



37th Session of the HRC

Geneva, 7 March 2018

Item 2 & 3 – Annual debate: Rights of persons with disabilities

Speaker: Nicole WYSZECKI

37th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ITEM 2 & 3 Annual debate on the Rights of persons with disabilities

Oral statement submitted by

VIDES International – International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development

And co-signed by

IIMA – Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Thank you, Mr. President.

VIDES and IIMA welcome the analytical study of the Office of the High Commissioner on the right to access to justice under article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Around 650 million people live with a disability, 10% of world's population. Therefore they are the world's largest minority¹.

People with disabilities, especially those with a higher need of support, are often discriminated against their right to a fair trial due to inaccessible documentation or procedures.

Moreover, due to discriminatory laws, practices and stereotypes, women and children with disabilities face barriers to access justice.

Therefore we recommend States to:

- Eliminate multiple forms of discrimination in the administration of justice faced by persons with disabilities due to their impairment, sex, age, ethnicity, indigenous background, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Empower children with disabilities to express their opinion and ensure effective, child-sensitive and age-appropriate assistance in accessing independent complaint procedures and courts, according to the 3rd Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Promote the active involvement and participation of persons with disabilities in the administration of justice on an equal basis with others and leave no one behind. Implement article 13 of the convention as part of the strategy to accomplish Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ cf. <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/toolaction/pwdfs.pdf>, 21.02.2018, 15:34