# Recognising and combating multiple discrimination of persons with disabilities Women and girls with disabilities

Ms Pirkko Mahlamäki, secretary general Finnish Disability Forum



#### General Comment nr 3

- Adopted on 26 August by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee)
- Strong evidence to affirm that women and girls with disabilities face barriers in most areas of life. These barriers create situations of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities

particularly with regard to equal access to education, access to economic opportunities, access to social interaction, access to justice and equal recognition before the law, the ability to participate politically and the ability to exercise control over their own lives across a range of contexts.

## Multiple and intersectional discrimination

Multiple discrimination encompasses those situations where a person can experience discrimination on two or more grounds. Intersectional discrimination refers to a situation where several grounds operate and interact with each other at the same time in such a way that they are inseparable.

#### Recommendations

- 1) combat multiple discrimination through repealing discriminatory laws, policies and practices that prevent women with disabilities from enjoying all the rights of the CRPD;
- 2) adopt appropriate laws, policies and actions to ensure the rights of women with disabilities are included in all policies;

#### Recommendations contd.

3) remove all barriers that prevent or restrict the participation of women with disabilities and ensure that women with disabilities, through their representative organisations, are included in the design, implementation and monitoring of all programmes which have an impact on their lives; 4) take all appropriate measures to ensure the development, advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities in political and public life on an equal basis with others by promoting the creation of organisations and networks of women with disabilities, and by ensuring adequate support for women with disabilities to take leadership roles in public decision-making bodies at all levels.

## Disability Strategy – what is required?

- targeted measures with respect to disaggregated data collection, consultation, policymaking, enforceability of non-discrimination and provision of effective remedies
- The involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in decision-making processes lies at the heart of the CRPD.



Strong voice of persons with disabilities in the

European Union Pirkko Mahlamäki, Board member

"Nothing about us, without us" in new form:

### **EVERYTHING ABOUT US,**WITH US

#### Thank you!

Finnish Disability Forum, PB 30, 00030 IIRIS, Finland

pirkko.mahlamaki@ vammaisfoorumi.fi

Tel: GSM +358 (0)44 567 9077

Web: www.edf-feph.org