

Introduction to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
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Agenda

1. Background
2. Purpose
3. General Principles
4. Key Terms and Concepts

1. Background

- In the 1980s:
Paradigm shift
 - 1981 UN International Year of Disabled Persons
 - 1982-1993 Decade
- 2001 UN Quinn/Degener Study & Mexican initiative
- 2002-2006 Ad Hoc Committee in New York

The Negotiations from 2002 to 2006

- 8 meetings of 2 to 3 weeks each
- Draft prepared by working group in January 2004
 - 40 members:
 - 27 countries
 - 12 non-government organisations
 - 1 national human rights institution

& the Players

- Agents
 - countries (approx. 120 of 192)
 - UN organisations (OHCHR, DESA, WHO, World Bank, UNICEF, ILO....)
 - National human rights institutions
 - Non-government organisations (over 400)
- Persons
 - 2002: over 100
 - 2006: over 900

2. Purpose

Article 1:

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. (...)

3. General Principles (Article 3 UNCRPD)

- Human dignity (autonomy, freedom to make one's own choices)
- Non-discrimination
- Participation and inclusion
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity
- Equality of opportunity
- Accessibility
- Equality between men and women
- Respect for evolving capacities of children with disabilities

4. Key Terms and Concepts

- Human rights model of disability
- Accessibility and reasonable accommodation
- Implementation

UNCRPD Status on 9 October 2012

If you want to learn more

- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/DisabilityIndex.aspx>
- United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>
- National Monitoring Body in Germany <http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/de/monitoring-stelle.html>
- Report from Geneva (Theresia Degener Newsletter) <http://www.efh-bochum.de/homepages/degener/index.html>