



37<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC  
Geneva, 6 March 2018  
ID with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities  
Speaker: Nicole WYSZECKI

37<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
ITEM 3 - ID with the Special Rapporteur 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 commend the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities for her report.

We note that the technique of supported decision-making mostly concentrates on particular groups of persons with disabilities. Consequently persons who need a higher level of support lose their capacity to exercise their rights. Accordingly they have no control over decisions related to areas of life such as education, voting, marriage and parenting.

Due to gender stereotypes and gender-based violence particularly girls and women with disabilities face a wide range of discrimination and violations against their right to legal capacity. There is a high risk of being placed under substitute decision-making. Persons with disabilities must be seen as rights holders.

Therefore we recommend Member States to:

- Take appropriate measures to ensure that support programmes promote the best interest of the person, respect their dignity, individual autonomy and independence according to the principles of non-discrimination and equality.
- Adopt effective measures to raise awareness on the abilities and rights of persons with disabilities and combat stereotypes, negative attitudes and negligent practices against them in all areas of life.
- Empower persons with disabilities in their role as witnesses, judges, lawyers or other interlocutors within the justice system to fully exercise their right to participate in public and political life.
- Promote and provide training on the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities for State authorities and all other relevant actors.

Thank you, Mr. President.