

## AIDE MEMOIRE

### **New Zealand's candidature to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

- New Zealand has presented the candidature of Mr Robert Martin for a position in the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) for the 2017-20 term, at elections to be held in New York during the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties in June 2016.
- The rights of persons with disabilities is a human rights priority area for New Zealand.
- Mr Martin is New Zealand's first candidate to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- New Zealand has a strong track-record of championing the rights of persons with disabilities. We co-chaired the drafting of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and are committed to its implementation. We have worked hard to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities at the United Nations.
- New Zealand believes the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities should comprise of members with all kinds of disabilities, reflecting the principle of inclusiveness.

### **New Zealand's candidate: Mr Robert Martin**

- Mr Martin is a life-long advocate for persons with disabilities and in particular for people with learning disabilities.
- He is recognised as an international leader in the disability rights movement.
- As Vice-President of Inclusion International, Mr Martin took part in the negotiation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Mr Martin spent his childhood living in institutions. He is now a strong campaigner for ensuring all persons with disabilities are empowered to live independently in the community and make their own decisions.
- Mr Martin began his advocacy work as a member of a national organisation in New Zealand, *People First New Zealand*. One of his key focuses has been on ensuring justice for people with disabilities who lived in institutions in New Zealand.
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- Mr Martin's life story highlights key principles of the Convention, including:
  - o Autonomy to make one's own choices
  - o Full and effective participation in society
  - o Equality of opportunity

