

DOC-BOARD-19-11-10

## Update on Human Rights

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### Document for information and discussion

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#### Purpose of this item

This document gives an update to board members on the upcoming human rights work of EDF, in particular in related to the CRPD Committee, its implementation and other UN treaty bodies.

The Chair of the Human Rights Committee will also inform the board on points discussed at the Human Rights Committee's meeting.

#### Questions for the Board

- Will your government nominate a candidate to the CRPD committee elections in 2020? How would you propose to address the next elections of CRPD Committee members? What measures will you take to support nomination by your countries and by the EU?
- Do you have suggestions on how we can improve our human rights work?
- What were the most important successes/learnings from the 2015 EU review process? Do you have national experience we could hear about and learn from to inform how we approach this?

#### Update from the CRPD Committee

##### Country review

Next year, the CRPD Committee will review the following European countries:

**Estonia, Hungary, Croatia, France and Switzerland.** The detailed agenda and countries scheduled for future sessions is available in annex.

EDF Secretariat will organise two webinars in 2020 to prepare EDF members for the review, in addition to support in preparing alternative reports and meetings in Geneva (dates tbc). An additional webinar “train the trainers” on CRPD review for ENGOs will be organised on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. The International Disability Alliance, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European network of equality bodies will be involved in the webinars.

On 24<sup>th</sup> October, EDF published a guide on engagement of DPOs with the CRPD Committee. We encourage you to use and translate it in your national language.

## Review of the EU

Due to heavy workload and budget restraint of the CRPD Committee, the next review of the EU by the CRPD, initially foreseen for 2020, is postponed. We do not know the exact date of the next EU review. Nonetheless, next year we will issue a mid-term alternative report, with the close involvement of EDF members and partners.

We will organise in preparation of our mid-term alternative report several civil society hearings and expert meetings:

- With our European members in January 2020, to see the progress made in terms of the 2015 EU concluding observations
- With the EU Monitoring Framework
- With the European Economic and Social Committee on legal capacity and ensuring the right to vote for all persons in the EU
- With the European Economic and Social Committee on the EUs external actions
- In the fall 2020 we will consult with EDF members (specific item during the AGA), civil society organisations, in particular the anti-discrimination network, and other relevant stakeholders on the draft interim report, to ensure their concerns are included

## CRPD committee general comments

The CRPD Committee suspended its work on a general comment on article 11 of the CRPD on situation of risks and humanitarian emergencies. Other proposals for general comments are being discussed and we should know more about it next year.

## Elections

The term of [9 committee members](#) expires at the end of 2020, leaving the CRPD Committee with only two (male) members from Europe (Lithuania, Switzerland), and only one from an EU country. The elections of the new committee members will take place in June 2020 at the Conference of States Parties in New York.

It will be important that EDF and its members support the nomination and election of members from European countries (including a potential EU candidate to be nominated by the European Commission), especially candidates who are women with disabilities, because of the lack of gender balance in the committee.

## Update from other UN treaty bodies

EDF Secretariat, together with IDA, is ready to support members in alternative report to other UN Treaty Bodies, in particular the CEDAW, CRC and CAT Committees. It is very important to ensure that the disability perspective is included in their work. This year, EDF [Austrian](#), Belgian and [Lithuanian](#) members submitted alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee.

The agenda of the upcoming review is available in annex.

Next year, EDF will prepare a guide on DPOs engagement with the CEDAW Committee.

## Updates from EU level

The newly designated Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli from Malta, was given the leadership on implementation of the CRPD by the EU. EDF already met with her and her transition team, and will continue to work closely with her office. We also

advocate that the CRPD focal point be moved from the Directorate General for Employment, to the Secretariat General, or the Directorate General for Justice.

### EDF Human Rights Report series

The work on the fourth human rights report on poverty and social inclusion has been completed. It will be published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. More information may be given under item 12 of the Board agenda on social policy.

The fifth human rights report to be published in 2020 will be on the right to vote and political participation.