



The largest alliance of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations focused on the world's poor and most vulnerable people.

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  
U.S. Senate  
U.S Capitol Building, Room S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senate  
U.S Capitol Building, Room S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell,

On behalf of InterAction, I write in support of the immediate ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), with more than 190 members working in every developing country. Members are faith-based and secular, large and small, with a focus on the world's most poor and vulnerable populations.

With 126 ratifications around the world, the CRPD is making a real impact on the lives of over 1 billion people with disabilities. Over 80% of the world's disability population lives in the developing nations where InterAction member organizations work. The disability treaty is an important tool in order for these countries to enact their own disability rights legislation and policies to ensure the equality and inclusion of all people with disabilities. It is essential that the U.S. ratifies the CRPD in order to maintain our leadership on disability issues and to contribute to critical policy and legislative developments aimed at eroding disability discrimination throughout the world. In July, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the treaty by a vote of 13-6, and I strongly urge the full Senate to pass the resolution of ratification before the end of the current Congress.

InterAction's mission is to achieve a peaceful, just and prosperous world of nations with inclusive and sustainable societies. Our members work to eliminate extreme poverty, uphold human rights, safeguard a sustainable planet and ensure human dignity for poor and vulnerable populations worldwide by elevating and advancing the goals of the U.S.-based international nonprofit community. U.S. participation in the implementation of the CRPD abroad will play an important role in the future of the world's disabled population. Please support and do not delay the U.S. ratification of the CRPD.

Sincerely,

Samuel A. Worthington  
President and CEO

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**Chair**  
Kathy Spahn  
Helen Keller International

**Vice Chair**  
Neal Keny-Guyer  
Mercy Corps

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IntraHealth

Anne Goddard  
ChildFund International

Cindy Hallberlin  
Good360

George Hamilton  
Institute for Sustainable  
Communities

Susan Hayes  
ReSurge International

Sarah Holewinski  
Center for Civilians in Conflict

Sarah Kambou  
ICRW

Ruth Messinger  
American Jewish World  
Service

Carolyn Miles  
Save the Children

John Nunes  
Lutheran World Relief

Robert Radtke  
Episcopal Relief and  
Development

Farshad Rastegar  
Relief International

Jonathan Reckford  
Habitat for Humanity

William S. Reese  
International Youth  
Foundation

Carter Roberts  
World Wildlife Fund

Tessie San Martin  
Plan USA

Ron Sconyers  
Physicians for Peace

Alison Smith  
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Tsehaye Teferri  
Ethiopian Community  
Development Council

Adam Weinberg  
World Learning

David Weiss  
CHF International