



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

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Third session

Geneva, 22–26 February 2010

**Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities on its third session**

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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 26 February 2010, the closing date of the third session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there were 80 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and 51 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. Further to its article 13, paragraph 1, the Optional Protocol also entered into force on 3 May 2008.

2. The list of States parties to the Convention and to the Optional Protocol is contained in annex I of this report.

B. Opening of the third session of the Committee

3. The session was opened by Ibrahim Salama, Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD), who stated that the Committee constituted a crucial part of OHCHR's efforts to eliminate injustice, inequality and discrimination, and that he was pleased to see so many States adhering to the Convention. Indeed, in less than two years, 80 States had ratified the Convention, resulting in an increase in membership of the Committee by six members, and attesting to the growing recognition that persons with disabilities had been marginalized for too long. Mr. Salama mentioned a number of developments, including the initiative taken by the Human Rights Council to conduct interactive discussion panels on the rights of persons with disabilities as a way of contributing to the implementation of the Convention, and the adoption by the Inter-agency Support Group for the Convention and its Optional Protocol of a Strategy and Plan of Action that would allow for the inclusion of a disability perspective in the work of United Nations agencies at headquarters as well as in the field missions. Furthermore, Mr. Salama commended the members of the Committee for the progress achieved so far, and thanked Mohamed Al-Tarawneh for his leadership during the past year. He concluded by recalling some structural changes aimed at improving the HRTD, and reminded the participants that Karin Lucke and Jose Doria would temporarily fill the positions of Chief of Section, and Secretary of the Committee, respectively.

4. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh, outgoing Chairperson of the Committee, thanked his colleagues, as well as the civil society and the Secretariat, for the excellent work accomplished during the Committee's first year. For his part, Ronald McCallum, incoming Chairperson, expressed the gratitude of the Committee, States parties and non-governmental organizations to Mr. Al-Tarawneh, stating that he would always be remembered as the founding Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was thanks to his work that the reporting guidelines for State parties had been set up, which would allow the Committee to start its important task of reviewing reports from States parties.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The Committee reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda (CRPD/C/3/1), to include key issues relating to its work. The Committee also adopted the report on its second session (CRPD/C/2/2).

D. Intersessional activities

6. The Committee reviewed and adopted the report of intersessional activities, prepared by outgoing Chairperson, Mohamed Al-Tarawneh and covering the activities undertaken since the second session.

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 having been elected by the Conference of States Parties on 3 November 2008. Second midterm elections were expected in September 2010. Furthermore, in accordance with Rule 34, paragraph 2, of the Convention, since the number of States parties to the Convention had reached 80, an election would be held in order to increase membership of the Committee by six experts, thereby attaining its maximum of 18 members.

8. The list of members of the Committee, and the duration of their terms of office, is contained in annex II of the present report. All members attended the session.

F. Address by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

9. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, attended the third session and expressed the will to maintain continuous dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from the outset of its work. Furthermore, she assured the participants that her office had a Strategy and Action Plan already committed to fighting all types of discrimination, including against persons with disabilities.

II. Action taken during the third session

A. Rules of procedure

10. The working languages of the Committee were the following: English, Spanish, Arabic, and French.

11. The Committee completed its discussion of various issues related to the rules of procedure, and approved the final text with amendments (CRPD/C/2/CRP.1).

B. Working methods

12. The Committee completed discussion of the various issues related to its working methods, and adopted the text subject to minor amendments. The discussion also involved, inter alia, the following issues:

- (a) Standard OHCHR rules on admissibility and registration of individual communications, and specificities of the Convention;
- (b) Possibility of establishing a pre-session working group;
- (c) Possibility of holding a session of the Committee in New York;
- (d) Establishment of working groups to follow up the day of general discussion on article 9 and article 12 of the Convention, and on the situation of persons with disabilities;
- (e) The Committee's decision to postpone the submission of its report to the General Assembly to 2011.

C. Meeting with States parties

13. On Friday 26 February, a meeting with States parties was held at the Palais des Nations, in which the Committee briefed the States about the work accomplished, and recalled that, further to article 35 of the Convention, States Parties were required to submit their initial reports to the Committee within 2 years of the entry into force of the Convention in their regard, that is, by 3 May 2010 for the first 20 States that ratified the Convention. While the Committee understood that the reporting guidelines had only been made available to the States parties in November 2009, it still hoped to start receiving the reports as soon as possible. The following states attended the meeting: Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Ecuador, Germany, Hungary, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay and Zambia.

D. Composition of the new Bureau

14. Further to article 34, paragraph 7, of the Convention and following the re-election process, the Bureau was selected by consensus of the Committee as follows: Chairperson of the Committee: Ronald McCallum (Australia); Vice-Chairs: Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan), Ana Pelaez Narvaez (Spain), and Jia Yang (China); Rapporteur: Edah Wangechi Maina (Kenya). All positions were filled at the commencement of the third session on 22 February 2010. The members of the new Bureau will thus be as follows:

Chairperson:	Ronald McCallum (Australia)
Vice-Chairperson:	Mohamed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan)
Vice-Chairperson:	Ana Pelaez-Narvaez (Spain)
Vice-Chairperson:	Jia Yang (China)
Rapporteur:	Edah W. Maina (Kenya)

E. Other decisions

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

16. The Committee decided to adopt the draft rules of procedure and the working methods, both subject to amendments, and to make them public.

F. Future sessions

17. In accordance with the calendar of conferences adopted by the General Assembly, the Committee confirmed the date of its fourth session from 4 to 8 October 2010 in Geneva.

18. The Committee was informed by the Secretariat that its request regarding the possibility of holding sessions in New York had to be approved by the General Assembly, since it implied additional financial resources.

19. For its fourth session, the Committee decided on a provisional list of matters to be placed on the agenda (see annex V).

G. Individual communications enshrined in the Optional Protocol

20. During discussion of the rules of procedure and the working methods, the Committee expressed concern that the phrasing of certain rules on admissibility and registration of individual communications adopted by the Petitions Unit of OHCHR did not take into account the complex issues addressed by the Convention. The Committee proposed to work out an acceptable solution with OHCHR that would enable Committee members access to the files prior to registration.

III. Activities undertaken since the second session of the CRPD

A. International Day of Persons with Disabilities

21. During the period between the second session of the CRPD, held from 19 to 23 October 2009, and the third session, held from 22 to 26 February 2010, the Committee conducted a series of activities in celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, including sending letters to heads of States and Governments, United Nations agencies, NGOs, and Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, as well as a press release and a video addressed to the 600 million persons with disabilities around the world. The letters urged States, NGOs and United Nations agencies to work towards the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. With this initiative, CRPD Chairperson, Mohamed Al-Tarawneh, set the example for future similar initiatives by the Committee in celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

B. Participation in conferences and seminars

22. During the period under consideration, the CRPD Chairperson as well as other Committee members attended a number of seminars and conferences aimed at disseminating information about the Convention and the work of the Committee.

23. The list of conferences, seminars and correspondence undertaken during the above-mentioned period is contained in annex VI of the present report.

Annexes

Annex I

States parties to the Convention and the Optional Protocol at the time of the third session

<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 Sept. 2008
Armenia	30 March 2007	
Australia	30 March 2007	17 July 2008
Austria	30 March 2007	26 Sept. 2008
Azerbaijan	9 Jan. 2008	28 Jan. 2009
Bahrain	25 June 2007	
Bangladesh	9 May 2007	30 Nov. 2007
Barbados	19 July 2007	
Belgium	30 March 2007	2 July 2009
Benin	8 Feb. 2008	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	13 Aug. 2007	16 Nov. 2009
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29 July 2009	
Brazil	30 March 2007	1 Aug. 2008
Brunei Darussalam	18 Dec. 2007	
Bulgaria	27 Sept. 2007	
Burkina Faso	23 May 2007	23 July 2009
Burundi	26 April 2007	
Cambodia	1 Oct. 2007	
Cameroon	1 Oct. 2008	
Canada	30 March 2007	
Cape Verde	30 March 2007	
Central African Republic	9 May 2007	

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation,^c accession,^a ratification</i>
Chile	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
China	30 March 2007	1 Aug. 2008
Colombia	30 March 2007	
Comoros	26 Sept. 2007	
Congo	30 March 2007	
Cook Islands		8 May 2009 ^a
Costa Rica	30 March 2007	1 Oct. 2008
Côte d'Ivoire	7 June 2007	
Croatia	30 March 2007	15 Aug. 2007
Cuba	26 April 2007	6 Sept. 2007
Cyprus	30 March 2007	
Czech Republic	30 March 2007	28 Sept. 2009
Denmark	30 March 2007	24 July 2009
Dominica	30 March 2007	
Dominican Republic	30 March 2007	18 Aug. 2009
Ecuador	30 March 2007	3 April 2008
Egypt	4 April 2007	14 April 2008
El Salvador	30 March 2007	14 Dec. 2007
Estonia	25 Sept. 2007	
Ethiopia	30 March 2007	
European Community	30 March 2007	
Finland	30 March 2007	
France	30 March 2007	18 Feb. 2010
Gabon	30 March 2007	1 Oct. 2007
Georgia	10 July 2009	
Germany	30 March 2007	24 Feb. 2009
Ghana	30 March 2007	
Greece	30 March 2007	
Guatemala	30 March 2007	7 April 2009
Guinea	16 May 2007	8 Feb. 2008
Guyana	11 April 2007	
Haiti		23 July 2009 ^a

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation,^c accession,^a ratification</i>
Honduras	30 March 2007	14 April 2008
Hungary	30 March 2007	20 July 2007
Iceland	30 March 2007	
India	30 March 2007	1 Oct. 2007
Indonesia	30 March 2007	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)		23 Oct. 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 Sept. 2007	
Jordan	30 March 2007	31 March 2008
Kazakhstan	11 Dec. 2008	
Kenya	30 March 2007	19 May 2008
Lao People's Democratic Republic	15 Jan. 2008	25 Sept. 2009
Latvia	18 July 2008	
Lebanon	14 June 2007	
Lesotho		2 Dec. 2008 ^a
Liberia	30 March 2007	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1 May 2008	
Lithuania	30 March 2007	
Luxembourg	30 March 2007	
Madagascar	25 Sept. 2007	
Malawi	27 Sept. 2007	27 Aug. 2009
Malaysia	8 April 2008	
Maldives	2 Oct. 2007	
Mali	15 May 2007	7 April 2008
Malta	30 March 2007	
Mauritius	25 Sept. 2007	
Mexico	30 March 2007	17 Dec. 2007
Monaco	23 Sept. 2009	
Mongolia		13 May 2009 ^a

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation,^c accession,^a ratification</i>
Montenegro	27 Sept. 2007	
Morocco	30 March 2007	8 April 2009
Mozambique	30 March 2007	
Namibia	25 April 2007	4 Dec. 2007
Nepal	3 Jan. 2008	
Netherlands	30 March 2007	
New Zealand	30 March 2007	25 Sept. 2008
Nicaragua	30 March 2007	7 Dec. 2007
Niger	30 March 2007	24 June 2008
Nigeria	30 March 2007	
Norway	30 March 2007	
Oman	17 March 2008	6 Jan. 2009
Pakistan	25 Sept. 2008	
Panama	30 March 2007	7 Aug. 2007
Paraguay	30 March 2007	3 Sept. 2008
Peru	30 March 2007	30 Jan. 2008
Philippines	25 Sept. 2007	15 April 2008
Poland	30 March 2007	
Portugal	30 March 2007	23 Sept. 2009
Qatar	9 July 2007	13 May 2008
Republic of Korea	30 March 2007	11 Dec. 2008
Republic of Moldova	30 March 2007	
Romania	26 Sept. 2007	
Russian Federation	24 Sept. 2008	
Rwanda		15 Dec. 2008 ^a
San Marino	30 March 2007	22 Feb. 2008
Saudi Arabia		24 June 2008 ^a
Senegal	25 April 2007	
Serbia	17 Dec. 2007	31 July 2009
Seychelles	30 March 2007	2 Oct. 2009
Sierra Leone	30 March 2007	
Slovakia	26 Sept. 2007	

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Formal confirmation,^c accession,^a ratification</i>
Slovenia	30 March 2007	24 April 2008
Solomon Islands	23 Sept. 2008	
South Africa	30 March 2007	30 Nov. 2007
Spain	30 March 2007	3 Dec. 2007
Sri Lanka	30 March 2007	
Sudan	30 March 2007	24 April 2009
Suriname	30 March 2007	
Swaziland	25 Sept. 2007	
Sweden	30 March 2007	15 Dec. 2008
Syrian Arab Republic	30 March 2007	10 July 2009
Thailand	30 March 2007	29 July 2008
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	30 March 2007	
Togo	23 Sept. 2008	
Tonga	15 Nov. 2007	
Trinidad and Tobago	27 Sept. 2007	
Tunisia	30 March 2007	2 April 2008
Turkey	30 March 2007	28 Sept. 2009
Turkmenistan		4 Sept. 2008 ^a
Uganda	30 March 2007	25 Sept. 2008
Ukraine	24 Sept. 2008	
United Arab Emirates	8 Feb. 2008	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	30 March 2007	8 June 2009
United Republic of Tanzania	30 March 2007	10 Nov. 2009
United States of America	30 July 2009	
Uruguay	3 April 2007	11 Feb. 2009
Uzbekistan	27 Feb. 2009	
Vanuatu	17 May 2007	23 Oct. 2008
Viet Nam	22 Oct. 2007	
Yemen	30 March 2007	26 March 2009
Zambia	9 May 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 Lallohom	Tunisia	2010
Mr. Monsur Ahmed Chowdhuri	Bangladesh	2012
Ms. Maria 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

Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the second session of the Committee.
3. Report of the Chairperson on intersessional activities.
4. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee:
 - (a) Draft rules of procedure;
 - (b) Draft working methods.
5. Follow-up on previous decisions of the Committee.
6. Follow-up on the day of general discussion on article 12 of the Convention, and preparation for the day of general discussion for the session to be held in fall 2010.
7. Provisional agenda for the fourth session.
8. Other matters.

Annex IV

Decisions adopted by the Committee during its third session

1. The Committee decided to adopt the draft rules of procedure, subject to a number of amendments, and to make it public.
2. The Committee decided to adopt the working methods, subject to a number of amendments, and to make it public.
3. The Committee decided that it would submit its report to the General Assembly in 2011.
4. The Committee decided that its Day of General Discussion for the Fall Session would be on article 9 and related articles (Accessibility) of the Convention.
5. The Committee decided to establish a working group to follow up the day of general discussion on article 12, made up of Edah Wangechi Maina (Chair), Gyorgy Konczei, and Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes.
6. The Committee decided to establish a working group on the day of general discussion on article 9 (Accessibility), made up of Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Chair), Lofti Ben Lallahom, Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, and Jia Yang.
7. The Committee decided to establish a working group to follow up the situation in Haiti and other similar disasters around the world, made up of Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chair), Cveti Ursic, and Lofti Ben Lallahom.
8. The Committee decided to designate Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes as the Special Rapporteur on Communications under the Optional Protocol.
9. The Committee decided to request the Office to make immediately available to the Special Rapporteur all communications received thereby and addressed to the Committee, irrespective of their registration by the Office.
10. The Committee decided to designate Amna Ali Al Suweidi as the focal person for networking with the different treaty bodies.
11. The Committee decided to designate the Chair, Ronald McCallum, and Mohammed Al-Tarawneh to represent the Committee at the Inter-Committee Meeting (ICM).
12. The Committee decided on the matters to be placed on the provisional agenda of the fourth session of the Committee.

Annex V

Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the third session of the Committee.
3. Report of the Chairperson on intersessional activities.
4. Submission of reports by States parties.
5. Consideration of reports from States parties.
6. Cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other competent bodies.
7. Methods of work of the Committee:
 - (a) Report of the working group on the day of general discussion on article 12;
 - (b) Report of the working group on the day of general discussion on article 9;
 - (c) Report of the Special Rapporteur on communications;
 - (d) Report of the focal person for networking with the different treaty bodies.
8. Day of general discussion on article 9 (Accessibility).
9. Provisional agenda for the fifth session.
10. Other matters.

Annex VI

List of activities undertaken since the second session of the Committee

A. Participation in conferences and seminars

1. Dublin Statement on the Process of Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System (Dublin, Ireland, 18–19 November 2009).
2. OHCHR Informal consultation on article 33 of the CRPD (Geneva, Switzerland, 26 October 2009).
3. Third Follow-up meeting on the Brasilia Declaration on the Rights of Older Persons (Santiago, Chile, 5–6 October 2009).
4. Expert Meeting on Justice and Human Rights (Madrid, Spain, 30 October 2009).
5. Forum on Minorities and Effective Political Participation (Geneva, Switzerland, 12–13 November 2009).
6. UNESCO Regional Workshop, “Implementation of Inclusive Education Policies in Latin America: Progress and Pending Challenges” (Santiago, Chile, 18–20 November 2009).
7. Regional Seminar on the National Disability Strategy of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Amman, Jordan, 23–25 November 2009).
8. Inter-Committee Meeting of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies (Geneva, Switzerland, 30 November–2 December 2009).
9. International Conference, Together for the Promotion of Employment and Protection of Categories with Special Needs (Tunis, Tunisia, 7–9 December 2009).
10. Second Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe, Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Political and Public Life (Strasbourg, France, 9–11 December 2009).

B. CRPD correspondence

1. Letter of condolences to the Arab Organization of Disabled Persons (30 October 2009).
2. Letter from the CRPD Chairperson to Heads of States and Governments, United Nations agencies and NGOs (4 November 2009).
3. Letter from the Permanent Mission of Venezuela concerning activities in celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (22 December 2009).