



General Assembly

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Agenda item 69 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2011

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/66/462/Add.1)]

66/229. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 64/154 of 18 December 2009, as well as relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights,

Noting the request of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, contained in annex XVI to its report,¹ that the General Assembly authorize an extension of its meeting time,

Noting also that document and translation costs for the reports of States parties constitute the largest part of the budget for the Committee,

Noting further that, while the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities² has enjoyed a very high level of ratification in a short time, the Committee currently meets for only two sessions of one week per year, and noting that, in particular cases, members of the Committee may require reasonable accommodation, as defined in the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that, since the opening for signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities² and the Optional Protocol thereto³ on 30 March 2007, one hundred and fifty-three States have signed and one hundred and six States have ratified the Convention and ninety States have signed and sixty-four States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and that one regional integration organization has ratified the Convention;

2. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol as a matter of priority;

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 55 (A/66/55).*

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.



3. *Welcomes* the holding of the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

4. *Invites* States parties to adhere to the page limit established by the Committee for reports of States parties, and notes that this would reduce the operating costs of the Committee;

5. *Notes* the ongoing process of reform aimed at strengthening the treaty body system, including the report of the Secretary-General on measures to improve further the effectiveness, harmonization and reform of the treaty body system,⁴ and invites the Committee, in the context of this strengthening process, to continue to enhance its working methods and efficiency, including by sharing good practices with other treaty bodies;

6. *Decides* to authorize for the Committee an additional week of meeting time per year to be used consecutive to an existing regular session, bearing in mind the requirements of the Committee for reasonable accommodation, and without prejudice to the ongoing process of reform aimed at strengthening the treaty body system;

7. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

8. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General⁵ and the activities undertaken in support of the Convention;

9. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to continue its work to mainstream the Convention throughout the United Nations system through its Strategy and Plan of Action, approved in 2010, and calls upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue strengthening their cooperation in this regard;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to assist States to become parties to the Convention and the Optional Protocol, including by providing assistance with a view to achieving universal adherence;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the progressive implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular when undertaking renovations, including interim arrangements;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take further actions to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the United Nations system in accordance with the Convention, including the retention and recruitment of persons with disabilities;

⁴ A/66/344.

⁵ A/66/121.

13. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to strengthen efforts undertaken to disseminate accessible information on the Convention and the Optional Protocol, including to children and young people to promote their understanding, and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under those instruments;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol and on the implementation of the present resolution.

*93rd plenary meeting
24 December 2011*