

The CRPD and it's impact on library services –

a perspective from the CRPD Committee

Theresia Degener

IFLA Session, Lyon, 17 August 2014



UN CRPD Committee



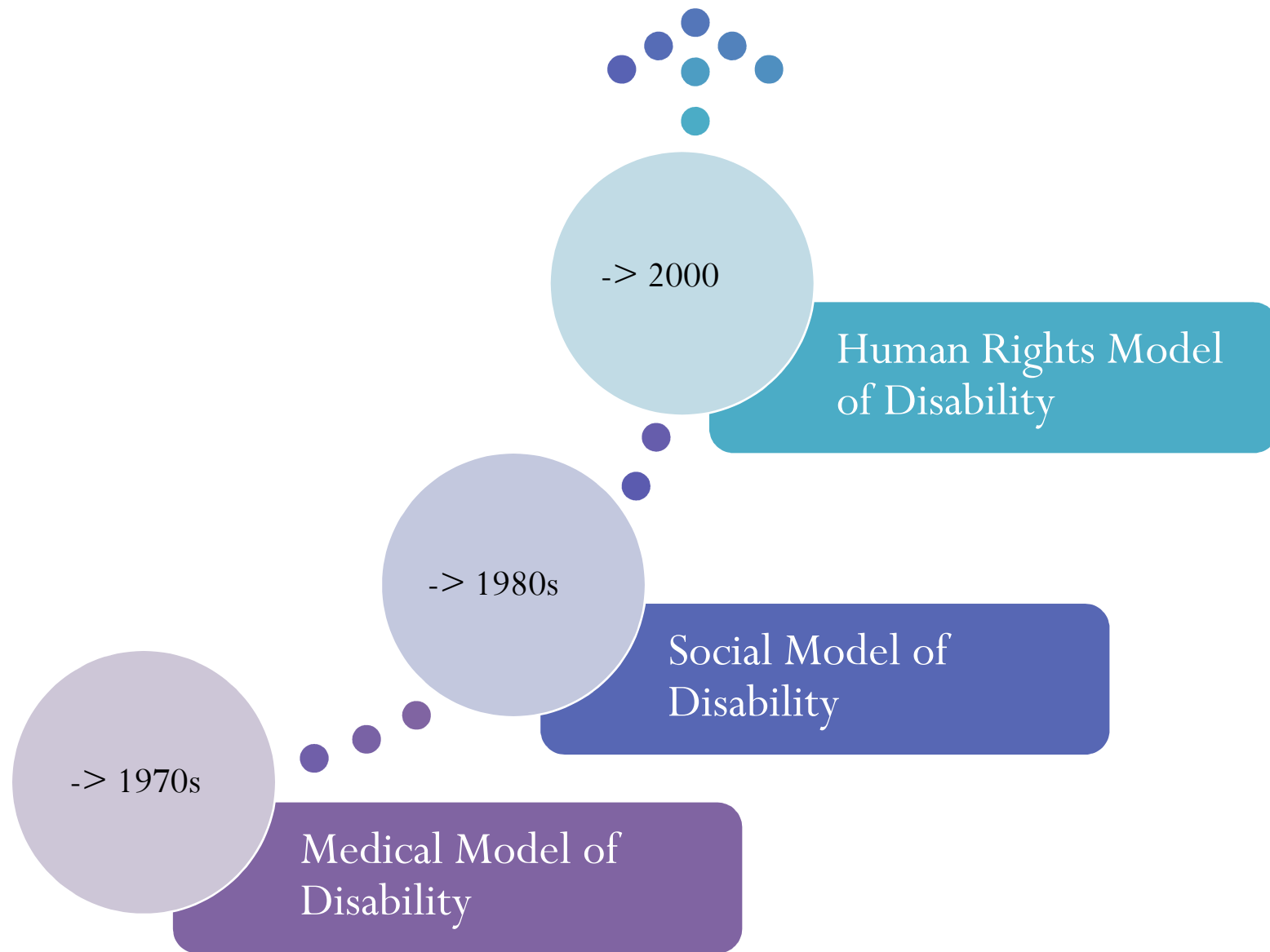
Agenda

1. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
2. Relevant articles relating to libraries
3. Monitoring the CRPD

1. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- Adopted: 13 December 2006 (A/RES/61/106)
- Entry into force: 3 May 2008
- Ratification status: 148 State Parties (July 2014)





2. CRPD articles

- **Article 9:** Accessibility (“... to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communication technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public ...”)
- **Article 21:** Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information ... “provide information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities (Art. 21 (a)).”
- **Article 30:** Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport ... “enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries ...” (Art. 30 (c))

CRPD articles

- **Article 5:** Equality and non discrimination (“...**prohibit all discrimination** on the basis of disability ...”)
- **Article 2:** Definitions ... “Discrimination on the basis of disability” ...includes all forms of discrimination, including **denial of reasonable accommodation**
- “**Universal design**” means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design”
- **Article 8:** Awareness - raising ... “Encouraging all organs of the media to **portray persons with disabilities** in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention..”

3. Monitoring the CRPD

International Monitoring

- CRPD Committee
- State Party Conference

National Monitoring

- State Focal Point(s)
- Coordination Mechanism
- Independent Monitoring Mechanism (National Human Rights Institutes (NHRI))

CRPD Committee

- 18 Independent Experts
- Procedures
 - State Party Reports
 - Individual Communications & Inquiries
 - General Comments



CRPD Committee

- Interaction with State Parties, **Civil Society**, UN Organisations, **National Human Rights Institutes**
- 13 Concluding Observations, 6 Cases (*Nyusti et al v Hungary* CRPD/C/9/D/1/2010), 2 General Comments (GC No 2 **Accessibility**)
- <http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crpd/pages/crpdindex.aspx>

Libraries as promoters of the CRPD

- Access to library services is a human right
- „Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity” (3 (d))
- Non-discrimination, Accessibility, and Universal Design Services
- Allies: CRPD Committee, NHRIs and DPOs