



Legal Seat – Helsinki, Finland

## **WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF**

An International Non-Governmental Organisation in official liaison with ECOSOC, UNESCO, ILO, WHO and the Council of Europe. WFD was established in Rome in 1951.

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[www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org)

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### **WFD Statement at the General Debate, Eleventh Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

**13 June 2018 Delivered by Ms Eeva Tupi**

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) represents national associations of the deaf in 135 countries and promotes human rights through sign languages. We would like to thank Antigua and Barbuda and all co-sponsors for valuable support to the United Nations Resolution on the International Day of Sign Languages, which was adopted by the General Assembly last December. This is an important step to further recognise and respect all sign languages in the world.

Considering the theme “Leaving no one behind through the full implementation of the CRPD”, the WFD wants to remind all of you that deaf people are left behind as long as information is not available in sign languages. Another important issue is to have meaningful consultation with national associations of the deaf, with deaf leaders themselves instead of asking hearing people to speak for deaf people.

A small number of countries have made the CRPD available in their national sign languages and the WFD would like to encourage more countries to consult with their national associations of the deaf to translate the CRPD into their national sign languages. The WFD is pleased to inform you that a visual toolkit “Complete the Puzzle: Connecting the Deaf Community with the CRPD and SDGs” in International Sign will be launched at the WFD website later this week to provide guidance to deaf leaders on how to use the CRPD and SDGs.

The WFD invites all of you to make plans together with national associations of the deaf to celebrate the first International Day of Sign Languages taking place on 23 September with theme “With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!”. Material will be available on our website in next days.

Thank you.

#### **About the World Federation of the Deaf**

*The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is an international non-governmental organisation representing and promoting approximately 70 million deaf people's human rights worldwide. The WFD is a federation of deaf organisations from 135 nations; its mission is to promote the human rights of deaf people and full, quality and equal access to all spheres of life, including self-determination, sign language, education, employment and community life. WFD has a consultative status in the United Nations and is a founding member of International Disability Alliance (IDA). ([www.wfdeaf.org](http://www.wfdeaf.org)) Email: [info@wfd.fi](mailto:info@wfd.fi)*