



Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Development, Economic & Social Issues Branch  
Palais des Nations  
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By Email: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org)

Brussels, 15 September 2008

**Letter of June 4<sup>th</sup>, requesting views in accordance with OP 16, Human Rights Council Resolution 7/9, “Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities”**

Dear Mr. Wani,

IDDC – the International Disability and Development Consortium – gratefully acknowledges the opportunity to share its views on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

IDDC is a network of 20 international NGOs<sup>1</sup> supporting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development efforts in over 100 countries. The IDDC promotes **inclusive development**, i.e. respecting the full human rights of every person, acknowledging diversity, eradicating poverty and ensuring that all people are fully included and can actively participate in development processes.

We would like to draw the OHCHR’s attention to the crucial question of implementing Article 32 CRPD. Not only is it the first stand alone provision on international cooperation in a core UN human rights treaty and does it embody the concept of **inclusive development**, its implementation is pivotal to achieving the aims and goals of the CRPD: with some 80% of persons with disabilities living in developing countries, the accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in development efforts is paramount.

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<sup>1</sup> Action on Disability and Development (ADD), Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO), BasicNeeds, CBM, Disabled Peoples Organisation - Denmark (DPOD), Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development (DCDD), Finnish Disabled People’s International Development Association (FIDIDA), Handicap International (HI), Healthlink Worldwide, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Light for the World, Norwegian Association of the Disabled (NAD), Organismo di Volontariato per la Cooperazione Internazionale la Nostra Famiglia (OVCI), PHOS Platform Disability and Development Cooperation (PHOS), Save the Children UK, Sightsavers International, Survivor Corps, Swedish Organisation of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (SHIA), Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), World Vision UK

Understanding Article 32 CRPD as genuinely international – breaking with notions of “recipients” and “donors” of multifaceted “assistance” – means that every country ensures that its development processes are inclusive and accessible. This means that both national approaches to international cooperation as well as international development processes are in need of review at all relevant levels to comply with the Convention. As a result international cooperation would be better understood as part and parcel of national policy – rather than an extension of international policy – but it also broadens the perception of development as a “North-South” path to a multi-dimensional process, in which every part can be donor and/or recipient. This understanding is strongly supported by the general obligation to “consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations,” (Article 4 (3) CRPD).

Countries should be urged to revise their legislation to reflect the involvement of persons with disabilities in all levels of development work: planning, implementation and evaluation. They should also be recommended to revise their perception of development to expand to the multi-dimensional process laid out in the CRPD.

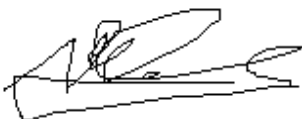
The IDDC would like to stress that Article 11 CRPD – situations of risk – has aspects that are related to international cooperation: States Parties providing assistance in emergencies. But, importantly, disaster preparedness and planning for emergencies are of national relevance and require the adaptation of national policies and legislation to conform with the CRPD.

Furthermore, the IDDC would like to point out that policies and programmes related to international cooperation form part and parcel of national policies and should thus be subject to monitoring, review and evaluation as part of national monitoring as enshrined in Article 33 (2) CRPD.

Finally, in line with Article 28 (2) (b) CRPD – accessibility of poverty reduction programmes – IDDC strongly supports the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Millennium Development Goals process. Based on the figures stated above, it is vital that the United Nations most prominent development effort conforms with the first core human rights treaty adopted in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In this vein IDDC would like to encourage OHCHR to support the compliance of the MDG process with the CRPD as much as possible.

Both the IDDC and its 20 member organizations welcome any further questions you may have on the issues raised above. Please contact Pia Wurzer [pia.wurzer@iddcconsortium.net](mailto:pia.wurzer@iddcconsortium.net) to ensure a swift response to your queries.

Yours Sincerely,



Nolan Quigley  
UN Task Group Leader, IDDC