

# An International Perspective of Accessible Technology: Web Sites

Presented by

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on the Internet



# Overview

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- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ITU Accessibility Training & Tools
- World Telecommunication Policy Forum
- Technology Convergence & Industry Accessible ICT Technical Design Standards
- Resources Available

# United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Adopted by General Assembly  
13 December 2006
- Number of Signatories on Opening Day  
30 March 2007 Highest in History





# United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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- Treaty entered into Legal Force on 3 May 2008
- Monitoring Committee Elected
- General Assembly Resolution 61/106 Calls for **United Nations System** to Implement Standards & Guidelines for Accessibility of Facilities & Services



# United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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As of August 19, 2009:

- 142 signatories to the Convention
- 85 signatories to the Optional Protocol
- 64 ratifications of the Convention
- 42 ratifications of the Optional Protocol

# US Signs UNCPRPD 30 July 2009

- Ambassador Susan Rice Signs on Behalf of the US with Valerie Jarrett, Senior Presidential Advisor, on Left

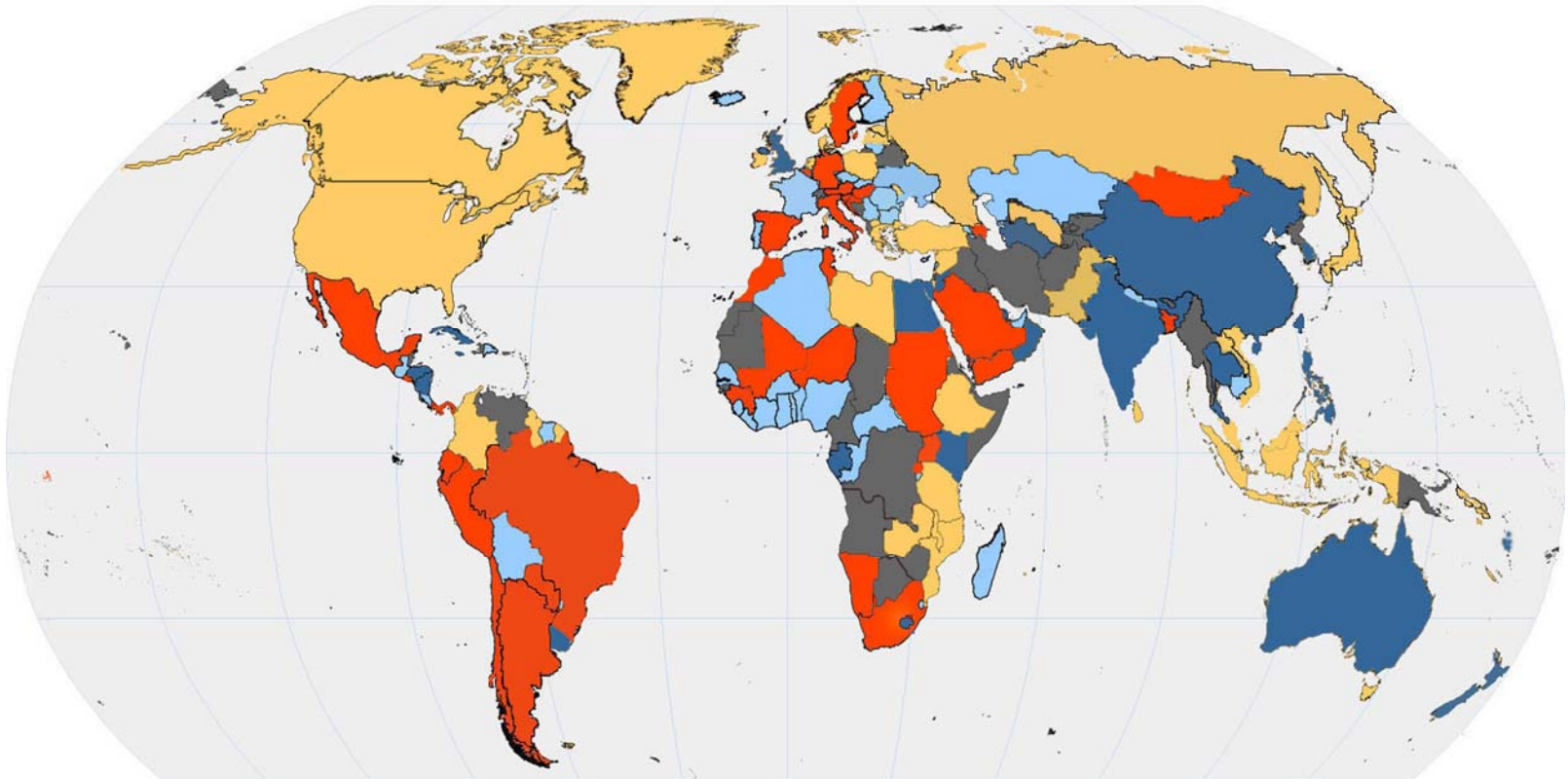


Photo Courtesy of UN

# United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities



■ Not Signed   ■ Signed Convention   ■ Signed Convention & Protocol   ■ Ratified Convention   ■ Ratified Convention & Protocol





# UNCRPD- Disability

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Disability is an evolving concept and results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder full and effective participation in society on equal basis with others. **Preamble**





# UNCRPD- Disability

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Example-

- Person using a headstick might have difficulty accessing content on a website not because of a mobility disability, but because keyboard access is blocked by the inaccessible design of the website.



# UNCRPD-Equal Access to the Internet

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States Parties Shall Ensure Internet Access for Persons with Disabilities, on an Equal Basis with Others, by

- Implementing Minimum Standards & Guidelines for Accessibility of Services

**Article 9(2a)**



# UNCRPD-Equal Access to the Internet

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- Ensuring that Private Entities offering services to the public take into account accessibility **Article 9(2b)**
- Providing training to stakeholders on accessibility issues **Article 9(2c)**



# UNCRPD-Equal Access to the Internet

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- Promoting access to new ICT and systems, including the Internet **Article 9(2g)**
- Promoting accessible ICT or web to minimize cost at early stage in Design, Development, Production and Distribution **Article 9(2h)**



# UNCRPD-Accessible Web Design

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## **Article 4 General Obligations Require States parties to:**

- Promote Universal Design in Development of Standards & Guidelines
- Promote Assistive Technologies in Research, Development, Availability and Affordability



# UNCRPD-Accessible Web Design

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Universal Design is the design of products, environments, programs and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. “Universal design” shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed. **Article 2**



# UNCRPD-Accessible Web Design

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## **Article 4 General Obligations**

Continued:

- Provide Accessible Information about new technologies and support services
- Promote Training on the Convention



# UNCRPD-Accessible Web Design

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- **Freedom of Expression and Opinion, and Access to Information**

States Parties are to urge private entities and mass media to provide accessible information and services on their public web sites

## **Article 21**





# UNCRPD-Accessible Web Implementation

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- **Statistical & Data Collection**

Collect Statistical & Research Data

- To Assess Convention Implementation
- To Identify Barriers
- Data Itself to be Accessible

## **Article 31**



# UNCRPD-Accessible Web Implementation

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- **International Cooperation**

Facilitate Research & Access to  
Scientific & Technical Knowledge;  
Provide Technical & Economic  
Assistance; Technology Transfer

## **Article 32**



# UNCRPD-Accessible Web Implementation

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- **Reports by State Parties (Article 35)**
  - Each State shall submit to the Monitoring Committee a comprehensive report on measures taken to meet obligations under the Convention
  - First report within two years of May 3, 2008
  - Subsequent reports every 4 years



# UNCRPD-Accessible Web Implementation

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- **Monitoring Committee**

- Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Housed in the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
- Website: [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx)



# Int'l Telecommunication Union Accessibility Training & Tools

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Policy Maker Toolkit on e-Accessibility &  
Service Needs for Persons with Disabilities

- Online Joint Project of ITU and G3ict  
Global Initiative for Inclusive ICT  
(Flagship initiative of UN Global Alliance for  
ICT/Development)
- [http://g3ict.com/resource\\_center/toolkit](http://g3ict.com/resource_center/toolkit)



# Int'l Telecommunication Union Accessibility Training & Tools

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- ITU Accessibility Training July 2008
  - Regional Workshop on ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities for Africa Region Lusaka, Zambia
  - 25 Countries Represented by NGO's & Telecommunication Regulators

# Lusaka, Zambia Participants





# Int'l Telecommunication Union Accessibility Training & Tools

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- ITU Accessibility Training July 2008
  - Resources for Africa Region
  - Policies & Best Practices Research Paper (English & French) by Cynthia Waddell
  - Real Time Captioning, Web Accessibility, Online Conferencing



# World Telecommunication Policy Forum – Lisbon 4/09



ICDRI- ADA Center Webinar 14 September 2009



# World Telecommunication Policy Forum – Lisbon 4/09

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## ITU Secretary-General's Report

- Section 5, Emerging Telecommunication Policy & Regulatory Issues
- Section 5.3.8 Accessible ICT for Persons with Disabilities

# World Telecommunication Policy Forum -Remote CART





# Technology Convergence

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- Web combines all known communication media- voice, data and video – into a single service
- Previously separate technologies are now able to share resources & interact to create new efficiencies



# Technology Convergence

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- Computer networks with different operating systems can communicate via different protocols
- Critical to maintain accessible design in coming complexities
- Continue to build accessibility into design of all technologies & products



# Industry Accessible ICT Technical Design Standards

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- Emerging field with international standards community becoming increasingly active
- JTC1 Special Working Group on Accessibility-  
<http://www.jtc1access.org/>
- ITU Total Conversation Service



# Industry Accessible ICT Technical Design Standards

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- Total Conversation **ITU-T Rec. F.703**
- Real time transfer of video, text and voice
- Videophone with real time text  
<http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-F.703/en>

# Total Conversation





# Total Conversation





# Industry Accessible ICT Technical Design Standards

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- European Commission Mandate 376 to European Standardization Organizations (ICT accessibility requirements for public procurement of products and services in the ICT domain)



# Resources

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## **Web Accessibility: Web Standards and Regulatory Compliance**

By Jim Thatcher, Cynthia Waddell et al



Published by Apress 2006

ISBN: 1-59059-638-2

Published in Japanese 2007

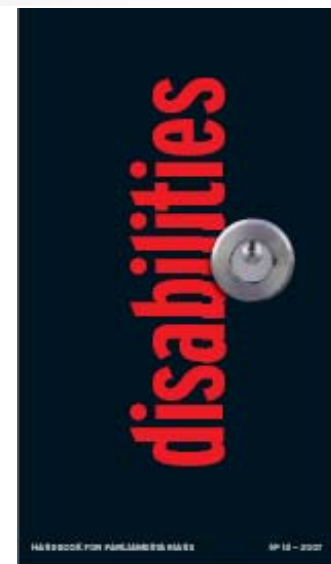
ISBN: 978-4-8399-2220-7



# Resources

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- **Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention**
- **Available Free at [www.un.org/disabilities](http://www.un.org/disabilities)**





# Resources

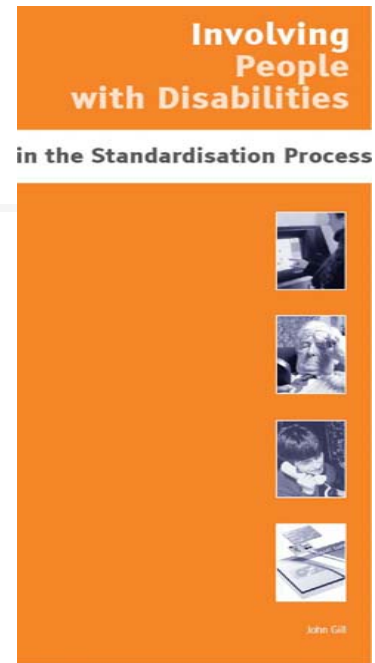
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- **Involving People with Disabilities in the Standardisation Process**

by Dr. John Gill, Chief Scientist,  
Royal National Institute of Blind People

- **Available Free at**

[www.tiresias.org/publications/disabilities\\_standardisation/index.htm](http://www.tiresias.org/publications/disabilities_standardisation/index.htm)





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