policies integrate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNFPA, among others, builds the capacities of health systems and supports training of medical and paramedical personnel on issues of disabilities. The agency announces that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will draft a General Comment on the Right to Sexual and Reproductive Health, and hopefully concerns of persons with disabilities will be part of that General Comment.
14. Ms. Alana Margaret Officer of WHO provided an update on the work of the WHO Taskforce on Disability since March 2009. Awareness has been raised on the CRPD through a series of seminars. WHO is adopting a single source processing system to ensure that all publications in future will be accessible. WHO held a workshop to review knowledge and systems regarding the provision of reasonable accommodation in recruitment, training, promotion, retention in line with the draft employment policy. A plan of action has been developed to implement necessary changes to the existing system. WHO is seeking to collaborate with ILO and UNAIDS on improving access to our common e-recruitment site. Access audits of WHO regional offices are underway and will be completed in 2010. Low cost measures identified through the audits are starting to be implemented. A number of new technical programs have started to address the rights of persons with disabilities in their work including gender, health action and crises and physical activity.
15. Ms. Susan Schorr of ITU presented a newly developed e-accessibility toolkit for communications policy makers and regulators to promote accessible information and communication technologies (ICTs) for persons with disabilities in accordance with Article 9 of the CRPD. It aims at assisting ITU members, national telecommunication/ICT ministries and regulatory authorities, to promote an inclusive information society in which persons with disabilities can fully participate.
16. Ms. Barbara Murray of ILO stated that the Articles 27 (work and employment), 28 (Adequate standard of living and social protection), and 32 (International Cooperation) are the main focus of the ILO's work to support the implementation of the CRPD. Since March 2009, the ILO has introduced a Disability Inclusion Initiative in its Employment Sector, aiming to make disability an integral part of all aspects of the Sector's work, supported through the provision of technical support; development of inclusion tools and

materials; including disability in the ILO's manuals, guides and programs, as well as in training courses at the ILO's International Training Centre, Turin. At country level, inclusion is promoted through technical cooperation projects which involve, among other points, fostering an action-oriented approach to disability sensitization; training of Disability Equality Training facilitators and supporting the development of disability inclusion support services in selected countries of Asia and Africa; and fostering an international network on disability law and policy. Opportunities for persons with disabilities are also promoted through the development of good practice guidelines such as the recently published guidelines on poverty reduction through peer training. A further element of ILO's work in relation to disability is the promotion of inclusion through advocacy and communications, most recently through the development of a Flash Video on Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities, now available in 7 languages.

17. Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli of OHCHR gave a brief overview of the work OHCHR as the Co-chair of the Convention has undertaken since March 2009. She highlighted in particular activities that contributed to the IASG for CRPD Strategy's goals. In the area of advocacy and awareness building she highlighted the work of OHCHR within the human rights mechanisms to raise awareness of the CRPD, particularly in support of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/10/48 and A/HRC/13/29). In the area of accessibility, she stated that priority interventions on OHCHR buildings in Geneva are being discussed. She briefly touched on capacity building and noted that training and technical cooperation in support of the Convention take place at the level of OHCHR field presences. She also noted the work done at headquarter level through the production of tools and other guidance on the Convention and training to new staff. She noted that express reference to persons with disabilities is contained in four of the six 2010-2011 OHCHR strategic priorities. OHCHR continues supporting the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which had its second meeting in October 2009.
18. Mr. Stefan Tromel Sturmer from IDA reported on an advocacy work mission which had been conducted since the last meeting. IDA has played an active role in round tables and the Conferences of State Parties to the CRPD and in monitoring the work of other UN treaty bodies. It has provided disability analysis on the work of different UN bodies such as the Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies. IDA has also provided inputs into two UN studies and collaborated with the Group of States "Friends of the CRPD" in Geneva.
19. Ms. Julia Kercher from UNDP submitted the following update: UNDP is making progress in two areas, human resources and policy/programming. In human resources, a disability awareness online training has been developed (see demo at <http://www.undp.org/disability-course-demo/>). Other UN Agencies and Disability Organizations have expressed interest and it is being made available in generic or custom form on a cost recovery basis (contact: [geraldine.glassman@undp.org](mailto:geraldine.glassman@undp.org)). Also, vacancy announcements and the HR Strategy and other HR policies now include a reference to diversity, including

disabilities and offices are being encouraged to ensure physical accessibility of UNDP facilities, e.g. by making use of on-going or planned renovations. To apply the CRPD to UNDP programming, guidelines are being drafted in a very user-friendly format (e.g. incl. desk teaser, How-To Guide/FAQ/checklists). Individual Country Offices already make efforts to address disability issues (e.g. UNDP Liberia, in collaboration with UNMIL/OHCHR, is starting to support a network of DPOs to strengthen their capacities to monitor the implementation of the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy from a disability rights perspective).

#### **V. Session 3: Organizing and structuring collaboration between civil society and the IASG**

*The objective of this session was to determine ways for systematic future collaboration, and to discuss areas of possible collaboration between civil society and the IASG.*

20. Ms. Akiko Ito and Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli chaired this session.
21. Ms. Marianne Schulze of IDDC noted the importance of ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities from the South in the work and meetings of the IASG and the need to address their lack of funding. Advocacy work and general support to the IASG is in the reach and interest of civil society members, so this type of cooperation should receive serious thought.
22. Mr. Stefan Tromel Sturmer of IDA focused his intervention on the issue of participation of NGOs to IASG meetings. Firstly, he emphasized the importance of clarifying what was meant by civil society, and the need to distinguish between experts and representatives of persons with disabilities. Secondly, he noted, that depending on the nature and composition of organizations, allowing only one representative per civil society organization might not be enough, like in the case of IDA which represents international and regional organizations of persons with disabilities. Thirdly, he clarified that individuals may also be invited to participate in their expert capacity to contribute to IASG thematic discussions. Last, he recommended that civil society be given the opportunity to suggest items for the agenda and to contribute to IASG documents. He also stated that there was a need to facilitate dialogue between country offices of IASG members and national organizations of persons with disabilities.
23. NGO participation was then discussed. DPOs can participate in IASG meetings but they are not members. Therefore, their participation to parts of the meetings does not require changes to the IASG ToR. Further modalities for their participation will be discussed at the next IASG meeting.
24. The possibility of decentralizing meetings to the field was raised and examples of regional offices holding similar inter-agency meetings were given. This would have the advantage of enabling regional representatives and



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organizations active in the field to participate in meetings and provide crucial information.

#### **VI. Session 4: Presentation and discussion of the IASG Strategy for the CRPD**

25. Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli of OHCHR opened the session and presented the draft Strategy and Plan of Action. She explained that drafting of both texts had been initiated in the course of the IASG for CRPD workshop that OHCHR hosted in Geneva on 17 and 18 November 2008. Since then, drafting has continued during the third IASG for CRPD meeting and by e-mail. She explained that the Terms of Reference of the IASG and the Joint Statement of Commitment provided overall guidance for the development of the draft Strategy and Plan of Action and she highlighted the relation between these documents.
26. After a fruitful discussion and input from all participants, the Strategy was finalized during this meeting. Please find in Annex 2 the IASG Strategy as approved.

#### **VII. Session 5: Presentation and discussion of the Plan of Action**

27. Following the update of the Strategy, the Action Plan was further discussed and developed with the active contribution and suggestions of IASG members and civil society. The Plan of Action was finalized during the second day of the meeting. The finalized Plan of Action is included in Annex 3.

#### **VIII. Session 6: Mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**

*Article 11 in the CRPD refers to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and calls on the State parties to provide "all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters." During this session, IASG members and NGOs presented their initiatives to support persons with disabilities in these situations.*

28. Ms. Naoko Obi of UNHCR opened and chaired the session.
29. Mr. Wélla Kouyou of UNHCR brought to the participant's attention that the number of persons with disabilities is often higher among the displaced populations due to violence faced before or during displacements. At the same time, asylum seekers are often not entitled to the same access to national systems which support persons with disabilities. He called for the inclusion of non-nationals in access to national social care systems. He also presented UNHCR's Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming policy which uses a participatory approach, rights and community-based approach and other tools

to identify and respond to needs of persons of concern, taking into account different needs of persons with disabilities, women, children, older persons and other possibly marginalized groups.

30. Ms. Akiko Ikeda-Wei of UNMAS gave a presentation titled “Survey of Mine Action Centers on Issues Relating to Disability” (henceforth UNMAS Survey). UNMAS developed and circulated the UNMAS Survey to ten UNMAS-managed mine action field programs namely Afghanistan, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Lebanon, Nepal, Palestine, Sudan and Western Sahara. Eleven surveys representing the ten countries provided a snapshot of the functional accessibility of mine action centers and current practices of recruitment of persons with disabilities. Findings indicated, for example, that all mine action centers which are located in cities or towns are easily accessible by cars or public transportation. Interior premises of mine action centers would, however, need some improvements. With regard to the recruitment of persons with disabilities, five out of 11 mine action programs have recruited the total of nine persons with disabilities.
31. Ms. Shaza N. Ahmed of UNMAO in Sudan presented a joint initiative between the Ministry of Social Welfare and UNMAO to set up a national work plan for the implementation of the CRPD after its ratification. The key elements of the work plan include awareness, legislation, education, health, rehabilitation and employment, socio-economic conditions, culture, arts and sports, children with disabilities, accessibility, research and access to knowledge and coordination.
32. Mr. Stefan Tromel Sturmer of IDA stated that IDA had joined forces with other NGOs to facilitate a UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion on refugees and IDPs with disabilities. This conclusion should contribute to the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in the work of UNHCR. The conclusion would be based on the CRPD, with special emphasis on accessibility, non-discrimination and respect for informed consent, and refer explicitly to article 11 of the CRPD. It would also stress the need to involve persons with disabilities and their organizations at all stages of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Both the resolution and guiding documents could also serve as inspiration for other UN agencies active in the field of humanitarian work.
33. On behalf of the IDDC emergency and conflict task group, Nathalie Herlemont from Handicap International gave an operational picture of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in emergency situations. When fleeing in dangerous situations, in temporary accommodations such as camps or in host families, when repatriating or resettling in third country, persons with disabilities are confronted with the same difficulties as any displaced persons. But they also have to face additional challenges, linked with likely reduced mobility, communication barriers, lack of awareness from aid actors, discrimination, and the fact of being separated from relatives or caretakers, etc. Furthermore, they tend to be largely overlooked by humanitarian stakeholders. In the end, the very survival of these persons is put at risk, or the

aggravation of their deficiency, due to lack of access to shelter, adequate food, and basic health services. Ms. Herlemont also gave an example of operational response developed by Handicap International: the Disabled and Vulnerable Focal Points. They consist of one or more temporary structures placed within the affected community that can identify, assess, provide services to, refer and follow-up vulnerable/disabled persons. Responses may include health, protection, non-food items, specialized support (such as rehabilitation) or other services. The DVFP is also a tool for information and sensitization on disability for other stakeholders.

**IX. Session 7: Universal design principles- Inclusive Design for humanity/ How is it implied in real life?**

34. Ms. Safak Pavey of UNHCR introduced the presenters and provided a short overview of their work. Ms. Onny Eikhaug from the Norwegian Design Council and Mr. Rama Gheerawo from the Royal College of Art, Helen Hamlyn Centre were invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> IASG meeting to present “Inclusive Design for humanity/ How is it implied in real life,” and its good practices in relation to Article 9 in the CRPD. Both institutions promote inclusive design for all persons, including older persons and persons with disabilities.
35. Ms. Onny Eikhaug introduced the Universal Design Principles and Inclusive Design for Humanity. The Norwegian Design Council uses inclusive design as a tool to uphold fundamental human rights through developing products which can be used by everybody regardless of their potential limited physical abilities. Building construction, public transport systems, products such as cars, household appliances and ICT designed for older persons and persons with disabilities can be used by everybody and make access easier for those who cannot use products designed for strong persons, or those without disabilities.
36. Mr. Rama Gheerawo presented the research work done by the Royal College of Art Helen Hamlyn Centre in relation to inclusive design. This again showed the link between “Inclusive Design for humanity” and the accessibility component of Article 9 of the CRPD.

**X. Session 8: Joint IASG/ UNDG Task Team for Developing the Guidance Note on the CRPD for UNCTs**

37. The co-conveners chaired this session and clarified that participation in the Task Team is open to all IASG members. So far, the following agencies have expressed their interest in participating in the Task Team: OHCHR, DESA, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, WTO. Agencies that are not yet part of the Task Team but that have an interest in participating should communicate with the Co-Chairs and they will be included in the mailing list.
38. Participants discussed the relation between the IASG members of the Task Team and DOCO. It was agreed upon that there should be close

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communication between the IASG and DOCO, particularly through the WGPI. However, participants also stressed the importance of having IASG internal consultations and reaching some level of internal agreement/proposal prior to approaching the WGPI with requests for guidance and support.

39. Methods of communication were discussed. Participants agreed that communication should include both e-mails as well as conference calls/video links. A calendar for conference calls/periodicity of meetings now needs to be developed.
40. Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli of OHCHR briefed participants on the progress of the Guidance Note.
41. A total of 34 responses to the survey questionnaire had been received as following: 5 from UNDP, 19 from UNICEF, 2 from ILO and 8 from OHCHR. These responses will be used to form the Guidance Note and to link some practical examples in the tool. Responses will be uploaded on the UNDG website.
42. A first draft of the Guidance Note was shared with Task Team members. The draft was not discussed in the meeting, but the Task Team members are requested to provide comments within the deadline.
43. Task Team members agreed on a revised timeline for the development of the Guidance Note.
44. While the first round of consultation is limited to Task Team members, members stressed the importance of including field colleagues at the agency level with experience in country planning as well as UNCTs in the second round. Regarding the modalities of consultation, in addition to ensuring exchanges via email, IASG members identified the need to organize a meeting on the Guidance Note with the participation of field colleagues, at the Resident Coordinator level and with technical level staff. DESA agreed to explore funding opportunities and to contribute to designing/organizing this consultation together with UNDP.
45. A discussion on consultation with civil society organizations and in particular organizations of persons with disabilities followed. Members agreed to involve selected civil society organizations and in particular organizations of persons with disabilities in the second round of consultations on the Guidance Note. A discussion followed on the criteria to identify the organizations that should be consulted on the Guidance Note, with the view to ensure representation from the South and of persons with all types of disabilities. WHO will draft such criteria and share with Task Team members.
46. Members agreed that the Guidance Note will need to be made available in English and other UN official languages as well as in accessible formats. ILO offered to explore the possibility of supporting these costs.

47. As contemplated in the Terms of Reference of the Task Team, the Guidance Note needs to be supported by a roll-out strategy in line with the UNDG's recommended approach. The co-conveners shared an outline strategy which outlines four cluster actions that need to be developed to support the Guidance Note. Participants agreed that roll-out of the Guidance Note should be progressive and recommended the identification of pilot UNCTs for testing. IASG members agreed to develop the roll-out-strategy that would need to be presented to the WGPI together with the draft Guidance Note, tentatively in May 2010.
48. To follow up on the implementation of the roll-out strategy, the establishment of a Management Committee might be required. The practicalities of a Management Committee were discussed. Opinions were gathered on its role, the meeting schedule, and rotating positions. The role of a third chair was also brought up.

#### **XI. Session 9: Invigorating the IASG for CRPD**

49. Ms. Akiko Ito of DESA made introductions to a number of issues that had been referred to as challenges and shortcomings of the UN system-wide collaborations during the last segment of the program. It was noted that despite the commitment and strong desire to collaborate with other colleagues of the UN System, some challenges and shortcomings exist. Some the examples mentioned were resource limitations, staff dealing with many competing priorities at any given time, limited scope for face-to-face meetings restricting communication to e-mails and teleconferences. The situation is not helped by the frequent movement of staff and the lack of a systematic mechanism to inform agencies on specific areas of work and to ask for their expertise and involvement. An example of this is seeking wider participation of members in the UNDC task team on disability.
50. Suggestions on how to move forward were also discussed in this session. These suggestions included hosting Inter-Agency virtual meetings, postings and virtual discussions on websites and social network platforms. The World Bank is part of the knowledge management and there is some funding available from the World Bank and DESA to construct a mechanism for communication. Where possible, participation from civil society should be sought.
51. The following next steps were agreed upon: the IASG Strategy will include the Plan of Action as an Annex. A revised version of the document which incorporates the comments received during the IASG meeting needs to be circulated among all agencies for approval by the highest level of each agency. It was further agreed that the Plan of Action will be generic and it should be reviewed periodically for necessary revisions. Any commitments including financial contributions towards concrete activities based on the Plan of Action however modest should go in a common pot.

52. Participation of civil society in the IASG meeting was further discussed. It was debated how many civil society representatives and NGO members would attend what kind of meeting. There was a consensus that NGOs can attend thematic meetings but not meetings on internal procedures. A thematic meeting will be agreed upon in January 2010.
53. Keeping the IASG contact list up to date presents a challenge as focal points change. After this meeting, the list will be updated and two participants from each organization should be included.

## **XII. Next steps**

*The following section draws on the discussions held during the two day meeting. It includes decisions made during the meeting, as well as issues that may need to be explored further.*

### **54. The IASG decided the following related to the Strategy Document and the Plan of Action:**

- The update of the Strategy was completed and the document will be sent to all members for approval at the highest level of each agency
- The update of the Plan of Action was completed and the document will be sent to all members of the highest level of each agency
- The IASG Strategy will include the Plan of Action as an Annex

### **55. The IASG decided the following related to collaboration with civil society:**

- NGO attend thematic meetings but not meetings on internal procedures

### **56. Next meeting of the IASG**

The next IASG meeting will be hosted by the World Bank in Washington in May 2010.

### **57. The IASG decided the following related to the Joint IASG/ UNDG Task Team for the development of the Guidance Note on the CRPD for UNCTs:**

- Close communication should be maintained between IASG and DOCO, particularly through the WGPI
- A calendar for conference calls and periodicity of meetings needs to be established
- The first draft of the Guidance Note will be shared with Task Team members, and during the second round, field colleagues' and persons' with disability participation will be sought
- The time line for the development of the Guidance Note will be revised
- The Guidance Note will be supported by a roll-out strategy
- The set up of Management Committee will be explored

**Annex 1: Agenda**

Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
 Fourth Meeting, 18-19 November 2009  
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
 94, Rue de Montbrillant, 1202 Geneva  
 Room MBT 04

**Day 1 – Wednesday, 18 November 2009**

- 09:00 am – 09:30 am    **Coffee and Registration**
- 09:30 am – 09:45 am    **Opening**  
**Mr. Volker Türk, Director**  
**Division of International Protection Services (UNHCR)**
- 09:45 am – 10:00 am    **Introductions and progress achieved**  
*Adoption of the IASG third meeting report (30-31 March 09)*  
*Adoption of the agenda*  
*Briefing on the objectives and expected results of the meeting*  
**Facilitators: Ms. Akiko Ito (DESA) and Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli (OHCHR)**
- 10:00 am – 11:00 am    **Good practices, challenges and opportunities to support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**  
*Recent achievements of agencies (developments since March 2009)*  
*Presentations by participating members (max. 5 minutes each) on good practices in 2009 (information to be presented should be sent in advance to UNHCR)*  
**Chair: Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela (UNHCR)**
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm    **Organizing and structuring collaboration between civil society and the IASG**  
*Objective: determine ways for systematic future collaboration*  
*Floor to civil society to discuss areas of possible contributions and collaboration with the IASG*  
**Chairs: Ms. Akiko Ito (DESA) and Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli (OHCHR)**

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- 12:00 pm – 13:00 pm **Discussion and adoption of the Strategy of the IASG for CRPD**  
**Chairs: Ms. Akiko Ito (DESA) and Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli (OHCHR)**
- 13:00 pm – 14:00 pm **Lunch Break (1 hour)**
- 14:00 pm – 15:45 pm **Presentation and discussion of the Action Plan**  
*Update by DESA*  
*Working Groups to review the Action Plan or tour de table*  
**Chairs: Ms. Akiko Ito (DESA) & Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli (OHCHR)**
- 15:45 pm – 16:00 pm **Coffee break**
- 16:00 pm – 17:30 pm **Discussion and adoption of the Action Plan by the IASG**  
**Chairs: Ms. Akiko Ito (DESA) & Ms. Silvia Lavagnoli (OHCHR)**
- 17.30 pm **Reception by UNHCR (outside Room MBT 04)**

#### Day 2 – Thursday, 19 November 2009

- 09:00 am – 10:00 am **Mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies: Sharing experiences**  
*Objective: Share experiences among organizations on how a rights- based approach to disability has been mainstreamed or incorporated in diverse activities.*  
*Introduction by UNHCR*  
*Presentation by UNMAS on recent activities*  
*Presentation by agencies and civil society*  
*Open Floor discussion*  
**Chair: Ms. Naoko Obi (UNHCR)**
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am **Coffee break**
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Identifying areas of future collaboration among partners in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**  
*Identify thematic areas of possible collaboration*



*Working Groups to discuss possible collaboration and impact*

*Plenary: presentation of working groups*

**Chair: Ms. Naoko Obi (UNHCR)**

12:00 pm – 13:00 pm **Universal design principles –  
Inclusive design for humanity/ How it is applied in real life?**  
Mr. Onny Eikhaug, Norwegian Design Council  
Mr. Rama Gheerawo, Helen Hamlyn Centre  
**Chair: Ms. Safak Pavey (UNHCR)**

13:00 pm – 14:00 pm **Lunch Break (1 hour)**

**Afternoon session**      *\*(UN agencies only)*

**Joint IASG/ UNDG Task Team for Developing the Guidance Note on the CRPD for UNCTs**

Joint IASG/ UNDG Task Team meeting on the Development of the Guidance Note on CCA/ UNDAF - All IASG members are invited.

14:00 pm – 15:00 pm **Presentation of the advanced draft document on the  
Guidance Note for UNCTs**  
**Co-Chairs: OHCHR/DESA/ILO**

15:00 pm – 16:00 pm **Informal group discussion on the next phase of the Joint  
IASG/ UNDG Task Team**  
**Co-Chairs: OHCHR/DESA/ILO**

16:00 pm – 16:30 pm **Coffee Break**

16:30 pm – 18:00 pm **Invigorating the IASG for CRPD**  
*Discussion on strengthening active involvement of signatory  
members*  
*Discussion on how to reinforce membership of interested  
observers*  
*Introduction by DESA on challenges, shortcomings, and the  
way forward*  
*Group work to discuss issues and come up with further ideas*  
**Chairs: OHCHR/DESA/ILO**

18:00 pm – 18:30 pm **Closing remarks by the chairs**

**Annex 2: List of Participants****IASG Members**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
DESA	Akiko Ito	Chief of the Secretariat on CRPD
OHCHR-UNOG	Silvia Lavagnoli	Human Rights Officer (Advisor on human rights and disability)
ILO	Barbara Murray	Senior Specialist - Disability
ILO	Debra Perry	Senior Disability Specialist
ITU	Susan Schorr	Head a.i, Special Initiatives Division BDT
UNAIDS	Jason Sigurdson	Program Officer, Human Rights & Law
UNAIDS	Christine Kriza	Program Officer, Human Rights & Law
OHCHR-UNOG	Adriana Zarraluqui	Associate Human Rights Officer
UNDP	Julia Kercher	Policy Analyst Human Rights and Poverty Reduction -- Bureau for Development Policy
UNFPA	Luz Melo	Human Rights Technical Adviser
UNHCR	Ruvendrini Menikdiwela	Deputy Director, DIPS
UNHCR	Safak Pavey	Public Affairs Officer
UNHCR	Wélla Kouyou	Senior Community Services Officer
UNHCR	Naoko Obi	Chief of Section, Community Services, Gender Equality and Children (GDGECS)
UNHCR	Stefanie Krause	Associate Community Services Officer
UNHCR	Kaori Saito	HR Policy Officer
UNICEF	Nicola Brandt	Programme Officer Gender and Rights Unit
UNMAO	Shaza N. Ahmed	Victim Assistance Officer
UNMAS	Boutros Hobeika	Regional Mine Risk Education/ Victim Assistance Officer
UNMAS, DPKO	Akiko Ikeda-Wei	Programme Officer
WHO	Alana Margaret Officer	

**NGOs**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
Handicap International	Nathalie Herlemont	Head of Policy Unit
International Disabilities Alliance (IDA)	Stefan Tromel Sturmer	
International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)	Marianne Schulze	Human Rights Consultant
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	Michael S. Gallagher, SJ	Representative
Leonard Cheshire Disability	Nolan Quigley	International Policy and Campaigns Manager
Women's Refugee Commission	Rachael Reilly	Consultant
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, WNUSP	Hege J Orefellen	
Norwegian Design Council	Onny Eikhaug	Program Leader
Royal College of Art, Helen Hamlyn Centre	Rama Gheerawo	Research Team Leader

**Observers**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
IOM	Sajith Gunaratne	Health in Emergencies Coordinator, Migration Health Department
IOM	Nataliya Oliynyk	Research Officer, International Migration Law/Legal Affairs Department