

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

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

ILO Geneva 6 - 7 July 2011

Summary

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) 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.

The Inter-Agency Support Group for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was set up in 2006 to promote action on the part of UN Agencies, Departments and Organizations to implement the CRPD at country level and to take action within the agencies to give effect to the principles and provisions of the Convention.

During its sixth meeting from 6-7 July 2011 hosted by ILO in Geneva, the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention (IASG) and concerned civil society organizations combined a business meeting to review progress in implementing the Joint Strategy and Plan of Action, and discussing progress with joint activities, with a thematic seminar on a topic of relevance to the CRPD, within the ILO mandate.

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Background

1. The sixth meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was hosted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), third co-chair of the IASG for 2011, at its headquarters in Geneva from 6 to 7th July 2011.
2. Since its establishment, the IASG has adopted its terms of references and a Joint Statement of Commitment to the CRPD in 2008. It adopted a Strategy and Joint Plan of Action, which has to date been endorsed by eight UN agencies, of the 22 UN member agencies, departments and organizations. It worked with the UN Development Group (UNDG) to develop a Guidance Note for UN Country Teams and implementing partners on Including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming at country level.

Participants

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of twelve IASG member agencies, funds, programmes and departments: Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) also representing the Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Health Organization (WHO). Representatives of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Bank participated in the meeting as observers. The International Disability Alliance and the World Association of Supported Employment were also represented. A list of participants is attached as Annex 2.

Session 1: Opening and introduction

4. Ms Jane Hodges, Director of the ILO Gender Bureau, opened the meeting on behalf of the ILO Director General, Mr Juan Somavia. Noting the ILO's long history of promoting equal opportunities in training and employment for men and women with disabilities, its active involvement in supporting the negotiation of the CRPD, its membership of the IASG from the outset, and its active collaboration with IASG members in developing the Guidance Note for UN Country Team and implementing partners, she said that it was a pleasure for the ILO to host the 6th meeting of the IASG, and to organize a thematic seminar on a topic of relevance to both ILO Conventions as well as the CRPD. From the ILO's perspective, the entry into force of the CRPD is a major milestone, representing the acceptance by the international community of the vision of full inclusion of men and women with all types of disabilities across all sectors of society, without discrimination, and adding to the range of international instruments of relevance to the implementation of these rights. At the same time, it is the first step along the road towards the full implementation of its provisions, a long process that needs full support of all

UN agencies, to provide support to the governments, social partners and civil society in making the necessary changes. She drew a parallel with the example of the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, and was pleased to note that the CRPD has specific provisions concerning women and girls. The CRPD gives new impetus to ILO's work in the field of promoting the employability and employment of persons with disabilities and adds to the range of international instruments of relevance to implementation of these rights – including ILO Convention No. 159 concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons, now ratified by 82 countries, the ILO Code of Practice on Managing Disability in the Workplace, and its Human resources Convention and Recommendations as well as the Convention on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation. In conclusion, she said that ILO looks forward to closer collaboration with other UN agencies in implementing the IASG Joint Strategy and Plan of Action, which has been endorsed by the ILO Director General, as well as the Directors of several other agencies to date. She wished participants a fruitful and productive meeting.

5. Ms Barbara Murray, ILO, also welcomed the participants to the 6th IASG meeting, saying that it was an experimental meeting in the sense that it combined an IASG business meeting with a thematic seminar on a topic of relevance to the host-agency mandate (the ILO, in this case), in an attempt to encourage greater participation by UN agencies and a wider range of civil society agencies.
6. Ms. Akiko Ito, Co-chair of the meeting and Chief of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at DESA, introduced Ms Daniela Bas Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development in UN DESA since May 2011. Acknowledging the important role of the IASG as a coordination mechanism for the UN agencies in advancing the work of the United Nations in the area of disability, Ms Bas said that DESA remains committed to strengthening the work of the IASG and promoting the inclusion of disability in development processes in order to achieve equitable and sustainable development for all. As Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, she expressed her commitment to extending the Division's full support to the implementation of the IASG Joint Strategy and Plan of Action in all areas of the Division's work.
7. Participants were then invited to introduce themselves briefly and outline what they hoped to gain from the meeting. Expectations included learning how the Guidance Note for UN Country teams was being put into operation; hearing how UN agencies were working in their areas of mandate to implement the CRPD, using the World Report on Disability as a background resource; discussing possible IASG inputs to high level meetings, including the High Level meeting on Disability and Development in September 2012; exploring ways in which UN agencies and civil society groups, including Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs), could effectively collaborate at country level and globally, to support the increasing interest of field offices in promoting disability rights given the limited human and financial resources available; sharing views on how to translate the existing instruments into policies, and to move from 'Declaration' to 'Action'; as well as sharing information on recent meetings and publications.
8. Regarding the minutes of the meeting by teleconference on 13 December 2010, Ms Julia Kercher, UNDP, asked that these minutes be revised to include

reference to the fact that the Terms of Reference of the Multi-donor Trust Fund for the UN CRPD were in development and that other agencies are welcome to join. Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg noted that UNESCO had published a policy, rather than a report, concerning persons with disabilities. The minutes were adopted, subject to these two amendments being made.

Session 2: Support to the implementation of the CRPD through the Joint Strategy and Plan of Action (JSPA)

9. Ms. Barbara Murray, ILO, chaired this session during which IASG members were requested to give a brief outline of one major achievement in implementing the JSPA since the teleconference in December 2010. The JSPA has been endorsed by 8 agencies to date –DESA, DPKO, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO. The items reported on were also described in the overview of work carried out in that period, which was made available in hard copy by 10 agencies. This overview is attached as annex 3.
10. Mr Gregory Garras, UNHCR informed the meeting about a new guidance note series on disability issues for UNCHR and partner staff. The first module is on "Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement" and focuses on participation, non-discrimination and inclusion in mainstream programming of persons with disabilities. It was developed in cooperation with Handicap International and is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4e6072b22.html>
11. Ms Gisela Nauk, ESCWA, said that ESCWA is developing a disability policy through its committee for social development and that focal points on social integration and disability are being appointed in country offices. As part of its normative work on disability, ESCWA has published a working paper on the integration of persons with disability into the labour market in the ESCWA Region and a Report on Disability and Poverty in the ESCWA Region. The report fueled the thematic discussions of the Committee on Social Development -an intergovernmental body- in March 2011. Currently, ESCWA is developing an inventory of disability related statistics, policies and good practices in the region, in collaboration with national focal points nominated by the 14 member countries of ESCWA. This initiative aims at collecting the latest available data on persons with disabilities in the region and at providing evidence that could support the formulation of disability inclusive policies and laws. It is hoped that this project will facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches that promote the integration of persons with disabilities and ultimately translate into a better implementation of CRPD at the regional level.
12. Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, UNESCO informed the meeting that a policy concerning the employment of persons with disabilities had been adopted in UNESCO and that UNESCO, in partnership with the Inclusive Design Research Centre and Government of Ontario (Canada), had developed guidelines on the preparation of inclusive office documents. She added that five regional reports on the use of affordable, adaptable, accessible Information and Communications Technologies in education and training would soon be published.
13. Ms Debra Perry, ILO, provided an update on the ILO Global Business and Disability Network explaining its four purposes: to share information and good practices regarding the employment of persons with disabilities (such as

through the publication *Disability in the Workplace: Company Practices*, which documents how 25 companies address disability inclusion as it relates to hiring and retention, products and services, and corporate social responsibility); to strengthen employers organizations at country level, for example through study tours such as a recent one arranged to the Employers' Network on Disability of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon, Sri Lanka; to develop joint products and services for employers and companies to facilitate hiring and retention; and to link companies to ILO projects and activities at the national level. The 4th Network planning meeting would take place in Argentina, around the same time as the meeting of the Global Partnership for Disability and Development; a website is due to be launched; and a second publication will be produced.

14. Ms Roxana Widmer, ITU, informed the meeting about a toolkit '*Connect a School, Connect a Community*' that has been developed as part of ITU's aim to connect all schools by 2015. The idea involves establishing multi-purpose telecentres, the cost of which will be reduced as the demand for these is promoted. Ms Alexandra Gaspari, ITU, spoke about the ITU-T Focus Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (FG AVA), a new group of experts that has been established with the main objective of addressing the need to make audiovisual media accessible for persons with disabilities. The group mandate should help national broadcasters and regulators to add accessibility features in preparation for the Digital Switch to be completed in Europe by 2013, and in a few years time, in other regions. The group held its first meeting in May 2011, with further meetings planned in Geneva in September 2011, and in Spain, India, USA, Japan and Canada at later dates. The work of this group is relevant to CRPD Article 9 (Accessibility).
15. Mr. Simon Walker, OHCHR, reported on the 5th session of the CRPD Committee that took place from 11 to 15 April 2011, first time the Committee operated at its full strength of 18 members. At this session, the Committee considered the report of Tunisia, with an interactive dialogue with the State Party delegation and a discussion in public of a number of questions raised, before making concluding observations which are available on the OHCHR website. The Committee then continued its discussion, in private, of issues concerning the initial report on Spain. Given the limited amount of time available for its meetings, the Committee has requested approval of additional weeks for its meetings, and suggested that a new way of considering the reports needs to be explored. General comments will be prepared on Accessibility and Legal Capacity, with two further comments in the pipeline. Mr Walker added that two complaints have been received under the Optional Protocol to date. He concluded his remarks by saying UN agencies might help the work of the Committee by providing country-level information, and raised the question of how a mechanism might be developed for UNCTs to provide input into the Committee on a confidential basis.
16. Ms Akiko Ito, UN DESA, spoke of work undertaken to strengthen the social pillar and to promote the inclusion of disability in development, including in relation to the RIO +20 meeting. An emphasis is being placed on informing civil society so that it can work better with governments and through development conferences.

17. Ms Julia Kercher, UNDP, said that internal guidelines on including disability, developed over a two year period with the International Disability and Development Consortium, are almost completed. The guidelines deal with the question of why disability issues should be taken into account, and how to do it – through the programming cycle, in practical areas, through work with partners, donors, DPOs and others. The document makes reference to other materials, so that it can serve as a 'One Stop Shop' for staff. She felt that the guidelines could be useful for other agencies.
18. Mr. Jason Sigurdson, UNAIDS, spoke about the Global Compact group on HIV and disability, involving civil society, some governments and academics. He said that guidelines was being prepared on integrating disability rights concerns into global guidance relating to HIVAIDS.
19. Ms Alana Officer, WHO, provided an overview of the World Bank/WHO World report on disability, launched on 9 June in New York, with considerable the media coverage. Emphasising the potential of the World Report as a tool that provides evidence and recommendations of relevance to implementation of the CRPD, she outlined the main messages in the report: a higher number of persons with disabilities than had been previously assumed, showing a rising trend; inequalities among the population of persons with disabilities, with not all being equally disadvantaged in terms of educational achievements, economic participation and poverty rates; the hampering role played by inadequate policies, standards and services, inadequate funding, negative attitudes and most importantly, the way in which society treats people. She then summarised the reports' nine cross-cutting recommendations, regarding mainstreaming; targetted initiatives; adoption of a national disability strategy; consultation with persons with disabilities; training of personnel; resource allocation; mutual respect and understanding; filling the gaps in knowledge; and the need for evidence on the outcomes of interventions. National launches of the report or policy dialogues at country level will support the development of country and regional programmes, which can then be scaled up and learnt from, and international policy dialogues are likely to help generate increased political will and raise awareness, setting the agenda for technical support .
20. Ms. Nicola Brandt, UNICEF, said that the recently appointed Senior Advisor on Children with Disabilities has moved the disability rights agenda forward within the agency. A cross-agency meeting has been held and partnerships being developed with different departments. An internal working group on disability has been set up and is gaining strength; internal guidelines are being developed; and efforts are underway to build links with the disability rights community. The Resolution on the Rights of the Child this year will provide a great opportunities for advocacy on the rights of persons with disabilities.
21. Mr Gustavo Laurie, UNMAS, speaking also on behalf of the Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO) , said that the IASG Joint Strategy and Plan of Action had been endorsed by the DPKO Under-Secretary General, Mr Alain L Roy in December 2010. UNMAS continues to advocate the CRPD through its work on Victim Assistance, and seeks to draw attention to Mine Action in the framework of the CRPD, which it also promotes in reference to the Oslo and Ottawa Conventions. An informal task-force has been established to consult on issues relating mine action, victim assistance and disability, including the mainstreaming of victim assistance into disability frameworks. The first consultations were held in Geneva, June 2011 with the participation of UNICEF,

UNDP, UNMAS, WHO and ILO and the expression of interest by UNHCR. He then referred to UNMAS field programmes in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan that include direct support by UNMAS for the establishment and/or enhancement of national disability frameworks for all persons with disabilities that are consistent with the CRPD.

22. Ms Rose Aderolili, UNECA, informed the meeting of a report on disability in Africa that had been recently published. The aim is to sensitize member states and build their capacity to include disability rights. UNECA also works with NGOs to better take up their recommendations of this report, and is following up with countries to encourage them to take up and implement at least one recommendation. Work is underway to make the UNECA premises accessible.
23. In the concluding discussion of this session, the representatives of both ESCWA and UNESCO said that a 'push from the outside' would be required in order to get endorsement of the IASG Joint Strategy and Plan of Action at the highest level in their organizations.

Session 3. Implementing JSPA in collaboration with civil society

24. Mr Simon Walker, OHCHR, chaired the session on collaboration with civil society. During this session Mr Yanis Vardakastanis, IDA, informed the meeting about the IDA offices in New York and Geneva, and its active collaboration with UN DESA and OHCHR. In the recent past, it has contributed to a large number of disability-related recommendations and to increasing the involvement of national level DPOs in advocating ratification and implementation of the CRPD. It has also contributed to capacity building and is working on implementation guidelines for the CRPD.
25. Mr Michael Kamp, WASE, spoke of WASE's work to disseminate information to developing countries in Eastern Europe – Romania and Bulgaria – regarding the piloting of supported employment. WASE is interested in collaborating in countries where supported employment does not exist, and in this context, has developed a competency profile for employment support workers along with a training package.
26. Mr Stefan Tromel, IDA said that the extent of cooperation between DPOs and UN agencies is very diverse at the moment and there is scope to mainstream disability more adequately in the work of all agencies. He expressed the hope that the high level meeting planned for September 2012 would put disability higher on the development agenda post 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals. At country level, a challenge that could be jointly addressed was the need to encourage the involvement of DPOs in the UN Development Assistance Programmes (UNDAFs), not all of which are using the Guidance Note, which IDA is highlighting to DPOs. He enquired whether IDA could participate in the virtual IASG meeting to take place in December.
27. In the discussion that followed, several participants asked whether UN agencies might have access to a registry of DPOs and to a list of regional and global representatives of persons with disabilities. Ms Julia Kercher, UNDP, said that the international guidance note should at least result in greater engagement of country offices with DPOs and that better information is needed to facilitate this. Ms Debra Perry, ILO said that having a list of DPOs is a really important resource for UN agencies and that companies in the ILO Global Network are requesting this kind of information. She suggested that agencies could compile this list

together, with an allocation of resources to keep this up to date. It was suggested that the World Bank's internal list of DPOs and civil society might be made available on the UN website. Citing as an example the NGOs that have official relations with UNESCO and other international organizations, Ms Irmgarda Kasankaite-Buddeberg, UNESCO, suggested that NGOs could be invited to complete forms on the UN ENABLE website, for example through an invitation issued via social media. Ms Nicola Brandt, UNICEF, said that is a complex process to get information at country level as the list compiled needs to be vetted. Ms Aleksandra Poserac, World Bank said that country level World Bank offices have information officers who should be the starting point for this. Ms Alana Officer said that it was important to empower field officers to get access to information and also to get advice as needed. A twin track approach should be taken here - information on the IDA capacity building work for DPOs would be helpful. Mr Stefan Tromel said that a list of DPOs would be provided on request and urged that the DPOs should be part of UN agency NGO lists, since advice must be given as well as merely creating a database. Mr Simon Walker said that the IASG should move forward to increase contact with DPOs at country level – a concrete suggestion of a letter to Country representatives mentioning the Guidance Note could be worked on, and they could be encouraged to involve DPOs in the preparation of the preparation of the UNDAFS.

28. Mr Michael Kamp, WASE, underscored the fact that national laws often prevent people with disabilities from working, if they are under 50% productivity. He said that it is a challenge to collect and disseminate examples of good practice and WASE would like to collaborate with UN agencies on this.

Session 4 Implementing the JSPA

29. The afternoon session on implementing the JSPA, chaired by Ms Akiko Ito, DESA, was attended by UN agencies only. At this session, Ms Julia Kercher, UNDP gave an overview of the proposed Multi-Donor Trust Fund, saying that it would be a fund for countries to access, as described in the MDTF Information Sheet. UNDP and UNICEF have signed, and DESA and OHCHR would do so in the near future. Outlining the terms of reference for the Fund, Mr Simon Walker said that the purpose is to set out possibilities for joint UN agency work activities, over the period June 2011 to May 2016. It is hoped that the IASG can be actively involved and assist in bringing support for the implementation of the CRPD to country level. Thematic priorities at country level will be capacity development for the ratification and implementation of the CRPD; establishment or strengthening of dialogue between the State, DPOs and UNCTs; breaking statistical invisibility; promotion of a means to ensure that development programmes do not promote 'pre-CRPD' views and do not create barriers. Global themes will include research; advisory services; knowledge management; networking; and promoting the participation of persons with disabilities at regional and international levels. A Technical Secretariat will be established to process applications. Decisions will be made by a Policy Board comprising two civil society representatives, four founding UN agencies; an additional UN IASG member for a period of a year; and donor representatives. Interest has been expressed in contributing to the MDTF by Finland, Spain, Australia, Sweden (and possibly Austria). Joining the MDTF involves signing a

Memorandum of Understanding, which will bring with it a responsibility, as only those agencies can support countries to access funds.

30. In the discussion that followed, clarification was sought on: the application process – who applies, who prepares the proposals, who signs, who executes?; charges to be made for Programme support costs and staff time; involvement of country teams; responsibility for execution (national execution or UN agency execution?); the fund-raising strategy; procurement procedures; whether there would be scope for private company contributions; the role of IDA; measures to avoid conflict of interest; support for the global dimension of promoting disability rights; and potential for involvement of employers' organizations, trade unions and the media in the process. Mr Simon Walker explained that work was needed on donor coordination, the role of IDA, transparency of funds and other aspects of the MDTF that needed to be worked on, building on the experience of other MDTFs. Funding should be for activities at country level. Ms Aleksandra Poserac, World Bank, stressed that there needed to be 'rules of the game' regarding conflict of interest – in particular, decision-makers should not be involved in implementation; she said that the World Bank ceased its funding of the GPDD for this reason. It was agreed that the terms of reference should be shared and that rules of procedure adopted need to capture the issues raised.

Session 5 Guidance Note on including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming at country level

31. Ms Akiko Ito, DESA, chaired the discussion of the status of the Guidance Note. Ms Shifanna Thowfequi, DESA said that it would be ready for printing in two weeks time and would be posted on the UN DOCO website. While the English version is ready, translation has not yet started on other language versions as funding for this (\$4500) has yet to be secured. She said that funds for printing were available. Regarding the electronic version, no specific IASG agency has signed up for this yet, and DESA was not sure of whether progress had been made with this. In answer to a question raised, Ms Thowfequi said that the printed format would not adhere to accessibility provisions. Ms Alana Officer, WHO, urged that the IASG adopt a non-negotiable commitment to making its documents accessible, with terms of reference for designers and for training programmes including this provision. She cited as an example, WHO internal guidelines on clear print and internal training provided on this. Mr Gustavo Laurie, UNMAS, proposed that the first edition of the Guidance note should go ahead and that the second edition should follow the 'clear print guidelines.
32. The rollout strategy for the guidelines was then discussed, with a contribution by Mr Ryo Hada, OHCHR, on its linkage to the Human Rights Mechanism (HRM). The strategy would have four general priorities: supporting UNCTs and national development priorities; building capacity of country team leaders; upgrading guidance to country teams; and building national capacity building. The MDTF would facilitate support to country teams and advocacy - focusing, for example, on how human rights are incorporated into UN system initiatives. A survey of country team requirements yielded 123 responses from 99 country teams in which the following points stood out: more technical support is needed regarding human rights issues; and in-depth guidance should be given on specific issues. The question was raised of how the guidance note /IASG might deal with specific requests that the human rights mechanism cannot deal

with. In discussion, it was suggested that a roster of experts be established; that guidance and capacity building for Resident Coordinators should include training on disability issues; that there should be greater knowledge sharing on disability right materials; that virtual discussions could include stimulating questions on the theme of disability, with moderators available to respond to queries by any UN staff. Mr Hada informed the meeting that the HRM wishes to discourage the earmarking of funds through its MDTFs, and said that there was a need to show how duplication and overlaps could be avoided. The role of the HRM in promoting the Guidance Note is of importance, in particular since UNDG teams rather than UN DOCO, are the channel through which the IASG should pass. Regional focal points could promote discussion of disability rights issues in this way, in addition to other themes, though it would be important to communicate to them and to the resident coordinators, the need for a multi-track approach.

Session 6 Other business and conclusion

33. In the final session of the meeting, chaired by Mr Simon Walker, OHCHR, the discussion focused on collaborative work to promote World Report on Disabilities: its dissemination, including through links to the electronic version through different UN agency websites, and on USB sticks; use in national policy dialogues and research symposia linked to each agency's mandate; and links to the report from UN agency websites. To assist in this process, a Powerpoint presentation has been prepared, regional fact sheets are under discussion and the report summary is available in a range of languages. In the discussion, the need for a vision for the next phase was underscored, including Powerpoints on different themes, an indication of who could be approached for technical advice and follow-up support; and a strategy for outreach to other agencies, to involve them in the dissemination process. Arising from this last point, it was suggested that the IASG should send a letter to each UN gency that is not yet an IASG member, encouraging them to become involved and to appoint disability focal points.
34. Regarding future IASG meetings, it was suggested that the second meeting of the IASG for 2012 should take place in December by video-conference, to be arranged by the ILO; and that future face-to-face meetings might be arranged at the time of either the Conference of States Parties in New York, or the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, taking place in New York and Geneva in turn and being moved to country level at a later stage. It was agreed that UNICEF would act as the 3rd rotating chair in 2012. A suggestion was made to invite a speaker on from gender, indigenous groups or the Youth Employment Network to speak at the next meeting.
35. In relation to IASG collaboration with NGOs, Mr Gustavo Laurie, UNMAS, urged that a balance be ensured between advocacy on one hand and implementation on the other. In his experience, the transparency called for from UN agencies by NGOs, is not always matched by a similar transparency on their side.
36. In their concluding remarks, Mr Simon Walker, OHCHR and Ms Akiko Ito, DESA, thanked the ILO for hosting the IASG meeting and looked forward to the Thematic Seminar to take place on 7 July.

Thematic Seminar, 7 July

- 37.** The Thematic Seminar *'Moving from Segregated to Inclusive Services in Vocational Education and Training - European and North American experience'* was organized by ILO as part of the 6th meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The aim was to deal in depth with a technical topic of relevance to the mandate of the host agency, in an attempt to encourage greater participation by UN agencies and a wider range of civil society agencies in the IASG.
- 38.** The aims of the seminar were to examine the emphasis on inclusive vocational and training in the international policy agenda, in general and through practical projects implemented by selected IASG member agencies; review successes and challenges in implementing this policy approach with some concrete examples; examine practical strategies to facilitate inclusion; and review steps that can be taken to tackle the challenges faced.
- 39.** The seminar was attended by twenty five participants from UN agencies, the European Union, and civil society organizations.
- 40.** A report on the seminar is attached as Annex 4.

Annex 1 Agenda of 6th IASG Meeting

6 July: IASG internal meeting. Room 1

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 9.20	Opening Remarks: Ms. Akiko Ito UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Mr Simon Walker, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms Jane Hodges, Director, ILO Bureau for Gender Equality
9.20 – 10:15	Introductions Facilitators: Ms. Akiko Ito, DESA; Mr Simon Walker, OHCHR; Ms Barbara Murray, (ILO) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Adoption of minutes of 1st IASG Virtual meeting by teleconference, December 2010</i>- <i>Adoption of the Agenda</i>- <i>Overview of objectives and expected results of the meeting</i>
10.15 – 10.45	Break
10:45 – 11:45	Support to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the IASG Joint Strategy and Plan of Action (JSPA) Chair B. Murray, ILO <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Endorsement of the JSPA</i>- <i>Progress in implementing the JSPA. Each participating agency highlights one recent achievement, since December 2010</i>
11.45 – 12.30	<i>Implementing JSPA in collaboration with civil society:</i> Chair: Mr Simon Walker. OHCHR <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Civil society representatives highlight one recent achievement, since May 2010</i>- <i>Dialogue with civil society representatives on possible future collaborative action between UN agencies and with Civil Society to give effect to the JSPA.</i>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
Afternoon session *(UN agencies only)	
13.30 – 14.30	Implementing the JSPA Chair Akiko Ito <i>Up-date on Multi-donor Trust fund</i> <i>Discussion of possible future collaborative action between UN agencies.</i>
14.30 – 15.30	Guidance Note on <i>Including the rights of persons with disabilities in United Nations programming at country level</i> Chair Barbara Murray <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Update on progress with hard copy and electronic versions</i>- <i>Rollout strategy</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">o <i>Links to developments with Human Rights Mechanism of the UNDG</i> Mr Ryo Hada, OHCHRo <i>Discussion of next steps</i>
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee Break
15.45 – 16.30	IASG procedural issues: Chair Simon Walker, OHCHR <i>Outreach to other UN agencies – what is needed?</i> Decisions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>date and format of virtual meeting later in 2011</i>- <i>Agency to act as 3rd chair for 2012</i>
16.30 – 16.45	Any other business Chair Akiko Ito
16.45 – 17.00	Concluding remarks: Akiko Ito (DESA), Simon Walker (OHCHR) and Barbara Murray, (ILO)

7 July: IASG Thematic Seminar

'Moving from Segregated to Inclusive Services in Vocational Education and Training - European and North American experience

08:30 am – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 9.30 **Welcome and opening remarks**

- Ms Deborah France-Massin, Acting Director, ILO Bureau for Employer Affairs
- Mr Simon Walker, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Ms Akiko Ito, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Mr Stefan Tromel, International Disability Alliance

9.30 – 10:30

The Vision of Inclusive Vocational Education and Training in the International Agenda Chair Debra Perry, ILO:

- Promoting a new era in vocational training for persons with disabilities: ILO's role. Ms Barbara Murray, ILO
 - Role of Information and Communications Technologies
Ms Roxana Widmer, ITU
 - Access to information and knowledge through ICTs
Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg UNESCO
- Discussion

10.30– 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 **Implementing inclusive vocational education and training – successes and challenges** Chair Barbara Murray, ILO

- Experience of European Disability-Specific Service Providers
Mr Jan Spooren, European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR)
 - Experience of mainstream Service Providers
Mr Arjan van der Meijden, Expertisecentrum Beroepsonderwijs (Vocational Expertise Centre), Netherlands
 - On-job training for persons with disabilities – Employer examples. Ms Debra Perry, ILO
 - Promoting vocational training opportunities – trade union contributions. Ms Anna Biondi, Deputy Director, ILO Bureau for Worker Affairs
- *Discussion*

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.00

Transforming Segregated Services: Approaches to support strategic conversion planning of traditional programmes.

Chair Ms Debra Perry, ILO

- Mr Thomas P. Golden, Cornell University (Webinar)
- Discussion

15.00 – 15.30

Supporting Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in 3rd Level Education – US Experience Chair Debra Perry, ILO (TBC)

- Mr Hassan Ndahi, Senior Skills Specialist ILO Port-of Spain (Video Link)

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee Break

15.45 – 16.45

Moving to Inclusive Vocational Education and Training – Tackling the Challenges. Panel and General Discussion.

Chair Barbara Murray ILO.

- Mr Johan ten Geuzendam, European Commission;
- Ms Anna Biondi, Deputy Director, ILO Bureau for Worker Affairs;
- Ms Janet Asherson, Adviser on Environment, Safety and Health issues, International Organization of Employers
- Mr Stefan Tromel, International Disability Alliance

16.45-17.00

Conclusions and closure

- Ms Akiko Ito, UN DESA;
- Mr Simon Walker, OHCHR;
- Ms Barbara Murray, ILO

Annex 2 List of Participants

IASG Members

Organization	Name	Title	Mail address
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)	Ms Akiko Ito	Chief, Secretariat for the CRPD/DESA Focal point on Disability	ito@un.org
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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Ms. Irmgarda Kasinskaite Buddeberg	Programme Specialist, Communication and Information Sector	i.kasinskaite@unesco.org
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Ms. Nicola Brandt	Human Rights Specialist,	nbrandt@unicef.org
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Mr. Gregory Garras	Senior Community Services Coordinator	garras@unhcr.org
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World Health Organization (WHO)	Ms Alana Officer	Coordinator, Disability and Rehabilitation	officera@who.int
United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)/ Dept of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)	Mr Gustavo Laurie	Acting Senior Liaison Officer for UNMAS in Geneva	laurie@un.org glaurie@unog.ch
UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGS)	Ms Rose Aderolili	Officer in Charge, Human and Social Development Section	aderolili@un.org
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	Ms Gisela Nauk	Chief, Social Policy Section	nauk@un.org

International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	Ms Roxana Widmer	Youth Programme Officer	roxana.widmer-iliescu@itu.int
	Ms. Alexandra Gaspari	Focal Point for Assistance to Indigenous Peoples Accessibility Coordinator	Alexandra.Gaspari@itu.int

Observers

United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	Mr Jason Sigurdson	Program Officer, Human Rights & Law	sigurdsonj@unaid.org
World Bank	Ms. Aleksandra Posarac	Lead Human Development Economist and Team Leader, HDNSP Disability & Development (D&D) Team	aposarac@worldbank.org

Non-governmental organizations

International Disability Alliance	Mr Yannis Vardakastanis	Vice-Chair	
	Mr Stefan Tromel	Executive Director	stromel@fundaciononce.es
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