



## Fact Sheet

# The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities elected 12 members to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during their first Conference in New York on 31 October and 3 November 2008. The Committee will periodically review implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## Membership

- Mr. Ronald McCallum AO (Australia)\*
- Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri (Bangladesh)
- Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chile)
- Ms. Jia Yang (China)
- Mr. Germán Xavier Torres Correa (Ecuador)\*
- Mr. György Könczei (Hungary)\*
- Mr. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan)
- Ms. Edah Wangechi Maina (Kenya)\*
- Ms. Amna Ali Al Suweidi (Qatar)
- Mr. Cveto Uršič (Slovenia)\*
- Ms. Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain)
- Mr. Lotfi Ben Lallahom (Tunisia)\*

\*Drawn by lot to serve a two-year rather than four-year term.

## Functions

- The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is made up of 12 independent experts elected by the Conference of the States Parties. Following an additional 60 ratifications or accessions to the Convention, the membership of the Committee will increase by six, to 18 independent experts.
- The independent experts are chosen for their competence and experience in the fields covered by the Convention.
- Experts do not represent their countries or any other organizations. They serve in their personal capacity and are therefore independent.

- Membership of the Committee tries to reflect geographical and gender balance. It also tries to represent different civilizations and legal systems, and to include experts with disabilities.
- The Committee is tasked to review the periodic reports submitted by States Parties on the implementation of the Convention and make suggestions and recommendations for strengthening implementation.
- Under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, the Committee will hear and address individual complaints. The Committee can also initiate enquiries when there are allegations of grave and systematic violations of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years and are eligible for re-election once. The term of six members elected at the first election on 3 November 2008 expires at the end of two years.