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DOC-B-17-02-07

Update on the CRPD

Document for discussion and approval

1. Introduction and purpose

The document provides an update of the on-going work of EDF on the promotion of the implementation of the CRPD, and we would like to hear feedback from the Board.

2. Questions and comments?

Do you have any comments to improve our draft response on the three urgent recommendations from the EU concluding observations? Please find it in annex to this document.

Do you have any updates from your national level, or international work?

Any suggestions on how EDF can improve its CRPD work and which human rights training could be provided in 2017 to EDF Board and members?

Are there EDF members planning to be at the Conference of States Parties in June?

3. EDF draft response to the three urgent recommendations of the CRPD Committee to the EU

The European Union received recommendations from the UN CRPD Committee in September 2015, also called the 'concluding observations'. The next report of the EU to the Committee is expected in January 2021. However, the Committee requested the EU to submit within 12 months information in writing on three urgent matters. The EU has to explain what measures it has taken to implement the Committee's recommendations regarding the declaration of competence, the European Accessibility Act and the monitoring mechanism. Please find the EU response in annex.

EDF has now drafted its alternative response to these three urgent recommendations, and welcomes the comments of the Board on this document. Please find it DOC B 17 02 Update on CRPD Annex- EDF response to 3 urgent issues for the EU.

4. 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP10)



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The tenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP) will take place from Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 June 2017 at UN Headquarters in New York. The overarching theme is 'The Second Decade of the CRPD: Inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation of the Convention'. The subthemes are

1. Addressing the impact of multiple discrimination for persons with disabilities and promoting their participation and multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving the SDGs in line with the CRPD
2. Inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action (in line with Article 11 of the CRPD "Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies")
3. Promoting inclusive urban development and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda - Habitat III (in line with Article 9 of the CRPD "Accessibility")

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) proposed these themes to the organisers, the COSP Bureau chair, Bulgaria and was successful in obtaining their approval. The Bureau also agreed with IDA that every round table should be co-chaired by a Civil Society Organisation's representative. All UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (DESA) background papers will also be produced in collaboration with the other stakeholders including civil society. EDF will participate at the COSP.

5. Review by UN Treaty Bodies

In March 2017, the **UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD Committee) will hold its constructive dialogues for Cyprus and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our members will be present in Geneva to brief the Committee on their priorities. The Committee will also adopt List of Issues for Latvia, Luxembourg, UK, Montenegro, and in August 2017 on Slovenia and Bulgaria. Spain and Hungary will also have list of issues adopted regarding their 2nd review by the CRPD Committee. This is part of a new procedure called 'periodic reporting'. Their governments are then obliged to submit their answers to the list of issues one year later, by March 2018. In the next session of the Committee, in August 2018 the constructive dialogues will take place for Hungary and Spain.

EDF in support of IDA are working together with our national councils in the preparation of their alternative reports, answers to the list of issues and input to the Committee. A CRPD workshop for example took place in December in Montenegro in the framework of the EDF-UNICEF project on children with disabilities.

EDF is also working with IDA on the development of capacity building webinars on the review process before the other UN treaty bodies such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. More information will follow soon and EDF members will be invited.



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EDF intends to increase its capacity building activities and support also for its members in the review process before the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW Committee). In 2017 the following countries will be supported if they come up for review, if our members have the capacity to be involved: Germany, Ireland, Monaco, Norway, Italy and Romania. For the list of European countries coming up for review before the UN Treaty Bodies, please visit the [webpage](#) of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

6. CRPD committee general comments

The Committee is working on the General Comment on Article 19- independent living. It held a Day of General Discussion on April 19th 2016. You can find the submissions and interventions on the [webpage of the CRPD Committee](#).

7. Work Forum on the implementation of the UN CRPD

The [annual Work Forum](#) will take place on Friday 19 May 2017. The Forum brings together representatives of those responsible for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the CRPD, both at EU and national level; and civil society and DPOs. It aims at sharing experiences on the CRPD's practical implementation and monitoring and to promote solutions to common challenges. It is organised by the European Commission, and EDF support in the drafting of the programme, finding speakers and inviting its members.

8. EU Monitoring Framework

The EU Monitoring Framework, of which EDF is a member published its first newsletter, along with the review of the 2015/2016 work programme and the 2017/2018 work programme. It is available on the webpages of the Fundamental Rights Agency, the current Chair and secretariat of the Framework: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/people-disabilities/eu-crp-d-framework/resources>.

9. Progress report of the European Commission on the mid-term review of the European Disability Strategy

On February 2nd, the European Commission presented its [Progress Report on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020](#). The Strategy is EU's main instrument to support the EU's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The progress report gives an overview of the different actions taken by the European Union since 2010 as they are foreseen in the Strategy, and provides progress on the implementation of the Concluding Observations of the CRPD Committee. It also highlights the importance of continuing with the implementation during the last three years of the strategy.



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EDF, as many of its members [responded to the public consultation](#) on the mid term review of the European Disability Strategy. Its demands were however not fully taken into account:

- The report does not provide for a comprehensive revision of the Strategy to serve the implementation of the CRPD and the EU Concluding Observations;
- No proposal for the establishment of disability focal points in all Directorates of the Commission and relevant EU institutions and agencies is made, neither for a coordination mechanism between the institutions;
- There is no proposal to set up a structured dialogue with persons with disabilities, including women, and girls and boys with disabilities, through their representative organisations;
- the report does not take into consideration the negative consequences of the economic crisis on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- the report mentions the Social Pillar but does not go into details if it will address social exclusion, poverty, unemployment and access to education.

EDF secretariat will examine the progress report in more detail ahead of the Board meeting and provide an analysis orally.