

UNEDITED VERSION

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
 Second session
 19-23 October 2009

Day of General Discussion**Guidelines for participants on registration and submissions**

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Day of General Discussion 2009

On 21 October 2009, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will hold a day of general discussion in Geneva on “article 12 of the CRPD –the right to equal recognition before the law”. The day of general discussion is a public meeting at which Government representatives, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, national human rights institutions, civil society and disabled people organizations as well as private individuals and experts are welcome.

Participation and oral statements

In order to facilitate the exchange of views between participants and Committee members, there will be two working groups based on the following areas in order to focus the discussions: (1) **the legal contents of the right to equal recognition before the law**, and (2) **practical measures necessary to implement the obligation to promote the right of equal recognition before the law**. The Committee asks participants to avoid presenting formal statements during the discussion day. Copies of written statements to the Committee may be distributed by participants during the discussion day.

Submission of written contributions

The Committee encourages the submission of written contributions or case studies that reflect the different challenges in implementing the right to equal recognition before the law. Such contributions can be devoted to one or more of the following subtopics, or any other, provided that the submissions remain within the framework of the issues codified under article 12.

a) The legal contents of the right to equal recognition before the law

- Construction of legal capacity;
- Identity and Agency;
- Universal legal capacity;
- Reservations to article 12;
- Scope of the right to equal recognition before the law and its linkage with other rights.

b) Practical measures necessary to implement the obligation to promote the right to equal recognition before the law

- The challenges of the normative incorporation of the right to equal recognition before the law;
- The challenges of the effective implementation of the obligations arising under article 12;
- Implementation of the state obligation to “take appropriate measures to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity”;
- Practical measures to implement state obligation to ensure disabled people right to “own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit”;
- The role of the independent and impartial review authority under article 12(4), and other possible safeguards.

Please see attached Outline for suggested issues for review under each item.

Authors of written contributions are encouraged to present a **maximum of five suggestions** on the right to equal recognition before the law for the recommendations to be adopted by the Committee following the day of general discussion. The suggestions, which should be attached to the submission as an annex, must be directly relevant to the topic of the discussion day as described above. Although the main working language of the Committee is English, written contributions can also be submitted in French, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian.

The deadline for the submission of written contributions is 05 September 2009. The Committee requests that written contributions be limited to a **maximum of 2500 words**. Written contributions will be forwarded and posted on the CRPD website. Previously published materials may also be submitted to the Committee, or distributed during the discussion day to other participants (with indication of source of first publication). Sufficient copies must be brought along, as the Secretariat does not have resources for reproduction and distribution. Copies of written statements to the Committee may be distributed by participants during the discussion day.

Registration

For organizational purposes, all participants are asked to fill out a registration form, which can be downloaded from the OHCHR website; <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crpd.htm>.

Please send it back to the Secretariat by e-mail; crpdgeneraldiscussion@ohchr.org or fax (+41 22 917-9052) **before 05 September 2009**. Due to limited space, please note that organizations are strongly encouraged to limit participation in this event to a **maximum of three representatives**. Please do not make any travel arrangements until you have received this final confirmation from the Secretariat of the Committee.

As this is a public meeting of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there is neither a registration fee, nor does the Committee send out individual invitations. **The United**

Nations is not able to provide assistance with visa, travel or accommodation arrangements. Participants are responsible for all expenses and arrangements related to their participation in the Day of General Discussion.

Logistics

The discussion day will take place on 21 October 2009 from 10.00 am till 18.00 pm (to be confirmed) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Participants, whose registration has been confirmed, are requested to bring identification, such as a passport, with them to the day of general discussion in order to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais des Nations (Pregny gate).

For any additional information, please contact:

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