



GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR INCLUSIVE ICTs

*Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Digital Age*

# **Crossing the Digital Divide:**

Implementing CRPD Dispositions on Accessible  
Technologies for Persons with Disabilities

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**DSPD/DESA Panel Discussion**

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[www.g3ict.org](http://www.g3ict.org)



## *G3ict - Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs*

- ❖ Formed in December 2006 upon adoption of the CRPD by the United Nations General Assembly
- ❖ To promote the dispositions of the CRPD on the accessibility of Information and Communication Technologies
- ❖ With the support of UNDESA, the ICT industry, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, Governments, Standards Development Organizations

# Stakeholders Participating in G3ict Global Programs

- ❖ IBM
- ❖ Microsoft
- ❖ AT&T
- ❖ Google
- ❖ Adobe Systems
- ❖ Comcast
- ❖ Verizon
- ❖ T-Mobile
- ❖ Deque Systems
- ❖ Sprint
- ❖ SSB Bart Group
- ❖ HP
- ❖ UNESCO
- ❖ ITU
- ❖ UNICEF
- ❖ UNDESA\*
- ❖ FCC\*
- ❖ Disabled People's International
- ❖ World Blind Union
- ❖ Consumer Electronics Association
- ❖ CTIA – The Wireless Association
- ❖ TIA
- ❖ ACCAN (Australia)\*

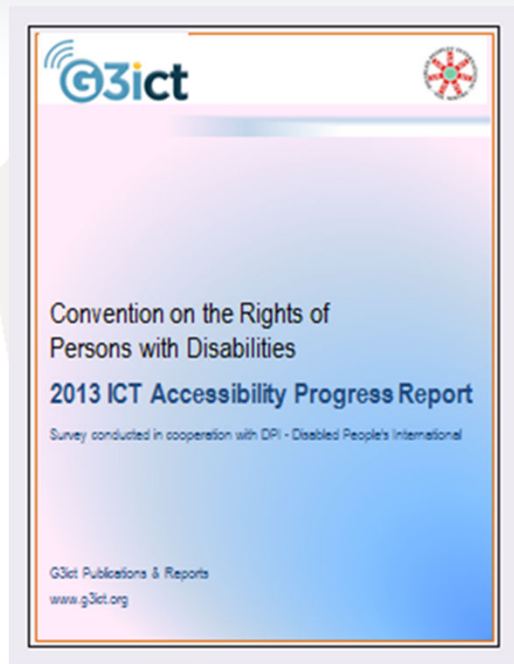
# *The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: a Global Blueprint for ICT Accessibility*

- ❖ Article 9 elevates ICT Accessibility obligations on par with those for the built environment and transportation
- ❖ Requires States Parties to:
  - ▶ Adopt standards
  - ▶ Ensure that public and private sector entities implement ICT accessibility for services to the public
  - ▶ Promote the usage of new technologies and the Internet by Persons with Disabilities
- ❖ Other CRPD articles reinforce the obligation of ICT accessibility for freedom of expression, work and education, and for assistive technologies and reasonable accommodation

# CRPD Framework for ICT Accessibility and Assistive Technologies

Application Areas	CRPD Article	Accessibility dispositions with implications for ICTs	Reasonable Accommodation	Promoting Assistive Technologies
Non discrimination	5		✓	
E-Government	9.2.a	✓		
Media and Internet	9.1, 9.2.g	✓		
Television	30.1.b	✓		
Private Sector Services	9.2.b	✓		
Liberty and Security	14		✓	
Living independently	19			✓
Education	24	✓	✓	✓
Employment	27	✓	✓	
Political Rights	21, 29	✓		✓
Emergency services	9.1.b, 11	✓		
Culture & Leisure	30.5.c	✓		
Personal Mobility	20			✓
Rehabilitation	2			✓

# Benchmarking CRPD Implementation: G3ict CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report



- ❖ Global survey conducted by G3ict in cooperation with Disabled People's International
- ❖ 2013 edition: 76 countries , 72% of the world population, 81% of the 139 CRPD ratifying countries (as of December 2013)
- ❖ 57 data points per country:
  - ❖ **Country commitments,**
  - ❖ **Capacity to implement**
  - ❖ **Actual results for persons with disabilities**

## *Country Commitments: Measurable Positive Impact of the CRPD*

- ❖ **85%** have a constitutional article, law or regulation defining the rights of persons with disabilities
- ❖ **69%** of countries surveyed have a designated focal point within government for matters relating to the CRPD and a framework for implementing and monitoring the CRPD
- ❖ **62%** have a definition of "Reasonable Accommodation" included in a law or regulation (only mentioned in very few countries before adoption of the CRPD)

# *Legal Foundation Required to Promote ICT Accessibility Is Improving*

- ❖ 50% of surveyed countries have a definition of accessibility which includes ICTs or electronic media in the country laws or regulations
- *Up from 31% in previous report in 2012*
- *Critical legal foundation for in-country ICT accessibility advocacy, still lagging significantly*



## *But Actual Policy Implementations Among States Parties Are Few and with Limited Results*

<b>Policies and programs in place with degrees of implementation</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Partial</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Full</b>
<b>Copyrights Exceptions</b>	<b>84%</b>	7%	6%	3%	0%
<b>ATM or Kiosks</b>	<b>69%</b>	21%	7%	0%	3%
<b>Fixed line Telephony</b>	<b>65%</b>	14%	13%	6%	1%
<b>Wireless Telephony</b>	<b>65%</b>	18%	9%	4%	4%
<b>Web Sites</b>	<b>54%</b>	29%	10%	7%	0%
<b>Television</b>	<b>29%</b>	51%	15%	4%	0%

# *Key Challenges for ICT Accessibility Implementation*

- ❖ Lack of awareness and engagement of multiple stakeholders
- ❖ Limits of traditional policies and regulations
- ❖ Multiplicity of government areas involved

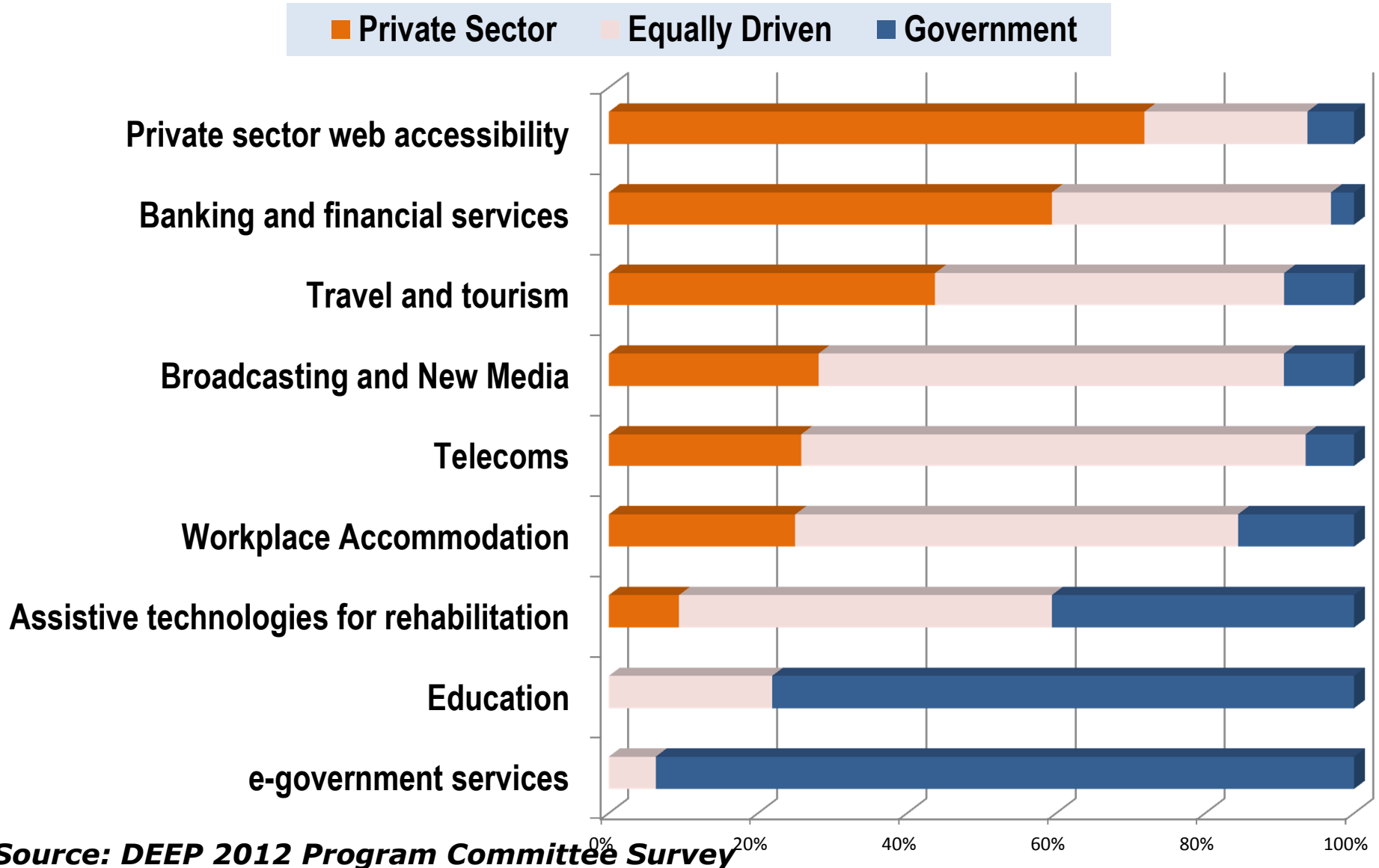
## *Example: Lack of Disabled Persons Engagement:*

### **% of CRPD ratifying countries that:**

- ❖ Support disabled persons organizations = **17%**
- ❖ Involve Persons with Disabilities in ICT Accessibility Policy Making = **11%**

(2013 CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report)

# Multi-stakeholder Dialogue is Necessary: Who Should be Driving e-Accessibility?



# *The ITU-G3ict Model Policies: Promoting Multi-Stakeholders Engagement*

- ❖ Specify the rule of engagement of persons with disabilities in policy making:
  - ▶ Setting up multi-stakeholder ICT Accessibility policy making processes with participation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
  - ▶ Defining implementation roadmaps
  - ▶ Participating in codes of conduct or regulatory developments
  - ▶ Adopting international standards
  - ▶ Monitoring progress
- ❖ Serve as a blueprint for in-country programs for TV, Web, Mobile, Public Access Points and Public Procurement

# *Steps taken by G3ict in Support of Advocates and Policy Makers (1)*

- ❖ Technical reports (TV, Mobile, USF) and good practices white papers
- ❖ Capacity development programs
  - ▶ Seminars for Disabled Persons Organizations leaders
  - ▶ Policy brainstorming sessions to engage multiple stakeholders at country level
  - ▶ Participation in PRPD funded programs with UNICEF and UNESCO
- ❖ Joint Model policies for States Parties with UNESCO and ITU
  - ▶ Inclusive ICTs for Education (With UNESCO)- March 2014
  - ▶ TV, Mobile, Web, Public Procurement, Public Access Points (With ITU) – November 2014

# *Steps taken by G3ict in Support of Advocates and Policy Makers (2)*

- ❖ Awareness Raising and on-line resources
  - ▶ Contributions to more than 125 international seminars and conferences since inception
  - ▶ 60,000 annual unique visitors to its web site
  - ▶ 23,000 downloads of its Policy Toolkit Handbook
  - ▶ 12,000 annual unique visitors to the G3ict-ITU web based e-Accessibility Policy Toolkit
- ❖ Benchmarking
  - ▶ 76 countries participating in G3ict CRPD ICT Accessibility Progress Report representing more than 80% of the population of ratifying countries
- ❖ Promoting innovation: M-Enabling Summit
  - ▶ 520 participants in 2013 in the U.S. + international M-Enabling briefing sessions

# In Conclusion: A Call for Action

- ❖ Could you hold a degree in architecture today without knowing accessibility requirements for the built environment?
- ❖ However, no computer degree anywhere in the world requires a knowledge of ICT accessibility
- **Make accessibility a requirement for all accredited degrees in computer sciences, web development and software engineering**
- **G3ict to seek UN agencies support for a global campaign to achieve this objective**





**Thank You for your  
Attention!**

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