



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Advisory Committee

Fourth session

25-29 January 2010

Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Requests addressed to the Advisory Committee stemming  
from Human Rights Council resolutions:**

**Human rights education and training**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Rehabilitation International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 January 2010]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

## **Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

1. The above-mentioned organisation, member of International Disability Alliance (IDA), whose mission it is to promote the effective and full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities worldwide, as well as compliance with the CRPD within the UN system, through the active and coordinated involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities at national, regional and international levels would like to make the following suggestion to the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council:

### **Draft declaration on human rights education**

2. IDA is the representative voice of global and regional organisations of persons with disabilities and its CRPD Forum has been established to effectively promote the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

3. IDA is concerned that the revised draft declaration does not include any reference to persons with disabilities, something that IDA had requested in its previous submissions,

4. In this regard, IDA would like to remind the request made by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 7/9 to the Advisory Committee to include the perspective of persons with disabilities in its work.

5. Persons with disabilities are only since recently considered to be part of the human rights agenda and the declaration on human rights education can make an important contribution to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are fully taken into account in all initiatives in the field of human rights education.

6. The action plan for the first phase of the World Programme for human rights education did not include any reference to persons with disabilities which has led to very little, if any, attention paid to the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as little participation, if any, of persons with disabilities in the different activities organised at national level as part of the World Programme.

### **Concrete proposals**

7. Based on the revised draft that is being submitted to the fourth session of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council, IDA CRPD Forum would like to propose to add the reference to persons with disabilities in paragraph 7 of the draft text.

8. The proposed wording in French (as this is the only available language version at the moment of this submission) would be:

9. L'éducation et la formation aux droits de l'homme doivent également prendre en considération les besoins spécifiques des peuples autochtones comme ceux des personnes (addition : « handicapées et des personnes ») appartenant à des minorités nationales, ethniques et linguistiques.

10. Justification: In the absence of such an explicit reference, the usual "invisibility" of persons with disabilities and the fact that the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is very recent, will most likely lead to the non inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the human rights education and training actions, as well as to not foresee the accessibility requirements that these actions require not to exclude persons with disabilities.

11. A reference to persons with disabilities should also contribute to an adequate consideration to the rights of persons with disabilities in the action plan related to the second phase of the World Programme for human rights education.

12. The previous draft which had been circulated included a reference to all those human rights treaties that include references to education, including a welcome reference to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The new draft does no longer include these references, which have now been moved to the document introducing the declaration. IDA CRPD Forum considers that it would be important to reinsert the references to the different human rights treaties in the main text of the declaration either in one of the preambular paragraphs or as a footnote.

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