**SLIDE 1:**

**2024 Annual Conference on Independent Living**

**BACK TO THE FUTURE**

**Presented by the National Council on Independent Living**

**Alt text: Conference Logo: Black sans serif text says, “BACK TO THE FUTURE”. To the right, digital font in bright, bold orange says, “2024”. Underneath, [NCIL Logo: National Council on Independent Living] Annual Conference on Independent Living.**

**SLIDE 2:**

**A General Overview of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

**25 July 2024**

**Isabel Hodge**

**LeAnn Naillon**

**Alt text: USICD (United States International Council on Disability) logo and "we support CRPD" logo.**

**SLIDE 3:**

**Objectives**

**History of the UN CRPD**

**State Parties’ Obligations**

**Implementation and Monitoring of the CRPD**

**Role of People with disabilities and their organizations**

**Update on ratification by the United States Senate**

**NCIL International Subcommittee**

**SLIDE 4:**

**Purpose of the Convention**

**To promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.**

**SLIDE 5:**

**History**

**Drafting began in 2001.**

**Other human rights instruments addressed disability.**

**Convention was necessary to address more comprehensively the challenges facing persons with disabilities and to protect and promote their rights through a legally binding instrument.**

**OHCHR commissioned a study**

**SLIDE 6:**

**History - NGO Activities & Strategies**

**Form NGO Caucus; issue position papers; prepare joint strategy – “total consensus position”**

**Lobby govts; place NGO reps on govt delegations**

**Draft text for govts to introduce; perform legal analysis of existing text. Issue advocacy newsletters naming and shaming govts/complimenting govts**

**Brief UN Missions prior to meetings**

**Engage with decision-makers back home in capitals**

**SLIDE 7:**

**A Paradigm Shift – From Welfare to Rights**

**Persons with disabilities are no longer considered as “objects” of charity, medical treatment and social protection; but rather as “subjects” with rights, capable of claiming those rights and making decisions based on their free and informed consent.**

**Persons with disabilities are active and equal members of society.**

**SLIDE 8:**

**Overall Structure**

**Preamble**

**Introductory articles (Articles 1 & 2)**

**Articles of general application (Articles 3-9)**

**Specific articles (Articles 10-30)**

**Implementation and monitoring measures (Articles 31-40)**

**Final articles (Articles 41-50)**

**SLIDE 9:**

**General Principle: Non-discrimination**

**Includes direct and indirect discrimination**

**Reasonable accommodation must be made for persons with disabilities**

**Reasonable accommodation: “necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms”**

**SLIDE 10:**

**Rights in the Convention**

**Alt text: Globe with three people inside.**

**SLIDE 11:**

**Monitoring**

**States must establish monitoring at the national level to implement and monitor the rights of women, men, and children with disabilities. (Art. 33)**

**Specific national monitoring requirements**

**SLIDE 12:**

**Convention Bodies**

**Conference of States Parties (COSP)**

**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**SLIDE 13:**

**CRPD Committee**

**Examines reports submitted by states;**

**Develops a list of questions in response to State report;**

**Engages in dialogue with State;**

**Issues concluding observations and recommendations to reporting State;**

**Drafts general comments interpreting the treaty;**

**Consideration of individual communications and undertaking of inquiries (as provided under the Optional Protocol)**

**SLIDE 14:**

**Special Rapporteur on Disability**

**Role of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Alt text: a woman in a black suit looking at the camera.**

**SLIDE 15:**

**Current Status**

**CRPD Ratifications/Accessions: 191**

**Optional Protocol Ratification/Accessions: 100**

**SLIDE 16:**

**United States – Current Status**

**July 2009: U.S. signed the CRPD**

**May 2012: Transmitted to the U.S. Senate**

**July 2012: Hearings in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

**December 2012: Vote on the floor with the full Senate (100 Senators – 2/3 vote needed)**

**July 2014: Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 12-6 to send the Disabilities Treaty to the full Senate.**

**SLIDE 17:**

**U.S. Community Support**

**Over 800+ disability organizations**

**26 faith organizations**

**20 veterans service organizations**

**Chamber of Commerce, USBLN, ITIC, ISPO and over 50 businesses**

**SLIDE 18:**

**Opposition – Some Myths**

**Ratification will:**

**Infringe on U.S. sovereignty**

**Make it binding on domestic law and will create opportunities for new lawsuits.**

**Will put a UN Committee of experts in charge of U.S. law**

**Will harm parental rights of parents of children with disabilities & impair their right to homeschool.**

**Aim to endorse abortion rights & funding around the world.**

**SLIDE 19:**

**NCIL International Subcommittee**

**Facilitate global collaboration and dialogue for CILs and IL Advocates**

**Encourage international contributions to sub committee’s work and goals**

**Represent NCIL to World Independent Living Network (WIN)**

**Promote internation visits for exchange of information and collaboration**

**Learn More: www.NCIL.org**

**SLIDE 20:**

**World Independent Living Network (WIN)**

**WIN is a network of Independent Living Centers all over the world.**

**IL activists gathered and held "Global Independent Living (IL) Summit" in Washington DC In 2017 and made the agreement to establish global network of Independent Living Centers.**

**WIN promote establishment of new IL Centers worldwide, especially in developing countries.**

**SLIDE 21:**

**Questions?**

**SLIDE 22:**

**Contact**

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