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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Mexican DPOs present critical rights issues to the CRPD Committee**

Geneva, September 12 2014 – This coming week, representatives of the Disability Rights (Advocacy) Fund grantee - the Coalición México por los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad (COAMEX) - will participate in the interactive dialogue between the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) and the Mexican government regarding conditions for people with disabilities in Mexico.

At the formal briefing of the Committee the morning of Monday the 15th, COAMEX will highlight major rights challenges regarding access to justice, legal capacity, and multiple discrimination. Ricardo Adair Coronel Robles, a self-advocate with intellectual disability, will talk about his Supreme Court case to contest removal of his legal capacity. Juventino Jiménez Martínez, a blind indigenous person, will address the particular challenges of persons with disabilities in indigenous communities.

With the support of DRAF, and the sponsorship of the Australian government, COAMEX will also hold a side event to provide additional information to the Committee for their deliberations towards concluding observations for Mexico. The side event will take place on Tuesday, September 16, at the Palais Wilson at 1:30 PM, local time.

Since submission of the alternative report in December 2012, funded by DRF, COAMEX has been using it to promote harmonization of Mexican legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This has included successful advocacy for the elimination of the interpretative declaration issued by Mexico on Article 12 (Legal Capacity), prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability in the General Labor Act; ongoing advocacy for amendment of the General Education Act to ensure inclusive education; and promotion of the right to legal capacity for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

The reporting process has engaged Mexican DPOs in a tremendous learning process, bringing together civil society - not only COAMEX but also other organizations – to urge the Mexican government to implement the CRPD to make a difference in the lives of all Mexicans with disabilities.

Documents related to the Mexican reporting process can be downloaded [here](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=935&Lang=en).

With the support of funders, including the Australian government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the American Jewish World Service, the Leir Family Foundations, the Open Society Foundations, and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), DRAF and its sister organization, the Disability Rights Fund, support DPOs and DPO coalitions, such as COAMEX, in the developing world to participate in implementation and monitoring of the CPRD.

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