

TEAMWORK

The Role of our Discipline in the Implementation of the Convention
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The Convention
is called a ground-braking treaty, because

- It is the **most extensively debated** international convention ever, created with **maximum involvement of the civil society**.
- It is a milestone in legislation at an international level because it **extensively interprets the rights** and the capacity to act of **persons living with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities**.

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...and because

- It marks a breakthrough for the world towards **personal autonomy**.
- Its **control mechanism** is extremely strong compared to other international treaties on disability.
- It is based on the **social model** of disability.
- The human being behind the Convention reflects the picture of the Caucus (IDC) during the negotiations: an **active partner, a self-advocate, able and empowered**.

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Capacity to act and supported decision making

Because of the tight time-frame, I shall refer only to a single extremely important aspect that is the core of the implementation of the Convention worldwide.

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The poorest of the poor

Justin Dart, Jr. called people with disabilities *the poorest of the poor* some years ago. But there are even poorer of the poorest: people with severe and multiple disabilities, people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. Hundreds of thousands of these people do not have the **capacity to act** in most countries of the world.

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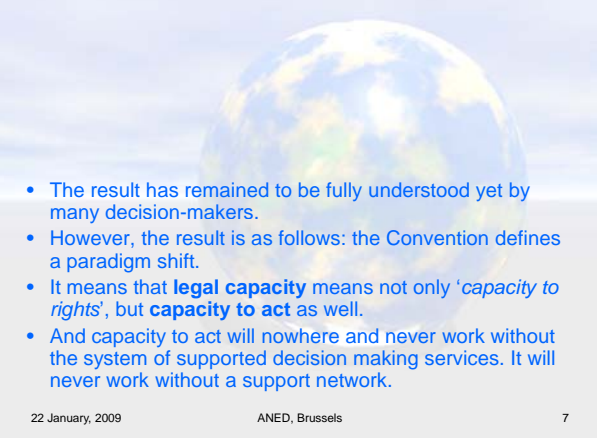
They too often

- do not have an identity card;
- they are officially excluded not only from the labor market,
- but from basic human rights as well!
- This problem belongs to Article 12, however, it is closely connected to Article 27.
- We had very long debates on this problem (*capacity to act*) during the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee.

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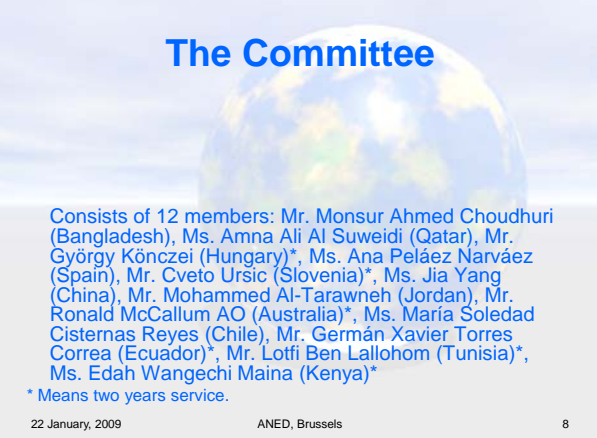
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- The result has remained to be fully understood yet by many decision-makers.
- However, the result is as follows: the Convention defines a paradigm shift.
- It means that **legal capacity** means not only '*capacity to rights*', but **capacity to act** as well.
- And capacity to act will nowhere and never work without the system of supported decision making services. It will never work without a support network.

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The Committee



Consists of 12 members: Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri (Bangladesh), Ms. Amna Ali Al Suweidi (Qatar), Mr. György Könczei (Hungary)*, Ms. Ana Peláez Narváez (Spain), Mr. Cveto Ursic (Slovenia)*, Ms. Jia Yang (China), Mr. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan), Mr. Ronald McCallum AO (Australia)*, Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes (Chile), Mr. Germán Xavier Torres Correa (Ecuador)*, Mr. Lotfi Ben Lallohom (Tunisia)*, Ms. Edah Wangechi Maina (Kenya)*

* Means two years service.

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Meetings in 2008



- The dates for the first two sessions are: 23-27 February and 19-23 October 2009 – in Geneva. We do not know more even about procedural issues.
- The Committee needs the support of the movement and new research results, the critical position of DS, because the task is like move a mountain.

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