FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION

This book contains a global comparative study of implementation and monitoring mechanisms for national disability strategies. Conducted at international, regional, and comparative country levels, this study highlights critical success factors in implementing disability strategies or action plans worldwide. It explores emerging synergies between what is required to implement principles of international law contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and what is possible to achieve through national policy and systems development. A number of critical success factors for implementing and monitoring strategies are identified, including leadership from government and civil society, participation of disabled people in implementation and monitoring, transparency and accountability in reporting on progress, independent monitoring and external review, and the ability to measure progress with indicators of disability equality.

Dr. Eilionóir Flynn is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway. Her research interests in the field of disability law include assisted and supported decision making, rights-enforcement mechanisms, and access to justice. At NUI Galway, she has taught across a range of disciplines at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including courses on comparative disability law; social and public policy; judicial activism; and advocacy, activism, and the public interest.
Disability Law and Policy Series

The Disability Law and Policy series examines these topics in interdisciplinary and comparative terms. The books in the series reflect the diversity of definitions, causes, and consequences of discrimination against persons with disabilities, while illuminating fundamental themes that unite countries in their pursuit of human rights laws and policies to improve the social and economic status of persons with disabilities. The series contains historical, contemporary, and comparative scholarship crucial to identifying individual, organizational, cultural, attitudinal, and legal themes necessary for the advancement of disability law and policy.

The book topics covered in the series also are reflective of the new moral and political commitment by countries throughout the world towards equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in such areas as employment, housing, transportation, rehabilitation, and individual human rights. The series will thus play a significant role in informing policy makers, researchers, and citizens of issues central to disability rights and disability anti-discrimination policies. The series grounds the future of disability law and policy as a vehicle for ensuring that those living with disabilities participate as equal citizens of the world.
FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION

Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Eilionóir Flynn

Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway
Contents

Foreword by Professor Ron McCallum  page xvii
Acknowledgments  xix
List of Abbreviations  xxv

Introduction and Methodology  1
  Introduction  1
  A. Scope and Purpose of the Book  2
  B. Content and Structure of the Book  5
  C. Research Methodology  9
  Conclusion  11

1. Comparative International Trends in Disability Law and Policy  12
  Introduction  12
  A. The Contribution of the CRPD – Understanding the Application of Human Rights in the Context of Disability Law and Policy  13
     1. Conceptualising Disability – the Scope of the Convention  18
  B. The Potential of the CRPD – Innovative Mechanisms for Implementation, Data Collection, and Monitoring at International and Domestic Levels  21
# Contents

1. Data and Statistics – Measuring Successful Implementation of the CRPD .......................... 26  
2. Monitoring the CRPD – International and National Processes ...................................... 34  
C. Management Literature Perspectives on Success Factors in Implementing and Monitoring National Strategies ............................................................ 41  
D. Learning from International Success Factors – the Potential for Ireland’s National Disability Strategy ................................................................. 52  
Conclusion .......................................................................................................................... 54  

2. Regional Perspectives on Disability Strategies and Action Plans .................................. 56  
A. Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006–2015 .......................................................... 58  
   1. Implementation and Monitoring Processes in the Council of Europe .......................... 59  
   1. Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms for the European Union Disability Action Plans and European Disability Strategy ............................................. 70  
   2. The Role of the European Community as a State Party of the CRPD .......................... 74  
   3. Links to Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms in Other Areas of EU Policy ............... 77  
C. Regional Decades on Disability – Developments, Achievements, and Examples of Best Practice ................................................................. 79  
Contents

a. Implementation and Monitoring Processes in the Asian and Pacific Decade 82

   a. Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms for the African Decade 89

3. The Arab Decade for Persons with Disability 2004–2013 91
   a. Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms for the Arab Decade 92

   a. Implementation and Monitoring Processes in the American Decade 94

D. Regional Human Rights Frameworks and their Contribution to the Development of National Disability Strategies 97

Conclusion 99


   Introduction 101

   A. National Disability Strategies as a Product of Societal and Political Transformation – Focus on South Africa and Bolivia 103
      1. South Africa 103
      2. Bolivia 111

   B. Strategies Based on International and Regional Commitments to Promote the Rights of People with Disabilities 119
      1. Slovenia 119
      2. Philippines 124

ix
# Contents

## C. Challenges and Opportunities in Developing Disability Strategies in Federal Jurisdictions

1. Australia
   b. National Disability Strategy – Cooperation between Federal and State Governments
   c. Victorian State Disability Plan
   d. Disability Act 2006 (Vic)

2. Canada
   a. British Columbian Disability Strategy

## D. National Disability Strategies as Stand-Alone Policy Documents

1. New Zealand
2. Sweden
3. Portugal

## E. National Disability Strategies as a Combination of Legislative Provisions, Policy Elements, and Funding Programmes

1. England and Wales
2. Ireland

Conclusion


### Introduction

A. Leadership in Delivering Change – Government and Civil Society Responsibility
   1. Public Bodies as Learning Organisations – Learning from Experience of Leadership in the Community Sector in Canada (British Columbia)
B. Consultation and Participation of People with Disabilities
### Contents

1. New Zealand – Grassroots Participation in the Disabled Persons’ Assembly 211
2. England and Wales: Equality 2025 – Direct Representation in an Advisory Body 214
4. Sweden 218
5. South Africa 219
6. Victoria (Australia) 221
7. Prioritising Key Areas for Action in Consultation with People with Disabilities 224

C. Integrating National Disability Strategies with Domestic Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 227
   1. Australia 229
   2. Other examples 233

D. Positive Legal Obligations and Funding Programmes 234
   1. England and Wales 236
   2. Bolivia 238
   3. Victoria (Australia) 240
   4. Ireland 242
   5. Other examples of legal obligations 245

E. Transparency and Accountability 246
   1. Sweden 247
   2. Bolivia – Implementation at the Local Government Level 252
   3. Other Examples 253

F. Mainstreaming Disability Equality – Citizenship and the Lifecycle Approach 255
   1. Disability Proofing 256
Contents

2. Interaction between National Disability Strategies and Other Government Policies 258
3. Public Sector Reform and Disability Awareness 259
G. Independent Monitoring and Review 261
   1. Canada (Ontario) 262
   2. New Zealand 266
   3. European Union 268
   4. Germany 270
   5. Slovenia 272
H. Indicators and Data – Measuring Implementation and Monitoring 273
   1. New Zealand 274
   2. England and Wales 277
   3. Other examples 280
Conclusion 285

5. Identifying the Golden Threads in Irish Disability Law and Policy 287
   Introduction 287
   A. Where It All Began – the Commission on the Status of People with Disabilities Report 1996 288
   B. Disability Legislation Consultation Group – Negotiating a Disability Act 302
   C. DLCG Criticism of the Disability Bill 2004 311
Conclusion 326

6. Achieving Ireland’s National Disability Strategy – A Case Study in Implementation and Monitoring at the Domestic Level 329
   Introduction 329
   A. Vision and Mission of Ireland’s National Disability Strategy 331
## Contents

B. Comparative National Strategies at the Domestic Level
   1. A Vision for Change 336
   2. National Children's Strategy 341

C. Implementation and Monitoring Framework for Ireland's National Disability Strategy 348
   1. The Senior Officials Group on Disability 350
   2. The Disability Stakeholders Group 352
   3. The National Disability Strategy Stakeholders Monitoring Group (NDSSMG) 355

D. Sectoral Plans and Departmental Consultative Fora 360
   1. Department of Social Protection 363
   2. Department of Transport 364
   3. Overall Monitoring and Implementation at the Departmental Level 367

E. Data Sources and Statistics on Disability in Ireland 368

Conclusion 377

7. Showcasing Domestic Progress and Achieving International Standards 379

   A. Common Aims at National, Regional, and International Levels 380
      1. Council of Europe Disability Action Plan and Ireland's National Disability Strategy 381
      2. European Union Disability Action Plan and Ireland's National Disability Strategy 385
## Contents

3. The Convention and Ireland's National Disability Strategy  
   a. The Scope of Rights for People with Disabilities  392  
   b. The CRPD as a Template for Legislative and Policy Reform  395  
   c. The CRPD – Breaking Down Institutional Barriers to Further Progress  397

4. The Developmental Welfare State and Ireland’s National Disability Strategy  399

Conclusion  404

8. Structural Ingredients for Furthering National Disability Strategies  406

   Introduction  406
   A. The Pragmatist Challenge to Legal Liberalism  407  
   B. The Limitations of Law in Achieving Disability Equality  412  
   C. Implementation Deficit Disorder  415  
   D. The CRPD – Guidance for Structural Reform  422

   Conclusion  426


   Introduction  429
   A. Developing Measurements of Success for National Disability Strategies  430  
   B. Forms of Measurement: Life Outcomes and Implementation Outcomes  433  
   C. Challenges in Measuring the Implementation of Ireland’s National Disability Strategy  436  
   D. Supports for Measuring Progress in National Disability Strategies  441
Contents

1. Viewing Actors as Learning Organisations in Measuring Progress 441
2. Transparency and Accountability in Reporting Systems to Measure Progress 444
   Conclusion 446

Conclusion and Recommendations for Reform 447
   Introduction 447
   A. Key Findings 447
   B. Recommendations for Reform 449
      1. The Need for a Baseline Study of Disability in Ireland 449
      2. Future Directions for Ireland’s National Disability Strategy 452
   Conclusion 454

Index 455
Foreword

On 3 May 2008, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) came into force. This is the first United Nations Convention to take effect in the twenty-first century, and it marks a milestone for persons with disabilities throughout the world. It exhorts all nations and persons 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” (Article 1, CRPD).

While this is an enormous step forward, the question is how nations should live up to their CRPD obligations. In other words, what proactive steps should be taken to ensure that nations go beyond formal equality measures to guarantee that persons with disabilities are able to fully exercise their CRPD rights and be treated with “inherent dignity?” In my judgement, one of the best steps that countries can take is to develop and implement a national disability strategy.

This superb volume by Dr. Eilionóir Flynn entitled From Rhetoric to Action: Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is a roadmap for the immediate future. This book is centred upon the recent comprehensive disability strategy that was unveiled in Ireland. Through comparing this disability strategy with similar programmes in other countries, Dr. Eilionóir Flynn shows how a successful national disability strategy must harness
Foreword

both appropriate legislative measures and sufficient funding to enable the plan to be implemented. In my view, no matter how well-intentioned policy makers may be, without adequate funding such programmes will remain aspirational. What is needed are measures and sufficient financial resources to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to transport, accommodation, education, adequate health care, and, most importantly, employment. Through a comparative analysis, this monograph charts a way forward to turn disability strategies into workable programmes.

As Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, whose primary function is to monitor the CRPD, I wholeheartedly recommend this book to government policy makers, non-governmental organisations, carers, and persons with disabilities. Finally, given the splendid beginning of the Republic of Ireland with its national disability strategy, it is my hope that Ireland will build upon this measure and speedily ratify the CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

Professor Ron McCallum AO
1 October 2010
Amsterdam
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## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDP</td>
<td>African Decade Disability Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHRC</td>
<td>Australian Human Rights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANED</td>
<td>Academic Network of European Disability experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AODA</td>
<td>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APSC</td>
<td>Australian Public Service Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARI</td>
<td>African Rehabilitation Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>British Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMF</td>
<td>Biwako Millennium Framework For Action Towards An Inclusive Barrier Free and Rights Based Society For Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCD</td>
<td>Council of Canadians with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDS</td>
<td>Commonwealth Disability Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIB</td>
<td>Citizens Information Board (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNOD</td>
<td>National Confederation of Disabled Persons (Portugal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNRIPD</td>
<td>National Council for the Integration and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities (Portugal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistics Office (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSTDA</td>
<td>Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAP</td>
<td>Disability Action Plan (European Union)</td>
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### Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>DCF</td>
<td>Disability Consultative Forum (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFI</td>
<td>Disability Federation of Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>Directorate-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS</td>
<td>Department of Human Services (Victoria)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIG</td>
<td>Disability Investment Group (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLCG</td>
<td>Disability Legislation Consultation Group (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOEHLG</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPA</td>
<td>Disabled Persons Assembly (New Zealand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPOs</td>
<td>Disabled Persons’ Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSCs</td>
<td>Decade Steering Committees (Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSD</td>
<td>Disability Services Division (Victoria)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSG</td>
<td>Disability Stakeholders Group (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS</td>
<td>Disability Support Service (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DWP</td>
<td>Department of Work and Pensions (United Kingdom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECHR</td>
<td>European Convention on Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>EHRC</td>
<td>Equality and Human Rights Commission (United Kingdom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPSEN</td>
<td>Education for Persons with Special Needs Act (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU-SILC</td>
<td>European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAHCSIA</td>
<td>Department of Housing, Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FÁS</td>
<td>Foras Áiseanna Saothair (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIA</td>
<td>Interdepartmental Working Group (Portugal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLG</td>
<td>EU Disability High Level Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HREOC</td>
<td>Human Rights and Equality Commission (Australia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSE</td>
<td>Health Service Executive (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSO</td>
<td>Swedish Disability Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICF</td>
<td>International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>INDS</td>
<td>Integrated National Disability Strategy (South Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INR</td>
<td>National Institute for Rehabilitation (Portugal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHI</td>
<td>Mental Health Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTSS</td>
<td>Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity (Portugal)</td>
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<td>NAMHI</td>
<td>National Association of Mental Handicap Ireland</td>
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xxvi
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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAPinclusion</td>
<td>National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCDA</td>
<td>National Council for Disability Affairs (The Philippines)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDA</td>
<td>National Disability Authority (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDP</td>
<td>National Development Plan (Bolivia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDS</td>
<td>National Disability Survey (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDS</td>
<td>National Disability Strategy (Australia or Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDSSMG</td>
<td>The National Disability Strategy Stakeholders Monitoring Group (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFPBA</td>
<td>Not for Profit Business Association (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFVB</td>
<td>National Federation of Voluntary Bodies (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIDD</td>
<td>National Intellectual Disability Database (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPSA</td>
<td>National Parents and Sibling Alliance (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPSSD</td>
<td>National Physical and Sensory Database (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRB</td>
<td>National Rehabilitation Board (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSSB</td>
<td>National Social Services Board (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZAID</td>
<td>New Zealand Government’s overseas aid programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OAS</td>
<td>Organisation of American States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODI</td>
<td>Office for Disability Issues (United Kingdom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMC</td>
<td>Open Method of Coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMCYA</td>
<td>Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSDP</td>
<td>Office on the Status of Disabled Persons (South Africa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAIPDI</td>
<td>Plan of Action for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities 2006–2009 (Portugal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNIEO</td>
<td>National Plan for Equality and Equalisation of Opportunities for People with Disabilities (Bolivia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPR</td>
<td>Participation and Practice of Rights Project (Northern Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRSP</td>
<td>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (Bolivia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTAC</td>
<td>Public Transport Accessibility Committee (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PwDI</td>
<td>People with Disabilities Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>QNHS</td>
<td>Quarterly National Household Survey (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RICAP</td>
<td>Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADA</td>
<td>South African Disability Alliance</td>
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### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEDISCAP</td>
<td>Technical Secretariat for the American Decade for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in the Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENADIS</td>
<td>National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities in Panama</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLAN</td>
<td>Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOGD</td>
<td>Senior Officials Group on Disability (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TILDA</td>
<td>National Longitudinal Study on Ageing (Ireland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDAPE</td>
<td>Social and Economic Policy Analysis Unit (Bolivia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCAP</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>VALID</td>
<td>Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability</td>
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<tr>
<td>VDAC</td>
<td>Victorian Disability Advisory Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vic</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>WPA</td>
<td>World Programme of Action on Disability</td>
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