

## 1) What is the Ratification Toolkit, and how do I use it?

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

- *DPI's commitment to the Convention development process*

At its Sixth World Assembly in Sapporo, Japan, and at other regional and national meetings, DPI members have committed to fully supporting the ongoing work to draft a new UN human rights Convention for persons with disabilities. To this end, DPI members have been active at all stages of the drafting negotiations at the UN: attending all meetings at the UN; participating in drafting and policy paper initiatives; holding consultations in our 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. As the negotiations draw to a close, the time has come for us to examine how we can next contribute to the successful implementation of the Convention, and, as our first priority, how we can work to encourage every country to join the new Convention on the Human Rights of People with Disabilities!

- *What the Ratification Toolkit can help you accomplish*

To help get DPI members directly involved in this exciting work, this “Ratification Toolkit” has been designed as an interactive resource guide, providing information to help DPI members:

- 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 countries and regions

- *What's inside the Ratification Toolkit*

You will find a variety of resources to help you plan and implement your own ratification 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

Whether you have been extensively involved in the Convention negotiations, or whether you are interested in getting involved, we hope that the Toolkit will provide you with the information you need to get started in your advocacy to get your country to become a member of the new disability Convention!

## How do I use the Ratification Toolkit?

The Toolkit is divided into four *sections*:

- 1) **User Guide** - That's this section!
- 2) **What is the UN disability convention and why is it needed?** – This section provides information on what a human rights convention is, why we need the new UN disability Convention, and what has been done so far to draft the Convention.
- 3) **How can we make the UN disability Convention successful?** – This section provides information on what “ratification” is all about, and why it is important.
- 4) **How to get the UN disability Convention ratified in your country!** – This section provides some practical tools for you to use in planning and implementing your ratification campaign.

At the beginning of each section you'll see a list of what we hope you'll take away 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 of interest to you.

### • *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 the document. To make it easier to find a specific document, 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 updating information on certain topics – such as information about the latest Convention text on the UN's webpage. If you have difficulty understanding something in the toolkit or would like to talk about an idea you have for your ratification 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, and/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 ratification campaign.

- Feedback is welcome

DPI HQ 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 tool kit, and we hope very much that it will be a useful tool for you as you work to get your government's support for the new Convention. 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 process. Good luck!

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