

International Disability Alliance

Nothing about us without us.

Statement of European Disability Forum On behalf of the Equality and Rights Alliance (Ireland)

Adoption of the Report of the Working Group on the UPR of Ireland

15 March 2012

Thank you, Madam President. I am making this statement on behalf of the Equality and Rights Alliance, a coalition of over 170 organizations.

The Equality & Rights Alliance calls on the Irish Government to ensure that the proposed new unified Human Rights and Equality Commission is independent, adequately resourced and that it prioritises the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The new body must have a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities in keeping with Article 33(2) of the CRPD.

We request the government of Ireland to implement the actions called for in Human Rights Council resolution 13/11 ([A/HRC/RES/13/11](#)). That resolution, focusing on article 33 of the CRPD, concerning national implementation and monitoring of the CRPD, lists some of the steps needed in order to ensure a strong and independent article 33 (2) monitoring body in keeping with the CRPD. For instance, it says that the independent mechanisms should take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of the national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles).

We welcome Ireland's acceptance of recommendations on ratification of the CRPD, as well as Costa Rica's recommendation to take measures to make available to people with disabilities access, on equal footing, to education, employment, housing, transport, cultural life and to facilitate their access to public places and services.

The Equality and Rights Alliance looks forward to continuing to engage with the government to ensure a strong Human Rights and Equality Commission that will among other things improve the situation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Thank you for your attention.