

# New Disability Rights Convention?

## ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

### 1. Enhance existing treaties

- ★ already include disability rights
- ★ easier to improve disability protocols and monitoring mechanisms
- ★ best way to mainstream disability issues within United Nations system
- ★ unproductive to add to States heavy reporting burden
- ★ United Nations too under-resourced for existing monitoring responsibilities

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## ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

### 2. Formulate new instrument

- ★ existing treaties inadequate to protect people with disabilities
- ★ specific convention → status, authority, visibility
- ★ enhance mainstreaming in United Nations system
- ★ complement existing instruments
- ★ provide specific monitoring mechanism  
→ impetus to implementation

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### ROLE OF NHRI's

1. Review national status of disability rights
2. Recommend to government on value of a Disability Rights Convention
3. Determine own contribution at United Nations regional/international forums
4. Ensure that NGO's:
  - • are informed
  - • have opportunity to participate nationally on whether to support development of a Convention
  - • contribute to what should be in a Convention

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### APF7 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Forum member institutions consider the recommendations of the Ad Hoc committee that:
  - i. Human rights institutions make available suggestions and possible elements to be considered in proposals for a convention;
  - ii. Organisations' views be sought on proposals for a convention including
    - Questions relating to its nature and structure;
    - Elements to be considered including the work done in the field of social development, human rights and non-discrimination;
    - Follow-up and monitoring issues;
    - The complementarity between a new instrument and existing instruments.

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## **APF7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. That Forum member institutions consider what role they can play in responding to recommendations of the Ad Hoc committee in relation to the development of a convention
  - (a) at the national level and
  - (b) in the regional forums within the United Nations system;
  
3. That Forum member institutions consider how they can best respond to recommendations that national institutions should consult with NGOs in their respective countries in relation to the development of a convention;
  
4. That Forum member institutions adopt reasonable efforts to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in the course of NGO consultations;

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### **APF7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. That the APF take steps to develop a disability rights component within its work programme;
6. That Forum member institutions request that the Forum secretariat provide support, as requested and to the extent possible, for the activities of its member institutions in responding to the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations.
7. That Forum member institutions request that the Forum secretariat, in cooperation with its member institutions, develop and advocate proposals for a possible new convention for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee.