

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

Member Organizations:

Disabled Peoples' International, Down Syndrome International,
Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People,
World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf,
World Federation of the DeafBlind,
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry,
Arab Organization of Disabled People, European Disability Forum,
Red Latinoamericana de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Personas con
Discapacidad y sus familias (RIADIS), Pacific Disability Forum

Suggestions for disability-relevant recommendations to be included in the Concluding Observations CEDAW Committee 50th Session (3-21 October 2011)

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has prepared the following suggestions for the Concluding Observations, based on references to persons with disabilities to be found in the State Report, List of Issues, and Replies.

COTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire has signed but not ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

State Report

Selected references to persons with disabilities in the state report:

Directorate for the Advancement of Persons with Disabilities

137. Pursuant to Framework Act No. 98-594 of the Ministry of the Civil Service on Persons with Disabilities, dated 10 November 1998, which permits the recruitment to the civil service (according to identical criteria) of disabled persons (men and women) outside the normal recruitment procedure, the Directorate for the Advancement of Persons with Disabilities has contributed to the recruitment of 337 disabled persons. The directorate has taken steps to enrol non-sighted persons (men and women) in vocational training centres. In 2009/10, four non-sighted people, three of them women, were enrolled at the vocational training centre in Man.

138. Measures have also been taken to protect and promote the rights of disabled and elderly women.

148. The social centres cover the whole country, as shown in the map of social services drawn up in 2007. They are responsible for: (i) monitoring the social and health status and psychomotor development of mothers and children up to two years of age; (ii) family education for women and young people; (iii) management of specific problems of young people and disabled persons; and (iv) improving living standards for groups and communities.

153. The Ministry of the Family, Women and Social Affairs also provides supervision and specialized education and training for disabled persons (girls and boys), including the following:

- The National Social Training Institute, which is responsible for training social workers, special needs teachers, preschool teachers and assistants and specialized teachers
- The Ivorian School for Deaf Children and the National Institute for the Advancement of Persons with Disabilities, established in 1974
- The National Institute for Blind People, established in 1974

154. In view of the human rights commitments undertaken by Côte d'Ivoire in respect of human rights and gender equality (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995)), the Ministry of the Family, Women and Social Affairs has drawn up framework plans and programmes for development in order to promote the advancement of women.

210. In the public sector, the positive measures to promote and facilitate the access of women to economic activity include:

- Framework Act No. 98-594 of 10 November 1998 of the Ministry of the Civil Service, which permits the recruitment to the civil service (according to identical criteria) of disabled persons (men and women) outside the normal recruitment procedure

211. Starting in 2010, this form of recruitment is to be applied in civil service competitions and examinations. Women and men are subject to the same criteria.

212. So far 300 persons have been recruited at all levels.

213. Arrangements were also made for a sight-impaired woman to be admitted to the Ecole Normale Supérieure. She is now a primary-school inspector and supervises special institutions for persons with disabilities.

214. Among the measures taken by the Directorate for the Advancement of Persons with Disabilities of the Ministry of the Family, Women and Social Affairs to admit sight-impaired persons (men and women) to vocational training centres, four sight-impaired persons, including three women, were taken on at the centre in Man.

449. A quota for the recruitment of men and women with disabilities in the civil service is set out in Act No. 98-594 of 10 November 1998 on policies towards people with disabilities.

450. In the private sector, people with disabilities are subject to the same recruitment criteria as able persons. No particular advantage is granted to women with disabilities, including in access to jobs.

600. Given the very limited social protection system covering only a tiny section of the population, the Government, acting through the ministry responsible for solidarity, social security and persons with disabilities, launched a universal health insurance scheme (Act No. 2001-636 of 9 October 2001) as an appropriate response to the low level of social security coverage in Côte d'Ivoire. Although trials of the project in the pilot phase in Soubré and Bondoukou have been abandoned, discussions are under way and studies are in progress with a view to relaunching and fully implementing the project.

List of Issues

No references to women with disabilities.

Recommendations from IDA:

- Repeal restrictions in the Electoral Code (Article 3) excluding persons who have been legally incapacitated from the right to vote on an equal basis with others in accordance with Article 29 of the CRPD, which comprises the latest international standards with respect to participation in political and public life.
- Collect adequate data on women and girls with disabilities and use disaggregated data and results of studies to develop policies and programmes to promote equal opportunities for them in society

- Adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities are consulted and participate in leadership roles in policy development.
- Raise awareness and provide more information about women and girls with disabilities, who are often subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, especially with regard to access to education, employment, access to health care and protection from violence.
- Ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation in employment and vocational training for women with disabilities, including accommodations for different types of disabilities.
- Address the heightened risk for girls and women with disabilities of becoming victims of domestic violence and abuse, and adopt urgent measures to ensure that both services and information for victims are made accessible to women and girls with disabilities.
- Ensure the provision of support services, including psychosocial support services, to assist families, including both mothers with disabilities, and mothers or women in the family who are the lead caregivers in their care for children with disabilities. In particular, ensure that services and assistance are rendered to permit women in families with children with disabilities, as well as mothers with disabilities, to continue their careers with an appropriate work/life balance.
- Adopt measures to ensure that all health care and services, provided to persons with disabilities, including all mental health care and services, is based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned, and that involuntary treatment and confinement are not permitted by law in accordance with the latest international standards.
- Adopt measures in the law to ensure the implementation of inclusive education of children with disabilities, such as the obligatory training of all teachers (beyond special education teachers), to require individual education plans for all students, ensure the availability of assistive devices and support in classrooms, educational materials and curricula, ensure the accessibility of physical school environments, encourage the teaching of sign language and disability culture, allocate budget for all of the above. Include inclusive education as an integral part of core teacher training curricula in universities to ensure that the values and principles of inclusive education are infused at the outset of teacher training and teaching careers.
- Adopt measures to ensure that all information, healthcare and services relating to sexual and reproductive health, both including physical treatment and psychological counselling, are made accessible to women and girls with disabilities, and that they are respectful of the dignity and integrity of persons with disabilities based on the free and informed consent of the individual concerned, and that consensual treatment such as the administration of contraception, or fertility treatments are not denied, while all non-consensual treatment, including that for which consent is given by a third party, is not permitted by law (including *inter alia* forced abortions, forced contraception, and forced sterilisation).
- Take steps to ratify the CRPD and its Optional Protocol.