

Section One: What is the Implementation Toolkit and how do I use it?

What is the Implementation Toolkit and how is it relevant to DPI's work?

- *DPI's commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

At our Sixth World Assembly in Sapporo, Japan ([Sapporo Declaration](#)), and at subsequent regional and national meetings, DPI members committed to fully supporting the work to draft the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). To this end, DPI members were active at all stages of the drafting negotiations at the United Nations (UN): attending all meetings at the UN; participating in drafting and policy paper initiatives; hosting side events at the UN to ensure that the DPI human rights perspective was included in the drafting; holding consultations in our member countries and regions; and helping to provide a cross-disability perspective through the sharing of the lived experiences of our members from around the world. Now that the negotiations have been completed and the CRPD has been adopted by the UN General Assembly, the time has come for us to continue to examine how we can contribute to the successful implementation of the Convention.

As our first priority, DPI developed the Ratification Toolkit, an interactive resource guide designed to assist DPI members in their work to encourage every country to become a States Party to the CRPD. If your country is not yet a Party to the CRPD, and if you have not already used the Ratification Toolkit, we recommend that you refer to that resource in order to:

- Learn about the Convention – its background and why we need it
- Learn about ratification – what it is and why we need countries to do it
- Learn how to design successful ratification campaigns in DPI member countries and regions

The Ratification Toolkit was developed during the final stages of the Convention negotiation process, as we wanted to ensure that DPI members would be ready to engage in signature and ratification campaigns as soon as possible. Now that the Convention has been officially adopted

by the UN and ratification work is underway, it is time to consider how we can successfully *implement* the Convention in every country! For this purpose DPI has developed a new interactive resource guide, which we call the “**CRPD Implementation Toolkit.**” In *this* Toolkit you will be able to:

- Learn about the Convention – what the new Convention is and what it means for persons with disabilities around the world
- Learn about implementation – understand what we will be implementing
- Learn how to design successful implementation campaigns in DPI member countries and regions

It is important to note that this Toolkit is *not* intended to be an authoritative or detailed interpretation of the content of the CRPD. How the Convention is implemented will be slightly different in each country, and over time questions will arise regarding the content of the Convention and how it should be interpreted. This is a normal process and one that all human rights treaties go through. Disability advocates will work with governments and the Convention’s monitoring body (the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) in order to find answers to these questions that live up to the spirit and objectives of the Convention. As we are only at the beginning of this process, the materials provided in this Toolkit are not intended to pre-empt any of these questions or answers. Rather, these materials are intended to help you and your organization familiarize yourselves with the CRPD and understand how you can start to make the content of the Convention a reality in your country.

- *What’s inside the Implementation Toolkit*

You will find a variety of resources to help you plan and put into action your own implementation campaigns:

- Background information – explaining important concepts and giving historical perspective
- A Glossary – providing definitions of terms
- Exercises – to help you and your organization understand and apply the concepts discussed in the Toolkit
- Documents – we have gathered many of the important reference documents here, so that you have easy access to them
- A list of Acronyms for easy reference to full names and titles

Whether you have been extensively involved in the Convention negotiations, or are just interested in getting involved now, we hope that the Toolkit will provide you with the information you need to get started in your work to ensure that your country lives up to its commitments under the Convention, and that the vision of the CRPD becomes a reality for all persons with disabilities around the world!

How do I use the Implementation Toolkit?

The Toolkit is divided into four *sections*:

- **User Guide** - That's this section!
- **What Is the New Convention and What Does it Mean for Me? A new convention – A new approach**
Here the toolkit will provide information on the historical background of the CRPD, what it means to address disability in a human rights context, and why this approach is useful.
- **What Are We Implementing? A guide to deciphering the CRPD!**
This section provides basic information on the content of the Convention. As mentioned above, this is not intended to be a detailed interpretation of the provisions of the CRPD, but instead an introduction to its structure, content and concepts.
- **How Do We Implement the New Convention?**
Finally the Toolkit will provide some practical tools for you to use in planning and carrying out your implementation campaign.

At the beginning of each section, you will see a box containing what we hope you will learn from the materials. We strongly suggest that to begin with, you read the sections in order. Once you are more familiar with the content, then you can go back to the sections of particular interest to you. Each section can be reached directly from the Toolkit homepage, so that you can quickly access the information you want.

Features we have tried to include

- Easy to navigate

The Toolkit is designed to be *interactive*, meaning that as you read through the text you can click on the clearly marked hyperlinks in order to obtain further information as you wish. For example, you can click on technical terms to see how they are defined in the *Glossary*. You can also click on

the names of documents in order to go to a copy of a particular document. To make it easier to find a specific document, where needed we have grouped them again in *resource* boxes at the end of each section, and you can go to a complete listing of resources from the homepage.

- The latest information

We have provided in the Toolkit the most up-to-date information available to us at this time. We have also included a few external website links, so that in the future you will have a means of up-dating information on certain topics – such as information about the work of the new treaty monitoring body for the CRPD (known as the “Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”) once it has been established. If you have difficulty understanding something in the Toolkit or would like to talk about an idea you have for your implementation campaign, you can contact your Regional Development Officer (RDO). Their contact information is at the end of this Section.

- Adaptable

In each section you will find *exercises* to help you think through the concepts discussed and apply them to the specific situation in your country. You can do these exercises by yourself or in a group with your colleagues and other disability activists. We also hope that you will find the Toolkit materials helpful as a starting point when you begin to prepare your own materials for your implementation campaign.

- Feedback is welcome

DPI has put a lot of time and energy into the development of this Toolkit for our members around the world. We know that it will not be perfect, and we encourage you to provide feedback directly to us at the Headquarters Office by completing and submitting the evaluation form at the end of the Toolkit. We want to learn what has worked and what we can improve in the future!

- Good luck to you!

We have enjoyed the process of developing this Toolkit, and we hope very much that it will be a useful tool for you as you work to implement the new Convention in your country. As you will see there is a lot of work to be

done, and the challenges are many, but we believe that with careful thought and planning DPI can make a solid contribution to this next phase of the Convention's life. Good luck!

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