

Special Event of the Human Rights Council
On the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Background

On May 3 2008, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol entered into force. As the first human rights treaty of the 21st Century, it is appropriate for the Council to mark the event, especially given the role of the Human Rights Council on the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities. A special event took place in the General Assembly Hall in New York on 12 May.

Date

The event will take place on **June 6 2008 from 10:30 to 12:00 am in Room XVIII**, during the 8th session of the Human Rights Council.

Focus and objectives

The event will focus on the human side of the Convention. The purpose will be to illustrate how the Convention's implementation may improve the lives of persons with disabilities in practical ways.

The aim of this theme would be twofold: first, for persons with disabilities to participate fully, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention; and second, to raise awareness of the treaty from a practical standpoint, hence encouraging its wider ratification.

In this context, experiences would be shared particularly on the issues of children with disabilities, women with disabilities, accessibility, and disability and poverty.

Format: Ambassador Doru Costea, President of the Human Rights Council, will host the event. The order of the speakers is as follows:

- Ambassador Doru Costea – President of the Council – 5 minutes
- Mme. Louise Arbour, High Commissioner for Human Rights – 5 minutes
- Professor Theresia Degener – 7 minutes
- Mr. Luis Fernando Astorga Gatjens – 7 minutes
- Ms Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo – 7 minutes
- Mr. Lex Grandia – Representative of the IDA CRPD Forum – 7 minutes

The Panelists will then be followed by 10 States and 2 civil society representatives who will speak from the floor.

- African Group – Egypt, South Africa
- Asian Group – China, India
- EEG – Russian Federation, Slovenia
- GRULAC – Mexico, Ecuador
- WEOG – New Zealand, Spain
- The civil society representatives to speak from the floor are yet to be confirmed.
