

# **The civil society involvement in the implementation of the Convention**

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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities = The Convention

# 1. Get into the process

- Promote ratification of the Convention

- Understand stakes and operating procedures of implementation and monitoring



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- Get used to the “methods” (alternative reports, advocacy, using medias, etc.)

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•NGOs must lobby the States in order to they ratify the Convention and the optional protocol as soon as possible. The Convention will come into force and the monitoring committee will work only starting from the 20th ratification.

See. Ratification Campaign Handbook Landmine survivors

See. « ratification toolkit » Disabled people international

•International and local NGOs will have to help and share their experiences with the States. The support will have to be especially in the legal and technical fields.

•The alternative reports made by NGOs are submitted to the international monitoring committee which considers them.

See. « implementation toolkit » Disabled people international

## 2. Publicize

- Promote a “human rights” approach of disability and disseminate the UN Convention



- Negative behavior often come from ignorance and misconception, which tend to:
  - prejudice,
  - disregard,
  - create bad will,
  - ...

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It is necessary to promote, at an accessible level to NGOs, this new Convention. Programs on a large scale must be developed, including teaching the Convention so that it is well understood and well interpreted.

The Convention is inspired by a shift of paradigm on persons with disabilities: from an object of charity to a subject of law.

The promotion of the Convention is a precondition to effective implementation. It allow to fight against attitudinal barriers which prevent a real equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. The promotion of the Convention is an obligation for State parties envisaged in article 8.

### 3. Unify

- Make alliances between development NGOs, human rights NGOs, disabled people organizations, etc...
- Make the disabled people organizations united in a cross disability movement
- At all levels : local, national, international
- Share out tasks (depending on competences, location, networks, etc.)



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The civil society must be an “open” group and consolidate the coalitions which influenced the drafting of the Convention. During the drafting process, the civil society was united within an informal entity, the “International Disability Caucus” (IDC), which succeeded throughout the 5 years of the process to speak with one voice. This entity played an important role in the drafting process and assisted in providing a good text, a holistic text including human rights and social development.

Whether it's at the international regional or national level, the united civil society promoting the Convention will have to be made up of organizations of disabled people by joining together organizations representing people with all types of impairments, organizations working with disabled people, but also other complementary actors like organizations which campaign for internationally recognized human rights and development organizations.

## 4 – Coordinate

- At all levels (local, national, international...)
- Need structured networks: the national level is fundamental
- Coordinate actions and disseminate and exchange information
- Local → national → regional → international



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It is important that at all levels, the civil society implements sharing and support dynamics. It is necessary to take care in particular to reinforce the disabled people organizations in south countries in order to help them to play a role at the level of their area (installation of networks and/or regional entities) and country (associations, federations...).

## 5 – Work with governments

- Make proposals
- Build a critic, constructive and realistic advocacy
- Bring into focus to policy makers (sensitize, put on the agenda...)
- Be present in the different institutions depending on agenda, opportunities, the role of each (government, parliament, etc).

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The two entities, civil society and States, must work together on the implementation of the Convention. They must form institutionalized areas of dialogue in order to allow a constructive collaboration with governments and decision makers.

The civil society will have to advocate at various levels: the members of Parliament, the ministries, the local decision makers.

## **6 – Change the framework**

- **Legal framework (laws, regulations...)**
- **But also: general and sectoral policies**
- **Collect information, disseminate, advocate, on effects / consequences (positive and negative) of policies on the life of persons with disabilities.**

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In the light of the Convention, the civil society will have to be able to promote laws fighting against discriminations and promote inclusive national policies, from a holistic perspective incorporating all sectors of social development like education, employment and health for example.

The civil society, and in particular the disabled people organizations, must be able to bring their knowledge and their direct comprehension of the effects of the implementation of a law or a policy on the life of persons with disabilities and their circle or community.

## **7 – Establish plans of action**

- **These plans of action describe objectives, measures to implement and monitoring indicators.**
- **The national level is a key level for implementation.**
- **Closely relate with civil society networks which are involved in the monitoring of other conventions (CEDAW and CRC) in order to share their experiences and lessons learnt.**

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On the basis of data collections, of studies and of research on disability, national plans of action could be set up by States.

These plans of action will have to put forward concrete measures for considering disability in the development processes implying an intersectoral work. The measures will have to plan interdepartmental coordination. These national plans are also essential to reduce the differences between legal texts, policies and practices.

All actors could be involved to influence planning processes and reforms in progress at the national level in order to support the consideration of persons with disabilities in a reform of the school system, in plans fighting against poverty...

The UN agencies will have to implement sharing dynamics between countries by promoting good practices.

These national plans will establish priorities to allow fast and visible achievements. Budgetary approach will be included.

**To sum up, it implies 2  
preconditions...**

**to ensure an efficient promotion of the  
rights of persons with disabilities**

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## **8 – A national civil society empowered and qualified**

**It requires of persons with disabilities and their organizations:**

- **A structured civil society with: capacities, self-confidence, political awareness, self-determination and empowerment...**
- **Their participation in all social development fields.**

**It requires for leaders:**

- **To have knowledge and be qualified on the Convention and the process**
- **To be able to coordinate actions, to make constructive propositions.**

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## **9 – A national civil society which speaks with a united voice!**

- **It is a necessary condition to have an influence which goes further than personal relationships,**
- **be strong, relevant, listened to and respected by all other actors,**
- **rally widely across constituency of the organizations (persons with disabilities, families...),**
- **avoid actors not being accountable for their commitment.**

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During the drafting process of the Convention the civil society banded together in an abstract entity: the “International Disability Caucus” (IDC). This entity managed throughout the 5 years of the process to speak with a united voice. This group played an important role in the drafting phase and helped develop a good text, a holistic text including social development. The Convention is largely influenced by IDC’s perspectives.

It will be fundamental for the civil society to keep this united voice to influence the next stages of ratification and implementation at the international, regional and national level.

- 1 – Get into the process**
- 2 – Publicize**
- 3 – Unify**
- 4 – Coordinate**
- 5 – Work with governments**
- 6 – Change the framework**
- 7 – Establish plans of action**
- 8 – A national civil society empowered and qualified**
- 9 – A national civil society which speaks with a united voice**

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