

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

A journey towards strengthened cooperation between the international, regional and national human rights mechanisms: implementation of the CRPD and SDGs

- Date and venue:** Thursday, 15 June 2017, 13:15 - 14:30, at the UNHQ, Conference Room 4, New York (slot 36)
- Objectives:** This side event aims to highlight the role of the regional human rights mechanisms for strengthened and aligned implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The **objective** of the side event is to:
- Explore ways to reinforce synergies and cooperation between regional and international human rights mechanisms toward implementation of the CRPD & SDGs by:
- Enhancing awareness of States and stakeholders of the role and actions of regional human rights bodies in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and the SDGs;
 - Identifying areas, strategies' and recommendations for strengthened mutual coordination and collaboration;
 - Ensuring the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, national institutions and NGOs at all levels.
- Welcoming remarks:**
- **Mr. Georgi Panayotov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria**
- Moderator**
- **Mr. Danlami Basharu, Member, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**
- Panellists:**
- **Mr. Yeung Sik Yuen, Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**
 - **Ms. Rosa Celorio, Senior Attorney & Coordinator of Thematic Monitoring, Inter American Commission on Human Rights**
 - **Ms. Mercedes Carrillo, Legal Officer, Department of Social Inclusion, Organization of American States**
 - **Ms. Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head, Equality Division, Council of Europe**
 - **Mr. Derrick Cogburn, Institute on Disability and Public Policy, American University**
 - **Mr. Idriss Maiga, African Disability Forum, Member International Disability Alliance**
 - **Ms. Sirpa Rautio, Director, Finnish Human Rights Centre**
- Closing Remarks**
- Mr. Andrew Gillmour ASG, OHCHR**
- Outcome:** The debate will bring to light common areas of action on implementation of the CRPD by regional human rights bodies and identify methods and mechanisms of exchange and cooperation between regional and international human rights mechanisms, including the CRPD Committee, for enhanced awareness, coordination, and proliferation of good practices. It is anticipated that regular meetings between mechanisms could be institutionalised. Furthermore the discussions will highlight the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities, national institutions and NGOs in implementing the CRPD in the framework of the Sustainable Development goals (SDGs) and how cooperation between international, regional and national actors could be enhanced.
- Format:** Following the welcoming remarks, the moderator will elaborate of the CRPD committee work and how collaboration with regional mechanisms could be enhanced, He will then give the floor to the Special

Rapporteur to highlight areas of cooperation with UN Special rapporteurs, and the importance of exchange and dialogue across the regional human rights bodies, together with the global mechanisms for coordinated and enhanced implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The representatives of the regional human rights mechanisms will briefly describe the efforts being made in their respective regions to contribute to implementation of the CRPD and SDGs, and make suggestions on how cooperation could be enhanced. The presentations will be followed by interventions from NHRIs and NGOs, a segment of statements, questions and answers and a closing statement by the Mission representative.

Background: Regional human rights bodies play a significant role in promoting core human rights treaties at the regional and national levels, including through monitoring states compliance of universal human rights norms and their translation into regional human rights instruments and action plans. As they become increasingly active on the rights of persons with disabilities, there is an important opportunity for exchange across those regional bodies with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Special Rapporteurs to ensure the alignment of standards and implementation efforts.

“Increasing cooperation between all international and regional bodies is essential to enable us to better honour and defend the enjoyment of human rights by the world's people. I firmly believe that UN and regional human rights mechanisms must complement each other, support each other and work closely together for a common end¹”.

International sign interpretation and CART will be provided.

Organizers: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with:

Co- sponsors: Permanent Missions of : Belgium, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Tunisia.

The Council of Europe, Inter American Commission on Human Rights, African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, Institute of Disability and Public Policy- American University Washington DC.

¹ Statement United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, at the Workshop on Regional Arrangements, October 2016