

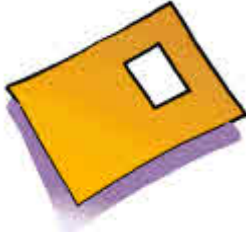
# Extra Agreement under the International Agreement on the Rights of Disabled People



**EasyRead version**

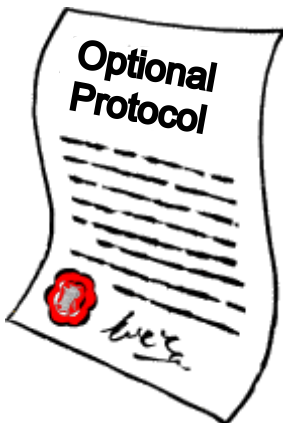


This is not a legal paper. You need to look at the extra agreement itself if you want to know what exactly the agreement says, or what countries have signed up to.



You can find the full extra agreement on the UN enable website at:

**[www.un.org/disabilities/](http://www.un.org/disabilities/)**



The full name of the extra agreement is the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



This paper is an EasyRead guide to an extra agreement that goes with the International Agreement on the Rights of Disabled People.



Countries that sign up to the International Agreement on the Rights of Disabled People can also sign up to this agreement.



It means they can be checked up on by a special Committee if they treat disabled people badly or unfairly.



This is what they have agreed to.

**1.** Disabled people - or groups of disabled people - can complain to the special Committee if they feel they are not getting their rights under the International Agreement.



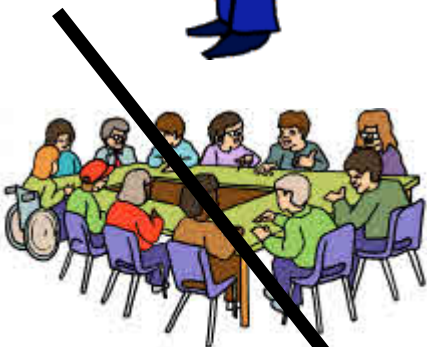
The special Committee is called the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will look into the case and find out what has happened.



The Committee can't look into cases about any country that has not signed up to this extra agreement.



**2.** Anyone who makes a complaint has to give their name, or the name of their group.



The Committee will not deal with complaints that go against the basic ideas of the International Agreement.



They are not allowed to deal with complaints they have looked into before.



They also cannot deal with complaints that are being looked into under another international agreement.



People can only take their complaint to the Committee after they have first gone through the complaints system in the country where they live – unless that system will take a really long time or it is easy to see that it is not going to work out.



The Committee cannot deal with complaints where it is easy to see there is really nothing to complain about, or if they are not given enough facts.



It also cannot usually deal with a complaint about something that happened before a country joined this extra agreement.



**3.** When a complaint is made the Committee will privately tell the government of the country where it happened what it is about.

| 6 Months |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN      | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| 1        | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8        | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15       | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22       | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29       | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |

The government then has six months to look into it and to tell the Committee what they think about the complaint and what they are doing about it.



**4.** In a very urgent and serious case the Committee may ask a country to do something straight away to help the person who has made the complaint.



But this does not always mean they will agree with the person who made the complaint when they come to look at the case in detail.



**5.** The Committee will talk about complaints in private. Afterwards it will send its views to the government of the country and the person who complained.



**6.** The Committee can also look into very serious situations of serious unfair treatment or abuse of disabled people. It can do this even if no one has made a complaint, if it gets good information about the situation.



The Committee will ask the government of the country to work with them to look into it and to give its views.



What happens next depends on what information the Committee has got, and what the country has said about it.

The Committee may ask some of its members to find out more and then send a report to the Committee about what has happened. This is called an inquiry.



The person or people doing this work may decide to visit the country the complaint is about (but only if its government agrees).



The Committee will then look at the inquiry report, and tell the country what is in it, and what it thinks should be done to make the situation better.

| 6 Months |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN      | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| 1        | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
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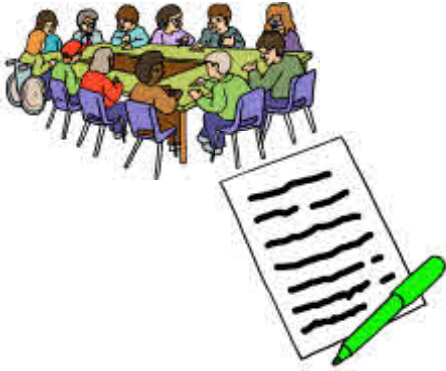
The country then has 6 months to have its say about it.



The whole inquiry should be done in a private way and the Committee should try to get the government to work with it every step of the way.



**7.** Countries have to write reports often about what they are doing to make sure disabled people have the same rights as everyone else.



As part of that report, the Committee might ask a country to add something about the steps it has taken to make things better after one of these inquiries.



When an inquiry has happened, a country always has 6 months to think about what it is going to do. But after those six months are up, the Committee might ask it to report on what it has done to make things better.



**8.** When a country signs up to this extra agreement, it can say that it does not agree to let the Committee look into very serious situations in its country or hold an inquiry.

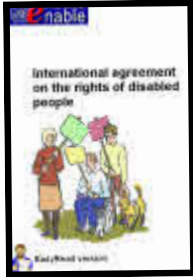


**9.** The Secretary General of the United Nations will hold all the information and reports for this extra agreement.



| March 2007 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon        | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
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| 5          | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12         | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19         | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26         | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |

**10.** Countries have been able to sign this extra agreement since 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007.



**11.** Countries can sign up to this extra agreement if they have already joined the International Agreement on the Rights of Disabled People.



**12.** Some countries are joined together in organisations, like the European Union.



These organisations can also join the extra agreement and also have a say when countries meet to talk about the agreement.



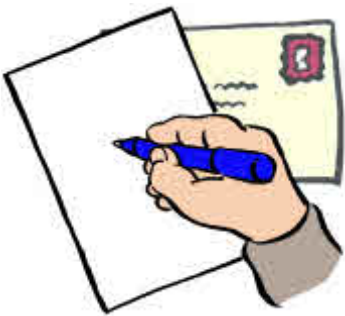
**13.** This extra agreement will start 30 days after 10 countries have joined it, as long as the International Agreement on the Rights of Disabled People has also started by then.



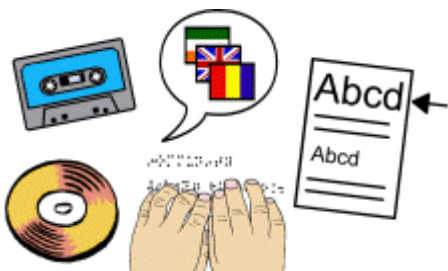
**14.** Countries cannot say no to signing up to any really important part of this extra agreement.



**15.** Any country can suggest changes to the extra agreement. They will do this by writing to the Secretary General who will tell the other countries involved. The countries will decide if they need a meeting to talk about the idea and if it should be agreed.



**16.** A Country can pull out of this agreement by writing to the Secretary General. They will stop being part of the agreement 1 year after the letter has arrived.



**17.** This extra agreement will be available in easy to understand formats.



**18.** This extra agreement will be printed in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish and will be equal in these languages.

## Credits



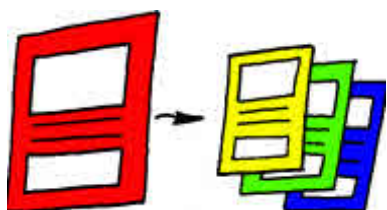
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