



**Convention on the Rights
of Persons with Disabilities**

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with
Disabilities on its fourth session, 4-8 October 2010**

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I. Organizational and other matters

A. States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol

1. As at 8 October 2010, the closing date of the fourth session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there were 95 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 58 States parties to its Optional Protocol. The Convention and its Optional Protocol were adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/611 of 13 December 2006 and opened for signature, ratification and accession on 30 March 2007. In accordance with its article 45, paragraph 1, the Convention entered into force on 3 May 2008. In accordance with its article 13, the Optional Protocol entered into force at the same time as the Convention, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol.

2. A list of States parties to the Convention and a list of States parties to the Optional Protocol are contained in annex I of the present report.

B. Opening of the fourth session of the Committee

3. The session was opened by Ronald McCallum, Chairperson. Mr. McCallum introduced Safak Pavey, the newly appointed Secretary of the Committee, and thanked the two leaving Committee members, György Kőnczei and Cveto Uršič.

4. Opening remarks were presented by Ibrahim Wani, Chief of the Africa Branch at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The Committee reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda (CRPD/C/4/1/Rev.1), as amended. The Committee also adopted the report on its third session (CRPD/C/3/2).

D. Intersessional activities

6. The Committee decided to postpone to the fifth session the adoption of its report on intersessional activities.

E. Membership of the Committee

7. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was established in accordance with article 34, paragraph 1, of the Convention, with its first 12 members elected by the Conference of States Parties on 3 November 2008. The second elections took place on 3 September 2010 for the six seats on the Committee for which members' terms were due to expire on 31 December. Since the number of States parties to the Convention had reached 80, in accordance with article 34, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the membership of the Committee was increased by six seats; elections for those seats were also held on 3 September 2010. Of the sitting members, Lotfi Ben Lallahom, Edah Wangechi Maina, Mr. McCallum and Germán Xavier Torres Correa were re-elected. The new members will take up their duties on 1 January 2011.

8. The list of the members of the Committee as at 8 October 2010, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is contained in annex II to the present report. All members attended the session.

II. Action taken during the fourth session

A. Working methods

9. The Committee held discussions on various issues related to its working methods. The discussions involved, inter alia, the following issues:

- (a) Registration of individual communications;
- (b) How to deal with requests from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for meetings with Committee members;
- (c) Submission of State party reports, the organization of their review and the dialogue with the State party representatives;
- (d) Designation of Rapporteurs within the Committee;
- (e) Representation by Committee members to other bodies.

10. The Committee decided to amend parts of the overview of the working methods of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A new draft will be submitted for approval to Committee members at the fifth session of the Committee.

11. The Committee decided to adopt and submit its report to the General Assembly in 2011 and to request two sessions of two weeks' duration each year, each session to be held in tandem with a one-week session of a pre-sessional working group.

B. Composition of the Bureau

12. The following members served as officers of the Committee.

Chairperson:	Ronald McCallum (Australia)
Vice-Chairperson:	Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan)
Vice-Chairperson:	Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain)
Vice-Chairperson:	Jia Yang (China)
Rapporteur:	Edah W. Maina (Kenya)

C. Day of general discussion

13. On 7 October 2010, the Committee held a day of general discussion on article 9 of the Convention - accessibility. The discussion was attended by representatives of States parties, civil society, and other interested parties. The day of general discussion was opened by Mr. McCallum, Chairperson of the Committee, who highlighted that access was crucial for persons with disabilities to be able to participate fully in society, including access to buildings, public transportation, education, employment and information. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Al-Tarawneh, on behalf of Prince Ra'ad bin Zeid of Jordan.

14. Presentations were made by representatives of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, disabled people's organizations, States and academia.

15. The discussions highlighted a view shared by the participants that the Convention refers to physical, social and cultural environments; that accessibility as provided for in article 9 is more than physical access, but encompasses also information, technology, social and economic life, and confers obligations on both public and private actors; that accessibility is a cross-cutting issue in the Convention; that a gender-perspective on accessibility is needed; that undertaking measures is an immediate obligation for States; and that standards and policies require an adequate budgetary allocation for implementation. The Committee decided to establish a working group on article 9 to draft a general comment on accessibility. The time table of the day of general discussion is available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/DGD7102010.aspx>

D. Other decisions

16. The Committee took a number of other decisions, which are listed in annex IV.

E. Future sessions

17. In accordance with the calendar of conferences adopted by the General Assembly, the Committee confirmed the dates of its fifth session, from 11 to 15 April 2011, and its sixth session, tentatively from 19 to 23 September 2011, in Geneva.

18. The Committee decided on a provisional list of items to be placed on the agenda for its fifth session

III. Conference of States Parties to the Convention

Third session of the Conference of States Parties

19. The third session of the Conference of States Parties was held in New York from 1 to 3 September 2010. Members of the Committee attended the session and participated as panellists in various sessions: Mr. McCallum, Chairperson of the Committee (who made one of the opening statements of the meeting), Ms. Peláez Narváez, María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury and Mr. Al-Tarawneh.

20. The theme of the Conference of State Parties was “Inclusion of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. This theme was explored through two substantive round-table discussions, one on inclusion and living in the community and one on inclusion and the right to education. An interactive informal meeting with civil society, entitled “Emerging issues: persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies”, was also held.

Annexes

Annex I

**States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities and to the Optional Protocol as at 8 October
2010**

**A. States parties that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation^c, accession^a, ratification</i>
Albania	22 December 2009	
Algeria	30 March 2007	4 December 2009
Andorra	27 April 2007	
Antigua and Barbuda	30 March 2007	
Argentina	30 March 2007	2 September 2008
Armenia	30 March 2007	22 September 2010
Australia	30 March 2007	17 July 2008
Austria	30 March 2007	26 September 2008
Azerbaijan	9 January 2008	28 January 2009
Bahrain	25 June 2007	
Bangladesh	9 May 2007	30 November 2007
Barbados	19 July 2007	
Belgium	30 March 2007	2 July 2009
Benin	8 February 2008	
Bhutan	21 September 2010	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	13 Aug. 2007	16 November 2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 July 2009	12 March 2010
Brazil	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Brunei Darussalam	18 December 2007	
Bulgaria	27 September 2007	
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007	23 July 2009
Burundi	26 April 2007	
Cambodia	1 October 2007	
Cameroon	1 October 2008	
Canada	30 March 2007	11 March 2010
Cape Verde	30 March 2007	
Central African Republic	9 May 2007	
Chile	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
China	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Colombia	30 March 2007	
Comoros	26 September 2007	
Congo	30 March 2007	
Cook Islands		8 May 2009 ^a
Costa Rica	30 March 2007	1 October 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	7 June 2007	

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation^c, accession^a, ratification</i>
Croatia	30 March 2007	15 August 2007
Cuba	26 April 2007	6 September 2007
Cyprus	30 March 2007	
Czech Republic	30 March 2007	28 September 2009
Denmark	30 March 2007	24 July 2009
Dominica	30 March 2007	
Dominican Republic	30 March 2007	18 August 2009
Ecuador	30 March 2007	3 April 2008
Egypt	4 April 2007	14 April 2008
El Salvador	30 March 2007	14 December 2007
Estonia	25 Sept. 2007	
Ethiopia	30 March 2007	7 July 2010
European Union	30 March 2007	
Fiji	2 June 2010	
Finland	30 March 2007	
France	30 March 2007	18 February 2010
Gabon	30 March 2007	1 October 2007
Georgia	10 July 2009	
Germany	30 March 2007	24 February 2009
Ghana	30 March 2007	
Greece	30 March 2007	
Grenada	12 July 2010	
Guatemala	30 March 2007	7 April 2009
Guinea	16 May 2007	8 February 2008
Guyana	11 April 2007	
Haiti		23 July 2009 ^a
Honduras	30 March 2007	14 April 2008
Hungary	30 March 2007	20 July 2007
Iceland	30 March 2007	
India	30 March 2007	1 October 2007
Indonesia	30 March 2007	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)		23 October 2009 ^a
Ireland	30 March 2007	
Israel	30 March 2007	
Italy	30 March 2007	15 May 2009
Jamaica	30 March 2007	30 March 2007
Japan	28 September 2007	
Jordan	30 March 2007	31 March 2008
Kazakhstan	11 December 2008	
Kenya	30 March 2007	19 May 2008
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15 January 2008	25 September 2009
Latvia	18 July 2008	1 March 2010
Lebanon	14 June 2007	
Lesotho		2 December 2008 ^a
Liberia	30 March 2007	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1 May 2008	
Lithuania	30 March 2007	18 August 2010
Luxembourg	30 March 2007	
Madagascar	25 September 2007	
Malawi	27 September 2007	27 August 2009
Malaysia	8 April 2008	19 July 2010

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation^c, accession^a, ratification</i>
Maldives	2 October 2007	5 April 2010
Mali	15 May 2007	7 April 2008
Malta	30 March 2007	
Mauritius	25 September 2007	8 January 2010
Mexico	30 March 2007	17 December 2007
Monaco	23 September 2009	
Mongolia		13 May 2009 ^a
Montenegro	27 September 2007	2 November 2009
Morocco	30 March 2007	8 April 2009
Mozambique	30 March 2007	
Namibia	25 April 2007	4 December 2007
Nepal	3 January 2008	7 May 2010
Netherlands	30 March 2007	
New Zealand	30 March 2007	25 September 2008
Nicaragua	30 March 2007	7 December 2007
Niger	30 March 2007	24 June 2008
Nigeria	30 March 2007	24 September 2010
Norway	30 March 2007	
Oman	17 March 2008	6 January 2009
Pakistan	25 September 2008	
Panama	30 March 2007	7 August 2007
Paraguay	30 March 2007	3 September 2008
Peru	30 March 2007	30 January 2008
Philippines	25 September 2007	15 April 2008
Poland	30 March 2007	
Portugal	30 March 2007	23 September 2009
Qatar	9 July 2007	13 May 2008
Republic of Korea	30 March 2007	11 December 2008
Republic of Moldova	30 March 2007	21 September 2010
Romania	26 September 2007	
Russian Federation	24 September 2008	
Rwanda		15 Dec. 2008 ^a
San Marino	30 March 2007	22 February 2008
Saudi Arabia		24 June 2008 ^a
Senegal	25 April 2007	7 September 2010
Serbia	17 December 2007	31 July 2009
Seychelles	30 March 2007	2 October 2009
Sierra Leone	30 March 2007	4 October 2010
Slovakia	26 September 2007	26 May 2010
Slovenia	30 March 2007	24 April 2008
Solomon Islands	23 September 2008	
South Africa	30 March 2007	30 November 2007
Spain	30 March 2007	3 December 2007
Sri Lanka	30 March 2007	
Sudan	30 March 2007	24 April 2009
Suriname	30 March 2007	
Swaziland	25 September 2007	
Sweden	30 March 2007	15 December 2008
Syrian Arab Republic	30 March 2007	10 July 2009
Thailand	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
The former Yugoslav Republic	30 March 2007	

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation^c, accession^a, ratification</i>
of Macedonia		
Togo	23 September 2008	
Tonga	15 November 2007	
Trinidad and Tobago	27 September 2007	
Tunisia	30 March 2007	2 April 2008
Turkey	30 March 2007	28 September 2009
Turkmenistan		4 September 2008 ^a
Uganda	30 March 2007	25 Sept. 2008
Ukraine	24 September 2008	4 February 2010
United Arab Emirates	8 February 2008	19 March 2010
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30 March 2007	8 June 2009
United Republic of Tanzania	30 March 2007	10 November 2009
United States of America	30 July 2009	
Uruguay	3 April 2007	11 February 2009
Uzbekistan	27 February 2009	
Vanuatu	17 May 2007	23 October 2008
Viet Nam	22 October 2007	
Yemen	30 March 2007	26 March 2009
Zambia	9 May 2008	1 February 2010

B. States parties that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation^c, accession^a, ratification</i>
Algeria	30 March 2007	
Andorra	27 April 2007	
Antigua and Barbuda	30 March 2007	
Argentina	30 March 2007	2 September 2008
Armenia	30 March 2007	
Australia		21 August 2009 ^a
Austria	30 March 2007	26 September 2008
Azerbaijan	9 January 2008	28 January 2009
Bangladesh		12 May 2008 ^a
Belgium	30 March 2007	2 July 2009
Benin	8 February 2008	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	13 August 2007	16 November 2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 July 2009	12 March 2010
Brazil	30 March 2007	1 August 2008
Bulgaria	18 December 2008	
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007	23 July 2009
Burundi	26 April 2007	
Cambodia	1 October 2007	

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation^c, accession^a, ratification</i>
Cameroon	1 October 2008	
Central African Republic	9 May 2007	
Chile	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
Congo	30 March 2007	
Cook Islands		8 May 2009 ^a
Costa Rica	30 March 2007	1 October 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	7 June 2007	
Croatia	30 March 2007	15 August 2007
Cyprus	30 March 2007	
Czech Republic	30 March 2007	
Dominican Republic	30 March 2007	18 August 2009
Ecuador	30 March 2007	3 April 2008
El Salvador	30 March 2007	14 December 2007
Fiji	2 June 2010	
Finland	30 March 2007	
France	23 September 2008	18 February 2010
Gabon	25 September 2007	
Georgia	10 July 2009	
Germany	30 March 2007	24 February 2009
Ghana	30 March 2007	
Greece	27 September 2007	
Guatemala	30 March 2007	7 April 2009
Guinea	31 August 2007	8 February 2008
Haiti		23 July 2009 ^a
Honduras	23 August 2007	16 August 2010
Hungary	30 March 2007	20 July 2007
Iceland	30 March 2007	
Italy	30 March 2007	15 May 2009
Jamaica	30 March 2007	
Jordan	30 March 2007	
Kazakhstan	11 December 2008	
Latvia	22 January 2010	31 August 2010
Lebanon	14 June 2007	
Liberia	30 March 2007	
Lithuania	30 March 2007	18 August 2010
Luxembourg	30 March 2007	
Madagascar	25 September 2007	
Mali	15 May 2007	7 April 2008
Malta	30 March 2007	
Mauritius	25 September 2007	

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation^c, accession^a, ratification</i>
Mexico	30 March 2007	17 December 2007
Mongolia		13 May 2009 ^a
Montenegro	27 September 2007	2 November 2009
Morocco		8 April 2009 ^a
Namibia	25 April 2007	4 December 2007
Nepal	3 January 2008	7 May 2010
Nicaragua	21 October 2008	2 February 2010
Niger	2 August 2007	24 June 2008
Nigeria	30 March 2007	24 September 2010
Panama	30 March 2007	7 August 2007
Paraguay	30 March 2007	3 September 2008
Peru	30 March 2007	30 January 2008
Portugal	30 March 2007	23 September 2009
Qatar	9 July 2007	
Romania	25 September 2008	
Rwanda		15 December 2008 ^a
San Marino	30 March 2007	22 February 2008
Saudi Arabia		24 June 2008 ^a
Senegal	25 April 2007	
Serbia	17 December 2007	31 July 2009
Seychelles	30 March 2007	
Sierra Leone	30 March 2007	
Slovakia	26 September 2007	26 May 2010
Slovenia	30 March 2007	24 April 2008
Solomon Islands	24 September 2009	
South Africa	30 March 2007	30 November 2007
Spain	30 March 2007	3 December 2007
Sudan		24 April 2009 ^a
Swaziland	25 September 2007	
Sweden	30 March 2007	15 December 2008
Syrian Arab Republic		10 July 2009 ^a
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	29 July 2009	
Togo	23 September 2008	
Tunisia	30 March 2007	2 April 2008
Turkey	28 September 2009	
Uganda	30 March 2007	25 September 2008
Ukraine	24 September 2008	4 February 2010
United Arab Emirates	12 February 2008	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	26 February 2009	7 August 2009

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation^c, accession^a, ratification</i>
United Republic of Tanzania	29 September 2008	10 November 2009
Yemen	11 April 2007	26 March 2009
Zambia	29 September 2008	

Annex II

Membership of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and terms of office

<i>Name of member</i>	<i>State party</i>	<i>Term of office Expires on 31 December</i>
Ms. Amna Ali Al Suwaidi	Qatar	2012
Mr. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh	Jordan	2012
Mr. Lotfi Ben Lallahom	Tunisia	2010
Mr. Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury	Bangladesh	2012
Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes	Chile	2012
Mr. György Könczei	Hungary	2010
Ms. Edah Wangechi Maina	Kenya	2010
Mr. Ronald McCallum	Australia	2010
Ms. Ana Peláez Narváez	Spain	2012
Mr. Germán Xavier Torres Correa	Ecuador	2010
Mr. Cveto Uršič	Slovenia	2010
Ms. Jia Yang	China	2012

Annex III

Decisions adopted by the Committee during its fourth session

1. The Committee decided to establish a working group on accessibility to public transportation and on airline policies composed by Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Chair), Jia Yang, Lotfi Ben Lallahom, and Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury.
2. The Committee decided to include Ronald McCallum and Amna Ali Al Suwaidi in the Working Group on a draft general comment on article 12 of the Convention.
3. The Committee decided to make the names of Country Rapporteurs public.
4. The Committee decided to appoint Amna Ali Al Suwaidi as the Country Rapporteur for the dialogue with Tunisia.
5. The Committee decided to appoint Germán Xavier Torres Correa as the Country Rapporteur for Spain.⁶ The Committee decided to establish contact with the United Nations Messenger of Peace, Stevie Wonder, commencing with a general introductory letter with good wishes.
7. The Committee decided to reserve time early in each session to interact with NGOs. It also agreed it would welcome lunchtime activities or briefings that they might wish to organize during sessions.
8. The Committee decided that it would normally examine State party reports in the chronological order of receipt.
9. The Committee decided to review the initial report of Tunisia over three three-hour meetings and to adopt a list of issues on the initial report of Spain at its fifth session, and to conduct a dialogue with representatives of Spain about the report at its sixth session.
10. The Committee decided to allow 20 minutes for the introduction of State party reports by representatives of the State party concerned, who should focus on updating the information contained in the State party report. It further decided that the Country Rapporteur would be given the floor first and take the lead in posing questions to the delegation, which would be organized by clusters of articles.
11. The Committee decided that invitations addressed to the Committee or to individual members which come before or during a session will be discussed at that session; that invitations received after the close of a session would be sent to the Secretary to consult with the Chair or Bureau; that, if appropriate, the Chair would nominate a representative to participate, taking into consideration the criteria of region, gender, area of expertise, language skills and the need for rotation among members. Such decisions would be recorded in the reports of the Committee.
12. The Committee decided to add the question of its participation in the next Conference of States Parties on the agenda of its next session.
13. In view of an expected dramatic increase in the number of State party reports submitted to it, the Committee decided to request the General Assembly to approve the holding of two annual sessions of two weeks' duration each to enable it to examine up to four State party reports per session. Each session would be held in conjunction with meetings of a pre-session working group, to be composed of five members of the Committee, which would adopt lists of issues on reports to be examined at a future session.

14. The Committee decided to invite the Special Rapporteur on disability to its fifth session.
