

International Geneva
Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

Disability Council International | DisabCouncil

<http://disabilitycouncilinternational.org/>

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Disability Council International (DisabCouncil) is positioned as an innovative non-profit organization working to promote the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. Far too often disability is viewed as a health or charity issue. Disability Council International believes that persons with disabilities should be seen as an asset for the future of their countries rather than a burden to avoid. Disability Council International is an international NGO, universal in membership (it is open to persons with all forms of disabilities, but it appeals equally to persons without disabilities, who are invited to work, as active partners, for the promotion of the equal human rights of persons with disabilities). Disability Council International is also universal in its territorial ambit (its activities extend to all countries of the world).

Disability Council International is based in Geneva and works to encourage the universal ratification and implementation of the CRPD Convention through advocacy and capacity building programs of support to States and to the UN monitoring body (the CRPD Committee), the UN Offices and Agencies dealing with disability issues, civil society organizations, and national human rights institutions. It also develops projects directly benefiting concrete individual persons with disabilities and communities of those persons in all countries of the world. Disability Council International also contributes to the implementation of the Convention by disseminating best practices in the realization of the human rights of persons with disabilities and fostering international cooperation in the exchange of technical innovations.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Disabled people's rights and health
- Inclusion
- Human rights

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Plan of Action for the next three years of operation includes developing programs in the following activity areas:

- Empowering national civil society organizations, where a range of awareness raising and capacity building projects will be developed to empower national civil society organizations working to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and to assist national disability NGOs in monitoring the implementation of the Convention by States parties, by helping national disability NGOs in the preparation of shadow reports.

- Assisting national governments in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with a range of capacity building programs as well as to suggest practical ways of transforming into concrete steps. This involves assistance in the development and implementation of short, medium and long term national disability plans including suggestion of normative reforms.
- Supporting the monitoring functions of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN Agencies and the CRPD Conference of States parties.
- Empowering persons with disabilities and help them to defend their individual rights, disseminating disability rights related best practices.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

DisabCouncil is governed by an executive board. Anna Lachowska is the current chairperson, supported by Constance de la Vega, William A. Schabas, Sheikha Hissa Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al-Thani (former UN Special Rapporteur on Disability), Jia Yang, Philippe Kirsch, Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, Luis Nuno Correia de Azevedo and M. Cherif Bassiouni.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

Donor support is essential to enable Disability Council International to accomplish its mission of empowering persons with disabilities and build societies inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities across the world. DisabCouncil's sponsors are development agencies of member States of the United Nations, international organizations, as well as private donor entities such as foundations, charity, members and private individuals. DisabCouncil is eagerly looking to expand its list of partners sponsors interested in funding the projects and programs in its action plan. While DisabCouncil remains independent from donors in the design and implementation of its action plan, sponsors can choose specific projects in the DisabCouncil's action plan for financial support. This allows donors to have control over the proper use of their resources.

PUBLICATIONS

Although no annual report has been issued, other resources are available at <http://disabilitycouncilinternational.org/Resources.php> and <http://disabilitycouncilinternational.org/Best-practices.php>

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