



## Disability Advisory Committee Work Plan 2024

| Topic <sup>1</sup>                                      | Description  | Date <sup>2</sup> |
|---|--|-------------------|
| DAC work-plan 2024                                      | DAC internal discussion on <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- DAC 2024 Work Programme</li><li>- Update on DAC Rapid Evaluation</li></ul>  | March             |
| Establishing the Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) | Introduction to CRPD section & it's relationship with DAC & IMM <sup>3</sup> - <i>CRPD Section, IHREC</i><br><br>IMM Function Establishment: Input from the NIHRC on the establishment and experience of the IMM- <i>Colin Caughey, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission</i><br><br>[CRPD Article: 33 (National implementation and monitoring)]  | March             |
| Access to justice                                       | Presentation of findings of IHREC commissioned research on 'Right to Access to Justice, Article 13 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' & DAC discussion on next steps (policy statement, dissemination of findings) on the baseline study on– <i>Charles O'Mahony, University of Galway</i><br><br>[CRPD Articles: 13 (Access to Justice), 14 (Liberty and security of persons)] | March             |
| Elections 2024  | DAC internal discussion and consideration of key messages from IHREC on the participation of disabled people in election and political life<br><br>[CRPD Articles: 9 (Accessibility), 21 (Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information), 29 (Participation in political and public life)]  | March             |
| ICESCR  | Update on Concluding Observations of ICESCR Committee – <i>Roisin Putti or Naomi Keenan, IHREC</i><br><br>[CRPD Articles – all Economic Social and Cultural Rights related articles]   | May               |
| Participation (IMM)                                     | DAC internal discussion on enshrining the right and principle of participation into the work of the Independent Monitoring Mechanisms &<br><i>Suggested visiting speaker TBC- CRPD IMM Case Example/overview of experience from other IMMs for consideration (focus on participation)</i> <sup>4</sup>   | May               |

<sup>1</sup> Cross cutting: Intersectionality, Participation

<sup>2</sup> 11 March, 20 May, 15 July, 16 September, 11 November, 9 December.

<sup>3</sup> Appendix 3 provides a description of this function.

<sup>4</sup> Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process. (Article 33, CRPD). We are reaching out to ENHRI to ask for their recommendations on which IMMs would be most suitable to provide us with insight based on their experience to date. We will update you and confirm the specifics of the work-plan with you accordingly.



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|   | [CRPD Article: 33 (National implementation and monitoring)]  |      |
| Ombudsman disability complaints mandate                         | Ombudsman to meet with the DAC to discuss the Office of the Ombudsman mandate regarding disability complaints  | May  |
| IHREC-ESRI Research programme                                   | Update to DAC on ESRI Programme – <i>Nuala Connolly, IHREC</i>   | May  |
| IHREC Strategic planning  | Discussion/update on strategic planning process – more details to be confirmed   | May  |
| Use of data & indicators (IMM)                                  | DAC discussion on availability and use of data for monitoring and reporting purposes<br>&<br><i>CRPD IMM Case Example/overview of experience from other IMMs for consideration (focus on data &amp; use of indicators)<sup>5</sup> - Rhoda Garland, Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Malta</i><br><br>[CRPD Article: 31 (Statistics and data collection), 33 (National implementation and monitoring)]  | July |
| CRPD Baseline data & Discussion on personal assistance and care | DAC internal discussion on previously developed, but not published, baseline reports on CRPD Article 19 & Article 28<br>&<br>Follow up discussion to 2023 discussion on care and personal assistance<br><br>[CRPD Articles: 19 (Living independently and being included in the community), 23 (Respect for home and the family), 28 (Adequate standard of living and social protection)]   | July |
| Core components for equality strategies                         | DAC Discussion on core components for equality strategies – focus on intersectionality and participation<br><br>Note: the government is currently reviewing equality strategies and IHREC intends to inform this process by advising on core components that should underpin all equality strategies.<br><br><i>Speaker Suggestion: Kieran Timmons &amp; Ryan Oates, IHREC staff (working on Equality Strategies)</i><br><br>[CRPD Article: 5 (Equality and Non-discrimination)] | July |
| Cost of disability  | ESRI Cost of Disability Report – <i>Visiting speaker from ESRI</i><br><br>[CRPD Article: 19 (Living independently and being included in the community), 20 (Personal mobility), 28 (Adequate standard of living  | July |

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|  | and social protection), and all articles related to economic, social and cultural life]  |           |
| Providing baseline information and statement (IMM) | IMM Function – Providing baseline data & making statements on CRPD rights <sup>6</sup><br>&<br><i>Suggested visiting speaker-CRPD IMM Case Example/overview of experience from other IMMs for consideration (focus on providing baseline information to the public)</i> <sup>7</sup> | September |
| Covid-19 evaluation/inquiry                        | Scope of discussion to be confirmed, pending confirmation of dates & details; this item may be moved to a later or earlier meeting as needed.  | September |
| IMM function, TBD                                  | IMM Function – tbc<br>&<br><i>Suggested visiting speaker-CRPD IMM Case Example/overview of experience from other IMMs for consideration</i>  | November  |
| Anti-Human Trafficking                             | DAC to discuss Anti-Human Trafficking in relation to persons with disabilities. The IHREC Anti-Human Trafficking team will present.<br><br><i>Nusha Yonkova, IHREC Anti-trafficking unit</i>   | November  |
| IMM function, TBD                                  | IMM Function – tbc<br>&<br><i>Suggested visiting speaker-CRPD IMM Case Example/overview of experience from other IMMs for consideration</i>  | December  |
| IHREC Work on Disability                           | Update on IHREC's work on Disability and Disability related matters.   | December  |

The work-plan for 2024 has been developed, taking into consideration the following:

- DAC Terms of Reference (see Appendix 1)
- CRPD IMM function (see Appendix 2)
- IHREC's establishment of CRPD Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) in 2024 (see Appendix 3 for description of IMM)
- Advice sought on other IHREC work (2024 Work Plan, Ad Hoc)
- Strategic Planning 2025-2027 period
- Internal evaluation of DAC (P&R- February 2024), planned independent evaluation of IHREC (Strategic Planning contract).

<sup>6</sup> Follow up discussion on article 19 & 28; discuss proposal for using Article 28 baseline report (unpublished). And/or Advise on delivery on some annual report as an IMM...? Possibly present some options on what our output to the Irish public & stakeholders could be and request advise from members.

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## Appendix 1 DAC Terms of Reference

The DAC's Terms of Reference state:

The IHREC Disability Advisory Committee will:

- b. advise the Commission on the fulfilment of its CRPD Article 33 independent monitoring role.

Further, the DAC Terms of Reference specifies DAC member's expertise in the following areas.

- (a) Participation of persons with disabilities within society
- (b) Awareness raising
- (c) Research, data and measurement
- (d) Knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations system pertaining to the Convention
- (e) Intersectionality across the grounds in the Equality Acts, and the experience of poverty.

## Appendix 2 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Article 33 – National Implementation and Monitoring

1. States Parties, in accordance with their system of organization, shall designate one or more focal points within government for matters relating to the implementation of the present Convention, and shall give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within government to facilitate related action in different sectors and at different levels.

2. States Parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State Party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing such a mechanism, States Parties shall take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights.

3. Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.

## Appendix 3 Description of IMM function

The CRPD, which Ireland ratified in 2018, establishes two criteria for national implementation and monitoring. First, the monitoring framework must include an independent mechanism in accordance with the Paris Principles. Second, the national framework must work to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention. Therefore, there are three elements to the IMM function:

- Promotion of the CRPD includes raising and promoting awareness, capacity strengthening/training, legislative scrutiny, and cooperating with international, regional and other national human rights institutions;



- Protection of CRPD rights includes considering individual and collective complaints of alleged breaches of Convention rights, conducting inquiries, participating in judicial proceedings, and issues reports related to complains received;
- Monitoring implementation of the CRPD includes developing and maintaining a system to assess the impact of legislation and policies, developing benchmarks and indicators; and maintaining databases containing information on practices related to the implementation of the Convention.

When Ireland ratified the UNCRPD in 2018, the State announced IHREC as the designated CRPD IMM. The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity)(Amendment) Act 2022 established the Commission's CRPD IMM mandate and provided for the appointment of a section 18 Advisory Committee (the 'Disability Advisory Committee'). This Act was passed in December 2022 and commenced in April 2023.

In January 2024 the CRPD Section was established in IHREC's Policy & Research team. This team is currently considering and establishing the frameworks, systems and resources required to operationalize the IMM, and for the duration of 2024 the section's priority will be establishing and operationalizing IHREC's IMM function.