



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament



In the context of the **European Disability and Development Week**,
organised under the umbrella of the **International Disability and
Development Consortium**, the **European Network on Independent Living**
invites you to

UN CRPD + SDGs = Real Inclusion for All?

Hosted by Helga Stevens MEP and Indrek Tarand MEP

Battle-debate, followed by reception

**7 December 2017 (Thursday), 18:00h – 20:30h
European Parliament, Brussels (Room A1H1)**

Background information

“I’d like to see people making the links between the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **The SDGs are for 15 years, the UN CRPD is for life!** Let’s make sure human rights underscore the implementation of the SDGs at a national level!”

Diane Kingston, former member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

On 13 December 2006, the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol** were adopted by resolution 61/106 of the General Assembly. The adoption of the CRPD was hailed as a historic achievement that would bring hope to billions of persons with disabilities in the 21st century. The CRPD is a comprehensive international treaty of legally binding nature.

In September 2015, the General Assembly adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** that includes **17 Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). Building on the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the new Agenda emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all.

In 2016, we marked the **10th anniversary of the CRPD** adoption. In the past 10 years, remarkable progress has been made in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in society and development. The year 2016 also marks the first year of the implementation of the SDGs. At this critical point, the work to promote the mainstreaming of disability and the implementation of the SDG started with a number of activities.

In 2017, ENIL launched its report [**“Addressing Barriers to Independent Living across the Globe”**](#), setting out measures required to address the main barriers to the realisation of disabled people's right to live independently and be included in the community. The EU Fundamental Rights Agency recently published its own three reports, highlighting that “independence is far from reality for many disabled persons”. This month, Eurostat's [monitoring report on progress towards SDGs in an EU context](#) revealed that in 2016, 30,2% of disabled people above 16 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

This year, the CRPD Committee adopted a strong [**General Comment on Article 19**](#), aiming to assist States Parties in their implementation of the right independent living, and in fulfilling their obligations under this article, and the related provisions. According to the GC, Article 19 plays a distinct role as one of the widest ranging and most intersectional articles of the Convention and has to be considered as integral for the implementation of the Convention across all articles.

About the event

As part of the European Disability and Development Week, ENIL is organising an interactive event on 7 December 2017 on the topic “UN CRPD + SDGs = Real Inclusion for All?”. The event will use the battle-debate format to discuss the following questions:

- How can the CRPD facilitate the realisation of SDGs?
- To what extent do the SDGs strengthen the realisation of the CRPD?
- Can the General Comment on Article 19 facilitate implementation of both – the CRPD and the SDGs?
- Which strategy should be used to achieve *real* inclusion for *all* disabled persons worldwide?

What is a battle-debate?

Speakers will be divided into two camps, and each camp will receive questions or quotes from ENIL, which they will have to take sides on. The time to respond will be strictly limited – when the bell rings, the time is over! The audience will decide on the most convincing camp.

To register, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/un-crpdsdgs-real-inclusion-for-all-tickets-40149515281> Deadline for registration: 5 December 2017

If you do not have a European Parliament badge, please send us your DOB, passport/ID number, expiry date and citizenship. Please do not forget to include the same information for your personal assistant. This is required by the European Parliament security.

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Draft Programme*

- Welcome by **Ms Helga Stevens MEP** and **Mr Indrek Tarand MEP & Ms Nadia Hadad**, ENIL Board member
- Introduction by **Mr Lars Bosselmann**, the Director of CBM's Department for International Advocacy and Alliances

Debaters:

Moderator: Ms Nadia Hadad, ENIL Board member

- **Ms Helga Stevens MEP**, European Parliament
- **Mr Indrek Tarand MEP**, European Parliament
- **Ms Ana Pelaez Narvaez**, former member of Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/ CERMI
- **Mr Claude Cahn**, Human Rights Adviser, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR)
- **Mr Gaspar Frontini**, Directorate for International Cooperation and Development Policy (DG DEVCO) (tbc)
- **Mr Seamus Jeffreson**, Director of the European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs (Concord)
- **Ms Marion Steff**, PhD SDGs Coordinator, European Disability Forum
- **Ms Ruth Faber**, Director EU-Cord, Treasurer of the International Disability & Development Consortium
- **Ms Abia Akram**, CEO of the Pakistani National Forum of Women with Disabilities/ Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United
- **Ms Kapka Panayotova**, President of ENIL and Director of the Centre for Independent Living Sofia, Bulgaria

Concluding remarks by **Ms Zara Todd**, ENIL Executive Director

Followed by a reception

The event will be held in English. Please note that this programme is subject to changes.

This event is supported by the European Union

