

July 2024

The African Disability Protocol

What is the African Disability Protocol?

[The African Disability Protocol \(ADP\)](#) is a human rights treaty that addresses unique forms of discrimination affecting people with disabilities living in African countries, including harmful practices, beliefs, and superstitions.

- The protocol was adopted in 2018 by the African Union (AU) but not binding immediately.
- For the ADP to come into effect and become binding on all AU member states, 15 member states needed to ratify the protocol and deposit their ratification to the African Union Commission.
- The Republic of Congo became the 15th country to fully ratify and deposit on May 3, 2024.
- On June 7, 2024, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) [announced](#) that the ADP is now in force as of June 3, 2024.
- The 15 countries that have ratified and full deposited their instruments of ratification are Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the Republic of Congo, and Rwanda (in alphabetical order).

Why is it needed?

- There are 80 million people with disabilities living in Africa, many of whom face specific forms of stigma and discrimination linked to traditional beliefs and superstitions.
- Many disability rights campaigners say that the ADP is one of the ways by which issues of human rights can be owned and advanced by Africans themselves.
- It introduces new rights which are not contained in the UN's Convention on Disability. These reflect Africa's cultural, historical and developmental circumstances.
- It is the only international human rights charter that expressly recognises and outlines the plight of people with albinism, most especially the attacks they face. In some countries their body parts are believed to have magical properties, and they are at risk of being abducted or killed.

What is the #RatifyTheADP campaign?

The #RatifyTheADP campaign calls on governments across the continent to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities by ratifying the ADP.

The campaign is organised by Sightsavers' Equal World campaign in partnership with the African Union and the African Disability Forum. It is supported by many more regional and national partners, including organisations of people with disabilities across the continent.

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Further information

For more information on the ADP please visit: www.Ratify-the-ADP.org

Or email Julius Omokhunu at Sightsavers – jomokhunu@sightsavers.org