# ADDC BULLETIN Month July 2019

# ADDC NEWS

**Welcome to another edition of our Bulletin, your monthly wrap up of disability and development news. This month has seen key international activity in the disability in development arena, including the meeting on the High Level Political Forum and the UN launch of their Disability Inclusion strategy. Read below for Australia’s** Disability Discrimination Commissioner Ben Gauntlett statement at the 12th Session on Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the CRPD on the importance of accessible technology for people with disability.

**Below are a number of resources released this month including; an easy read** document on the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the CRPD; “**Neglected in health and development” an article recently published on** Devpolicy blog and a link to the HelpAge International Study exploring, “**How Older People Are Excluded in Humanitarian Data & Are More at Risk.”**

## ****ADDC Membership and Executive Committee****

ADDC’s strategic vision is shaped by our membership and governed by the [Executive Committee](https://www.addc.org.au/who-we-are/executive-committee/). The Committee is voted in for a two-year tenure by the ADDC Australia-based membership. Thank you to the current Committee for the great work undertaken over the past two years!

With the current Committee’s tenure completed in October, it is time again to elect our Executive Committee. Nominations for the Committee will open in mid-August, with voting for Committee members occurring in September. All Australia-based ADDC members are eligible to be nominated and vote.

Become a [member of ADDC today](https://www.addc.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member/) to be have your say or be nominated for the Committee. If you are a member, you will receive more information via email in August.

# ****IN THE NEWS****

## Meeting of High Level Political Forum underway

The meeting of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is taking place from 9th until 18th July in New York. The central role of the Forum is to follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. The Forum is an opportunity to ensure that the 2030 Agenda remains relevant, assessing the successes, challenges and learnings faced by developed and developing countries in aiming for the SDGs.

The theme for this year’s HLPF is "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.” The UN Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities (SGPwD), a collective of individuals with disabilities, Disabled Persons’ Organisations (DPOs) and others working to progress the rights of persons with disabilities, submitted a position paper to the Forum, which [can be found here](https://bit.ly/2xAxJHK).

The SGPwD held an official side event entitled “Reducing inequalities: a look at persons with disabilities”. The side event addressed how to advance the implementation of Goal 10 for persons with disabilities by bringing concrete, action-oriented recommendations in the context of education, employment, peace, justice and strong institutions. The SGPwD held an official meeting with all HLPF participants to discuss strengthening the Stakeholder Group through the development of a 5-year strategic framework.

## UN Launches New Disability Inclusion Strategy

“When we fight to secure those rights, we move our world closer to upholding the core values and principles of the United Nations Charter”, the UN Secretary General António Guterres explained. “When we remove policies or biases or obstacles to opportunity for persons with disabilities, the whole world benefits”.

To this end, the UN chief said he was launching a new UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, “to raise the standards of the UN’s performance on disability inclusion across the board, and action to bring about the unified and transformative change we need”.

[Read more about the strategy](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/news/sg-cosp.html) and direct link to full 30-Page 2019 [United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy](https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/03/UNDIS_20-March-2019_for-HLCM.P.pdf).

## UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health latest thematic report

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Dainius Puras presented his new report to the Human Rights Council on 24th June. The report focuses on the human rights imperative to promote social and psycho-social determinants of health and importantly, how these structural elements intersect with the right to mental health promotion.

A key message from the Special Rapporteur is that the promotion and protection of human rights (specifically the right to health) are vital for securing an essential psycho-social determinant of well-being: quality relationships and social connection.  The Rapporteur emphasizes that connections between individuals, families, communities are critical for the full and effective realization of the right to mental health, indicating an important opportunity to re-balance and target investment in health promoting action in homes, schools, workplaces, healthcare settings and society at large.

[The Report can be accessed here](https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/34).

## New Zealand’s new partnership with the Pacific Disability Forum

A new partnership between New Zealand and the Pacific Disability Forum was announced in June by Minister for Disability Issues, Carmel Sepuloni, at the United Nations in New York.

“This new partnership will help New Zealand and our Pacific neighbours achieve our shared vision for a safe, stable and prosperous Pacific,” Carmel Sepuloni said. “We also need to ensure that development in the Pacific region takes into account the needs of disabled people.

The New Zealand–Pacific Disability Forum partnership will assist Pacific Island countries to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Alongside New Zealand and Australia, fifteen Pacific Island countries have now ratified the CRPD.

New Zealand is contributing $183,000 towards the Pacific Disability Forum’s work programme in 2019/20.

[Read more about the partnership here.](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand%E2%80%99s-new-partnership-pacific-disability-forum)

## Technology must be a gateway to inclusion for people with disability, Commissioner tells UN

Disability Discrimination Commissioner Ben Gauntlett gave a statement at the 12th Session of the Conference of State Parties (COSP) for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at the United Nations headquarters in New York on the importance of accessible technology for people with disability.

Commissioner Gauntlett told the UN that inaccessible technology was becoming an increasingly critical issue for governments.

“Technology is fundamentally changing the world for everyone. Technology is now central to our daily activities and is also increasingly the main gateway for people to access their rights, for example, accessing the right to education through online learning.

“For many people, technology can provide a gateway to inclusion, or result in an enormous barrier.

“Article 9 of the CRPD requires States Parties to take appropriate measure to ensure persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to information and communications including technologies and services provided to the public.

“Despite this, we are witnessing the digital divide continue to grow,” he said.

[Read the Commissioner’s statement here](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/news/technology-must-be-gateway-inclusion-people-disability-commissioner-tells-un).

# ****NEW**** ****RESOURCES****

## Making sure people with disability are included in a changing world

This is an easy to read document explaining the Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

[Access this document here.](http://www.nswcid.org.au/images/UN_COSP_2019_Easy_Read_Guide.pdf)

**Neglected in health and development: a call to action on mental health and psychosocial disability**

Read the article on the [Devpolicyblog](https://www.devpolicy.org/mental-health-and-psychosocial-disability-the-time-for-action-is-now-20190701/) page written by Teresa Hall, Becca, Allchin, Aleisha Carroll, Bhargavi Davar, and Helen Fernandes.

## ****How Older People Are Excluded in Humanitarian Data & Are More at Risk****

The objective of this HelpAge International Study was to evaluate existing policies and practices concerning the inclusion of data about older people in terms of disaster preparedness and humanitarian response. The countries covered were Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The full report can be downloaded from the [HelpAge resources webpage.](https://www.helpage.org/download/5ccc0e6449257)

## Realising the global commitment to Leave No One Behind

Four years after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) is urging UN States Parties to take practical steps to ensure persons with disabilities are not being left behind.

IDDC’s recommendations express concern that this core principal will be overlooked in the delivery of the Goals, without concrete, urgent action.

[Read more about the recommendations here](https://www.iddcconsortium.net/resources-tools/realising-global-commitment-leave-no-one-behind).

## RDI Conference Papers

The Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network led a conference on “Leadership for Inclusive Development” on 12-13 June at La Trobe University, Bundoora, Melbourne. The conference explored what leadership*is* and what leadership *does* in the field of international development; bringing together practitioners, academics, students, consultants and representatives from the NGO sector. The conference showcased a remarkable breadth of perspectives and ideas as over 350 delegates spent time exploring themes around leadership for inclusive development.

Papers from some of the speakers will be shared in the next [Development Bulletin](https://crawford.anu.edu.au/rmap/devnet/dev-bulletin.php).

# ****OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT****

## Complete survey by the World Bank's Inclusive Education Initiative

You are all invited to participate in a survey in support of the [World Bank’s Inclusive Education Initiative.](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialdevelopment/brief/inclusive-education-initiative-transforming-education-for-children-with-disabilities) The survey is about a community of practice for disability - inclusive education, and will take no more than 5 minutes.

The World Bank’s *Inclusive Education Initiative*is a Multi-Donor Trust Fundto invest in catalytic technical expertise and knowledge resources that support countries in making education more inclusive with a focus on children across the spectrum of disabilities (including physical, sensory, cognitive, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities), with a view to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.

The survey is anonymous. If you would like to receive further information about the development of the community of practice or if you want to be involved, please also fill out your name and email address.

You are invited to fill out the survey by clicking on this [link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SQ2ZHMF).

## Call for Contributions: Gender & Development: Beijing + 25 issue

In June 2020, the international journal *Gender & Development* will publish a Beijing + 25 issue, marking a quarter of a century since the UN Fourth Conference on Women at Beijing saw unprecedented global buy-in for feminist visions of development. The Beijing Platform for Action, signed by 189 governments, articulated a commitment to human development centred on women’s advancement and the realisation of gender equality worldwide.Challenges to implementing the Platform for Action appeared swiftly.

*Gender & Development* is a forum for the sharing of analysis and experience between feminist activists involved in development research, policy, and practice. If you are an activist, policymaker, practitioner or researcher with feminist values and experience to share, please send a paragraph outlining your proposed article for the issue, including on issues relating to disability inclusion and gender. [Click here for further information](https://www.genderanddevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Call-for-Contributions-Beijing-4-July-1-1.pdf).

# ****CONFERENCES, TRAINING**** ****& EVENTS****

## XVIII World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf

*23-27 July 2019, Paris, France*The Congress theme, ***Sign Language Rights for All*** highlights that full enjoyment of linguistic rights is vital in facilitating the full inclusion of the Deaf Community within society. The congress program will cover six main topics: Sign Language and Deaf Studies, Deaf Education, International Cooperation and Development, Technology and Accessibility, Health, Employment.

[Follow this link for more information on the Congress](https://www.wfdcongress2019.org/).

## Call for Papers: 2020 Australasian Aid Conference

*17-19 February 2020, Canberra*

The Australasian Aid Conference will be held on 17-19 February 2020, a partnership between the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy and The Asia Foundation. As in previous years, the aim of the 2020 Australasian Aid Conference is to bring together researchers from across Australia, the Pacific, Asia and beyond who are working on aid and international development policy to share insights, promote collaboration, and help develop the research community. With more than 600 people registering in 2019, the AAC has established itself as Australia’s premier aid and development conference.

This conference would be an ideal forum to submit abstracts related to issues in disability inclusive development. The deadline for all submissions is 5pm AEST on 4 October 2019.

[More information on the call for papers here.](https://devpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/annual-australasian-aid-conference/2020/call-for-papers)

## Call for Papers: The Future of Feminist Disability Studies

*5th-8th March 2020, Boston, Massachusetts, US*

This roundtable is part of the Northeast Modern Language Association conference being held in Boston, MA, from March 5-8th, 2020. It will explore emerging perspectives in the discourse community of feminist disability studies. Presentations should develop new landscapes of feminist disability studies that include intersectionality and other aspects of identity in relation to both feminism and disability studies. How can the future of feminist disability studies include other perspectives on disability and women? What are the possibilities of feminist disability studies? What should the future hold for feminist disability studies?

Closing date for abstracts: 30 September 2019. [For more information, click here.](http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/cfp/2019/06/03/call-for-papers-the-future-of-feminist-disability-studies)

**Save the Date: 3rd CBR/CBID World Congress**

*28-30 July, 2020, Entebbe, Uganda*

Leaving No One Behind – local to global multi-sectoral collaboration for persons with disabilities to realise their human rights in communities. Congress themes include:

* CBR/CBID in practice
* CBR/CBID stakeholders
* CBR/CBID workforce and capacity development
* Sustainability of CBR/CBID
* Research in CBR/CBID
* Monitoring, evaluation and learning in CBR/CBID

Further details to be released once information is made available on the World Congress website.

# ****NEWSLETTER********S FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS****

## U.S. International Council on Disabilities - News & More!

US International Council on Disabilities (USICD) [Summer Newsletter here.](https://mailchi.mp/84cc5791d613/us-international-council-on-disabilities-news-more)

## UN DESA Voice July 2019

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Latest SDGs data, Global goals on the film screen – [read here.](https://www.un.org/development/desa/undesavoice/2019/07)

## East Wind No. 28, June 2019

East Wind is the newsletter of the World Blind Union Asia Pacific region. It is published 2-3 times per year and is available in [PDF or Word format here](http://wbuap.org/archives/1486).

# ABOUT US

ADDC is an Australian, international network focusing attention, expertise and action on disability issues in developing countries; building on a human rights platform for disability advocacy.

To join ADDC (membership is free) or find out more, please visit [this link.](https://www.addc.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member/)

This bulletinaims to provide information on Disability Inclusive Development across organisations working to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities both here in Australia and across the world. Generic disability and domestic information will be included in our Bulletins when possible as part of our commitment to disability advocacy and strengthening partnerships; however, our focus remains on disability and development issues.

**Disclaimer:** The ADDC Bulletin is a compilation of other organisations’ articles and material. While every effort is made to validate content ADDC does not endorse all opinions and views contacted within the Bulletin.

**Acknowledgment of Country:**ADDC acknowledges that we are situated on the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations and pay respects to the traditional custodians and their Elders past, present and emerging.