

The Convention

is called a ground-braking treaty, because

- It is the most extensively debated international convention ever, created with maximum involvement of the civil society.
 It is a milestone in legislation at an international level because it extensively interprets the rights and the capacity to act of persons living with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

22 January, 2009

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...and because

- It marks a breakthrough for the world towards **personal autonomy**.
- Its control mechanism is extremely strong compared to other international treaties on disability.
- It is based on the **social model** of disability.
- The human being behind the Convention reflects the picture of the Caucus (IDC) during the negotiations: an active partner, a self-advocate, able and empowered.

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Capacity to act and supported decision making Because of the tight time-frame, I shall refer only to a

implementation of the Convention worldwide.

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single extremely important aspect that is the core of the

The poorest of the poor

Justin Dart, Jr. called people with disabilities the poorest of the poor some years ago. But there are even poorer of the poorest: people with severe and multiple disabilities, people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. Hundreds of thousands of these people do not have the capacity to act in most countries of the world.

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They too often

- · do not have an identity card;
- they are officially excluded not only from the labor market.
- but from basic human rights as well!
- This problem belongs to Article 12, however, it is closely connected to Article 27.
- We had very long debates on this problem (*capacity to act*) during the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee.

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• The result has remained to be fully understood yet by many decision-makers. • However, the result is as follows: the Convention defines a paradigm shift. • It means that legal capacity means not only 'capacity to rights', but capacity to act as well. And capacity to act will nowhere and never work without the system of supported decision making services. It will never work without a support network. 22 January, 2009

The Committee

Consists of 12 members: Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri (Bangladesh), Ms. Amna Ali Al Suweidi (Qatar), Mr. György Könczei (Hungary)*, Ms. Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain), Mr. Cveto Ursic (Slovenia)*, Ms. Jia Yang (China), Mr. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan), Mr. Ronald McCallum AO (Australia)*, Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chile), Mr. Germán Xavier Torres Correa (Ecuador)*, Mr. Lotfi Ben Lallohom (Tunisia)*, Ms. Edah Wangechi Maina (Kenya)*

* Means two years service.

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Meetings in 2008

- The dates for the first two sessions are: 23-27 February and 19-23 October 2009 in Geneva. We do not know more even about procedural issues.
- The Committee needs the support of the movement and new research results, the critical position of DS, because the task is like move a mountain.

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3

