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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Statement on the half day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities, adopted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at its eighth session (17-28 September 2012)

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was established in 2009 to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Member States. The Committee examines reports submitted periodically by States parties on their implementation of the rights enshrined in the Convention, makes recommendations to the State party concerned and considers individual complaints about alleged violations of the rights provided for in the Convention. The Committee at its seventh session in April 2012 decided to devote its half day of general discussion (DGD), to be held in 2013, to the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

This decision stems from the Committee's review of the first national reports submitted since the beginning of its work and the scarcity of information on the situation of women and girls with disabilities in those reports. Indeed, the Committee is concerned by the multiple forms of discrimination experienced by women and girls with disabilities which hinder their meaningful participation on an equal basis with other individuals in all spheres of life.

The Committee expresses concern at the violence and abuses against women and girls with disabilities, as well as the restrictions to their sexual, reproductive and maternity rights. The Committee

is further concerned at the generalized absence of gender as a cross-cutting issue in the national plans for persons with disabilities and the lack of a disability perspective in gender policies in general.

The work of the Committee is in line with initiatives taken by other human rights mechanisms. In its resolution 17/11, the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to prepare a report examining the causes and manifestations of violence against women and girls with disabilities. The report was presented to the twentieth session of the Council in March 2012 (A/HRC/20/5). In its resolution 14/12, the Human Rights Council urged States to make available to women and girls with disabilities services that enable them to avoid and escape situations of violence and that prevent the recurrence of such violence. The Committee on the Rights of the Child devoted its general comment No. 9 (2006) to the rights of children with disabilities, while the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women issued general recommendation No. 18 (1991) on women with disabilities. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights held a day of general discussion in November 2010 on the right to sexual and reproductive health. The Committee also recalls the first informal consultation meetings in September 2012 to prepare for the General Assembly High-level Meeting on Disability to be held in 2013.

The Committee welcomes all input on strengthening the protection of human rights of women and girls with disabilities, particularly from organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs). Submissions should be as concise as possible (not more than 10 pages) and sent to the following address in WORD format no later than 17 February 2013: **HYPERLINK "mailto:crpd@ohchr.org" crpd@ohchr.org**. All submissions should be accompanied by a brief presentation (one paragraph) of the submitting organization's experience in the subject matter. Submissions will subsequently be posted on a webpage dedicated to the half day of general discussion on women and girls with disabilities.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 9 November 2012.