
BDT Activities on Promoting e-Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Key Issues

**ITU-D Study Group 1
Question 20-1/1**

**Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities
and with special needs
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The Special Initiatives Division

- Ensuring ICT access and use for economic and social empowerment by:
 - Women and girls
 - Youth and children
 - Persons with Disabilities
 - Indigenous peoples
- Building synergies through Connect a School, Connect a Community

Selected Activities & Projects

- e-Accessibility toolkit with G3ict
- Awareness Raising seminars and workshops
- Connect a School, Connect a Community toolkit
- ICT projects for Community ICT Centres for Persons with Disability in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Malawi and Zambia
- ICT projects on Text to Speech in Mongolia and Sri Lanka
- ITU-D Study Group Question 20-1/1-Guidelines & New Study Question

Workshops and Seminars

**Workshop on ICT Accessibility
for Persons with Disabilities,
Odessa, Ukraine, 1-2
November 2010**

**[http://www.itu.int/ITU-
D/sis/PwDs/Seminars/Ukraine/
Odessa_workshop.html](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/sis/PwDs/Seminars/Ukraine/Odessa_workshop.html)**



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Accessibility in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Preamble (v):

*"Recognizing the importance of **accessibility** to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to **information and communication**, in enabling persons with disabilities to **fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms**".*



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ICT Accessibility in the CRPD

- Article 9 of the CRPD defines ICT accessibility as an integral part of accessibility rights on par with transportation and the physical environment.
- Article 9 concerns all ICT products and ICT based applications and services, with a far-reaching implication for industry, governments and civil society.

ITU- G3ict e-Accessibility Toolkit

- Support ITU members in understanding the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Assist ITU members in promoting accessible ICTs and identifying and eliminating any ICT accessibility barriers.
- Provide a framework for the development of policies and strategies for mainstreaming digital accessibility at national, regional and international levels.
- Serve as a global electronic repository of policies, international standards, good practices and technical references on digital accessibility.
- Provide specific guidance to adequately address key issues of particular relevance to developing country environments



Web site:
www.e-accessibilitytoolkit.org

Example: Persons with Disabilities and the Internet



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e-Accessibility Policy Toolkit for Persons with Disabilities

A Joint ITU/G3ict Toolkit for Policy Makers Implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Tools for Policy Makers

- [Why a Toolkit?](#)
- [Introduction to e-accessibility](#)
- [Examples of accessible ICTs](#)
- [Who benefits?](#)
- [ICT in the Convention](#)
- [Assessment Framework](#)
- [Full text of the Convention](#)
- [Tips on conducting accessible meetings](#)



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on e-Accessibility

Our Partners

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- [ITU-D \(Development\)](#)
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Meet our Editors

Email our editor with comments and suggestions:



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National Disability Authority - Ireland

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Francesca Cesa Bianchi
G3ict Editorial Coordinator



G3ict Resource Center

Search G3ict case studies by:

- ↳ [Type of disability](#)
- ↳ [Domain of application](#)
- ↳ [Type of technology](#)
- ↳ [Geographic location](#)

Other G3ict resources:

- [Country profiles](#)
- [White Papers, publications](#)
- [News and Events](#)
- [ICT accessibility company profiles](#)

e-Accessibility Initiatives

- [ITU Accessibility \(JCA-AHF\)](#)
- [Web Accessibility Initiative W3C](#)
- [Global Partnership for Disability and Development](#)
- [Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability](#)
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e-Accessibility Policy Toolkit for Persons with Disabilities

A Joint ITU/G3ict Toolkit for Policy Makers Implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Technical resources

- [Wireless phones](#)
- [PDAs and mobile devices for persons with disabilities](#)
- [Radios](#)
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- [Remote consoles](#)
- [Digital interfaces for consumer products](#)
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Persons with disabilities and the Internet



G3ict



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Persons with different kinds of disabilities use a variety of different technologies and [Assistive Technologies](#) to access information on the internet. For instance, blind persons use screen readers, persons with low vision use glasses, screen magnifiers or CC TV cameras, persons with motor impairments may use speech recognition programmes, one-handed key boards etc, deaf persons use cochlear implants, persons with cognitive impairments may use software like word prediction software and persons with multiple disabilities may use a combination of all these to successfully use computers. These persons also encounter different kinds of obstacles while trying to access the internet depending upon the nature of their disability and kind of assistive technologies which they use.

The Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), which is a wing of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has come out with a set of guidelines called the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 which set out the criteria for creating web sites which will be accessible to persons having different kinds of disabilities.



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Example: Internet Accessibility Resources

- Assistive Technologies
 - Screen readers for the blind
 - Screen magnifiers for those with low vision
 - Speech recognition programmes for those with motor impairments
 - One handed keyboards
 - Braille-based solutions
- Business Case for web accessibility
 - Useful for older persons, illiterate people and others
 - Corporate social responsibility
 - Facilitate website development
- Guidelines and regulations for web accessibility
 - Web Accessibility Initiative Guidelines
 - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
 - Accessibility regulation around the world
 - Sample of regulations

Examples of Good Practices from Around the world

- **Government web sites**
 - U.S. Government Sec 508 website: <http://www.section508.gov/>
 - U.K. Govt public services portal (WCAG 1.0 compliant): <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm>
- **Private sector web sites**
 - IBM - http://www-03.ibm.com/able/access_ibm/index.html
- **Banking**
 - Wells Fargo (granted Nonvisual Accessibility Certification by the National Federation of the Blind) : <http://www.wellsfargo.com>
- **e-commerce**
 - Tesco (WCAG AA approved, all pages comply with all priority 1 and 2 guidelines): <http://www.tesco.com>
- **Transportation**
 - Website of Transport for London(TFL) - <http://www.tfl.gov.uk>
- **Media web sites**
 - BBC - <http://www.bbc.co.uk>
- **Education web sites**
 - Harvard (WCAG 1.0 Priority 1 compliant): <http://www.harvard.edu>
- **Social networking sites**
 - LinkedIn - <http://www.linkedin.com>

Links to helpful resources

- **Summary:** Introduction to web accessibility
Reference: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/gettingstarted/Overview.html>
Keywords: Web accessibility
Target Audience: Web developers; Accessibility policy makers; Everyone
- **Summary:** How people with disabilities access the web
Reference: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/intro/people-use-web>
Keywords: disability; web access; assistive technology
Target Audience: Everyone
- **Standards and Guidelines**
- **Summary:** Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
Reference: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/intro/wcag.php>
Keywords: W3C; WCAG; WAI; accessibility guidelines
Target Audience: Web developers; Accessibility policy makers
- **Summary:** W3C guidelines on developing websites for mobile users as well as people with disabilities
Reference: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/mobile/>
Keywords: Mobile; accessibility; disability
Target Audience: Web developers

Key Issues in Accessibility

- Mainstreaming Persons with Disabilities in:
 - Development Work
 - Universal Access
 - Migration of Analogue to Digital Television
- Need for Web Accessibility
- Text-to-Speech in Local Languages
- Screen readers and Braille
- Promotion of Accessible Mobile Communications

Thank You!

- For more information:
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