



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Articles 1 to 4 CRPD
(Purpose, definitions, principles and
general obligations)*

September 2025

Articles 1-4 – General obligations

Article 1 - Purpose

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Article 2 - Definitions

For the purposes of the present Convention:

"Communication" includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology;

"Language" includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of non-spoken languages;

"Discrimination on the basis of disability" means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation;

"Reasonable accommodation" means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"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. "Universal design" shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed.

Article 3 - General principles

The principles of the present Convention shall be:

Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;

Non-discrimination;

Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;

Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;

Equality of opportunity;

Accessibility;

Equality between men and women;

Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

Article 4 - General obligations

1. States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. To this end, States Parties undertake:

a) To adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention;

- b) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities;*
- c) To take into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programmes;*
- d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice that is inconsistent with the present Convention and to ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with the present Convention;*
- e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability by any person, organization or private enterprise;*
- f) To undertake or promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, which should require the minimum possible adaptation and the least cost to meet the specific needs of a person with disabilities, to promote their availability and use, and to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines;*
- g) To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;*
- h) To provide accessible information to persons with disabilities about mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, including new technologies, as well as other forms of assistance, support services and facilities;*
- i) To promote the training of professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities in the rights recognized in the present Convention so as to better provide the assistance and services guaranteed by those rights.*

2. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, each State Party undertakes to take measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the present Convention that are immediately applicable according to international law.

3. In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

4. Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and which may be contained in the law of a State Party or international law in force for that State. There shall be no restriction upon or derogation from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized or existing in any State Party to the present Convention pursuant to law, conventions, regulation or custom on the pretext that the present Convention does not recognize such rights or freedoms or that it recognizes them to a lesser extent.

5. The provisions of the present Convention shall extend to all parts of federal States without any limitations or exceptions.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

Finland (2025)

Kiribati (2025)

Maldives (2025)

Canada (2025)

Dominican Republic (2025)

European Union (2025)

Palau (2025)

Tuvalu (2025)

Viet Nam (2025)

Belarus (2024)

Belgium (2024)

Benin (2024)

Burkina Faso (2024)

Denmark (2024)

Ghana (2024)

Mauritius (2024)

Netherlands (2024)

Ukraine (2024)

Azerbaijan (2024)

Bahrain (2024)

Costa Rica (2024)

Kazakhstan (2024)

Nicaragua (2024)

Sweden (2024)

Zambia (2024)

Andorra (2023)

Austria (2023)

Germany (2023)

Israel (2023)

Malawi (2023)

Mauritania (2023)

Mongolia (2023)

Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)

Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
Belgium (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Peru (2012)
Spain (2011)
Tunisia (2011)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

5. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) National legislation and policies, including the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Provision of Rights of Persons with Disabilities, are not fully harmonized with the Convention and the human rights model of disability, and continue to reflect medical and charity-based approaches;
- (b) The Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Provision of Persons with Disabilities (LPPRPD) has not been fully implemented, particularly in rural and remote areas;
- (c) Key concepts of the Convention, such as "reasonable accommodation" and "universal design," are not clearly defined in legislation, leading to inconsistent application;
- (d) There is a lack of close consultation and active involvement of independent representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in developing, implementing and monitoring disability-related laws and policies;
- (e) There is no accessible, effective and independent complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities, including those in detention;
- (f) The ratification of the Optional Protocol is still under consideration;
- (g) There is no time-bound plan, clear targets, indicators, or allocated budget at national, provincial, district, and county levels for implementing the strategic national action plan for the rights of persons with disabilities, including outside the capital.

6. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) the Committee recommends that the State Party, with the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations,:

- (a) Conduct a comprehensive review of all disability-related legislation and policies, including the disability determination process, to eliminate medical and charity-based elements, and ensure full alignment with the human rights model of disability;**
- (b) Fully implement the LPPRPD, including in rural and remote areas;**
- (c) Introduce clear legal definitions of key concepts such as "reasonable accommodation" and "universal design" in all relevant laws and policies, to strengthen their consistent application and enforcement;**
- (d) Establish mechanisms to ensure the close consultation and active involvement of diverse persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities as well as persons of short stature through their representative organizations, in all stages of disability-related law and policy design, implementation and monitoring;**
- (e) Put in place an accessible and effective complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities to report incidences of discrimination and provide persons with disabilities who have been subjected to discrimination with redress, compensation and rehabilitation and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned;**
- (f) Provide a clear timeline for the ratification of the Optional Protocol;**
- (g) Develop and fund a time-bound plan for implementing the strategic national action plan for the rights of persons with disabilities at all administrative levels, ensuring resources are allocated nationwide.**

Finland (2025)

6. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Significant disparities in the implementation of the Convention across central, regional and local levels and on the Åland Islands;
- (b) The long delay in passing legislation on the right to self-determination of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Budget cuts to social and health services since the fall of 2023 and in the current 2026 budget proposal, disproportionately affecting persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, and the discontinuation of national pensions and allowances to persons living outside the State Party's territory, gravely affecting persons with disabilities from the Åland Islands residing in Sweden;

(d) The lack of a cohesive and legally entrenched mechanism for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Coordinate the central, regional and local levels of government and the Åland Islands to ensure consistent compliance with the Convention across its territory;

(b) Expeditiously proceed with the reform of legislation on the right to self-determination and ensure that is fully aligned with the Convention;

(c) Ensure that no retrogressive measures are taken, offset retrogressive measures already taken, provide sufficient funding to organizations of persons with disabilities to fully participate in the implementation of the Convention, and ensure that persons with disabilities in the Åland Islands residing in Sweden receive the requisite financial assistance, either by providing it itself or by duly coordinating the responsibilities with the Swedish authorities;

(d) Develop legally entrenched processes of close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including in social welfare counties, in all matters relating to the implementation of the Convention.

Kiribati (2025)

5. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Despite several Constitutional reviews, disability has not been included as a ground for discrimination under section 15 nor as a protected category in section 3;

(b) The recommendations from the 2022 legislative review conducted by the UN Economic and Social Commission Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) have not been implemented;

(c) The stand-alone Disability Inclusion Act has not been enacted into law;

(d) The updated National Disability Policy and Action Plan (2023–2026), remains under revision, and there is insufficient disability specific budget allocation, monitoring, coordination and collaboration across ministries to ensure a whole of government approach for its implementation;

(e) The State Party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Amend the Constitution to ensure that disability is included as a ground for discrimination and as a protected category;

(b) Implement the recommendations of the 2022 UNESCAP legislative review by progressively adopting, repealing and/or amending domestic legislation and policy frameworks to ensure harmonisation with the Convention;

(c) Enact stand-alone disability inclusion legislation to translate Convention provisions into the legal framework;

(d) Finalise the revision of the National Disability Policy and Action Plan (2023–2026), ensure that each ministry's budget includes a disability specific allocation, and strengthen a whole of government approach for the implementation, including through training and skills building on the Convention across ministries;

(e) Consider expediting the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned that there are insufficient mechanisms and resources across all ministries to ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, such as the Te Toa Matoi, including on outer islands in all decision-making processes affecting them.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen mechanisms and resources to ensure persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, such as Te Toa Matoi are closely

consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes affecting them, including in the design, implementation and review of national policies, such as the National Disability Policy & Action Plan (2023–2026), the Disability Inclusion Act and the Kiribati 20-year Vision (KV20) 2016-2036.

Maldives (2025)

5. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of harmonization of national legislation with the Convention, and the prevalence of the medical model of disability in the State party;
- (b) The use in laws and in policies, of derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities that emphasize impairments, reflect medical and paternalistic approaches to disability and reinforce stigma relating to persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of a comprehensive national affirmative action policy on disability, as well as the insufficient resourcing, coordination, collaboration and monitoring across ministries, with donor and development partners, with regional partners and civil society organisations to effectively implement the Convention;
- (d) The lack of awareness among policy-makers, judges, prosecutors, teachers and medical, health other professionals working with persons with disabilities about the rights recognized in the Convention;
- (e) The lack of harmonization of different registration systems for persons with disabilities;
- (f) That the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Expedite efforts to review all relevant legislation and policies in order to harmonize them with the provisions of the Convention;**
- (b) Amend or repeal legislation that includes derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities and ensure that the national legislation recognizes the human rights model of disability and the evolving concept of disability to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in the society;**
- (c) Adopt a comprehensive national affirmative action policy on disability, allocate a percentage of each ministry budget to establish a dedicated disability budget allocation, and strengthen and consolidate coordination, collaboration and monitoring across ministries, with donor and development partners, with regional partners and civil society organisations to implement the Convention;**
- (d) Build capacity on the human rights model of disability among government officials at all levels, legal professionals, judges, prosecutors and professionals working with persons with disabilities;**
- (e) Harmonize the existing registration systems and provide guidance for persons with disabilities on registration;**
- (f) Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.**

7. The Committee is concerned that there are insufficient measures and resources to ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including on outer islands in all decision-making processes affecting them across all ministries.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen measures and resources to ensure persons with disabilities through their representative organisations are closely consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes affecting them, including in the design, implementation and review of national legislation and policies.

Canada (2025)

5. The Committee reiterates its concern about the State party's interpretative declaration under article 12 and conditional reservation under article 12(4) [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, para 7]. The right to equal recognition before the law is of foundational importance for the exercise of all rights guaranteed by the Convention. Reservations seriously curtailing this right may well be deemed against the object and purpose of the Convention.

6. Recalling its past Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, para. 8), the Committee invites the State party to withdraw its declaration under article 12 and reservation to article 12 (4) of the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Significant disparities in the implementation of the Convention across jurisdictions and branches of government in the State Party, resulting in the highly unequal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) The rudimentary incorporation of the Convention into domestic law, and its limited normative significance as a mere interpretative tool;

(c) The lack of close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including with Black and other racialised persons with disabilities, First Nations, Inuit and Métis persons with disabilities, non-status, and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities.

8. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State Party take all necessary measures to ensure full implementation of the Convention on the Federal level as well as in all provinces and territories and that:

(a) In close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including Indigenous persons with disabilities and Black and other racialised persons with disabilities, establish legally defined mechanisms ensuring compliance with the Convention by all provinces and territories, and condition fiscal transfers from the Federal level to provinces and territories on their adherence to the Convention;

(b) Require that statutes and regulations in all jurisdictions be interpreted in a manner consistent with the Convention and ensure that the principles and standards of the Convention underpin the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and its Action Plan while respecting self-determination, sovereignty, and culture, including for non-status and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities;

(c) Develop legally entrenched mechanisms for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including with Indigenous persons with disabilities, Black and other racialized persons with disabilities, on the Federal level and in the provinces and territories.

Dominican Republic (2025)

5. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a systematic process for reviewing existing laws, policies, and regulations to ensure their conformity with the Convention, as well as the lack of harmonization in its implementation across all levels of government, leading to inconsistencies and uneven protection and support for persons with disabilities. Additionally, the Committee notes with concern that certain laws and policies continue to use derogatory concepts and terminology, and that even draft reforms to the Social Security Law, the Civil Code, and the Penal Code fail to incorporate inclusive language or align with the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a systematic process for reviewing existing laws, policies, and regulations to ensure their full conformity with the Convention, including the removal of derogatory terminology and provisions that are

contrary to its principles and prioritize the harmonization of laws related to the human rights of persons with disabilities and strengthen coordination mechanisms across all levels of government to guarantee consistent implementation, protection, and support nationwide.

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in policy- and decision-making processes, resulting in the failure to address their specific requirements and the insufficient financial and structural support available to organizations of persons with disabilities, limiting their ability to effectively participate in public decision-making.

8. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, take effective measures to ensure the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in policy- and decision-making processes, including by establishing and strengthening mechanisms for systematic consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities at all levels of government and by providing adequate financial and structural support to these organizations to enable their effective involvement in public decision-making.

European Union (2025)

6. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That implementation of the Convention is hampered by the jurisprudence that the validity of secondary EU law cannot be directly assessed in light of the Convention, and the rights guaranteed by the Convention do not have direct effect in EU law;

(b) That even after the Constructive Dialogue with the EU's delegation, there remains some uncertainty as to whether the European Union accepts the Committee's interpretations of the Convention, including those espoused in its General Comments, as authoritative;

(c) That the European Union has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

(a) Improve implementation of the Convention by ensuring that the Convention has direct effect in its law, and that the validity of secondary EU law can be directly assessed in light of the Convention;

(b) Clarify that it accepts the Committee's interpretations of the Convention, including those espoused in its General Comments, as authoritative;

(c) Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

8. The Committee observes with concern that:

(a) Legislation, policies and practices have not been systematically reviewed in light of the Convention, as recommended in the previous Committee's Concluding Observations, and that draft legislation, such as the Regulation on cross-border protection of adults, does not conform with the rights guaranteed by the Convention;

(b) While the European Union prepared an updated overview of the acts relevant for the implementation of the Convention in 2017, a formal update of the declaration of competences under Article 44 (2) and its list of instruments in the appendix, as recommended by the Committee in its previous Concluding Observations, have not been undertaken.

9. The Committee recalls its previous Concluding Observations and recommendations (CRPD/C/EU/CO/1, para. 9 and 17) and recommends that the European Union:

(a) Conduct a comprehensive review of its legislation, policies and practices to ensure their compatibility with the Convention, and establish mechanisms to ensure that new legislation, policies and practices adhere to the Convention, including by revising its impact assessment guidelines;

(b) Update the declaration of competences under Article 44(2) and its list of instruments in the appendix, and include instruments that may not refer to persons with disabilities, but are nevertheless relevant to their rights;

(c) Engage in technical cooperation with the Committee under article 37 of the Convention and with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for Europe, to facilitate its efforts to implement the general obligations under the Convention.

10. The Committee notes with concern that the persistence of the medical model of disability and the lack of harmonization about disability assessments across member states.

11. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

(a) Ensure that the EU and its Member States follow the human rights model of disability and harmonize their disability assessment in all areas EU of competences, including with respect to the recognition of disability status;

(b) Support Member States to ensure that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are closely consulted and actively involved in the design of disability assessments and that multiple assessments do not create an undue burden for the persons involved;

(c) In Cooperation with its Member States, ensure the portability of social security benefits of persons with disabilities among Member States, including by extending the scope of mutual recognition of disability status through the Disability Card.

12. The Committee observes with concern that the specific actions and measures contained in the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 ("Disability Rights Strategy") ended in 2024, and that concrete plans for the next term have yet to be adopted, and that it contains only limited actions to address the situation of autistic persons, persons with cerebral palsy and persons with dementia.

13. The Committee recommends that the European Union establish a process to adopt new specific actions, measures and time frames for the implementation of the Disability Rights Strategy for the period 2025-2030, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, and to extend the new specific actions, measures and time frames to all persons with disabilities, including persons with cerebral palsy, autistic persons and persons with dementia.

14. The Committee is concerned that there are no effective mechanisms ensuring that EU Member States allocate EU funds in full conformity with the principles and rights under the Convention, and that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are not closely consulted and actively involved in the drafting of conditions for the allocation of such funds and of processes monitoring them.

15. The Committee recommends that the European Union require full adherence to the Convention in the allocation of EU funds by its Member States, and establish monitoring mechanisms, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

16. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Various instruments for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities are not representative of persons with disabilities in the European Union and are not fully informed and accessible, are not legally entrenched, and that the organizations' views are not effectively considered;

(b) Children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are not closely involved, and cannot actively participate, in the implementation of the Convention;

(c) The Council of the European Union lacks mechanisms for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations;

(d) Recent proposals and guidance on funding for activities related to the development, implementation, enforcement and monitoring of European Union legislation and policy might be applied to organizations of persons with disabilities and restrict their ability to engage in advocacy and limit their meaningful consultation and participation in independent monitoring of the Convention.

17. The Committee recommends that the European Union establish new mechanisms for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, and strengthen

existing mechanisms in all areas of EU legislation, policy and programming, including in external action and in the Council of the European Union, by, inter alia, entrenching them legally, rendering them broadly representative of persons with disabilities in the European Union, ensuring their accessibility and the full information of all participants, by ensuring that the views of persons with disabilities are in fact heard and seriously considered, and by providing sufficient financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities to protect their independence and to enable them to participate effectively.

Palau (2025)

5. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The delay in the repeal and amendment of legislation that is not in line with the Convention;
- (b) The use, in laws and policies, of derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities that emphasize a person's impairments, reflect medical and paternalistic approaches to disability and reinforce stigma against persons with disabilities;
- (c) That the Coordinating Committee of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of Persons with Disabilities are not yet operational.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal or amend all discriminatory legislation, within a clear timeline, in line with the Convention;**
- (b) Amend and/or repeal legislation that includes derogatory terminology and concepts against persons with disabilities and ensure they recognize the evolving concept of disability as arising from the interaction between persons with impairments and barriers to the full participation of persons with disabilities in society;**
- (c) Ensure the timely operationalisation of the Coordinating Committee of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of Persons with Disabilities.**

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, in the design, implementation and monitoring of disability-related laws, policies and programmes.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, and ensure that meaningful consultations are held with the diverse groups of organizations of persons with disabilities, including those of women and children with disabilities.

Tuvalu (2025)

5. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Domestic laws contain terminology that devalues persons with disabilities, that there is no disability legislation to translate Convention provisions into the legal framework, and that the recommendations from the legislative review conducted by the UN Economic and Social Commission Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) have not been implemented;
- (b) The 2023 revisions of the National Policy on Disability are not endorsed, and there is insufficient resourcing, coordination, collaboration and monitoring across ministries, with donor and development partners, with regional partners and civil society organisations to effectively implement the National Policy on Disability 2018, and other sectoral policies and regional strategies, such as the Pacific Strategy on Disability 2016-2025.
- (c) the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Implement the recommendations of the UNESCAP legislative review by progressively adopting, repealing and / or amending domestic legislation and policy frameworks to ensure harmonisation with the Convention, and enact disability legislation to translate Convention provisions into the legal framework;

(b) Finalise and endorse the 2023 revisions of the National Policy on Disability, allocate a small percentage of each ministry budget to establish a dedicated disability budget allocation, and strengthen and consolidate coordination, collaboration and monitoring across ministries, with donor and development partners, with regional partners and civil society organisations to implement the Convention;

(c) Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned that there are insufficient measures and resources to ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, such as the Fusi Alofa Association, including on outer islands in all decision-making processes affecting them across all ministries.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen measures and resources to ensure persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, such as Fusi Alofa Association are closely consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes affecting them, including in the design, implementation and review of national policies, such as the Human Rights National Action Plan 2016-2020, the National Policy for Disability 2018, and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.

Viet Nam (2025)

5. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) National legislation and policies do not fully incorporate the human rights model of disability and instead continue to reflect a medical and charity-based approach, which perpetuates systemic discrimination against persons with disabilities;

(b) The implementation of the Convention is fragmented, relying on sector-specific legal provisions that lack coherence and do not ensure comprehensive protection of the rights of persons with disabilities across all areas of life;

(c) Key CRPD concepts such as “communication,” “language,” “reasonable accommodation,” and “universal design” are not clearly defined in national legislation, leading to inconsistent application and enforcement;

(d) While the Law on Promulgation of Legal Documents mandates consultation with affected groups, there are no formal mechanisms ensuring the structured and continuous participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of disability-related laws and policies;

(e) Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention lack transparency, with little public information available on progress and accountability mechanisms;

(f) The Prime Minister’s decision of 2020 on international conferences and seminars has made it impossible for civil society organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities not affiliated with the State’s mass organizations to establish themselves and follow the relevant procedures;

(g) Some organizations of persons with disabilities face repression, imprisonment or expulsion from the country.

6. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct a comprehensive review of all disability-related legislation and policies to eliminate elements of the medical model and ensure full alignment with the human rights model of disability;
- (b) Enact overarching legislation that guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities in a coherent and comprehensive manner, ensuring consistency with the principles and obligations under the Convention, and develop a comprehensive strategy for its implementation;
- (c) Introduce clear legal definitions of key Convention concepts, including "communication," "language," "reasonable accommodation," and "universal design," to strengthen their application in all relevant laws and policies;
- (d) Establish formal and institutionalized mechanisms to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in particular persons with autism, indigenous persons with disabilities, and children with disabilities, along with their representative organizations, are meaningfully consulted and actively involved in the development, implementation, and monitoring of all disability-related legislation and policies;
- (e) Ensure that monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention includes the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, that the results are made public in accessible ways and with accessible methods, and that they are included in accountability processes.
- (f) Remove any legal or quasi-legal obstacles to the establishment of organizations of persons with disabilities, regardless of whether or not they are affiliated with the mass organizations of the State;
- (g) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities, including religious organizations, are treated with respect and dignity, and ensure they are not subjected to imprisonment or expulsion for defending the rights of their community.

7. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention without delay.

Belarus (2024)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The Optional Protocol to the Convention not yet being ratified;
- (b) The persistence of the medical approach to disability and the use of the medical model to identify and classify persons with disabilities through the Medical Experts Commission;
- (c) The lack of harmonization of national laws in relation to the general principles of the Convention, such as the provisions related to legal capacity, criminal liability for persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, and children with disabilities;
- (d) Gaps in the implementation of principle of non-discrimination in practice, owing to inadequate provisions in relation to the funding, mechanisms or sanctions, as well as for various disability initiatives and programs including the national action plan 2017-2025 on the implementation of the Convention;
- (e) Use of derogatory language to refer to persons with disabilities as "invalids", which is inconsistent with the Convention, and use of such language in the provisions - Articles 29, 172 and 947 of the Civil Code, Articles 28, 29 and 106 of the Criminal Code, Article 31 in the Child Rights Law and Law on the rights of persons with disabilities and their social integration.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention:

- (a) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention without further delay;

- (b) Replace the Medical Expert Commission with multidisciplinary mechanism, representing members from diverse backgrounds and established in accordance with the human rights model of disability;
- (c) Amend the national legislation to harmonize national laws in relation to the general principles of the Convention, such as the provisions for persons with disabilities in regard to their legal capacity, criminal liability particularly for those with psychosocial disabilities, and children with disabilities;
- (d) Abolish all discriminatory provisions against persons with disabilities and derogatory language or use of words in law and practice;
- (e) Undertake measures to provide adequate funding, establishing mechanisms and systems for various ongoing and future disability initiatives, national and municipal policies and programs while ensuring a disability inclusive approach on these efforts.

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of support to, existing fear of persecution or the practical barriers in the functioning of organizations of persons with disabilities and their active participation in the development of legislation or policies, decision making, and the monitoring processes, with reference to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights 2024 (A/HRC/55/61), on the situation of human rights in the State party documenting closures of or liquidation of 1,500 non-governmental organizations. The Committee is additionally concerned that the organizations working for the rights of persons with disabilities have ceased to function in the State party.

8. Recalling its General comment No. 7 (2017), the Committee recommends that the State party ensure full liberty for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to be freely and actively involved in the policy development, implementation and monitoring processes at the national and municipal levels. The Committee further recommends that the State party undertake measures for the investigation of the closure of the organizations of persons with disabilities, ensure their resumption of functioning and provide enabling space for its work as well as other civil society organizations which support the rights of persons with disabilities

Belgium (2024)

6. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The State party's failure to adequately promote and disseminate information in accessible formats on the Convention, on the Committee's General Comments and Guidelines, and on its disabilities policies, as well as on the mandates and competencies of authorities related to the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of any harmonisation between the federal, regional and community governments in relation to definitions of disability and to policies related to disability;
- (c) The prevalence of the medical model of disability in the State party, including within its disability assessment systems and in relation to the eligibility criteria for accessing necessary services and support, and about reports that the federal multidisciplinary assessment does not adequately consider the person's environment or individual requirements;
- (d) That recently adopted legislation, such as the Law of 28 March 2023 introducing different modifications to electoral law, makes it easier for a judge to declare a person with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities incapable to exercise her or his political rights.

7. The Committee reiterates its previous concluding observations (CRPD/C/BEL/CO/1, paras. 6 and 7) and recommends that the State party, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Promote and disseminate information, including in accessible formats, on the Convention, on the Committee's General Comments and Guidelines, on disabilities policies and on the mandates and competencies of authorities related to the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Harmonise its legal and policy framework on disability at federal, regional and community levels with the principles of the Convention, by, inter alia, integrating the human rights model of disability into its laws, regulations and policies;

(c) Revise its disability assessment systems by replacing the medical model of disability with the human rights model of disability, and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities and the provision of the support and assistance necessary to promote their rights to live independently and full inclusion in society;

(d) Remove all provisions in the Civil Code and the electoral law that exclude persons with disabilities from having political rights or from exercising them, on an equal basis with others.

8. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports that persons with disabilities are not regularly closely consulted and actively involved, through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention;

(b) The participation of organizations that do not meet the requirements of organizations of persons with disabilities, as expounded by the Committee in its General Comment No. 7 (2018), in various advisory councils on different levels of government.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Establish legally entrenched mechanisms, with adequate human, technical and financial resources, to ensure close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, at all stages, including the early stages, of the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention;

(b) Ensure that the organizations participating in the advisory councils on various levels of government meet the requirements defined in the Committee's General Comment No. 7 (2018).

Benin (2024)

5. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Convention has not been fully incorporated into the State party's legal system;

(b) A national mechanism to systematically review existing laws, policies and regulations to determine whether legislative action is needed to ensure that they conform with the obligations under the Convention to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities, does not exist;

(c) The concept of disability in the Convention and the language of the Convention have yet to be reflected into the State party's domestic laws and policies;

(d) The prevalence of the medical model of disability in the State party, including within its disability assessment systems and in relation to the eligibility criteria for accessing necessary services and support.

6. In keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals (on reducing inequality), Targets 10.2 and 10.3, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the status of the Convention in its legal system and fully incorporate it into domestic law;

(b) Systematically review existing laws, policies and regulations to ascertain the legislative action required to conform with the obligations under the Convention and establish human rights-based action plans with a clear concept of disability that contain measures to promote, protect and fulfil the rights under the Convention;

(c) Take measures to ensure removing derogatory and discriminatory terms used to describe persons with disabilities from its legislation and ensure that the language of the Convention is used throughout the State party's domestic laws and policies and that its meaning, including the concept of "disability", is reflected in letter and spirit;

(d) Ensure that disability assessments take into account barriers faced by persons with disabilities and are established in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee is concerned that the absence of information and a lack of meaningful consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities have prevented them to properly evaluate the National Policy for the Protection and Integration of People with Disabilities (PNPIPH) for 2012-2021, and the next iteration of the PNPIPH.

8. Recalling its General Comment No 7, the Committee recommends that the State party closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development, implementation and monitoring of all laws and policies used to implement the Convention, including all of iterations of the PNPIPH.

Burkina Faso (2024)

6. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of harmonization of all national legislation and policy frameworks with the Convention, including moving from the medical model and paternalistic approach to the human rights model of disability;

(b) The use, in laws and policies, such as the Law no. 23-94/ADP of 19 May 1994 on the public health code, Act no. 005-2018/AN of 19 April 2018 on driving licences in Burkina Faso, or Act No. 025-2018/AN of 31 May 2018 on the Criminal Code, and the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of people with a disability (2010), of derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities, which focus on the impairments of individuals, reflect a paternalistic approach to disability and reinforce the stigmatization of persons with disabilities;

(c) That the “disability card” issued to people with a disability to enable them to access specific social protection benefits uses assessment criteria that are not in line with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention;

(d) The lack of implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities covering the period 2012-2021, due to the lack of an operational action plan and insufficient resources, and the limited implementation of the Operational Action Plan (PAO) 2021-2023 adopted in application of the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (SN-3PH) 2021-2025;

(e) The limited awareness among policy makers, judges, prosecutors, teachers and medical, health and other professionals working with people with disabilities about the rights recognized in the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise all laws, policies and plans to harmonize them with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention;

(b) Amend and repeal all articles of legislation, policies and regulations that use derogatory language and move away from the prevalence of the medical model of disability to ensure that they are consistent with the human rights model of disability, including Law no. 23-94/ADP of 19 May 1994 on the public health code, Act no. 005-2018/AN of 19 April 2018 laying down rules on the preparation, issue and validity of driving licences, and Act No. 025-2018/AN of 31 May 2018 on the Criminal Code;

(c) Reorient its disability assessment systems by replacing elements of the medical model of disability with principles of the human rights model of disability and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers for persons with disabilities and the provision of the necessary support and assistance to promote the independent living of persons with disabilities and their full social inclusion;

(d) Operationalize the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities with a clear plan of action, timebound targets and measurable outcomes, and with sufficient and available resources;

(e) With the close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, provide capacity-building programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities and on the obligations of the State party, as contained in the Convention, for public policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities on the rights of persons with disabilities and the State party's obligations under the Convention, and involve representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of training for public officials.

8. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, especially organizations of women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons, and children with disabilities, in the development and implementation of disability-related laws, policies and programmes, such as the recent review of the Personal and Family Code, and by the interference of the local authorities in the functioning of organizations of persons with disabilities resulting from Arrêté 2019-0086 issued in application of the Law 064 on freedom of association 2015, restricting the freedom of organizations of persons with disabilities.

9. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes. The State party should ensure that meaningful consultations are held with the diverse groups of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular those of women and girls with disabilities, children with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons, and persons with disabilities living in rural areas.

Denmark (2024)

7. The Committee is concerned that the Convention is not explicitly incorporated into the laws of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. It is equally concerned at the reluctance by the State party's courts to take the Convention fully into account in all judgments relating to the rights of persons with disabilities.

8. Recalling its previous recommendation, the Committee recommends that the State party incorporate the Convention into the laws of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, and take measures to further improve the direct application of the Convention by the courts and administrative bodies, including by making the Convention, the Committee's jurisprudence and its general comments integral part of systematic capacity building for all judges.

9. The Committee is concerned that legislation of the Kingdom of Denmark does not systematically include a disability perspective and the human rights model of disability. It is also concerned by the lack of measures to revise and repeal discriminatory or retrogressive legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly:

(a) The Legal Incapacity and Guardianship, Act No. 1015 of 20 August 2007, not being based on a model of supported decision-making;

(b) The amendment of the Danish Building Regulations, Administrative Order No. 1399 of 12 December 2019, allowing for a reduction in the accessibility requirements of single-family houses.

10. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark conduct a comprehensive review of existing legislation to ensure compliance with the principles, definitions, rights and obligations under the Convention, repeal any legislation, including recent amendments, taking retrogressive measures and refrain from taking any retrogressive measures in the future, including in the current processes devising the policies of the new government.

11. The Committee is concerned that no new national action plan for persons with disabilities has yet been put in place in Denmark, and that the foreseen action plan would only cover the fields of labour market and education. The Committee notes with concern that the Faroe Islands still lack a disability policy action plan, and that the new action plan in Greenland

lacks ambition and is vague particularly in terms of implementation. It is further concerned about the lack of awareness about the Convention among national, regional and municipal authorities.

12. The Committee recommends that the Governments of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland adopt national disability action plans that cover all rights and substantive areas under the Convention, including the fundamental change required by, among others, articles 12, 14, 15, 19, and 24, and establish concrete objectives, measurable targets, adequate budget, and indicators, to evaluate progress in the implementation of the plans. It also recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark strengthen periodic training about the Convention, among the municipal, regional and national authorities.

13. The Committee notes the State party's funding allocations for disability. It is, however, concerned about the uneven allocation of funds for persons with disabilities across municipalities. It also notes with concern that the increase in investments on institutions ("housing facilities") infringes on the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and being included in the community.

14. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensure an even allocation of funds for the support of persons with disabilities across municipalities, monitor the use of disability funding, and address gaps in funding across disability sectors.

15. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific accessibility measures directed at persons with disabilities to the Consultation Portal in Denmark, allowing them to effectively take part in the consultation process. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of systematic and institutionalized engagement with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

16. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark take steps to develop and implement legally entrenched procedures for close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations across all sectors, in all matters affecting them, and provide adequate accessibility to this end. It also recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark allocate sufficient time to allow organizations of persons with disabilities to conduct internal consultation among their membership across all disability sectors.

Ghana (2024)

6. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Legislation and policies continue to employ derogatory terms to refer to persons with disabilities such as "unsound mind", "idiot, insane imbecile, lunatic and mental derangement;
(b) Progress in the development of the Persons with Disability Bill 2024, intended to, among other things, domesticate the Convention, has been very slow since it began in 2019 and remains incomplete;

(c) The definition of persons with disabilities in Article 42 of the Constitution, Article 59 of the Disability Act 715, and section 27(a), 58(2)(a) of the Criminal Offences Act 1960 respectively, are exclusive and therefore inconsistent with the Convention;

(d) The absence of effective mechanisms for enforcement of legislative and policy measures addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, and therefore to bring positive outcomes to the lives of persons with disabilities;

(e) Has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention;

(f) Has not signed and ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa despite committing to do so during the Global Disability Summit of 2018.

7. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Review and amend the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, Criminal Offences Act 1960 (Act 29), and the Evidence Act 1975 (NRCD 323) to remove derogatory terms and replace these terms with language in line with the Convention;**
- (b) Adopt a timeframe to expedite the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Bill 2024;**
- (c) Ensure that all existing and new laws and regulations, comply with the human rights model of disability in accordance with the Convention;**
- (d) Ensure adherence to the laws, policies, and commitments to implement the convention and uphold the rights of all persons with disabilities;**
- (e) Take necessary steps to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention to expand access to justice for persons with disabilities and**
- (f) Fulfil its GDS 2018 Commitment to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.**

8. The Committee is concerned that women and girls with disabilities through their representative organizations have not been involved in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all laws, policies and programs that affect their rights.

9. The Committee recommends that the State Party closely consult and actively involve women and girls with disabilities, including women and girls with intellectual and or psychosocial disabilities and those with albinism through their representative organizations in decision-making and in the development and monitoring of laws, policies and programs that affect them.

Mauritius (2024)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The incomplete harmonization of disability-related national legislation and policies with the human rights model of disability, including in the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2024, and the perpetuation of the medical model for the disability assessment criteria;
- (b) The retention of reservations to articles 9(2)(d), 9(2)(e) and 24(2)(b), and the confusion caused by the retention of reservation to article 11 made upon signature that has no legal effect as it was not confirmed upon ratification;
- (c) The Optional Protocol to the Convention not yet being ratified.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Complete the harmonization of all disability-related national legislation, policies and disability assessment criteria in line with the Convention, adopting a unified concept of disability in all professional and legal areas that reflect the shift from the medical model to the human rights model of disability;**
- (b) Withdraw its reservations to articles 9(2)(d) and 9(2)(e) of the Convention and to article 11 made upon signature, in line with its prior commitments, and reconsider withdrawing its reservation to article 24(2)(b) to ensure quality inclusive education for all children with disabilities;**
- (c) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention without further delay.**

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of meaningful consultation and involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development of legislation and policies, including for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2024 and the Action Plan on Disability 2015–2020.

8. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure and facilitate close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women, children and youth with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in all public decision-making processes, plans and

implementation of legislations and policies, including the Action Plan on Disability 2025-2030.

Netherlands (2024)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not intend to withdraw its interpretative declarations to certain articles of the Convention, which limit the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends the State party take steps to withdraw its interpretative declarations to ensure the full protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee notes that the State party has communicated its intention to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention, but has not yet completed the ratification process.

8. The Committee recommends the State party expeditiously finalize the process to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

9. The Committee is concerned about the timeline for the ratification and implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean territories of the Netherlands.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the ratification and full implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands, and establish a plan for implementing the Convention with clear targets, timelines, and indicators. Furthermore, the Committee recommends the State party establish a process for the close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands through their representative organizations, as well as an independent monitoring mechanism of the implementation process. The Committee urges the State party to ensure the swift implementation of the Convention in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands, to ensure that persons with disabilities fully enjoy their rights, and base all new legislation on the human rights model of disability.

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive strategy that addresses all articles and principles of the Convention, which results in the Convention not being fully incorporated into domestic law;

(b) The lack of a systematic review process of existing laws, policies and regulations to ascertain their conformity with the obligations under the Convention, or that legislative action is taken to ensure compliance with the Convention, as well as the lack of harmonization in the implementation of the Convention across all levels of government, including national and municipal levels, resulting in inconsistencies as well as highly uneven protection and support for persons with disabilities infringing on their rights under the Convention;

(c) The uneven implementation of the Convention across municipalities, particularly in areas such as the legal obligation to devise an Inclusion Agenda, accessibility of public services, provision of social support, and funding for organizations of persons with disabilities, and the lack of coordination between municipalities, which create barriers for persons with disabilities and can significantly disrupt their lives and hinder their full participation in society, leading to a gap between the legal framework recognizing rights under the Convention and its practical implementation and everyday reality experienced by persons with disabilities;

(d) The judiciary and administrative bodies generally not interpreting domestic law in the light of the Convention, even in areas where the respective interpretive scope would exist.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a comprehensive strategy to mainstream all principles, obligations and rights of the Convention across all levels of government and ensure that all legislation and policies are in line with the human rights model of disability;

(b) Systematically review existing laws, policies and regulations to ascertain the legislative action required to conform with the obligations under the Convention, and establish human rights-based action plans with a clear concept of disability that contain measures to promote, protect and fulfil the rights under the Convention.

(c) Establish national standards and guidelines to ensure effective implementation of the Convention across municipalities, provide adequate resources and training to local authorities and assist municipalities in meeting their obligations under the Convention, especially in relation to the quality of support services and the establishment of an Inclusion Agenda; develop a strategy to ensure clear communication and coordination between municipalities to facilitate the continuity of services and support for persons with disabilities in all areas of life when moving between municipalities;

(d) Ensure that its judicial and administrative bodies consistently and effectively apply the rights enshrined in the Convention in individual cases, be it as bases for claims of action or as guidance for the interpretation of domestic law.

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities in policy- and decision-making processes, including women with disabilities, and the resulting failure to address specific requirements and barriers in legislation, policies and programs, including insufficient mechanisms for consultation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities at all levels of government, as well as the barriers that organisations of persons with disabilities face in participating equally in national and European standardisation processes, affecting the development of accessibility standards;

(b) The lack of financial support and insufficient structural funding for organisations of persons with disabilities to enable participation in public decision-making;

14. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, in all policy and legislative processes, including mechanisms for regular consultation and involvement, adequate resources and support to the organizations to build their capacity for effective participation, including in the Caribbean territory of the Netherlands, and promote the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in all areas and at all levels; prioritise the objective of adopting a clear strategy to create an infrastructure for participation in the National Strategy 2040;

(b) Adopt policies to create the financial preconditions for participation of all persons with disabilities through their representative organisations on all government levels and for all sizes of organisations, including by ensuring long-term and structural support.

Ukraine (2024)

6. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the State party's terminology still does not align with the Convention, and that the lack of consistency remains, resulting in discriminatory treatment for persons with disabilities;

(b) The classification set forth in the legislation for persons with disabilities, which is obsolete and contrary to the paradigm shift of the Convention;

The prevalence of the medical model of disability in policies addressing persons with disabilities, indicating a lack of professional training for, and understanding of, their rights among public officials and professionals;

(c) That most of the provisions of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the period until 2020 were not executed, and that the State party did not adopt a monitoring mechanism for its implementation, resulting in the lack of recommendations or sanctions for non-compliance by relevant agencies;

(d) That the State party has not implemented the recommendations from the 2022 Committee's "Session report on the situation of persons with disabilities in Ukraine and in

countries where they have fled after 24 February 2022, as a result of the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation”.

7. The Committee reiterates its recommendation from the initial review of Ukraine (CRPD/C/UKR/CO/1, para. 8) to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability in all its laws, policies, and decisions, and it further recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct a comprehensive review of its domestic legal framework on the rights of persons with disabilities to fully align its terminology and content to the Convention;**
- (b) Amend its legislation to eliminate the classification of persons with disabilities, and ensure that all its legal framework recognize and guarantee their rights on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Repeal the medical model of disability in all its policies and programs and amend its legal framework accordingly to ensure that it reflects a human rights-based approach to disability;**
- (d) Design a monitoring mechanism for the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the period up to 2025 and ensure its continuation beyond 2025;**
- (e) Implement the 2022 Committee’s “Session report on the situation of persons with disabilities in Ukraine and in countries where they have fled after 24 February 2022, as a result of the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation”.**

8. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective procedures for the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in public decision-making processes.

9. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party develop effective procedures for the involvement of persons with disabilities in all public decision-making mechanisms.

Azerbaijan (2024)

7. The Committee appreciates the process undertaken by the State party to review legislation and change derogatory terminology in relation to persons with disabilities and its efforts to use digital technologies concerning disability assessments (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, paras. 12 to 17). The Committee observes, however, with concern:

- (a) Constitutional provisions that exempt persons with disabilities from enjoying rights and duties and the lack of harmonization of national legislation and policies with the Convention, including the human rights model of disability (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, para. 22);
- (b) The remaining, continued use, in laws and policies, of derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities that emphasize a person’s impairments, perpetuate medical and paternalistic approaches to disability and reinforce stigma against persons with disabilities;
- (c) The prevalence of the medical, charitable and paternalistic approaches to disability, exemplified in disability assessments on the basis of medical reports, which reduce persons with disabilities to their impairments and health conditions and reports of alleged corruption practices at the district and local levels concerning medical histories to be sent to the electronic referral system;
- (d) The absence of a national plan of action to implement the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Harmonize its Constitution, as well as its legal and policy framework on disability, with the provisions of the Convention, by integrating the human rights model of disability into its laws, regulations and policies;**
- (b) Repeal all sections in legislation, policies and regulations that use derogatory concepts and terminology, particularly in relation to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial**

disabilities and ensure the conformity of all legislation, policies and regulations with the human rights model of disability;

(c) Ensure that disability assessments through the Subsystem of Medical and Social Expertise and Rehabilitation (TSERAS) meet Convention standards, in particular that accessible information about TSERAS assessments is available, that assessments identify the requirements, will and preference of persons with disabilities and are focused on eliminating barriers, and that organizations of persons with disabilities are involved in monitoring TSERAS and all assessment systems;

(d) Adopt a national action plan and programmes with benchmarks, baselines, indicators and budgetary allocations to ensure the implementation of the Convention;

(e) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for public policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities on the rights of persons with disabilities and the obligations of the State party under the Convention, and closely consult and actively involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of training for public officials.

9. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development of legislation and policies;

(b) The obstacles faced by organizations of persons with disabilities to securing grants from foreign donors and low national budget allocations for them that has led to the closure of some organizations (A/HRC/WG.6/44/AZE/3, see para. 31);

(c) Restrictions in registry of civil society organizations, including barriers that organizations of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities face in obtaining legal status and registry.

10. Recalling the recommendations of the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/55/15) and its own general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Set up formal mechanisms to ensure close consultations and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, on a regular basis, in public decision-making processes, such as the review of legislation and development of public policies at the national, district and municipal levels;

(b) Remove legal provisions limiting access to international and private funds by civil society organizations, and ensure that the Agency for state support of Non-Governmental Organizations includes organizations of persons with disabilities in its remit and as beneficiaries of international cooperation;

(c) Recognize legal status and registry to organizations of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities regardless the legal capacity of their members and provide them with financial and technical support to undertake advocacy for the implementation of the Convention.

Bahrain (2024)¹

7. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The widespread use of the medical model in national laws, including the definition of disability contained in the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities Act) No. 74 of 2006, as amended.

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

(b) The adoption of provisions based on ableism, especially in the Civil Service Law, articles (11) and (25), as well as in the Civil Code and the Penal Code.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Harmonise the definition of disability in its national laws and policies with the general principles of the Convention and the human rights-based paradigm.

(b) Repeal the provisions adopting the "able and fit" criterion in its national legislation and put in place provisions that ensure non-discrimination and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities.

8. The Committee is deeply concerned about the complete absence of participation and consultation of persons with disabilities and their organisations in decision-making processes in all matters relating to their rights and issues, including active participation in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

9. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) and in particular paragraphs 15, 16 and 60, the Committee recommends that the State party immediately

(a) Develop a transparent national mechanism to enable persons with disabilities and their organisations, including organisations of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, children with disabilities and family organisations, to effectively participate in the processes of policy development, enactment, implementation and monitoring of legislation and the design of programmes and services.

(b) Remove all legislative and practical barriers that prevent or restrict the expression of views and opinions of persons with disabilities and their organisations in all matters relating to their rights, issues and public affairs.

(c) Provide support to organisations of persons with disabilities, including organisations of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, to strengthen their institutional and technical capacities to participate effectively in all matters related to the rights and issues of persons with disabilities.

Costa Rica (2024)

5. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) El uso de un modelo médico de la discapacidad en muchos ámbitos de la legislación y de la política, y en particular en el proceso de certificación de la discapacidad;

b) Que persistan las dificultades y los largos plazos para la obtención del certificado de discapacidad, debido en particular a la falta de criterios claros y personal capacitado.

6. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

a) Armonice la definición de discapacidad en las leyes y políticas en todos los niveles de gobierno, así como en el proceso de certificación de la discapacidad, con los principios generales y las disposiciones de la Convención, en particular en lo que respecta a la no discriminación y al modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos;

b) Intensifique sus esfuerzos para simplificar y agilizar la obtención del certificado de discapacidad, mediante criterios claros, y que fortalezca los mecanismos de capacitación periódica de los profesionales responsables en materia de derechos humanos, dignidad, autonomía y necesidades de las personas con discapacidad.

7. El Comité observa con preocupación que, pese a la existencia de un mecanismo nacional independiente de supervisión de la implementación de la Convención, la Defensoría de los Habitantes, no se haya nombrado al personal capacitado para cumplir su mandato. Le preocupa también la insuficiente independencia del Foro Consultivo de personas con discapacidad con relación al Consejo Nacional de Personas con Discapacidad (CONAPDIS).

8. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte la resolución de la medida cautelar administrativa para nombrar al personal responsable por la supervisión de la implementación de la Convención, así como la asignación de recursos financieros suficientes para que cumplan su mandato. El Comité también recomienda la adopción de todas las medidas necesarias

para garantizar que el Foro Consultivo de personas con discapacidad sea independiente del CONAPDIS para garantizar la estrecha consulta y participación activa de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en los organismos del Estado encargados de coordinar el seguimiento de la implementación de la Convención.

Kazakhstan (2024)

7. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The use of the medical model of disability in the Social Code (Sub para-105 and 106), and that the degree of impairment and functional capabilities of persons with disabilities continue to guide disability assessments (CRPD/C/KAZ/RQ/1, see paras. 7 and 8), leading to underrepresentation of children and adults with disabilities in government registries;
- (b) Discriminatory provisions, including derogatory terminology and ableism, in the Civil Code (art. 26), in the the Code on the Health of the People and the Healthcare System (arts. 137, 170 and 175) and in the Criminal Code (art. 16) affecting persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) The incomplete mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities in sectoral policies and programmes and limited information about policies to address the situation of persons with disabilities living in rural areas (44.8 percent), migrant, asylum seeking and refugee persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities, including Uzbeks, Uighurs, Koreans, Tatars and Azerbaijanis;
- (d) The wide-spread attitudinal barriers faced by persons with disabilities in public institutions by professionals and staff.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Review and amend provisions in the Social Code, the Rules for Conducting Medical and Social Expertise (Order No. 260) and the process of early identification for children with disabilities, with the aim of adopting a concept of disability in line with the human rights model of disability;**
- (b) Establish rules and processes for the identification and assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities, based on the requirements, will and preference of persons with disabilities, provide persons with disabilities with accessible information about such assessments, and ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities are involved in their monitoring;**
- (c) Conduct a comprehensive review of the national laws, including the criminal, civil, and health care codes and their bylaws, with a view to harmonize them with the Convention, and in particular repeal ableist legal provisions and derogatory terminology;**
- (d) Ensure that implementation of the national plan of action 2025 includes targeted programmes for persons with disabilities living in rural areas, migrant, asylum seeking and refugee persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities, including Uzbeks, Uighurs, Koreans, Tatars and Azerbaijanis, and include an independent monitoring mechanism fulfilling the requirements of article 33 (2) and (3) of the Convention;**
- (e) Develop a comprehensive strategy to shift from the medical model to the human rights model of disability, in legislation, public policies and at the institutional level.**

9. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The limited information about legally entrenched mechanisms to closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, notably organizations of women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and organizations of children with disabilities, in public decision-making processes;
- (b) The limited information about close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities in public decision-making in communities, including in villages (*auls*) and rural settlements (HRI/CORE/KAZ/2019, see paras. 4 and 138);

(c) The lack of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities in national consultations and government forums with civil society.

10. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop legally entrenched, accessible and transparent mechanisms to closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and organizations of children with disabilities, in public decision-making processes, policy development and monitoring, and strengthen the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities;

(b) Establish legally entrenched mechanisms to guarantee close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities in communities, including settlements and villages;

(c) Ensure systematic participation of persons with disabilities in the Citizens Forum, in mechanisms designed by the Coordinating Council on Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities and by councils for persons with disabilities at the provincial level, including by providing persons with disabilities with accessible information and methods of engagement, including information in Easy Read, establishing adequate time frames for consultation and mechanisms monitoring the results of decision-making.

Nicaragua (2024)

6. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) La falta de medidas para reconocer explícitamente en la Constitución y en otras leyes la discriminación por motivos de discapacidad, incluida la denegación de ajustes razonables como forma de discriminación;

b) El claro enfoque médico hacia la discapacidad en todas las políticas del Estado parte, ejemplificado porque la certificación de la discapacidad se establece bajo criterios médicos por el Ministerio de salud;

c) La falta de información sobre la frecuencia con la cual sesiona el Gabinete de Personas con Discapacidad, sobre qué leyes se han modificado y en cuantas y cuales políticas públicas vigentes han intervenido;

d) Que continúa en vigor la legislación que restringe indebidamente la libertad de asociación, y que entre el 15 de agosto de 2022 y el 15 de junio de 2023, la Asamblea Nacional y el Ministerio de Gobernación utilizaron las leyes 1040 y 1115 para cancelar la personalidad jurídica de 1.988 organizaciones, ignorándose cuantas de estas son de personas con discapacidad;

e) Las dificultades que existen en el proceso de establecimiento y de obtención de la personalidad jurídica por parte de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad.

7. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que promueva una estrategia transversal y de largo alcance para hacer efectivos todos los derechos consagrados en la Convención, y en particular que:

a) Establezca, a la brevedad posible, los mecanismos necesarios para que en la Constitución se contemple explícitamente la no discriminación por discapacidad y que el resto de las leyes, políticas y programas contengan terminología acorde con la Convención y la denegación de ajustes razonables como discriminación por discapacidad;

b) Asimile el enfoque de derechos humanos de la Convención para que sea reflejado en todas las leyes, políticas y programas que se establezcan en el Estado parte. Que la certificación de la discapacidad sea realizada por un equipo multidisciplinario y no solo por médicos;

c) Establezca un plan anual de reuniones periódicas entre las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad y las instancias de gobierno para analizar conjuntamente la armonización

de la legislación, las políticas públicas, la cooperación internacional y todos los programas que en materia de discapacidad se establezcan en el Estado parte;

d) Se abstenga de cancelar el registro y personalidad jurídica a organizaciones de la sociedad civil, especialmente a las de mujeres y de personas con discapacidad y tome acciones para asegurar que ninguna organización de personas con discapacidad sea limitada en su participación, sin importar su filiación política.

e) Asegure que ninguna organización de personas con discapacidad sea limitada en su participación, sin importar su filiación política y que no se agreda a las personas defensoras de los derechos humanos, en específico a las de personas con discapacidad y que tome medidas para promover, agilizar y simplificar la obtención de la personalidad jurídica de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, acercando el trámite a las regiones rurales y remotas.

Sweden (2024)

5. The Committee is concerned about a gradual return to the medical model in many areas of the law, particularly in the social security and disability support systems, that the definition of disability in Section 5(4) of the Discrimination Act 2008 solely focuses on the impairments and does not extend to the societal barriers resulting in disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party harmonize the definition of disability in laws and policies with the human rights model of disability, and revise, in particular, the definition of disability in the Discrimination Act 2008 as the result of the interaction between impairment and socially constructed barriers.

7. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The budget for measures to implement the economic, social and cultural rights guaranteed by the Convention has decreased as a percentage of GDP for an extended period of time;

(b) The Convention has not been fully incorporated into domestic Swedish law and hence does not provide a basis for legal claims in administrative and judicial procedures;

(c) The lack of a systematic review of existing laws, policies and regulations to ascertain the legislative action required to conform with the obligations under the Convention;

(d) The judiciary and administrative bodies do not generally interpret domestic law in light of the Convention, even in areas where the respective interpretive scope would exist.

8. The Committee recommends the State party:

(a) **Take measures to achieving progressively the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights under the Convention, and that no retrogressive measures are taken;**

(b) **Review the status of the Convention in its legal system, fully incorporate it into domestic law, as recommended in its previous Concluding observations;**

(c) **Systematically review existing laws, policies and regulations to ascertain the legislative action required to conform with the obligations under the Convention, and establish human rights-based action plans with a clear concept of disability that contain measures to promote, protect and fulfil the rights under the Convention;**

(d) **Ensure that its judicial and administrative bodies effectively apply the rights enshrined therein in individual cases, be it as bases for claims of action or as guidance for the interpretation of domestic law.**

9. The Committee notes that the current disability policy improves the monitoring of municipalities in their efforts to implement the Convention. It is, however, concerned:

(a) About the wide discrepancies in the implementation of the Convention among the regions and the municipalities;

(b) Insufficient monitoring of the implementation of the Convention by the regions and the municipalities on the national level;

(c) Insufficient legal remedies, complaint procedures, and redress mechanisms for persons with disabilities against inadequate implementation of the Convention by the regions and municipalities.

10. The Committee recommends the State party:

(a) Bearing in mind its obligations under article 4 (5) of the Convention, improve coordination among the regions and municipalities in their efforts to implement the Convention and ensure that their measures to implement the rights of persons with disabilities are in accordance with their obligations under the Convention, and provide persons with disabilities and their representative organisations with effective remedies against inadequate implementation on the regional and municipal levels;

(b) Establish a mechanism on the national level to effectively monitor the implementation of the Convention by the regions and municipalities, with binding targets, indicators, and effective measures to remedy discerned insufficiencies;

(c) Establish effective complaint procedures and redress mechanisms against insufficient implementation of the Convention by the regions and municipalities, accessible for individuals and organizations of persons with disabilities.

11. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systematic and institutionalized engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, of women with disabilities, of children with disabilities, and of national minorities with disabilities in all matters affecting them, and of legally entrenched processes to this end.

12. Recalling the Committee's general comment No. 7 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and implement legally entrenched procedures for close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, women with disabilities, children with disabilities, and national minorities with disabilities in all matters affecting them, set standards governing these procedures, guaranteeing, among others, sufficient time for their responses and providing all relevant documents in accessible formats;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, women with disabilities, children with disabilities, and national minorities with disabilities to actively participate in all processes designed to implement the Convention, and allocate sufficient funds for such organizations.

Zambia (2024)

5. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The definition of persons with disabilities in the national legislation, and different concepts of disability in various professional and legal areas which result in the lack of recognition of all persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) The prevalence of medical model of disability in the State party, including within its disability assessment system and in relation to the eligibility criteria for accessing necessary services and support measures;

(c) The insufficient implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2012 due to the delays in the adoption of specific regulations related to inclusive education, health, accessibility and employment;

(d) The use, in laws and policies, of derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities that emphasize a person's impairments, reflect medical and paternalistic approaches to disability and reinforce stigma against persons with disabilities;

(e) The lack of awareness of the rights recognized in the Convention among the judiciary and justice sector professionals, policy- and lawmakers, teachers, medical, health and social workers and all other professionals working with persons with disabilities;

(f) The fact that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Review the existing disability-related legislation and policies and align them with the provisions of the Convention and adopt a unified concept of disability in all professional and legal areas that is aligned with the purpose and principles of the Convention and covers all persons with disabilities;

(b) Reorient its disability assessment systems by replacing elements of the medical model of disability with principles of the human rights model of disability and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities and the provision of the necessary support and assistance to promote the independent living of persons with disabilities and their full social inclusion;

(c) Develop all necessary regulations and guidelines for the full implementation of the Persons with disabilities Act of 2012;

(d) Adopt measures to amend and/or repeal legislation that includes derogatory terminology and concepts against persons with disabilities and ensure they recognize the evolving concept of disability as arising from the interaction between persons with impairments and barriers to the full participation of persons with disabilities in society;

(e) Provide awareness raising and capacity-building on the human rights model of disability for government officials, at all levels, legal professionals, judges and prosecutors, and professionals working with persons with disabilities. The State party should involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of training for public officials;

(f) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention without further delay.

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, in the design, implementation and monitoring of disability-related laws, policies and programmes.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, and ensure that meaningful consultations are held with the diverse groups of organizations of persons with disabilities, including those of women and children with disabilities.

Andorra (2023)

7. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The prevalence of the medical approach in the disability assessment system, and the delay in the adoption of a new set of regulations governing the National Evaluation Commission (CONAVA), which establishes the criteria for assessing disability;

(b) The delay in the adoption of a new law on the rights of persons with disabilities and the absence of a comprehensive strategy and long-term national action plan for the implementation of the Convention;

(c) The limited mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities in legislation and public policies;

(d) The lack of awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities among policymakers, government officials, the parish councils (*Comuns*), the Parliament (*Consell General*), legal professionals, judges, teachers, health personnel and other professionals working with persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee recommends that, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the State party:

(a) Expedite the adoption of a new set of regulations governing the National Evaluation Commission (CONAVA) and the criteria for assessing disability, in line with the Convention and the human rights-based model of disability;

(b) Adopt a new law on the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention, as well as a comprehensive strategy and a national action plan to implement the Convention that contains appropriate human, technical and financial resources, benchmarks, measurable indicators, and time frames;

(c) Adopt a twin-track approach by mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities across all legislation and public policies;

(d) Provide systematic capacity-building on the Convention and the human rights model of disability for policymakers, government officials, the Comuns, the Consell General, the judiciary, legal professionals, teachers, health personnel and other professionals working with persons with disabilities and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of these training modules.

9. The Committee observes the following with concern:

(a) The limited capacity of the National Council for Disability (CONADIS) to carry out its duties as a mechanism for coordinating matters relating to the implementation of the Convention;

(b) The absence of participation of the Andorran Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FAAD) in the review of the State party under this Committee, and the limited participation and involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation, and monitoring of disability-related laws and policies.

10. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reinforce the capacity of the National Council for Disability (CONADIS) and endow it with the human and financial resources it needs in order to effectively fulfil its mandate to coordinate the implementation of the Convention at all levels;

(b) Strengthen measures and mechanisms for the close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including the Andorran Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FAAD), in public decision-making processes and ensure that meaningful consultations are held with the diverse groups of organizations of persons with disabilities, in the design, implementation, and monitoring of disability-related laws and policies.

Austria (2023)

6. The Committee notes with great concern the scant attention the Länder governments give to the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends the governments of all Länder respect the principle of general international law, codified in article 27 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, that a party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for its failure to perform a treaty, specified in article 4(5) of the Convention that “(t)he provisions of the present Convention shall extend to all parts of federal states without any limitations or exceptions”, and act accordingly.

8. The Committee is concerned about a wide variety of different legislative approaches to implement the Convention on the Federal level and on the level of the Länder, including, but not restricted to, widely differing concepts of disability, often based on a medical understanding of disability. The Committee notes, in this respect, particularly measures 1 to 17 of the National Action Plan on Disability 2022-2030.

9. The Committee recalls its Concluding Observations of 2013, paras. 9 and 11, (CRPD/C/AUT/CO/1) to expeditiously amend its laws – on the Federal level as well as on the level of the Länder – to substantively align Federal law and the law of the Länder and to render them compliant with the human rights model of disability.

10. Taking note of the fulfilment reservation (Erfüllungsvorbehalt) issued by the national council upon ratification of the Convention, and the ensuing dependence of judicially

enforceable individual rights on domestic transformative legislation, the Committee is concerned about the effective implementation of the Convention and the provision of effective domestic remedies for the purposes of article 2 of the Optional Protocol.

11. The Committee recommends to enact domestic legislation providing judicially enforceable individual rights of all individual rights guaranteed by the Convention, or to rescind its fulfilment reservation.

12. The Committee is concerned that there are no structured processes based on law, neither on the Federal level nor on the level of the Länder, to closely consult with and actively involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention.

13. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) and its Concluding Observations of 2013, para. 11, the Committee recommends that the State party enact legislation, on the Federal level and on the level of the Länder, to institute structured processes to closely consult with and actively involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of legislation and policies to implement the Convention.

14. The Committee is concerned about the lack of established procedures to implement the Recommendations of the Committee adopted in its individual communications procedure.

15. The Committee recommends to establish, on the Federal level and in the Länder, administrative and judicial procedures designed to implement the case-specific recommendations of individual communications, and procedures designed to implement the general recommendations in individual communications that often require legislative or regulatory action.

Germany (2023)

5. The Committee is concerned about the use of a medical model of disability in many areas of the law, at the Federal and Länder levels.

6. Recalling its concluding observations of 2015 (CRPD/C/DEU/CO/1), para. 8(a), the Committee recommends the State party harmonize the definition of disability in laws and policies, at Federal and Länder levels, with the general principles and provisions of the Convention, particularly with respect to non-discrimination and the human rights model of disability.

7. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of recognition, across all government portfolio areas, that disability is a responsibility of all government entities, and the lack of mainstreaming of disability-inclusive measures in all areas of state, society and law;

(b) The lack of a systematic review of existing laws, policies and regulations to ascertain the legislative action required to conform with the obligations under the Convention;

(c) The lack of a general right of associations to take legal action to enforce the rights under the Convention, the rare use of such rights in the areas where the required statutory bases exist, and – in most of these statutory bases – the confinement of remedies available to declaratory judgments;

(d) The lack of systematic and institutionalized engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of children with disabilities, in all matters affecting them, and of processes for close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities;

(e) Insufficient resources of organizations of persons with disabilities to actively participate in the development and the implementation of laws, policies, programs and regulations to implement the Convention, and undue administrative hurdles to access funding;

(f) The highly uneven efforts to implement the Convention across the Länder, and an insufficient human rights perspective in the action plans of many Länder.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop strategies to strengthen commitment across all government portfolio areas to ensure that disability is recognized as a cross-cutting issue in all areas of state and society, and to effectively mainstream disability-related measures in all areas of the law;
- (b) Systematically review the conformity of existing laws, policies and administrative practices with the obligations of the State party under the Convention and establish human rights-based action plans with a clear concept of disability, containing adequate measures to promote, protect and fulfil the rights under the Convention, and with targets and indicators to monitor the implementation of the Convention, as recommended in its concluding observations of 2015 (CRPD/C/DEU/CO/1), para. 8(b);
- (c) Review the statutory bases of the right of associations to take legal action to enforce the rights under the Convention, at the Federal and Länder levels, enact a generally applicable right of associations to take legal action, provide effective remedies beyond merely declaratory judgments, and remove undue burdens such as the risk of prohibitive litigation costs and excessive admissibility requirements;
- (d) Develop and implement institutionalized procedures for close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of children with disabilities,, in all matters affecting them, set the standards governing these procedures, guaranteeing, among others, sufficient time for their responses and providing all relevant documents in accessible formats, in line with general comment No. 7 (2018), para. 54, and as recommended in the concluding observations of 2015 (CRPD/C/DEU/CO/1), para. 10;
- (e) Recalling the general comment No. 7 (2018), paras. 60 and 61, strengthen the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to actively participate in all measures designed to implement the Convention and to effectively employ their statutory rights to take legal action, and allocate sufficient funds. Ensure that funding is not solely project-based and may be accessed without undue administrative hurdles;
- (f) Bearing in mind its obligations under article 4(5) of the Convention, improve coordination among the Länder in their efforts to implement the Convention, and ensure that their action plans to implement the rights of persons with disabilities are in accordance with their obligations under the Convention.

9. Taking into consideration that the State party ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention, the Committee is concerned about the highly textual method employed by the State party's courts in their determination of the justiciability of the provisions of the Convention.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party, in particular its courts, determine the justiciability of the provisions of the Convention, including rights subject to progressive realization based on article 4 para. 2 of the Convention, closely aligned with the Committee's jurisprudence under the Optional Protocol.

Israel (2023)

7. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The State party's reservation to article 23 (1) (a) of the Convention with regard to the provisions concerning marriage, to the extent that the laws on personal status, which are binding on the various religious communities in Israel, do not conform with these provisions. The reservation to article 23 (1) (a) is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention as it undermines the principle of non-discrimination, equality of persons with disabilities before and under the law and the State parties' obligation to prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability;
- (b) The lack of incorporation of the Convention in the domestic legal order and that the provisions of the Convention can not be invoked before or directly applied by the courts, other tribunals or administrative authorities;

(c)The delay in adopting legislative measures to implement the Convention, including subordinate regulations to fulfil provisions of the Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law of 1998;

(d)Discriminatory legislation, policies and practices, including the Welfare Law (Treatment for persons with Intellectual- Developmental Disabilities) of 1969, the Treatment of persons with mental disabilities law of 1991 and gaps in the Social Services for Persons with Disabilities Law;

(e)The absence of legislative and policy measures to address the situation and rights of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza and the State party's continued position that the Convention and other international human rights treaties do not apply beyond its territory;

(f)The lack of disability mainstreaming across public policies and that public policies and programmes in areas such as education, health and housing are based on the medical approach, reinforcing negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities as passive recipients of care, and dependent on rehabilitation and welfare;

(g)That disability assessments based on diagnosis continue to prevent persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities from being recognised in the social security system, accessing individual support to live in the community, education, health, including health insurances, and employment.

8.The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a)Review its reservation to article 23 (1) (a) of the Convention in order to withdraw the reservation in an established time frame;

(b)Incorporate the rights of the Convention in its domestic legal order and strengthen judicial training on the nature and scope of the State party's obligations under the Convention and on the justiciability of the Convention;

(c)Establish a process to identify remaining gaps in subordinate regulations and enact, within a reasonable timeframe, required provisions to give effect to the Convention in all spheres of life, in relation to all persons with disabilities. The State party should adopt a mechanism to expeditiously review draft subordinate legislation and ensure its compatibility with the Convention and the human rights model of disability;

(d)Conduct review of legislation, policies and practices that discriminate against persons with disabilities directly or indirectly and amend or repeal to meet Convention standards;

(e)Adopt measures to give effect to the Convention and to address the situation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities in occupied territories over which it exercises jurisdiction or has effective control and review discriminatory legislation affecting Palestinian persons with disabilities, and facilitate the exercise of their rights, in accordance with applicable international law;

(f)Adopt a comprehensive strategy and action plan for implementing the Convention, setting up a reasonable timeframe, benchmarks, indicators of progress at the national and municipal levels, and accountability mechanisms and ensure that disability is mainstreamed across sectorial policies in line with the Convention. The State party should address eliminating attitudinal and environmental barriers in all areas of life, with a human rights-based approach, and uphold autonomy of all persons with disabilities;

(g)Ensure that disability assessments meet Convention standards, particularly that accessible information about assessments is available, that assessments identify the requirements, will and preference of persons with disabilities, are focused on the elimination of barriers and that organizations of persons with disabilities are involved in monitoring assessment systems.

9.The Committee observes with concern:

- (a)The lack of accessible, systematic and structured consultations with persons with disabilities across different sectors of policy-making and that their opinions are not reflected in the decisions adopted;
- (b)The lack of measures to recognise organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and involve them in decision-making forums;
- (c)That participatory forums to consult with persons with disabilities can be dominated by academics, service providers and families as opposed to organisations constituted of and governed by persons with disabilities;
- (d)Limits in participation and the requirement of assessments of civil society organizations that receive funds from foreign donors.

10. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish criteria for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations providing for accessible information and methodologies of engagement, including information of discussions at the Knesset, adequate time frames for consultation and accountability mechanisms that ensure due weight and genuine consideration of the opinions of persons with disabilities, including during discussions at the Shapira Committee at the Ministry of Education;**
- (b) Take measures to recognise and support organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and mechanisms to ensure their participation and involvement in decision-making forums;**
- (c) Ensure that participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations is upheld and that their opinions are prioritised in all matters concerning them;**
- (d) Ensure participation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations and strengthen their ability to seek and obtain adequate funding, including from international actors.**

Malawi (2023)

7. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That the review of several pieces of legislation and policies, in particular the Disability Act (Cap 33:06) and repeal of the Handicapped Persons Act of 1971 leading to a new piece of comprehensive legislation is yet to be completed, and that changes introduced to the almost enacted bill have been made without consulting or involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;
- (b) That women and girls with disabilities were not explicitly mentioned in the Disability Act of 2012 and that the almost enacted Persons with Disabilities Bill of 2023 continues this omission;
- (c) The delay and lack of priority of disability-related policies and programmes to implement the Convention;
- (d) Discriminatory language and portrayal of persons with disabilities, including derogatory terminology in laws, among public authorities, and in the media.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Complete as expeditiously as possible its review of the Disability Act enacted in 2012 and repeal of the Handicapped Persons Act of 1971 and ensure that the new piece of legislation, and legislation in all areas of law, including family relations, mental health, property and personal security are brought into line with the Convention and the human rights model of disability;**
- (b) Ensure involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities throughout the process of enacting the new disability Bill and ensure that proposals made by persons with disabilities are appropriately considered and addressed at all stages of the process;**

(c)Ensure that the new legislation being developed to replace the Disability Act of 2012 recognizes the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and incorporates measures to address marginalization and discrimination against them. The State party should address proposals submitted by women with disabilities through their representative organizations in their position paper presented to the Ministry of Justice;

(d)Provide information to organizations of persons with disabilities concerning fund allocation for the Disability Trust fund, ensure appropriate financial resources to it, and set up criteria for distribution of resources encompassing all persons with disabilities regardless of type of impairment. The State party should gather disaggregated information about budget allocations, and ensure periodic and accessible accountability procedures;

(e)Review and amend legislation and public policies with the aim to withdraw derogatory terminology concerning persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism, and ensure that training for public officials includes modules on women and girls with disabilities, gender equality, and persons with disabilities in marginalized situations.

9.The Committee observes with concern:

(a)The lack of periodic consultations with persons with disabilities at the National Advisory and Coordinating Committee on Disability Issues, and the underrepresentation of organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and women with disabilities in consultative processes, particularly in discussion of sectorial strategies and programmes;

(b)That organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities lack financial resources to conduct advocacy and participate in public consultations.

10.Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, and in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Adopt a national legislative framework for close consultations with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensuring mechanisms for the participation of organizations of women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and children with disabilities in the implementation, enforcement and funding of programmes aimed at supporting the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b)Support organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with psychosocial disabilities, including by providing independent and self-managed funding and encourage their access to foreign funding as part of international cooperation and development aid and cover expenses for participation in consultations.

Mauritania (2023)

5.The Committee is concerned:

(a)The lack of harmonization of the national legislation and policy framework with the Convention, including the human rights model of disability;

(b)The use, in laws and policies, of derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities, which emphasizes persons' impairments, reflect the medical and paternalistic approaches to disability and reinforces stigma against persons with disabilities;

(c)Despite that fact that the Convention can be directly invoked in courts, there is a lack of awareness among policy makers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, about the rights recognized in the Convention.

6.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Harmonize its Constitution, as well as its legal and policy framework on disability with the provisions of the Convention, by integrating the human rights model of disability in its laws, regulations and practices;

(b) Repeal all sections in the legislation, policies and regulations that use derogatory terms, and ensure that they conform with the human rights model of disability;

(c) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for public policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the obligations of the State party under the Convention, and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of training for public officials;

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, in the design and implementation of disability-related laws, policies and programmes.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, and ensure that meaningful consultations are held with the diverse groups of organizations of persons with disabilities, including those of women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities.

Mongolia (2023)

5. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The Constitution of Mongolia does not contain a provision of discrimination on the ground of disability, and that disability-related legislation and policies have not yet been fully brought in line with the Convention;

(b) The medical model of disability is still prevalent in the State party, in its legislation, regulations and practices, which has a negative impact by preventing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and limiting their access to appropriate services and support;

(c) The lack of awareness among policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, about the rights recognized in the Convention.

6. The Committee recommend the State Party:

(a) Amend its Constitution in order to include a provision of discrimination on the ground of disability in line with Convention, and harmonize all national legislation and policies with the Convention, recognizing persons with disabilities as rights holders on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in particular women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Review all national legislation and policies and harmonize them with the Convention, including by transposing into domestic law the human rights model of disability and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities and the provision of the necessary support and assistance to promote the independent living of persons with disabilities and their full social inclusion;

(c) With the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, provide capacity-building programmes for public policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the obligations of the State party under the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About a lack of appropriate measures to ensure an effective coordination and operation of the National Council for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at all levels, and the General Authority for Development of Persons with Disabilities;

(b) The lack of budget allocation and the insufficient cross sectoral collaboration and measures taken to implement the National program on Rights, Participation and Development for Persons with Disabilities (2018-2022).

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take necessary mechanisms to ensure an effective function, coordination and operation of the National Council for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at all levels, including the national and local branch councils, and the General Authority for Development of Persons with Disabilities, in harmonizing the national legislations with the Convention and to ensure inter-sectoral synergy, promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities and increase the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in particular women with disabilities, in the decision-making;

(b) Adopt the necessary measures to increase budget allocation and ensure an effective cross sectoral collaboration to implement the National program on Rights, participation and development for Persons with Disabilities (2018-2022) and ensure monitoring of its implementation, and extend the National Programme beyond 2022.

9. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, in decision-making processes concerning disability-related laws, policies and programmes.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, and ensure close consultation participation and that meaningful participation consultations are held with the whole range of organizations of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, intersex persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, refugees and migrants with disabilities, autistic persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities requiring higher levels of support.

Paraguay (2023)

7. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) La ausencia de una estrategia para modificar la terminología y definiciones peyorativas para referirse a personas con discapacidad empleada en el artículo 58 de la Constitución y en distintas normativas e instrumentos de recolección de datos;

b) Que persistan dificultades para que las personas obtengan el certificado de discapacidad, que quienes lo extienden no estén suficientemente capacitados y que los criterios establecidos no sean claros;

c) Las dificultades que existen en el proceso para la obtención de la personalidad jurídica por parte de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad;

d) La necesidad de actualización y cabal aplicación del Plan de Acción Nacional por los Derechos de Personas con Discapacidad;

e) Que el presupuesto asignado a la SENADIS se emplee prioritariamente en las funciones asistenciales, en lugar de equilibrarlo con su papel de incidir en todos los órganos del Estado para lograr la transversalidad.

8.El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que promueva una estrategia transversal y de largo alcance para hacer efectivos todos los derechos consagrados en la Convención, y en particular que:

a)Modifique el artículo 58 de la Constitución y el resto de las leyes, políticas y programas para que contengan terminología acorde con la Convención;

b)Revise y actualice los criterios para evaluar la discapacidad, implementando una evaluación holística y multidisciplinaria de las necesidades de protección y apoyo basada en derechos. Además, que capacite al personal que otorga los certificados y que evite la centralización y burocracia en el trámite, acercando este a las regiones rurales y remotas;

c)Tome medidas para agilizar y simplificar la obtención de la personalidad jurídica de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, acercando el trámite a las regiones rurales y remotas;

d)Tome medidas para actualizar el Plan de Acción Nacional por los Derechos de Personas con Discapacidad en todas sus metas, líneas de base e indicadores y establezca las medidas y mecanismos necesarios para vigilar su cabal aplicación;

e)Dote a la SENADIS con los recursos suficientes para que cumpla efectivamente con su rol de transversalizar el enfoque de derechos humanos sobre discapacidad en el diseño e implementación de las políticas públicas, por medio del seguimiento, supervisión y prestación de asistencia técnica a los sectores pertinentes, y que las funciones asistenciales sean trasladadas al Ministerio de Desarrollo Social.

9.El Comité reconoce que se ha mejorado la capacidad de convocatoria de las personas con discapacidad y sus organizaciones para participar en las consultas y temas que les conciernen, incluyendo la consulta nacional para la nueva ley de discapacidad. Sin embargo, le preocupa:

a)La insuficiente participación de las personas con discapacidad y de las organizaciones que las representan, en su diversidad, en los organismos gubernamentales para el seguimiento de la aplicación de la Convención;

b)La falta de criterios claros para la elección y evaluación de los integrantes de diversos mecanismos formales de participación y consulta, así como la insuficiente representación de organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en estos espacios;

c)La insuficiente formación acerca de la Convención dirigida a todas las personas responsables de formular políticas y legislación, el poder judicial y los profesionales del sector de la justicia, el personal penitenciario, la policía, el personal de salud, el personal docente, los trabajadores sociales, los trabajadores de los medios de comunicación y demás profesionales que trabajan con las personas con discapacidad.

10.Recordando su observación general núm. 7 (2018), relativa al artículo 4, párrafo 3 y al artículo 33 de la Convención, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a)Garantizar la estrecha consulta y participación activa de las personas con discapacidad y de las organizaciones que las representan en los organismos encargados de dar seguimiento a la implementación de la Convención;

b)Asegurar el establecimiento de criterios claros y con perspectiva de género para la elección y evaluación de los integrantes de los mecanismos formales de participación y consulta sobre la elaboración de políticas y programas, y la participación efectiva de las personas con discapacidad en estos espacios;

c)Reforzar sus esfuerzos para ofrecer programas de capacitación sistemáticos acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y las obligaciones del Estado parte en virtud de la Convención, dirigidos a las personas que ejercen función pública en los tres poderes del Estado y a todos los niveles.

Angola (2023)

5.The Committee is concerned about:

(a)The definition of persons with disabilities in the legislation;

- (b) The lack of mechanism to enforce compliance to the various laws adopted to implement the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (c) The limited involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (d) The lack of a clear distinction in domestic law and applicable policy frameworks between the terms of “general obligation to provide accessibility” and “the individual right to reasonable accommodation”.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the legislation to bring it in line with the human rights model of disability,** in particular, the Committee recommends to amend article 83 of the Constitution.
- (b) Designate a specific body to monitor and promote the compliance with laws and adherence to policies put in to place to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities;**
- (c) As a measure to promote meaningful consultation and active involvement in legislative and policy processes to implement the Convention, including the design, production and evaluation of measures, ensure awareness across the whole public sector of the cross cutting nature of disability, take measures to develop meaningful partnerships and consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities and take steps to ensure their appropriate resourcing in order for such partnerships and consultations to be effective in all matters affecting them;**
- (d) The revision of relevant domestic law and policy to ensure that the individual right to “reasonable accommodation” under domestic law aligns with the positive duty of the State to provide reasonable accommodation under the Convention, which is a modification or adjustment that is necessary and appropriate where it is required in a particular case to ensure that a person with a disability can enjoy or exercise her or his rights.**

Argentina (2023)

7. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La persistencia del modelo médico en la legislación y las políticas de discapacidad, incluyendo la Ley 22.431 (1981) como ley marco en discapacidad, la Ley 24.901 (1997) sobre prestaciones básicas en habilitación y rehabilitación integral a favor de las personas con discapacidad, y el sistema de certificación de la discapacidad;
- b) La falta de actualización del Plan Nacional de Discapacidad, la falta de información sobre los avances del Gabinete Nacional para la Transversalización de las Políticas en Discapacidad y del Observatorio de la Discapacidad, y sobre el contenido del Anteproyecto de la nueva Ley de Discapacidad;
- c) El poco alcance del Certificado Único de Discapacidad y las barreras existentes para obtenerlo, incluyendo barreras administrativas, el insuficiente número de juntas evaluadoras interdisciplinarias especialmente a nivel provincial y la disparidad en los criterios aplicados para otorgarlo;
- d) Los términos peyorativos en la legislación;
- e) Las brechas de acceso entre los grandes centros urbanos y la ruralidad en la prestación de servicios brindados a las personas con discapacidad.

8. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Armonizar su legislación y políticas públicas de discapacidad a nivel federal, provincial y local con la Convención, incluyendo la aprobación de una nueva ley sobre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad alineada con el modelo de derechos humanos, así como la reforma de la normativa sobre prestaciones básicas en habilitación y rehabilitación integral para las personas con discapacidad y el sistema de certificación de la discapacidad;**
- b) Actualizar el Plan Nacional de Discapacidad, garantizar el acceso a la información sobre las acciones del Gabinete Nacional para la Transversalización de las Políticas en Discapacidad y del Observatorio de la Discapacidad, así como sobre el Anteproyecto de la nueva Ley de Discapacidad;**

c) Redoblar esfuerzos para promover el acceso al Certificado Único de Discapacidad en todo el país y eliminar los obstáculos que dificultan su obtención, incluyendo la simplificación del procedimiento, el aumento del número de las juntas evaluadoras interdisciplinarias en todas las provincias y su fortalecimiento mediante la capacitación del personal sobre el modelo de derechos humanos de la discapacidad;

d) Eliminar de su normativa las expresiones despectivas o paternalistas, como “demente” o “incapaz”;

e) Adoptar medidas legislativas y presupuestarias para superar las brechas en la prestación de servicios a las personas con discapacidad en todas las jurisdicciones.

9. El Comité reconoce que se ha mejorado la capacidad de convocatoria de las personas con discapacidad y sus organizaciones para participar en las consultas que les conciernen, incluyendo la consulta federal para la nueva ley de discapacidad. Sin embargo, le preocupa:

a) La insuficiente participación de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en su diversidad en las consultas relativas a la legislación y las políticas públicas que les afectan, y que sus aportes no necesariamente se ven reflejados en las políticas;

b) La falta de criterios claros para la elección y evaluación de los integrantes de diversos mecanismos formales de participación y consulta, incluyendo el Comité Asesor de la Agencia Nacional de Discapacidad, el [Directorio del Sistema de Prestaciones Básicas de Atención Integral](#) a favor de las Personas con Discapacidad, el [Consejo Federal de Discapacidad](#), y el Observatorio de la Discapacidad, así como la insuficiente representación de organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en estos espacios;

c) La insuficiente formación acerca de la Convención entre las personas responsables de formular políticas y legislación, el poder judicial y los profesionales del sector de la justicia, el personal penitenciario, el personal médico y sanitario, el personal docente, los trabajadores sociales, y demás profesionales que trabajan con las personas con discapacidad.

10. Recordando su observación general núm. 7 (2018), relativa al artículo 4, párrafo 3 y al artículo 33, párrafo 3, de la Convención, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Garantizar la participación activa y efectiva de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en la planificación, ejecución, seguimiento y evaluación de legislación y políticas públicas de discapacidad;

b) Asegurar el establecimiento de criterios claros para la elección y evaluación de los integrantes de los mecanismos formales de participación y consulta, y la participación efectiva de las personas con discapacidad en estos espacios;

c) Fortalecer la Unidad de Capacitación de la Agencia Nacional de Discapacidad y ofrecer programas de capacitación sistemáticos acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y las obligaciones del Estado parte en virtud de la Convención, dirigidos a las personas que ejercen función pública en los tres poderes y todos los niveles.

[Georgia \(2023\)](#)

7. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The lack of implementation of the Convention in the occupied territories of Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia, and the risk of persons with disabilities therein to internal displacement and other infringements on their human rights;

(b) The prevalence of the medical approach to disability in the State party's disability assessment system, which persists in the reform process;

(c) That legislation and practices in areas such as mental health, participation in social and political affairs and family matters reinforce negative stereotypes against persons with disabilities, including dependence from third parties and a lack of autonomy, and retain derogatory language;

(d) The absence of a national strategy and action plans on disability at the national and local levels to implement the Convention, and the limited scope of disability rights in the National Human Rights Strategy (2022-2030) and its action plan.

8. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Include internally displaced persons with disabilities from the territories of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, in long term-housing initiatives for internally displaced persons and take into consideration the recommendations made in the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review in relation to Georgia in 2021 (A/HRC/47/15), aimed at enhancing cooperation with international partners to ensure unrestricted access of humanitarian and development organizations and international human rights monitoring bodies by the Russian Federation to address the situation of persons with disabilities within these regions;**

(b) **Complete the process to establish a disability assessment system and ensure: (i) that organizations of persons with disabilities are involved in its design; (ii) that multiple assessments do not create an undue burden for applicants; (iii) that policies and programmes shift from care, treatment and protection towards the removal of environmental and attitudinal barriers that prevent equality and inclusion; and (iv) that the disability assessment system ensures that disability entitlements are tailored to the requirements of each individual;**

(c) **Expedite the review process to bring legislation and public policies, including the Law of Georgia on Medical and Social Expertise and Mental Health Development and the Action Plan, in line with the human rights model of disability as elaborated in the Committee's general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination;**

(d) **Enact a comprehensive strategy and a national action plan to implement the Convention that contains appropriate human, technical and financial resources, benchmarks and a timeframe, in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities across the territory of the State party.**

9. **The Committee observes with concern:**

(a) **The lack of provisions to ensure access to national public funds by organizations of persons with disabilities that mainly rely on international cooperation to function and to carry out their advocacy work;**

(b) **The unsystematic involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in measures to implement the Convention and other matters related to persons with disabilities across state entities and at the municipal level and information about recommendations from organizations of persons with disabilities being overlooked during consultations;**

(c) **That organizations of service providers prevail in government's consultative mechanisms, in which they regularly hold the majority in respective votes to the detriment of grass-roots organizations of persons with disabilities, organizations of women with disabilities and organizations of children and young persons with disabilities;**

(d) **The absence of accessible information, disability inclusive methodologies, and human, technical and financial resources for conducting periodic consultations including with organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities.**

10. **With reference to its General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure the right of persons with disabilities to freedom of association, including by making national funds available to all organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities and self-advocate organizations, and guaranteeing their right to seek and access legitimate foreign funding;**

(b) **Introduce mandatory and regular consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities across all levels and sectors of the administration, based on transparency, mutual respect, meaningful dialogue and a sincere aim to reach collective agreements on procedures that respond to the diversity of organizations led by persons with disabilities, allowing for reasonable and realistic timelines and giving due weight to persons with disabilities' views through the public decision-making process;**

- (c) **Prioritize involvement and consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in consultative bodies and mechanisms, providing due weight to their opinions, and ensuring participation of organizations of women and girls with disabilities and organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities;**
- (d) **Allot human, technical and financial resources to conduct public consultations with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop accessible methodologies for consultation and information tools, including in Easy Read, provide sufficient time for informed decision-making, and establish capacity building programmes of public officers and persons with disabilities participating in consultative procedures.**

Peru (2023)

6. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) La ausencia de mecanismos específicos para el seguimiento, la supervisión y la aplicación del cumplimiento de la Ley General de Personas con Discapacidad y demás legislación específica sobre discapacidad, incluso en el sector privado;
- b) La escasa asignación presupuestaria, lo que ha convertido en inoperantes las leyes y políticas públicas en materia de discapacidad;
- c) Que el Consejo Nacional para la Integración de las Personas con Discapacidad (CONADIS) no cuente con una estrategia y plan de acción para apoyar y dar seguimiento a la implementación de medidas concretas en cada entidad estatal de acuerdo con las competencias de las instituciones públicas para garantizar los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en todos los ámbitos de su vida;
- d) El escaso avance en la implementación de la Política Nacional Multisectorial de Discapacidad para el Desarrollo al 2030, aprobada en 2021, que muchos sectores no hayan informado al respecto y que las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad no hayan sido consultadas sobre su implementación;
- e) Que el perfil y requisitos del intérprete de lengua de señas peruana aún no hayan sido aprobados por el Ministerio de Educación, lo que sigue retrasando la implementación de la Ley N° 29535 que reconoce la lengua de señas peruana, aprobada en 2010, y su reglamento aprobado en 2017;
- f) Que el modelo médico de discapacidad siga prevaleciendo en el sistema de evaluación de la discapacidad y que la obtención de un certificado de discapacidad y del carnet de discapacidad sea un proceso largo y oneroso, que supone una carga económica desproporcionada para las personas con discapacidad. También hay una falta de atención a los requerimientos de apoyo específicos y a los mecanismos de remisión a servicios necesarios.

7. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que promueva una estrategia transversal y de largo alcance para hacer efectivos todos los derechos consagrados en la Convención, y en particular que:

- a) Cree planes y mecanismos para el monitoreo y control efectivos de la aplicación de la Convención en el Estado parte;
- b) Asigne recursos necesarios y suficientes para garantizar la operatividad de las políticas públicas en cumplimiento de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad;
- c) Dote al CONADIS con los recursos suficientes para que cumpla efectivamente con su rol de transversalizar el enfoque de discapacidad en el diseño e implementación de las políticas públicas, por medio del seguimiento, supervisión y prestación de asistencia técnica a los sectores pertinentes;
- d) Establezca las medidas y mecanismos necesarios para el seguimiento y la presentación de informes sobre los progresos y resultados de la Política Nacional Multisectorial en Discapacidad para el Desarrollo hasta 2030, asegurando la participación de personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan;

e) Inste al Ministerio de Educación a que apruebe el perfil y requisitos para que los intérpretes de lengua de señas peruana puedan titularse de manera urgente, de conformidad con el Reglamento de la Ley N° 29535;

f) Modifique la Norma Técnica de Certificación para simplificar el proceso de obtención de esta, implemente una evaluación holística y multidisciplinaria de las necesidades de apoyo basada en derechos. Además, que garantice una remisión efectiva a los servicios correspondientes, en coordinación con el CONADIS para garantizar que la expedición del carnet de discapacidad sea automática y esté libre de barreras administrativas adicionales.

8. El Comité nota con preocupación que, a pesar de que el artículo 14 de la Ley General de la Persona con Discapacidad obliga a los sectores gubernamentales a realizar consultas con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad antes de la adopción de leyes, políticas y programas, sigue habiendo una ausencia de consulta sistemática. En particular, el Congreso de la República aún no ha alineado su Reglamento Interno e intentó sustituir dicha Ley General en contra de las protestas de las organizaciones. Además, el CONADIS no ha creado su Consejo Consultivo de representantes de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, que reforzaría su participación en la labor de coordinación de las leyes, políticas y programas en todo el gobierno, incluyendo la aplicación de la Convención.

9. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que modifique el Reglamento Interno del Congreso de la República para que las comisiones realicen consultas sobre los proyectos de ley relacionados con las personas con discapacidad, y asegure que todas las entidades públicas garanticen la consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad y su participación en los procesos de toma de decisiones en todos los niveles de gobierno y en todas las áreas de políticas públicas relacionadas con los temas que las conciernen. Asimismo, el CONADIS debe constituir su Consejo Consultivo con representantes elegidos por las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad para garantizar la participación de éstas en sus actividades.

Togo (2023)

5. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The narrow concept of disability used in the State party, particularly article 1 of Act No. 2004-005 which is based on the medical approach to disability;

(b) The delay in the proposed review of Act No. 2004-005 of 23 April 2004 on the social protection of persons with disabilities;

(c) The absence of a comprehensive and long-term action-plan for the implementation of the Convention;

(d) The lack of awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities of policymakers, government officials, legal and other professionals, including judges, teachers, medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures to amend and/or repeal legislation that includes derogatory terminology and concepts against persons with disabilities and ensure they recognize the evolving concept of disability as arising from the interaction between persons with impairments and barriers to the full participation of persons with disabilities in society;

(b) Complete as a matter of priority and within a specific time frame the process to review the Act No. 2004-005 of 23 April 2004 on the social protection of persons with disabilities and bring it into line with the provisions of the Convention and the human rights-based approach to disability;

(c) Adopt a comprehensive and long-term disability national action plan for implementing the rights of persons with disabilities in the Convention across all government sectors and levels in order to address attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder the participation of persons with disabilities in society;

(d) Provide awareness raising and capacity-building on the human rights model of disability for government officials, at all levels, legal professionals, judges and prosecutors, and

professionals working with persons with disabilities. The State party should involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of training for public officials.

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, in the design and implementation of disability-related laws, policies and programmes.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, and ensure that meaningful consultations are held with the diverse groups of organizations of persons with disabilities, including those of women and children with disabilities.

Tunisia (2023)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of action to align the definition of disability in the domestic legislation with the Convention;
- (b) The absence of a clear mechanism to enforce the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and Vulnerable Categories, in the absence of evidence-based information about any action taken by the Ministry of Social Affairs and other public entities in this regard, including the lack of coordination by the Ministry of Social Affairs with other Ministries;
- (c) The fact that no information has been made available regarding the status of the package of legal amendments submitted to the Ministry of Social Affairs by the subcommittee on legislation to be introduced into relevant laws other than the Act No. 41 of 2016, dated 16 May 2016, which introduced amendments into Act No. 83 of 2005, with respect to person with disabilities and access to employment;
- (d) The lack of information and accurate statistics concerning the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including those representing women, girls and boys with disabilities, at the governorate and national levels;
- (e) The lack of adequate measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including those with sensory and intellectual disabilities, have access to the information about the concluding observations (CRPD/C/TUN/CO/1), including through digital dissemination;
- (f) The lingering obstacles to obtain Disability cards, despite the amendments made to Order No. 1859 of 2006, dated 3 July 2006;
- (g) The limited action taken by the Committee of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Centre for Research and Social Studies, tasked to draft the necessary amendments to bring the Order No. 3086 of 2005, dated 29 November 2005, fully in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Take action to align the definition of disability in domestic law, including in Order No. 3086 of 2005, dated 29 November 2005, with the Convention that reflects human right model of disability;**
- (b) **Establish a clear mechanism to enforce the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and Vulnerable Categories and ensure that the Ministry of Social Affairs and other public entities take action, without further delay, on the recommendations made by the Committee, including those included in its report of 2016;**

(c) Take immediate steps to adopt the package of legal amendments, presented to the Ministry of Social Affairs by the subcommittee on legislation, into the relevant legislation affecting persons with disabilities;

(d) Develop strategies to strengthen commitment across all government portfolio areas to ensure disability is recognised as a crosscutting issue, that meaningful partnerships are developed with organisations of persons with disabilities to ensure close consultation and active participation in legislative and policy processes to implement the Convention, including in design, implementation and evaluation, and that organisations of persons with disabilities are appropriately resourced to build capacity to participate in partnership across government portfolio areas;

Take measures to remove all obstacles in the process of obtaining Disability card by all persons with disabilities and ensure that the work of the Committee tasked with drafting amendments to the Order No. 3086 of 2005, dated 29 November 2005, to bring this into effect finalises its work;

(e) Make information on the implementation of the Convention including concluding observations from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities available to all persons with disabilities using accessible means of communication including braille, sign language and Easy Read as well as other augmentative means of Communication, including inclusive digital communication.

34. The Committee, in accordance with its General Comment No. 5 (2017) on Living independently and being included in the community recommends the State party to:

(a) Put in place legal and policy measures for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities and their effective inclusion in the community in accordance with the guide on deinstitutionalization developed by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(b) Take appropriate measures to recognize the right of persons with disabilities, irrespective of age, gender and impairment, to choose their place of residence and with whom they want to live and the right to have access to social support including personal assistants and security based on their individual requirements;

(c) Ensure that services aimed at the general population in the community adopt an inclusive approach throughout the State party;

(d) Consult with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations to ensure the inclusiveness of services and to identify the adequate support services to be provided.

Bangladesh (2022)

7. The Committee is concerned that the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2013 does not adequately provide protection for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons affected by leprosy and that the concept of disability used in the State party does not fully adhere to the human rights model of disability.

8. The Committee recommends that the State Party review the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2013 to effectively harmonize laws, policies, strategies and action plans with the Convention, including ensuring provisions for women with disabilities.

9. The Committee notes with concern the absence of mechanisms that are meaningful and effective for consultation and participation to ensure that the views, opinions and concerns of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons affected by leprosy, are adequately included at all stages of decision-making processes by public authorities at all levels, including in rural areas.

10. In line with general comment No. 7 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party establish formal mechanisms for the effective participation and meaningful consultation of all persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities,

through their representative organisations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, including the provision of adequate funding for such organisations, which currently is insufficient.

China (2022)

6. The Committee notes with concern that the disability-related legislation and policies have not yet been fully brought into line with the Convention and the human rights model of disability has not been consistently harmonized across all policy and legislation.

7. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on Article 4.3 and 33.3: Participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a unified concept of disability in all professional and legal areas that is aligned with the purpose and principles of the Convention and covers all persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities;

8. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of a legal framework concerning the advocacy and work which persons with disabilities through their representative organizations can undertake in relation to the development of legislation and policies to implement the Convention, and in other decision-making processes that affect persons with disabilities;

(b) The reports of reprisals against and continuing pressure on civil society organizations for their advocacy work on the rights of persons with disabilities.

9. The Committee recalls its General Comment No. 7 (2018) and urges the State party to:

(a) Strengthen mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in public decision-making processes by establishing clear procedures for consultations at all levels of authority and decision-making and with the participation of the full range of organizations of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, and adopting measures to safeguard their independence from public authorities and participation in the design, reporting and monitoring of legislation and policies aimed at implementing the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Recognize the role of civil society organizations as human rights defenders, prohibit any reprisals against individuals and organizations promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and take measures to protect the civic space.

10. The Committee is concerned about the lack of independent assessments of the human rights situation of persons with disabilities in China, especially in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the Tibet Autonomous Region.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party commit to an independent assessment of the human rights situation of persons with disabilities in China, especially in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the Tibet Autonomous Region, including by invitation to UN Special Procedures and engagement with the OHCHR.

Hong-Kong (2022)

63. With reference to its previous concluding observations (CRPD/C/CHN/CO/1), the Committee is concerned about the lack of a harmonized concept of disability in law and policy, and notes with concern that the eligibility standards in the Disability Allowance Scheme continue to rely solely on the medical model, despite revisions being brought to the policy paper in 2019. Furthermore, the Committee regrets Hong Kong SAR, China's use of language that devalues persons with disabilities, such as "mentally handicapped", "mentally disordered", "mentally incapacitated persons" in various laws and policies.

64. The Committee reiterates its recommendations to Hong Kong SAR, China to align the eligibility standards in the Disability Allowance Scheme with the human rights model, and to adopt a unified concept of disability in all professional and legal areas that is aligned with the purpose and principles of the Convention and covers all persons with disabilities.

The Committee further recommends that Hong Kong SAR, China ensure that the use of all derogatory language in reference to persons with disabilities is eliminated from all legislation, public documents and public discourse.

Macau

80. The Committee notes with concern that the medical model of disability is still prevalent in Macao SAR, China, including within its disability assessment system and in relation to the eligibility criteria for accessing necessary services and support measures, operating on the assessment of capacity of a person to live independently and “assume his or her obligations”.

81. The Committee urges Macao SAR, China to reorient its disability assessment systems by replacing elements of the medical model of disability with principles of the human rights model of disability and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities and the provision of the necessary support and assistance to promote the independent living of persons with disabilities and their full social inclusion.

Indonesia (2022)

6. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The use in laws and policies, of concepts and terminology that devalue and pathologize persons with disabilities and promote inequality and discrimination;
- (b) The lack of an effective coordinating mechanism to ensure the implementation of the Convention and Law No. 8 of 2016 at all levels of government, including the autonomous regions;
- (c) The omission of measures, within the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities to address serious violations in, and deinstitutionalisation of social care mental institutions;
- (d) That the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal or amend sections in legislation and policies that use devaluing concepts and terms for persons with disabilities, including Law No. 11 of 2009 concerning social welfare and Law No. 11 of 2020 concerning jobs creation (the Omnibus Law), especially on the terminology of “Penyandang Cacat” (People with defects);**
- (b) Create an effective coordinating mechanism to ensure the implementation of the Convention and Law No. 8 of 2016 across national, provincial, city and regency and sub-district levels to ensure the same human rights standards are applied throughout the country;**
- (c) Ensure the human rights issues concerning social care mental institutions are included as a priority area within the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities;**
- (d) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.**

8. The Committee is concerned about the inadequate mechanisms for facilitating the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes concerning disability-related laws, policies and programmes to implement the Convention;

9. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms at the national, provincial, city and regency and sub-district levels for the effective involvement of the diversity of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, including for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Japan (2022)

7. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Lack of harmonization of disability-related national legislation and policies with the human rights model of disability as contained in the Convention by pertaining a paternalist approach to persons with disabilities;
- (b) Perpetuation of medical model of disability across legislation, regulation and practice, including the disability qualification and certification system, which, on the basis of impairment and capacity assessment, promotes the exclusion of persons who require more intensive support, persons with intellectual, psychosocial or sensory disabilities from disability allowances and social inclusion schemes;
- (c) Derogatory terminology, such as “mentally incompetent”, “mental derangement”, and “insanity”, as well as discriminatory legal restrictions, such as disqualifying clauses, based on “physical or mental disorder”;
- (d) Inaccurate translation of the Convention into Japanese, particularly, of the terms “inclusion”, “inclusive”, “communication”, “accessibility”, “access”, “particular living arrangement”, “personal assistance”, and “habilitation”;
- (e) Regional and municipal gaps in providing necessary services and assistance to persons with disabilities in the communities, including mobility support, personal assistance and communication support.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Harmonize all disability-related national legislation and policies with the Convention recognizing all persons with disabilities as subjects of human rights on equal basis with others, including through ensuring close consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, in particular, persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;**
- (b) Review its legislation and regulations to eliminate elements of medical model of disability, including the disability qualification and certification system, to ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless impairment, receive the required support in the community for having equal opportunities in society and full social inclusion and participation;**
- (c) Abolish derogatory language and legal restrictions, such as disqualifying clauses, based on “physical or mental disorder”, within its national and municipal legislation;**
- (d) Ensure that all terms of the Convention are accurately translated into Japanese;**
- (e) Take necessary legislative and budgetary measures to eliminate the regional and municipal gaps for providing necessary services and assistance to persons with disabilities in the communities, including mobility support, personal assistance and communication support.**

9. The Committee is further concerned about:

- (a) Insufficient involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in consultations concerning legislation and public policies, including those carried out by the National Consultative Council of Persons with Disabilities, and the municipal and inter-municipal committees on accessibility;
- (b) Lack of comprehensive response to the stabbings occurred in 2016 at the Tsukui Yamayuri-en facility, located in Sagamihara, mainly owing to eugenic and ableist mindset in society;
- (c) Limited awareness of the rights recognized in the Convention among the judiciary and justice sector professionals, policy- and lawmakers at the national and municipal levels, as well as teachers, medical, health, building design and social workers, and other professionals in connection with persons with disabilities.

10. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on Article 4.3 and 33.3: Participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure active, meaningful and effective consultations with the diversity of representative organizations of persons with disabilities at national and municipal levels, including through the means of alternative communication, accessibility and reasonable accommodations, in public decision-making processes, paying attention to self-advocates with disabilities and organisations of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, autistic persons, women with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ persons with disabilities, persons living in rural areas, and those requiring more intensive support, including in the implementation and monitoring of and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Review the Tsukui Yamayuri-en case aiming at combating eugenic and ableist attitudes and legal liability for promotion of such attitudes in society;

(c) With the close involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, provide systematic capacity-building programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities and the obligations of the State Party under the Convention, for the judiciary and justice sector professionals, policy - and lawmakers, teachers, medical, health and social workers, and all other professionals in connexion with persons with disabilities.

11. The Committee notes that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention. It also notes with concern the State Party's interpretative declaration related to Article 23 paragraph 4 of the Convention.

12. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and withdraw its interpretative declaration related to Article 23 paragraph 4 of the Convention.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

6. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Disability-related legislation and policies have not been fully harmonized in line with the Convention, including derogatory terms to refer to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including "persons who lost their intellect", "persons who lost their mind", "crazy persons", and the confusion between the terms of "disability" and "amputation";

(b) The medical model of disability is still prevalent in the State party, including within its disability assessment system and in relation to the eligibility criteria for accessing necessary services and support measures;

(c) There is a lack of a twin-track approach in legislation and public policies;

(d) Persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, have limited involvement in consultations concerning legislation and public policies related to them; and that the duties of the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities are not clearly distinguished;

(e) Reports of reprisals against civil society organizations for their advocacy work on the rights of persons with disabilities;

(f) The State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on Article 4.3 and 33.3: Participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the existing disability-related legislation and policies and align them with the Convention, including through eliminating derogatory language regarding persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that its disability assessment systems are based on the human rights model of disability aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities and the provision of the necessary support and assistance to promote the independent living of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion;

- (c) Adopt a twin-track approach by mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities across all national action plans and strategies, and by adopting targeted and monitored measures aimed specifically at supporting and empowering persons with disabilities;
- (d) Implement mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities, in particular of persons with intellectual disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, concerning laws and policies affecting them, and strengthen the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities;
- (e) Recognize the role of civil society organizations as human rights defenders, prohibit any reprisals against individuals and organizations promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and take measures to protect the civic space;
- (f) The Committee encourages the State Party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

New Zealand (2022)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of recognition, across all government portfolio areas, that disability is a whole of government responsibility, the lack of engagement with organisations of persons with disabilities outside the ministry of disability portfolio, and the lack of appropriate resourcing for organisations of persons with disabilities to build capacity to meaningfully engage in legislative and policy processes.
- (b) The underrepresentation of Māori persons with disabilities in legislative and policy processes to implement the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop strategies to strengthen commitment across all government portfolio areas to ensure disability is recognised as a crosscutting issue, that meaningful partnerships are developed with organisations of persons with disabilities to ensure close consultation and active involvement in legislative and policy processes to implement the Convention, including co-design, co-production and co-evaluation, and that organisations of persons with disabilities are appropriately resourced to build capacity to participate in partnership across government portfolio areas.
- (b) Develop legislative and policy frameworks that reflect the Treaty of Waitangi, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to ensure that Māori persons with disabilities are closely consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes and that their right to self-determination is recognised.

Republic of Korea (2022)

5. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Disability-related legislation and policies, including the revised definitions of disability in the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, have not yet been fully brought in line with the Convention, and fails to identify the specific needs of some persons with disabilities, in particular deafblind persons and persons with disabilities with HIV/AIDS;
- (b) The medical model of disability is still prevalent in the State party, including within the disability classification system, despite the recent revision of the disability grading system and the reduction from 6 to 2 grades, which has a negative impact by preventing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and limiting their access to appropriate services and support;
- (c) The lack of awareness among policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, about the rights recognized in the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the existing national disability-related legislation and policies to align them with the provisions of the Convention, and adopt a concept of disability that covers all persons

with disabilities, in particular, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, persons who are deafblind and persons with disabilities with HIV/AIDS and ensure that their characteristics and needs are recognized;

(b) Reorient its disability assessment systems by replacing elements of the medical model of disability with principles of the human rights model of disability and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities and the provision of the necessary support and assistance to promote the independent living of persons with disabilities and their full social inclusion;

(c) With the close involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, provide capacity-building programmes for public policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the obligations of the State party under the Convention;

7. The Committee notes that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

8. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

9. The Committee is concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, in decision-making processes concerning disability-related laws, policies and programmes.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, and ensure that meaningful consultations are held with the whole range of organizations of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, intersex persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, refugees and migrants with disabilities, autistic persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender diverse persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities requiring higher levels of support.

Singapore (2022)

5. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That national legislation and policies do not systematically incorporate the human rights model of disability but largely employ a medical model which engenders systemic discrimination of persons with disabilities on the basis of their impairment;

(b) That the legislation implementing the Convention is confined to intermittent sector-specific legal provisions with scant or no discernible relationship to each other, without any overarching legislation ensuring comprehensive application and some level of coherence in all areas of life;

(c) That national legislation does not contain a formal definition of disability, framed in conformity with art. 1 (2) of the Convention, and that the existing assessment and certification mechanisms are not harmonized across the national disability related legislation;

(d) That persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, autistic persons and children with disabilities, and their representative organisations, are not closely consult with and actively involved in the development and implementation of all legislation and policies to implement the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review all of its existing disability-related legislation and policies, including the Third Enabling Masterplan, remove all vestiges of a medical model of disability from it, and base it throughout on the human rights model of disability;

(b) Enact overarching legislation protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, ensuring the comprehensive, coherent application of the principles and rights guaranteed by the Convention in all areas in life;

(c) Harmonize the legal definition of disability and the assessment and certification mechanisms across the national legal system, to protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, and autistic persons;

(d) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, autistic persons and children with disabilities, and their representative organisations are closely consulted with and actively involved in the development and implementation of all legislation and policies to implement the Convention.

7. The Committee notes that:

(a) The State party maintains its reservation to articles 12 (4) and 29 (a)(iii) of the Convention;

(b) The State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

8. The Committee encourages that the State party:

(a) Withdraw its reservations to articles 12 (4) and 29 (a)(iii) of the Convention;

(b) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

Hungary (2022)

6. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Disability-related legislation and policies have not yet been fully brought into line with the Convention, that there is an inappropriate translation of the terminology of the Convention into Hungarian and derogatory terms, such as “abnormal mental condition” used in the Criminal Code of 2012 and the Criminal Procedure Code of 2017;

(b) Different concepts of disability in various professional and legal areas result in the lack of recognition of all persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with speech impairments;

(c) The medical model of disability is still prevalent in the State party, including within its disability assessment system and in relation to the eligibility criteria for accessing necessary services and support measures, operating on the assessment of capacity of a person to understand and to live independently and “residual health” thresholds, which adversely affect the social inclusion of persons with disabilities;

(d) There is a lack of awareness of the rights recognized in the Convention among the judiciary and justice sector professionals, policy- and lawmakers, teachers, medical, health and social workers and all other professionals working with persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the existing disability-related legislation and policies and align them with the provisions of the Convention, including through ensuring the appropriate translation of the terminology of the Convention into Hungarian and through eliminating all derogatory language regarding persons with disabilities across its legislation;

(b) Adopt a unified concept of disability in all professional and legal areas that is aligned with the purpose and principles of the Convention and covers all persons with disabilities;

(c) Reorient its disability assessment systems by replacing elements of the medical model of disability with principles of the human rights model of disability and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities and the provision of the necessary support and assistance to promote the independent living of persons with disabilities and their full social inclusion;

(d) With the close involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, provide capacity-building programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities and on the obligations of the State party, as contained in the Convention, for the judiciary and justice sector professionals, policy- and lawmakers, teachers, medical, health and social workers and all other professionals working with persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of independence and non-substantive nature of the established consultation bodies, including the National Disability Council, the National Coordinating Body for Deinstitutionalization, the Human Rights Working Group and the Intergovernmental Disability Committee, and the lack of effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in public decision-making;
- (b) The lack of accessibility to informational material in public decision-making processes, limiting the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Reports of reprisals against and continuing pressure on civil society organizations for their advocacy work on the rights of persons with disabilities.

9. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) and urges the State party to:

- (a) Strengthen mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in public decision-making processes by adopting measures to safeguard their independence from public authorities and with the participation of the full range of organizations of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, intersex persons, women with disabilities, persons with disabilities living in rural areas, autistic persons, Roma and gender diverse persons with disabilities, those requiring high levels of support and refugees and migrant persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Provide organizations of persons with disabilities with accessible information, including information in Easy Read and other accessible formats, and with timetables of the consultation processes concerning any law and policy reforms related to persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Recognize the role of civil society organizations as human rights defenders, prohibit any reprisals against individuals and organizations promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and take measures to protect the civic space.**

Jamaica (2022)

6. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The use, in laws and policies, of derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities, which emphasize persons' impairments, reflect the medical and paternalistic approaches to disability and reinforce stigma against persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The fact that the definition of persons with disabilities in the Disabilities Act, 2014, the Mental Health Act, 1999 and the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2000, focuses on impairment and therefore is not in line with the Convention;
- (c) The lack of awareness among policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, about the rights recognized in the Convention;
- (d) The fact that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all sections in the legislation that use derogatory terms, including articles 37 (2) (c) and 40 (2) (f) of the Constitution, section 8 (2) of the Property (Rights of Spouse) Act, and the Mental Health Act, and other provisions, policies and regulations, and ensure that they conform to the human rights model of disability;**
- (b) Ensure that concepts of "disability" and "persons with disabilities" in the national legislation are in line with the human rights model and the Convention;**
- (c) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for public policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the obligations of the State party under the Convention. The State party should involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of training for public officials;**
- (d) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention without further delay.**

8. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The inadequate mechanisms for facilitating the involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes concerning disability-related laws, policies and programmes, including in processes related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) The lack of a system for the collection of data and statistics on persons with disabilities by the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities.

9. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen and implement mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities, in particular of persons with intellectual disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, including for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The State party should ensure that meaningful consultations are held with the whole range of organizations of persons with disabilities and provide them with a timetable for the consultation processes concerning any reforms to be made to laws and policies affecting persons with disabilities;

(b) Establish a more inclusive data collection mechanism, separate from the registration by the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities, to collect statistics and data on persons with disabilities in the State party.

Mexico (2022)

5. The Committee is concerned about insufficient budgetary allocations to measures implementing the Convention on the federal, state and municipal levels.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources to implement the Convention effectively at all levels of government.

7. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a national plan on the implementation of the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party issue a comprehensive national plan on the implementation of the Convention on the federal and state levels that includes the mechanisms required to implement it, with a particular focus on indigenous persons with disabilities.

9. With reference to its previous concluding observations,² the Committee is concerned that the legislation on the state level still contains serious gaps in its protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and contains pejorative language with reference to persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party harmonize its laws, and particularly the laws of the states, with the Convention in order to protect the rights of all persons with disabilities and eliminate pejorative terminology relating to persons with disabilities.

11. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of a welfare and medical model of disability.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party abandon the welfare and medical model of disability and replace it with the human rights model.

13. The Committee is concerned about a serious decline in the availability of mechanisms for consultations with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations concerning the design and implementation of laws and policies affecting them.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 7 (2018), ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities, including of

women and girls with disabilities, are consulted and involved in decision-making processes at all levels of government and in all public policy areas relating to them.

Switzerland (2022)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of harmonization of the legislation and policy framework with the Convention, including the human rights model of disability;

(b) The use of language that devalues persons with disabilities, such as “invalidity” and “helplessness”, in the legislative and policy framework, including in the Federal Constitution, and the invalidity insurance and disability entitlements systems;

(c) The absence of an overall strategy for implementing the Convention in all areas of life.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Harmonize its legal and policy framework on disability with the Convention at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels, by integrating the human rights model of disability in its laws, regulations and practices, including the invalidity insurance and disability entitlements systems;**

(b) **Eliminate from its legislation and policy framework, at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels, all devaluing language with reference to persons with disabilities, and replace it with terminology that respects the dignity of persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Adopt a comprehensive disability strategy and action plan for implementing all Convention rights at all levels of government, and strengthen coordination and cooperation among entities at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels.**

9. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, in decision-making processes concerning laws, policies and programmes, including in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) The lack of financial and other resources available to the diversity of organizations of persons with disabilities to promote the effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society;

(c) The lack of accessibility of information about public policy and decision-making processes, and limited opportunities to participate at all stages of these processes.

10. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Strengthen mechanisms at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels to ensure effective support and consultations with diverse organizations of persons with disabilities – including organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, autistic persons, persons with psychosocial disabilities, women with disabilities, children with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities – in design, reporting and monitoring with respect to legislation and policies aimed at implementing the Convention and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;**

(b) **Ensure that adequate financial and other necessary resources are available for the diversity of organizations of persons with disabilities, and that such organizations have access to independent and self-managed funding to strengthen their capacity to independently promote the effective participation of persons with disabilities and their inclusion in society;**

(c) Provide organizations of persons with disabilities with accessible information, including information in Easy Read and sign languages, and ensure an adequate time frame for their participation at all stages of legislative, policy and decision-making processes.

Venezuela (2022)

5. While the Committee takes note of the State party's intention to amend existing laws in accordance with the Convention, it is concerned by the lack of implementing regulations for the 2007 Act on Persons with Disabilities and the fact that the bill on the protection, care and dignified treatment of persons with disabilities is still under discussion.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that any legislative amendments are in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Convention, in line with the human rights-based model of disability and mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities; and that it ensure the active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities at all stages of the related discussions and drafting process, regardless of their political affiliation.

7. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018), recommends that the State party promote the effective and independent participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations for women, children, older persons, indigenous persons and persons of African descent, in decision-making in all processes that concern them.

Djibouti (2021)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

a) The national legislation, particularly the Civil Code, Criminal Code, Family Code, Labour Code, and Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018), which are based on the medical approach to disability, do not sufficiently protect social, economic and cultural rights or fundamental civil and political rights, including the rights to liberty and security of the person, and to equal recognition before the law and, reflect a narrow concept of disability that excludes persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;

b) The need to review and harmonize its Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018) to bring it in conformity with the Convention, particularly articles 7 of on the prevention of disability which is misunderstood as steps to implement the Convention, and articles 10 and 31 on the provision of segregated services for persons with disabilities;

c) The use of derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities in laws and policies, such as "persons with special needs", and the definition of disability based on the medical approach under the Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018), the Labour Code, and Decree No. 2020-306/PRE, which emphasize persons' impairments;

d) The absence of a comprehensive and long-term action-plan for the implementation of the Convention;

e) The lack of transparent and systematic procedures and information on the consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and organizations of women and girls with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Review its legislation and policies to bring them in line with the human rights model of disability in accordance with the Convention, particularly the Civil Code, Criminal Code, Family Code, Labour Code, and Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018);

b) Repeal derogatory terminology and concepts that demeans persons with disabilities from its legislation, particularly Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018), Labour Code, and Decree No. 2020-306/PRE and ensure they recognize the evolving concept of disability as arising from the interaction between persons with impairments and barriers to the full participation of persons with disabilities in society;

- c) Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of the National Disability Strategy (2020–2024) and adopt a comprehensive and long-term disability national action plan for implementing the rights of persons with disabilities in the Convention across all government sectors and levels in order to address attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder the participation of persons with disabilities in society;
- d) Establish formal and transparent mechanisms to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of and consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including their participation in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, in line with general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

France (2021)

7. The Committee notes with concern:

- a) The interpretative declaration upon ratification to the Convention concerning the interpretation of the term 'consent' in article 15 (1);
- b) The absence of measures to review and harmonise disability-related national, regional and municipal legislation and policies with the Convention, and legislation and public policies based on the medical model and paternalistic approaches to disability, including the definition of disability in the Act on Equal Rights and Opportunities, Participation and Citizenship for Persons with Disabilities, of 11 February 2005 that focuses on incapacity of persons with disabilities and their "normalization", the medical treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities and autistic persons, and the 'model of medico-social care' for persons with disabilities, which sustains systematic institutionalization of persons on the basis of disability;
- c) The lack of information on the jurisprudence of French courts on the direct application of the rights guaranteed by the Convention;
- d) The absence of a national strategy and public policies for implementing the State party's obligations under the Convention;
- e) The lack of awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities of policymakers, government officials, at the national and municipal levels, legal and other professionals, including judges, teachers, medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee recalls the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in her report on the visit to France (A/HRC/40/54/Add.1), and recommends that the State party:

9. The Committee is concerned about:

- a) Provisions in the Law of 2005-102 (article 1) and of the Social Action and Family Code (article L.146-1) conflating associations of service providers and managers with organizations of persons with disabilities, resulting in conflict of interests in service provision and obstacles to effectively shift from 'medico-institutional-care' to independent living in the community;
- b) Limited involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in consultations concerning legislation and public policies, including those carried out by the National Consultative Council of Persons with Disabilities, and the municipal and inter-municipal committees on accessibility.

10. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 7 (2018) and recommends that the State party:

- a) Revise provisions of article 1 of the Law of 2005-102 with a view to strengthen and implement transparent mechanisms to closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes at all levels, including in implementing, monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals;

b) Ensure meaningful and effective support and consultations with the diversity of organizations of persons with disabilities as outlined in General comment No. 7, paying attention to, organisations of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, autistic persons, women with disabilities, LGBTI persons with disabilities, persons living in rural areas, Roma persons with disabilities and those requiring high levels of support.

Estonia (2021)

7. The Committee notes with concern:

- a) That disability-related legislation and policies have not yet been fully brought into line with the Convention, in particular the negative impact of disability-assessment systems preventing inclusion of children with disabilities in society, and their access to appropriate services and required support;
- b) The derogatory concepts and terminology concerning persons with disabilities, such as “abnormality”, “helpless person”, “mental disorders” in laws and policies, emphasizing on persons’ impairments, reflecting the medical and paternalistic approaches to disability in the State party, and reinforcing stigma against persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;
- c) Disability-related regulations and policies that approach persons with disabilities primarily as social service recipients, in absence of an overall strategy for implementing the Convention, in all areas of life;
- d) Information indicating lack of coordination between national and local levels of public administration concerning implementation of disability-specific programmes;
- e) The lack of awareness of policymakers, officers and professionals, at the national and municipal levels, including judges, prosecutors, teachers, medical, health and other professionals, working with persons with disabilities, on the rights recognized in the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Review of existing disability-related legislation and policies, including disability-assessment systems, and bring them into line with the human rights model of disability in the Convention. Ensure that policies and programmes mainstream support required by children with disabilities, irrespective of impairment;**
- b) **Repeal derogatory terminology and concepts from the Social Benefits for Disabled Persons Act, the Equal Treatment Act, and other provisions or regulations, and ensure they conform to the human rights model of disability;**
- c) **Adopt a comprehensive disability strategy and a national action plan for implementing the rights of persons with disabilities in the Convention, across all government sectors and levels, in order to address attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder participation of persons with disabilities in society;**
- d) **Ensure appropriate coordination and cooperation amongst the national and municipal levels, and ensure accessibility and availability of social protection programmes and mainstream community services for persons with disabilities;**
- e) **Strengthen capacity-building programmes for public policy-makers, municipal officers and professionals, at the national and municipal levels, judges, prosecutors, teachers, medical, health and other professionals, working with persons with disabilities, on the rights of persons with disabilities and obligations of the State party under the Convention. The State party should involve organisations of persons with disabilities, in the design and implementation of training for public officials.**

9. The Committee notes with concern:

- a) The lack of effective involvement of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and persons with autism through their representative organizations, in decision-making process concerning disability-related laws, policies and

programmes, including in processes related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and sustainable development goals;

b) The insufficient financial, and other supports particularly for organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities;

c) The lack of accessibility to information about public decision-making process limiting opportunities of participation to grass roots organizations of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party:

a) Strengthen and implement mechanisms for effective involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in public decision-making processes, including in implementing, monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. The State party should ensure meaningful consultations with the diversity of organizations of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, intersex persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, persons living in rural areas, persons with autism, Roma and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender persons with disabilities, and those requiring higher levels of support.

b) Ensure that adequate financial and other necessary supports are available for organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities. The State party should ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities have access to independent and self-managed funding for strengthening their capacity to independently advocate for their participation in society, and adopt measures to safeguard their independence from public authorities;

c) Provide organizations of persons with disabilities with accessible information, including information in Easy Read, and other accessible formats, and timetable of the consultation process concerning any legislative or policy reforms, related to persons with disabilities.

Albania (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

a) The insufficient efforts to revise existing legislation and to bring it into full compliance with the Convention, in particular with regard to the State party's use and interpretation of the "bio-psycho-social" model in reforming disability assessment systems;

b) The lack of a harmonised concept of disability and the denial of reasonable accommodation in discrimination legislation;

c) The lack of mainstream and disability-specific services provided for persons with disabilities at the local level;

d) The use of derogatory language against persons with disabilities throughout laws, policies and public discourse.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention, to harmonize its legislation and include a human rights model of disability and the denial of reasonable accommodation in discrimination laws, in accordance with the Convention. It also recommends that the State party review existing and draft laws, including the ongoing reform of disability assessments for social protection entitlements established in Law no. 121/2016 on Social Services and in Law no. 15/2019 on Employment Promotion, together with the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 380 (5 June, 2019), in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities to ensure persons with disabilities can access mainstream and disability-specific services at the local level. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that the use of all derogatory language in reference to persons with disabilities is eliminated from all legislation, public documents and discourse.

7. The Committee is concerned by:

- a) The lack of legislation, transparent procedures and information, regarding consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities;
- b) The fact that, based on Law 93/2014 “On the inclusion and accessibility of persons with disabilities”, the Prime Minister is exclusively in charge of the nomination as well as of the appointment of the members of the National Disability Council and that the level of representation of members of civil society in the Council is below 50 per cent;
- c) The lack of regular and sustainable financial support for organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly at the local level;
- d) The official Albanian translation of the Convention, which makes an erroneous reference to organizations “for” persons with disabilities, which does not adhere to the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and:

- (a) Take all the legal and other necessary measures to adopt formal and transparent mechanisms for the nomination and election of representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities in the National Disability Council, including those representing women and children with disabilities, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Provide sufficient and regular financial resources and administrative support for the Council and ensure more equal representation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities nationwide, to ensure the quality of the experts and an adequate representation of the interests of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure a correct official translation to ensure equal opportunities to organizations of persons with disabilities.**

9. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention without further delay.

Australia (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

- a) The insufficient harmonization of the domestic legal framework with the Convention;
- b) The lack of progress made to review and withdraw the interpretive declarations on articles 12, 17 and 18 of the Convention;
- c) The serious delays in releasing the third plan for implementing the National Disability Strategy 2010–2020;
- d) The weakness of the mechanisms and the limited funding available under the National Disability Strategy and the National Disability Agreement for the full and effective engagement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in policy development, implementation and monitoring of actions relating to the Convention;
- e) The disability assessment that individuals must undergo in order to be eligible to receive services through the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which still relies heavily on the medical model of disability and does not provide older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities with equal opportunities;
- f) The inaccessibility of the National Disability Insurance Scheme due to complex procedures, limited publically available and accessible information and the lack of services in remote areas;
- g) The unsustainability and inadequacy of resources for continuous, individual and independent advocacy programmes.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Fully harmonize domestic legislation with the Convention by carrying out disability rights impact assessments on legislative changes that may affect the rights of persons with disabilities;**
- b) Review and withdraw the interpretative declarations on articles 12, 17 and 18 of the Convention;**
- c) Roll out the third plan for implementing the National Disability Strategy;**
- d) In close consultation with and with the effective participation of diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, ensure that the National Disability Agreement and the next national disability strategy receive adequate resources, an implementation plan with measurable goals and a robust monitoring mechanism, a formal performance reporting framework and evaluation, governance and accountability requirements, including through the implementation of the recommendations made by the Productivity Commission;**
- e) Review disability assessment criteria for support schemes under the National Disability Insurance Scheme and align them with the human rights model of disability, ensuring adequate support for older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;**
- f) Simplify, clarify and make National Disability Insurance Scheme procedures more transparent, including by making information publically available and accessible, and ensure that the Scheme meets the diverse and intersecting requirements of persons with disabilities in all areas;**
- g) Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access continuous, sustainable and adequately resourced individual and independent advocacy programmes, particularly those not part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.**

7. The Committee is concerned that there are no permanent or effective mechanisms to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, establish formal and permanent mechanisms to ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention, ensuring adequate resources and the provision of the necessary support. It recommends that the State party involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in particular in all aspects of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Australian Government Plan to Improve Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability.

Ecuador (2019)

7. The Committee observes with concern that the State party's laws, manuals and guidelines have not been harmonized with the human rights model set out in the Convention. It notes, in particular, that the Organic Act on Disabilities retains a conceptual approach that is based on a medical model of disability and that emphasizes the limitation of abilities while disregarding the social dimension of disability. The Committee is also concerned that:

- a) The State party's disability classification system is not in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention;
- b) Recent amendments of the Organic Act on the Ombudsman's Office and the Organic Act on Disabilities do away with the Office of the Ombudsman's authority to impose penalties for failures to observe protection measures for persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors.

8. With regard to the institutional framework for public policies and programmes, the Committee is concerned at:

- a) The dissolution in 2016 of the Technical Secretariat for Disabilities, whose areas of authority, programmes and projects have been officially transferred to other ministries and government bodies without providing them with sufficient budgetary allocations for those purposes or a mechanism for monitoring their implementation;
- b) The fact that the targeted objectives and policies established under the National Agenda for the Equality of Persons with Disabilities focus on the provision of assistance rather than on inclusion.

9. In relation to the State party's obligations under article 4 (3), the Committee is concerned at:

- a) The fact that organizations of women, children, adolescents, older adults, indigenous persons, persons of African descent and Montubio persons with disabilities have not participated on an effective, independent basis in decision-making processes concerning all the matters that affect them. The Committee is also concerned at the failure to promote and disseminate information in accessible formats on disability-related legislation and programmes in the State party, the Committee's concluding observations on the State party's initial report or the Committee's general comments;
- b) Reports of continued obstacles to the effective participation in public life of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, particularly in decision-making processes concerning matters that affect them and in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, and reports of acts of intimidation, harassment and victimization of defenders of the human rights of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee reiterates the recommendations made in paragraphs 9 and 11 of its concluding observations on the State party's initial report (CRPD/C/ECU/CO/1) and recommends that the State party ensure that any amendments of its legislation conform to the principles enshrined in the Convention and are in line with the human rights approach to disability and that, in particular, the rights of persons with disabilities are mainstreamed therein. The Committee also recommends that the State party:

- a) Ensure that the criteria used in its disability classification system are in keeping with the Convention and based on the human rights model of disability rather than on the medical model and that they include criteria such as the independence and autonomy of persons within their environment on an equal footing with others;
- b) Ensure the enforcement of protection measures granted to persons with disabilities and the establishment of mechanisms for imposing penalties for the non-observance of such protection measures in the public and private sectors.

11. The Committee also recommends that the State party:

- a) Ensure that the public policies and programmes on disability that have been transferred to different government ministries are fully implemented on the basis of the human rights model of disability and that their implementation is overseen by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and civil society organizations of persons with disabilities;
- b) Make inclusion a pivotal component of public policies on disability and, in particular, of the National Agenda for the Equality of Persons with Disabilities.

12. The Committee, bearing in mind the recommendation that it made in paragraph 13 of its concluding observations on the State party's initial report (CRPD/C/ECU/CO/1) and general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, recommends that the State party:

- a) Promote the effective, independent participation of organizations of women, children, older adults, indigenous persons, persons of African descent and Montubio persons with disabilities in decision-making processes concerning all matters that affect them and promote and widely disseminate the Committee's concluding observations on the State party's initial report and the Committee's general comments in accessible formats;

b) Take effective and timely measures to prevent the intimidation, harassment and victimization of human rights defenders, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including civil society leaders, journalists, media professionals and defenders of the human rights of persons with disabilities.

El Salvador (2019)

4. The Committee is concerned that several laws, particularly article 367-A of the Criminal Code, and the new Family Code, do not adhere to the Convention, resulting in the exclusion of and discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about:

- a) The lack of progress on enacting the law on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, which would repeal the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disability Act;
- b) The lack of measures adopted to align the criteria for the disability certification mechanism with the Convention;
- c) The pejorative terms used in the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disability Act to refer to persons with disabilities.

5. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Review and amend all its laws, particularly the Family Code and the Criminal Code, to eliminate the concept of the “declaration of incapacity” in order to fully recognize and respect all the rights of persons with disabilities;**
- b) **Expedite the adoption of the law on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, ensuring that it contains the human rights model of disability, and repeal the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disability Act;**
- c) **Ensure the elimination of pejorative language used to refer to persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities in legislation.**

6. The Committee is concerned at the lack of budgetary allocation for the implementation of plans and programmes at the national and municipal levels for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate and earmark sufficient budget for the implementation of plans and programmes for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, in both urban and rural areas.

Greece (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a harmonized human rights-based approach to disability in the legislation of the State party and that the existing legislative framework, including the disability assessment mechanism, still comprises elements associated with the medical model of disability and contains derogatory language in reference to persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of a coherent and long-term strategy for the effective implementation of the Convention.

The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:

- a) **Harmonize its legal and administrative framework on disability, including the disability assessment mechanism, by fully integrating the human rights model of disability in 6. its laws, regulations and practices across all levels of government and territories, in line with the Convention;**
- b) **Develop a comprehensive, coherent and long-term national strategy and action plan for the implementation of the Convention, with clear timelines, benchmarks and budget allocations;**
- c) **Eliminate from its legislation derogatory language in reference to persons with disabilities.**

India (2019)

6. The Committee is concerned about:

- a) The prevalence of the medical model of disability in legislation, public policies and attitudes concerning persons with disabilities, particularly in the multiple assessments and certification of disability and the requirement for different assessments to access services in the community, and in the misunderstanding of disability, including leprosy, as solely a biological condition requiring prevention and rehabilitation;
- b) Legislation, public policies and practices that discriminate against persons with disabilities, particularly guardianship, institutionalization, psychiatric treatment and segregated community services based on disability, negative perceptions, including that of “normal life” as opposed to the lives of persons with disabilities, and derogatory terminology such as “mentally ill” and *divyangjan*, the latter of which is still controversial;
- c) The limited coverage of the unique disability identification card, especially in rural areas, and the fact that service providers, such as rail services, do not recognize these cards with a view to facilitating accessible and affordable public services for persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Adopt national and State strategies to promote understanding about the human rights model of disability among policymakers and in society, and the principles of respect for the inherent dignity and difference of persons with disabilities and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;**
- b) **Reform the guidelines for assessing and certifying disability to bring them into line with the human rights model of disability, ensuring that organizations of persons with disabilities are involved in the reform, that multiple assessments do not create an undue burden for applicants, and that policies and programmes shift from care, treatment and protection towards the removal of environmental and attitudinal barriers, which prevent equality and inclusion;**
- c) **Complete the review process to bring its legislation, policies and schemes into line with the Convention, including the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2016), the Mental Health Care Act (2017), the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act (1999) and measures governing general services for disability inclusion, and eliminate derogatory terminology and concepts against persons with disabilities from its legislation, policies, government regulations and government websites and from public discourse;**
- d) **Ensure that community services are available for and inclusive of all persons with disabilities without discrimination, especially in rural areas where the unique disability identification card has yet to be implemented.**

8. The Committee is concerned about the absence of comprehensive national and state action plans to implement the Convention and the uneven implementation of legislative measures recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities across all states.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Ensure the prompt review and adoption of an action plan for the implementation of the Convention at the national and state levels, with the meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, targeting all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, in public policy efforts and ensuring cross-sectoral human and technical resources and budget allocations;**
- b) **Ensure cooperation with authorities at the state level in order to implement the legislation recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities across all states.**

10. The Committee is concerned that the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities is not prioritized in decision-making processes relating to them, and that their opinions are not reflected in the results of such processes.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee’s general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention:

- a) Ensure that those organizations of persons with disabilities defined in paragraphs 10 to 13 of general comment No. 7, including of women with disabilities, are consulted and involved in decision-making processes at all levels of government and in all public policy areas;
- b) Remove barriers to the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including guardianship regimes, and provide appropriate resources for their effective participation, accessible and inclusive information and methodologies of consultation;
- c) Ensure that the opinions of persons with disabilities are given due weight and are reflected in decisions resulting from consultations, and that accountability criteria are adopted concerning public decision-making.

Iraq (2019)

6. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned that:

- a) The medical model of disability and the charity-based approach to disability remain prevalent in the State party's legislation and policies concerning persons with disabilities, including in article 32 of the Constitution, article 1 of Law No. 38 (2013) and articles 1 (5) and 6 of Act No. 22 (2011);
- b) The method used by the State party to assess disability is based on a medical approach, in line with article 15 (1) (j) of Law No. 38 (2013);
- c) National legislation, including Law No. 38 (2013), has not yet been fully brought into line with the Convention, and derogatory terminology concerning persons with disabilities has not yet been eliminated from all laws and policies, including from paragraph 495 (4) of the Criminal Code (Law No. 111 (1969)).

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Review its legislation, including through the ongoing review of Law No. 38 (2013), and bring it into line with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention;
- b) Ensure that the method used in disability assessments fully incorporates a human rights model of disability and that organizations of persons with disabilities are involved in the design of disability assessment methods and in generating the information on which disability assessments are based;
- c) Undertake a comprehensive legislative and policy review with a view to adopting and enforcing laws and policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and review the use of terms deemed discriminatory under the Convention.

9. The Committee is concerned that:

- a) There are gaps in the implementation of Law No. 38 (2013), as implementing decrees and regulations have not been issued for all provisions of the Law;
- b) Insufficient funds from the national budget have been allocated for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- c) Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are not systematically consulted and actively involved in all decision-making processes affecting them.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- e) Adopt implementation decrees and regulations to ensure that the national legislation protects and promotes the rights of persons with disabilities and sanctions non-compliance;
- f) Substantially increase the human, technical and financial resources allocated for the implementation of the Convention;
- g) Strengthen measures to ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and organizations of women and girls with disabilities, are effectively consulted and meaningfully involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies, action plans, timelines and budgets and provide such organizations with continuous and transparent funding.

Kuwait (2019)

4. The Committee notes that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention and other international human rights treaties, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

5. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention and, bearing in mind the indivisibility of all human rights, encourages the State party to consider acceding to other international human rights treaties, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

6. The Committee is concerned about the State party's:

- a) Reservations to articles 18 (1) (a) and 23 (2) of the Convention;
- b) Interpretative declaration to article 12 (2) of the Convention specifying that the enjoyment of legal capacity should be subject to Kuwaiti law;
- c) Interpretative declarations to articles 19 (a) and 25 (a) of the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Withdraw its reservations to articles 18 (1) (a) and 23 (2) of the Convention;**
- b) Withdraw its interpretative declaration to article 12 (2) of the Convention and take legal measures to uphold the right to equal recognition before the law, which implies that all persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life;**
- c) Withdraw its interpretative declarations to articles 19 (a) and 25 (a) of the Convention.**

8. The Committee is concerned that:

- a) The State party's legislation, including Act No. 8/2010 on the rights of persons with disabilities and Act No. 21/2015 on protection of the rights of the child, the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Penal Code, is based on the medical model of disability and does not recognize persons with disabilities as rights holders;
- b) National laws currently in force, particularly Act No. 8/2010, do not encompass social, economic and cultural rights or fundamental civil and political rights, including the rights to life, liberty and security of the person, to political participation and to equal recognition before the law; do not apply to Bidoon and non-Kuwaitis with disabilities; and reflect a narrow concept of disability that excludes persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and does not take into account the existence of barriers in society;
- c) The State party does not have a national disability strategy that is inclusive of non-Kuwaitis with disabilities;
- d) Court verdicts finding in favour of organizations of persons with disabilities and families of persons with disabilities have not been implemented.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Review its policies and legislation, including Act No. 8/2010 and Act No. 21/2015, the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Penal Code, to ensure a full transition to the human rights model of disability, in compliance with the Convention;**
- b) Take the necessary legal measures to ensure that national legislation, particularly Act No. 8/2010, recognizes the evolving concept of disability as arising from the interaction between persons with impairments and barriers to the full participation of persons with disabilities in society and ensure also that national legislation encompasses the rights of all persons with disabilities, including non-Kuwaitis with disabilities;**
- c) Take advantage of the 2020–2025 strategy of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs to develop a national strategy on disability and a time-bound action plan based on the human rights model of disability;**
- d) Ensure full implementation of the court verdicts finding in favour of organizations of persons with disabilities and families of persons with disabilities.**

Myanmar (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

- a) The fact that the Convention has not been sufficiently incorporated into national law;
- b) The fact that the concept of disability in the State party's legislation is incompatible with the Convention as it is based on the medical model of disability;
- c) The derogatory terminology referring to persons with disabilities in legislation, regulations and policy documents, particularly in the "Lunacy" Act, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Prisoners Act, and the Burma Army Act, such as "criminal lunatic", "lunatics" or "insane";
- d) The lack of concrete and effective measures taken at all policy areas, sectors and levels for implementing the State party's obligations under the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party, with the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- a) **Ensure the full incorporation of the Convention into its national legal system to harmonize national laws with the human rights model of disability and bring them fully in line with the Convention;**
- b) **Align the concept of disability with the human rights model of disability set out in the Convention, and eliminate the term "suffering" and remove it from the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law of 2015;**
- c) **Repeal from legislation, regulations and policy documents all derogatory terminology concerning persons with disabilities;**
- d) **Take concrete and effective measures for the full implementation of the Convention across all policy areas, sectors and levels.**

7. The Committee notes with concern the absence of meaningful consultation and effective participation mechanisms to ensure that the views, opinions and concerns of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, persons affected by leprosy, and persons with disabilities from ethnic or religious minorities, are included in all stages of decision-making processes by public authorities at all levels.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party establish formal mechanisms to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of and consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including their participation in the implementation of the Convention, in line with general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

9. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

Cuba (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party consider initiating the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned that:

- a) The State party has not yet harmonized its legislation with the Convention;
- b) A comprehensive law on the rights of persons with disabilities is absent;
- c) National legislation and assessment of disability is mostly based on the medical model of disability;
- d) Mainstreaming and explicit references to the rights of persons with disabilities in laws, strategies, policies and programs are insufficient.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party adheres to the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention and:

- a) Expedite the review of its national legislation, and ensure the full incorporation of the Convention in the domestic legal order, repeal or amend any laws that contradict the Convention, and harmonize policies and practices with the Convention;
- b) Adopt a national law on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- c) Ensures that any assessment of disability for purposes of service provision is undertaken;
- d) Strengthen efforts to systematically mainstream and explicitly reference the rights of persons with disabilities in laws, strategies, policies and programs.

9. The Committee is concerned that consultations and active involvement of persons with disabilities in all decision-making processes that affect them, including the implementation of the Convention, is limited to those organizations of persons with disabilities that are formally registered in accordance with Law No. 54 (1985) on Associations and that these registered organizations do not have member organizations of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 on article 4.3 and 33.3 of the Convention (2018) and recommends that the State party adopt measures to effectively and systematically consult and actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in all matters that affect them. It also recommends that the State party create an enabling environment for the establishment and functioning of organizations of persons with disabilities, by adopting a policy framework favourable to their establishment and sustained operation. The Committee also recommends that the State party guarantee the independence and autonomy of organizations of persons with disabilities from the State, the establishment, implementation of and access to adequate funding mechanisms, including public funding and international cooperation, and the provision of support, including technical assistance, for empowerment and capacity-building.

Niger (2019)

5. The committee is concerned that:

- a) The definition of disability in several legislations and regulations, including regarding prevention and detection of disability, is not in conformity with the Convention, particularly, Act No. 60-36 of 29 July 1960 on the expulsion from school of persons affected by leprosy, article 8 of the electoral code, article 2 of Ordinance No. 93-012, and Articles 42 and 43 of the draft law on Equal Opportunities and the Reintegration of Persons with disabilities (LOSEN);
- b) Terminology referring to persons with disabilities in legislation, regulations and policy documents are derogatory in nature, particularly the phrases such as “deaf and dumb”, “deaf-mute”, “cripple”, “infirm, incapable, foolish” in referring to persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;
- c) There is a lack of effective consultation mechanisms and active participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, particularly those representing women and children with disabilities, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; and a lack of their inclusion in the Sustainable Development Strategy and Inclusive Growth 2035, the priority action plan PDES 2017-2021 and the national strategy for inclusive finance.

6. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- a) **Revise its legislations and regulations to conform with the human rights model of disability of the Convention, particularly article 8 of the electoral code, articles 42 and 43 of the LOSEN, and Act No. 60-36 of 29 July 1960 on the expulsion from school of persons affected by leprosy;**
- b) **Repeal from its legislations and regulations all derogatory terminology that demean persons with disabilities;**

- c) Establish mechanisms for the participation and consultation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including those representing women, youth and children with disabilities, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, including in the Sustainable Development Strategy and Inclusive Growth 2035, the priority action plan PDES 2017-2021, and the national strategy for inclusive finance; and design mechanisms and information about consultation processes in accessible formats for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- d) Provide adequate and sustainable financial resources and other necessary support to organizations of persons with disabilities.

Norway (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

- a) The fact that the Convention has not been incorporated into the national law and the absence of comprehensive strategy and action plan for the implementation of the Convention with timelines or budgets done in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;
- b) The interpretative declarations made to articles 12, 14 and 25 of the Convention;
- c) The fact that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention;
- d) The slow progress in replacing the medical model of disability with the human rights model of disability;
- e) The differences among municipalities in the services offered to persons with disabilities;
- f) The absence of sustainable financial support for organizations of persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Incorporate the Convention into the national law, revise legislation in line with the Convention and develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan with transparent and sustainable financial resources for the implementation of the Convention with clear timelines developed in close, meaningful and fully accessible consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities;
- b) Consider withdrawing its interpretative declarations to articles 12, 14 and 25 of the Convention;
- c) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention;
- d) Adopt the human rights model of disability in all the regulations relating to the assessment of disability in accordance with the criteria and principles provided in articles 1 to 3 of the Convention;
- e) Take all necessary measures to reduce differences among municipalities in the services offered to persons with disabilities through national regulations, standards and guidelines;
- f) Provide sustainable financial support for organizations of persons with disabilities.

Rwanda (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not brought its domestic legislation into line with the Convention, and that its laws still contain pejorative terms and reflect the medical model of disability, in particular Laws No. 01/2007 on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in General, No. 02/2007 on the Protection of Former War Combatants with Disabilities, No. 54/2011 relating to the Rights and the Protection of the Child and No. 27/2001 relating to Rights and Protection of the Child Against Violence. The Committee is also concerned at the slow pace of adoption of a national disability policy, and that the Ministerial Orders of 2009 concerning persons with disabilities remain largely unimplemented.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party's domestic legislation adhere to the Convention, taking measures to fulfil all its obligations under it and ensuring the human-rights based approach to disability. The Committee also recommends that the State party eliminate pejorative terminology relating to the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party adopt without delay the national disability policy in line

with the Convention, including consultation and engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities, and take effective measures with clear timelines for its implementation. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to implement the Ministerial Orders of 2009.

7. The Committee is concerned about the absence of mechanisms to ensure that the views, opinions and concerns of persons with disabilities, particularly women, children and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are included in the formulation of laws and policies, both at the national and local levels.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party establish accessible formal mechanisms to ensure the effective and meaningful participation and consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, particularly women, children and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, including in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of laws and policies. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide sufficient budgetary resources to such organizations to enable their participation.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned at:

a) The fact that the State party's legislation, including its Basic Law of Governance, its Disability Care Act, its Labour Law and its Charter establishing the Authority for the Welfare of People with Disabilities, are based on a charity-based approach to disability that runs counter to the Convention and does not recognize environmental barriers that hinder the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society on an equal basis with others;

b) The lack of a coherent and comprehensive disability strategy to implement the human rights model of disability established in the Convention;

c) The lack of systematic consultation of organizations led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities and involvement of persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Take advantage of the formulation of a national human rights strategy (Royal Order No. 13084) to initiate a full transition to a human rights-based model of disability in laws and policies, including in its Basic Law of Governance, its Disability Care Act, its Labour Law and its Charter establishing the Authority for the Welfare of People with Disabilities, with a view to harmonizing them with the general principles and provisions in the Convention;

b) Develop a national disability strategy in order to implement the human rights-based model of disability;

c) Establish a systematic mechanism to recognize organizations led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities and to effectively and meaningfully consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, through their representative organizations in all matters that affect them, such as the development of all laws, policies and programmes, in line with its General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

Senegal (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

a) The lack of measures to review and harmonize all legislation and policies in line with the Convention, particularly the Social Orientation Act 2010-15 and its implementing decrees, and the fact that measures geared towards the "prevention of disabilities" are misunderstood as measures to implement the Convention;

- b) The use of unacceptable terminology in legislation when referring to persons with disabilities, such as “deaf-mute”;
- c) Disability assessment criteria not in line with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention for the issuance of the Equality Cards by the different commissions established by decree 2012-1038;

6. The Committee reminds the State party that the prevention of disability is not a measure of implementation of the Convention and recommends that the State party:

- a) Revise all laws, policies and plans to harmonize them with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention;**
- b) Eliminate from legislation derogatory language in reference to persons with disabilities;**
- c) Adopt a human right-based approach to disability assessment, and ensure that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are involved in the design of disability assessment criteria for the issuance of Equality Cards.**

Spain (2019)

6. The Committee is concerned at non-compliance with the Convention and the human-rights model of disability of several national, regional and municipal legislations and policies, particularly “The Consolidated Text of the General Act on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion” of 2013 and “The Personal Autonomy Promotion Act” of 2006. It is concerned that this results in the reliance on medical model classifications that categorise people on the basis of diagnosis and excludes the broad scope provided in the Convention that recognises disabilities in relation to impairment and barriers in the social environment, especially in regards to psychosocial disability. The Committee is also concerned about:

- a) The predominance of a paternalistic approach and the lack of human rights-based provisions within mental health systems, as well as of explicit strategies aimed at ensuring their protection from discrimination and ill-treatment;
- b) The lack of progress to implement the previous recommendations of the Committee to abolish legal provisions that reinforce a negative perception of disability by providing for the late termination of pregnancy based on foetal impairment, as well as legislative initiatives aimed at recognizing the legal status of euthanasia on the ground of disability;
- c) The limited progress to ensure equal and full-range involvement and participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in all matters that concern them, including the elaboration of public policies and laws;

Lack of trainings for professionals in the fields of, inter alia, education, health, and the judiciary to raise awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and standards enshrined in the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Review and amend all laws, policies and practices relating to the provision of services for persons with disabilities at all levels and across all Autonomous Communities, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention and in line with the human rights model of disability;**
- b) Design and implement a policy focusing at ensuring the full respect of the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities, including by ensuring that human rights-based provisions are applied in mental health systems;**
- c) Abolish any distinction by law to the period within which a pregnancy can be terminated based on a potential foetus impairment, as well as withdraw all euthanasia related provisions on the ground of disability, as these contribute to a climate of stigma against disability that can lead to discrimination;**
- d) Ensure the continuing involvement and meaningful consultations with various organizations of persons with disabilities, including but not limited to women, children, refugees and asylum-seekers, LGBTI+, persons with psychosocial disabilities or with intellectual, hearing or visual impairments, persons living in rural areas and persons in need**

of high levels of support, in the designing and amending of new and existing laws, policies and programs to ensure their compliance with the Convention, as defined by The Committee's General Comment No. 7 of 2018;

Continue providing trainings to professionals including judges and law enforcement officials, health care professionals, teachers as well as personnel working with persons with disabilities to raise their awareness of the rights under the Convention.

Türkiye (2019)

5. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence, in practice, of the medical, charitable, and paternalistic approaches to disability, exemplified in disability assessments based on medical reports, which reduce persons with disabilities to their impairments and health condition.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Revise its legislation and policies at the national and provincial levels to harmonize them with the human rights model of disability, upholding the principles of dignity, individual autonomy, and equality of persons with disabilities in all areas of life;

b) Amend current legislation concerning disability assessments, ensuring that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are involved in their design, and that multiple assessments do not create an undue burden for the person involved, reduce the burden on applicants, and promote consistency and transparency with effective safeguards for persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee is concerned that there is no updated and transparent information and recorded progress in the areas covered by the Strategy and National Plan of Action on Accessibility and the 2011-2013 Strategy and Plan on Care Services.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party establish an effective mechanism to monitor the progress made in the fields of accessibility and support, involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in such monitoring.

9. The Committee is concerned about the limited information about the progress made to adopt the National Plan of Action and Strategy Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and about the sustained and formal mechanisms of consultation and involvement of the diversity of organizations of persons with disabilities throughout the decision-making process since 2017.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention and recommends that the State party:

a) Ensure transparent and meaningful consultations with representative organizations of persons with disabilities for the adoption of the National Plan of Action and Strategy Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its programmes and all legislation-related bills;

b) Support persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in setting up their representative organizations and include them in consultations concerning the implementation of the Convention;

c) Promote and facilitate the establishment and functioning of organizations of persons with disabilities, guarantee their independence and autonomy from the State, and ensure their access to adequate funding mechanisms, including public funding and international cooperation, and the provision of support for empowerment and capacity-building.

Vanuatu (2019)

6. The Committee is concerned at:

a) The delay in the repeal and amendment of existing legislation that is not in line with the Convention after the Legislative Review by the Ministry of Justice in 2016;

- b) The use of derogatory terminology concerning persons with disabilities in law and practice;
- c) The absence of a specific law to enforce policies and action plans with regards to persons with disabilities and the limited implementation of the National Disabilities Inclusive Development Policy (2018-2025);
- d) The fact that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations have not been effectively involved in the development of laws and policies as well as decision-making processes on matters affecting them.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Repeal or amend all discriminatory legislation, within a clear timeline, adhering to the Convention and ensure that persons with disabilities are consulted and meaningfully engaged in the process;**
- b) **Eliminate the use of all derogatory terminology regarding persons with disabilities in laws and practice, including in the media;**
- c) **Enact a Disability Bill, without delay, which includes the human rights approach to disability enshrined in the Convention and an assessment mechanism and adopt measures to effectively implement the National Disabilities Inclusive Development Policy (2018-2025);**
- d) **Ensure full involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in legislative and policy development and decision-making in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.**

8. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol without delay.

Algeria (2018)

4. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

5. The Committee recommends that the State party consider initiating the ratifying process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet harmonized its legislation with the Convention, including Law No. 02-09 of May 2002 and Executive Decree No. 14-204 of 15 July 2014, which are mostly based on the medical model of disability. It is also concerned that the multiple levels of assessments of disability for the purpose of benefits and other services still focus on deficiencies of the person.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Ensure the full incorporation of the Convention in the domestic legal order, repeal or amend any law that contradicts the Convention and discriminates against persons with disabilities, including Law No. 02-09 of May 2002 and harmonize policies and practices with the Convention;**
- b) **Eliminate the multiple levels of assessments of disability and, in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop an assessment policy and procedure, in line with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention.**

8. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities through their representative organizations are not consulted and actively involved in all decision-making processes affecting them, including the implementation of the Convention.

9. The Committee recalls the Committee's General Comment No. 7 on article 4.3 and 33.3 of the Convention (2018) and recommends that the State party adopt measures to

effectively and systematically consult and actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in all matters that affect them. It also recommends that the State party adopt measures to enable the interaction of representative organizations of persons with disabilities with the State party in a safe, collaborative manner.

Bulgaria (2018)

7. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party speed up the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and ensure dissemination of public information concerning this process.

9. The Committee is concerned that the medical and charity approaches to disability still prevail in the State party's legislation, and that definitions of disability and assessment of persons with disabilities in the State party's legislation are not in line with the Convention.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake a review of its legislation with the aim to bring it in line with the human rights model of disability. It also recommends that the State party withdraw any derogatory terminology concerning persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, and in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop an assessment policy and procedure, in line with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention.

11. The Committee notes with concern that the Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act is not fully in line with the provisions of the Convention, and that the 2018 amendments to it still maintain rules that had been repealed by the Constitutional Court. It is also concerned that the new Persons with Disabilities Act is yet to be adopted.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the draft bill and withdraw the 2018 amendments to the Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act that contravene the Convention. It also recommends that the State party adopt the new Persons with Disabilities Act ensuring its compliance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, and establish a framework for adoption of sectorial legislation that ensure mainstreaming and inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas of life.

13. The Committee is concerned about the lack of dialogue between the Government and organizations of persons with disabilities, and that organizations of persons with disabilities have received insufficient information about the envisaged reform on aspects, such as the certification of disabilities, the assessment of reduced capacity to work, and the right to retirement.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention:

a) Strengthen and implement formal mechanisms for effective and meaningful consultation of persons with disabilities concerning the implementation of the Convention, through their representative organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities, organizations of children with disabilities, and organizations of families of persons with disabilities in their supportive role;

b) Provide continuous funding for organizations of persons with disabilities and transparent criteria and mechanisms for consultation, including information in Easy Read, and other accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;

c) Provide organizations of persons with disabilities with information and timetable of the consultation process concerning the envisaged reforms aimed at changing the certification of disability, capacity to work and the right to retirement, in line with the human rights model of disability.

Malta (2018)

5. The Committee is concerned that:

- a) The three entities of the State party that certify disability continue to use assessments based on a medical approach and that the different assessment criteria for the eligibility of services continue to focus on the degree of impairment of persons and are different for each entity;
- b) The articles of the Convention are not yet all enforceable under national legislation;
- c) The National Disability Strategy, that implements the National Policy for the Rights of Persons with Disability, has not been promulgated and formally launched yet;
- d) The concept of universal design is not explicitly or comprehensively defined in legislation, mainstreamed into regulations or enforced through monitoring mechanisms;
- e) The representative organizations of persons with disabilities are insufficiently included into the debates and work of government-appointed mandate holders and entities and lack funding to support the implementation and monitoring of the rights of persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Revise and amend all laws, policies and practices, including provisions of the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413), the Parking Concessions for Persons with Disability Act (Cap. 560), the Persons with Disability (Employment) Act (Cap. 210) and the Social Security Act (Cap. 318), to bring them into line with the principles and rights enshrined in the Convention;**
- b) Ensure a disability assessment method which fully incorporates the human rights model of disability and takes a human rights based approach by inter alia:**
 - i. Involving Disabled People's Organisations in the design of disability assessment;**
 - ii. Engaging persons with disabilities engaged in generating the information on which disability assessments are made;**
 - iii. Eliminating multiple methods of disability assessment and as a result reduce the burden on applicants;**
 - iv. Making information on assessment requirements accessible and user-friendly;**
 - v. Frequently reviewing assessment methods.**
- c) Adopt the necessary legislative measures, including the UN CRPD Bill, to ensure that the articles of the Convention are judiciable;**
- d) Accelerate the promulgation and formal launch of the National Disability Strategy, while ensuring the meaningful consultation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;**
- e) Achieve full accessibility through the mainstreaming of the concept of universal design in all relevant national and municipal legislation, policies and regulations, and ensure their implementation through an effective monitoring;**
- f) Ensure the inclusion of and provide adequate funding for representative organizations of persons with disabilities to effectively monitor the implementation of the Convention.**

Philippines (2018)

6. The Committee is concerned about:

- a) Prevalence of the medical and charity approaches in the State party's legislation and policies concerning persons with disabilities, overemphasizing impairment, medical treatment, and social care, which is in stark contrast with the human rights model of the Convention;
- b) Insufficient human, technical and financial resources allocated for reforming and harmonizing national-level disability laws and institutionalising policy changes to implement the Convention;
- c) Legislation that perpetuates existing stereotypes against persons with disabilities, and inadvertently institutionalize stigmatization and discrimination based on disability;

d) Absence of a comprehensive policy across all sectors and levels for implementing the State party's obligations under the Convention, including removing all barriers for inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Establish a process to conduct review of its legislation and bring it into line with the human rights model of disability in the Convention. The State party should recognise all persons with disabilities as right-holders, and reaffirm their inherent dignity and autonomy;

b) Eliminate the multiple levels of assessments of disability and, in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop an assessment policy and procedure, in line with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention;

c) Ensure appropriate human, technical and financial resources to update its legislative and policy framework;

d) Carry out a participatory process involving representative organizations of persons with disabilities as well as organizations of the public and private sectors, aimed at identifying environmental and attitudinal barriers hindering full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in Philippine society, and adopting measures to overcome such barriers at all levels;

e) Adopt a comprehensive national action plan for the implementation of the obligations in the Convention. The State party should establish a timeframe, specific indicators and benchmarks concerning progress of such a policy, and allocate resources for its implementation in rural areas, municipalities, and provinces.

8. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information, coupled with effective and meaningful consultations consult and involve representative organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly living in remote and rural areas, in decision-making processes and public affairs concerning the implementation and monitoring the Convention.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention:

a) Adopt measures to promote the establishment of organizations of women with disabilities, organizations of children with disabilities and organisations of persons with intellectual disabilities, and provide them with financial resources to ensure their functioning;

b) Provide persons with disabilities with accessible information and methodologies concerning consultation procedures, including information on Easy Read for organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, and age-appropriate mechanisms for improving participation of children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

Poland (2018)

5. The Committee is concerned at the:

a) Lack of a comprehensive strategy and action plan for the implementation of the Convention, as well as the lack of mainstreaming of its provisions into national, regional, local and sectoral policies, which still reflects a charity and social protection approach considering persons with disabilities as social care receivers rather than human rights holders;

b) Variety of disability assessment mechanisms, including separate mechanisms for children until 16 years old, as well as the variety of definitions of disability, which are not consistent with the purpose (art. 1) of the Convention, and are all based on a medical-model disability, using derogatory terminology and vague concepts such as "mental retardation", "incapacity to work", "inability to perform social roles" or "dependent or lacking ability to be autonomous";

- c) Lack of awareness of professionals and civil servants on the rights of persons with disabilities and the State Party's obligations under the Convention;
- d) Selective and limited involvement and meaningful consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities in policy making;
- e) Legal provisions promoting prenatal genetic testing as primary prevention of future impairments of a foetus;
- f) Interpretative declaration made to article 12 as well as reservations made to articles 23(1)(a), 23(1)(b) and 25(a) of the Convention and the fact that the State Party has not yet ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **With the wide participation of organisations of persons with disabilities, develop a strategy and action plan for implementation of obligations under the Convention, ensuring the comprehensive paradigm shift from a charity model to the human-rights model of disability across its national, regional, local and sectoral policies, considering persons with disabilities as human rights holders;**
- b) **Ensure a disability assessment which fully incorporates a human rights model of disability and takes a human rights based approach by inter alia:**
 - i. **Involving Organisations of persons with disabilities in the design of disability assessment mechanisms;**
 - ii. **Engaging persons with disabilities in generating the information on which disability assessments are made;**
 - iii. **Eliminating multiple methods of assessment;**
 - iv. **Making information on assessments requirements accessible and user-friendly.**
- c) **Eliminate all negative terminology across all existing and drafted regulations and replace it with a terminology which fully respects the dignity and autonomy of persons with disabilities;**
- d) **Ensure active and full-scale involvement and meaningful consultations with various organizations of persons with disabilities, including but not limited to women, children, refugees and asylum-seekers, LGBT+ persons, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, with hearing and visual impairments, persons living in rural areas and persons in need of high level of support, in designing of new laws and strategies to ensure that legislation complies with the Convention, as well as in the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- e) **Provide trainings to professionals, including judges and law enforcement officials, health care professionals, teachers as well as personnel working with persons with disabilities to raise their awareness of the rights under the Convention;**
- f) **Refrain from including information on primary disability prevention in future report, as primary prevention of impairment is not a measure contributing to the implementation of the Convention;**
- g) **Consider withdrawing its interpretative declaration and its reservations to the Convention and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.**

South Africa (2018)

4. The Committee notes with concern that the concept and assessment procedures of disability in some national laws still reflects the medical model of disability, particularly in the South African education system and specifically in the Guidelines on the "Licensing of Residential and/or Day-care Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness and/or Severe and Profound Intellectual Disabilities".

5. The Committee recommends that the State party harmonise and align the concept of disability in all laws and policies to bring them in line with the human rights model of disability in the Convention. In particular it is recommended that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are involved in the design of disability

assessment and that multiple assessment is eliminated, which should reduce the burden on applicants, and should promote consistency and transparency in assessment.

6. The Committee is concerned about the absence of meaningful consultation and effective participation mechanisms to ensure that the views, opinions and concerns of persons with disability, particularly youths, are included in policy formulation, including decision-making processes, by public authorities both at the national and local level.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Establish formal mechanisms to ensure effective and meaningful participation and consultation with persons with disabilities, particularly youths, through their representative organisations, including their participation in the implementation of the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide sufficient budgetary resources to such organizations.

b) Provide regular training to all public officials involved in the consultation process on non-discrimination, dignity and respect as well as the right to reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities focusing on the human rights based approach to disability.

North Macedonia (2018)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

a) The lack of harmonisation of national legislation, policy and programmes with the Convention and the persistence of the medical model of disability;

b) The use of different disability assessments and definitions in the legal framework of the State Party that are not in line with the human rights based model of disability, i.e. in the Law on Prevention of and Protection from Discrimination (LPPD);

c) The absence of clear plans, timelines or budgets to ensure the progressive implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in consultation with the organizations of persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends the State party to:

a) Review and ensure conformity with and harmonisation of its legislation and policies with the Convention;

b) Abolish derogatory terms relating to disability and ensure respect for the dignity of all persons with disability;

c) Ensure a disability assessment method which fully incorporates the Human rights based approach to disability and takes the human rights approach by, inter alia:

i. Involving disabled persons' organisations in the design of disability assessment;

ii. Engaging persons with disability in generating the information on which disability assessments are made;

iii. Eliminating multiple disability assessments and as a result reduce the burden on applicants;

iv. Making information on assessment requirements user accessible and user friendly;

v. Frequently reviewing assessment methods.

d) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities are meaningfully involved in the design, evaluation of laws, policies, action plans, timelines and budgets and that their views be considered prior to adopting decisions related to them.

Haiti (2018)

4. The Committee notes with concern inconsistencies across the State party in the understanding, adoption and application of the human rights based approach to disability and its evolving concept. It is particularly concerned that:

a) Despite the de facto incorporation of the Convention into national legislation upon ratification by the State party, discriminatory legislation on the basis of disability, adopted before and after the ratification of the Convention, is still applicable;

b) The use of offensive and derogatory terminology when referring to persons with disabilities in law and practice remains common and without any sanctions;

c) "Disability prevention policies", included in Chapter III of the Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2012) are misunderstood as a measure of implementation of the Convention and result in discrimination against persons with disabilities.

5. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) **Initiate a comprehensive cross-cutting review of its legislation and policies to bring them into line with the Convention and ensure that the legal framework protects persons with disabilities against discrimination on the grounds of disability;**

b) **Eliminate the use of offensive and pejorative language when referring to persons with disabilities;**

c) **Eliminate all policies which aim at legitimizing the prevention of disability as a measure of implementation of the Convention;**

d) **Engage persons with disabilities through their representative organisations and the national human rights institution in the above processes.**

6. The Committee is concerned that:

a) The National Council for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities is no longer operational;

b) The resource allocation of the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities is insufficient to carry out its mandate;

c) Persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, through their representative organizations are not actively, sufficiently and meaningfully consulted in the development of laws, public policies, plans of action, and training and awareness-raising activities in all sectors.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) **Re-establish the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities with a clear role, mandate and adequate resources;**

b) **Allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to ensure the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities can carry out its mandate;**

c) **Effectively and meaningfully consult with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of all laws, policies and programmes that include all person with disabilities regardless of age, sex, faith, race, gender identity or sexual orientation, migrant or other status.**

Nepal (2018)

7. The Committee is concerned that the State party tends to adhere to the World Health Organisation (WHO) definition of disability with a focus on conditions arising from inherent personal or medical limitations, thereby overlooking interactions with environmental factors. While the Convention recognizes an evolving concept of disability, the State party appears to be trapped by the concept of 'permanent disability'. The Committee is concerned that the State party still uses a classification of disability that excludes certain groups of persons with disabilities who do not fall in any of these categories such those who are hard of hearing. The Committee is also concerned that persons with disabilities from rural areas and indigenous backgrounds face barriers in accessing disability identity cards.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a human rights model of disability that stresses human dignity of persons with disabilities and conditions arising from interactions with various barriers that may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. In this regard, the State party should ensure that the classification of disability is human rights based and does not exclude certain groups of persons with disabilities. The State party should take appropriate measures to remove all barriers to ensure that persons with disabilities from rural areas and indigenous backgrounds have access to disability identity cards.

Oman (2018)

5. The Committee notes that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention, as well as other international human rights treaties.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party adopts measures towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention and that it consider ratifying or acceding to other international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party.

7. The Committee is concerned that:

a) National legislation is not fully in line with the human rights based approach to disability in accordance with the Convention and that the medical approach to disability reflects a negative image of persons with disabilities who are presented as individuals unable to fit into the society;

b) Derogatory terminology concerning persons with disabilities has not yet been eliminated from all laws, policies and government discourse;

c) Lack of effective consultations involving persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in engaging in human rights advocacy aimed at a better implementation of the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, adopt all measures necessary to ensure that its legislation, policies and practices are in full compliance with the general principles and specific provisions of the Convention. In particular, the Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Undertake a comprehensive legislative and policy review in order to adopt, ensure and enforce the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability and the full transition to the human rights model of disability, including with respect to the new Bill for Persons with Disabilities;

b) Ensure that derogatory terminology is eliminated from all laws, policies and government discourse;

c) Establish formal mechanisms for the ongoing and systematic consultation and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, with sufficient allocation of budgetary resources to promote the meaningful participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in national affairs and all matters that concern them, including with respect to the elaboration of the new Bill for Persons with Disabilities;

d) Promote and support the effective participation of organisations of women, children and youths with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and design mechanisms for the provision of information in accessible formats to persons with intellectual disabilities.

9. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the State party's efforts and challenges in implementing the Convention. The Committee is also concerned at reports indicating that NGOs operate within restricted boundaries in the State party.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to consult and expand its dialogue with civil society organizations working in the area of human rights protection in particular with respect to persons with disabilities, in connection with the preparation of its next periodic report. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures, including by amending the Civil Associations Act (2000) to create and ensure an enabling environment in which civil society organizations may be established and freely conduct their activities in line with the Convention, in particular representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

Russian Federation (2018)

5. The Committee notes that the State Party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State Party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention in a timely manner.

7. The Committee notes that official translation of the term “person with disabilities” into Russian as “invalidi” does not reflect the human rights model.

8. The Committee recommends that the State Party amend the official translation of the Convention and use terms in a way that would fully reflect the human rights model.

9. The Committee notes that the State party persistently relies on medical care and rehabilitation and that there is still focus on creating specialized services which may lead to segregation. While noting the 2014 Federal Law 419 on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Committee is concerned about insufficient efforts to harmonize legislation on persons with disabilities with the Convention and the lack of mechanisms for the implementation of the existing legislation.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party, in full and effective cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, adopt all necessary measures to ensure full compliance of legislation with the general principles and specific provisions in the Convention and its effective implementation. In particular, the Committee recommends the adoption of measures in matters relating to non-discrimination and to the full transition to a human rights-based approach of disability and that the State party engage in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities and their access to services within existing systems for their inclusion in the community across all regions of the State party.

11. The Committee notes with concern insufficiently transparent and comprehensive framework for ensuring full and effective consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in adoption, implementation and monitoring of legislation and policies pertaining to the rights of persons with disabilities.

12. The Committee recommends that the State Party develop transparent and comprehensive framework for ensuring full and effective consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in adoption, implementation and monitoring of legislation and policies pertaining to the rights of persons with disabilities, including through setting up funding framework that would ensure independence of such organisations.

Seychelles (2018)

6. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

a) The delays in the review, repeal and amend existing domestic legislation which is not in line with the Convention, including: the Constitution, Chapter III, which still promotes and defends a medical and welfare model of disability; the Civil Code; and the National Council for Disabled Persons Act (1994);

b) The lack of a specific act or resolution for domestication of the Convention;

c) Derogatory terminology concerning persons with disabilities in legislation and when referring to persons with disabilities;

d) The delays in the revision of the National Policy on Disability and in the finalization of the national plan of action on disability.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Expedite efforts to review all legislation and policies to harmonize them with the Convention;

b) Take the legal measures necessary to explicitly and fully incorporate all provisions of the Convention into its national legislation to ensure their direct application by the courts and administrative decision-making bodies;

c) Promote and defend a human rights model to disability and eliminate the use of all derogatory language in laws and when referring to persons with disabilities;

d) Expedite the revision of the National Policy on Disability, the finalization of the national plan of action on disability, and allocate sufficient resources for its implementation.

8. The Committee is concerned that the State party was unable to sufficiently engage with organizations of persons with disabilities in view of the reporting process. It is also concerned that:

- a) Existing legislation, mainly the National Council for Disabled Persons Act (1994) does not provide for the effective participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities;
- b) The National Council for the Disabled has limited involvement and participation of persons with disabilities and that there is no permanent forum for persons with disabilities to meaningfully engage and participate in legislative and policy formulation and implementation;
- c) Representative organizations of persons with disabilities receive insufficient support to carry out their work.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Amend the National Council for Disabled Persons Act (1994) to ensure that persons with disabilities through their representative organizations are included at all levels of legislative and policy formulation;**
- b) Strengthen the involvement and effective consultation and participation of persons with disabilities in the National Council for the Disabled and adopt measures to establish an appropriate forum for organizations of persons with disabilities to meaningfully engage and participate in decision-making processes;**
- c) Offer appropriate support, including financial support and partnerships, to representative organizations of persons with disabilities to carry out their work.**

10. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol without further delay.

Slovenia (2018)

4. The Committee is concerned about:

- a) The lack of harmonisation of national legislation, policies, and programmes with the provisions of the Convention, and the persistence of a paternalistic approach related to persons with disabilities underpinned by the medical and charity models of disability;
- b) The variety of disability definitions not in compliance with the human rights model of disability, in particular definitions that are derogatory and, point out the 'unfitness' of persons to participate in regular education, independent life and work, on the basis of their impairment;
- c) Inappropriate translation of the Convention into Slovenian language;
- d) The lack of consultations with organisations of persons with disabilities aimed at ensuring their meaningful involvement in the design and implementation of disability-related legislation and programmes; as well as about the reported undermined autonomy, impartiality and financial sustainability of the Foundation for the Financing of Disability and Humanitarian Organizations;
- e) The lack of awareness, among decision-makers of the executive and legislative branches as well as among professional and administrative staff, about the obligations of the State party under the Convention, in all areas of life.

5. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Conduct a review of its national legislation, policies and programmes and bring them into line with the provisions of the Convention; including the various definitions of disability in legislation and align it with the human rights model of disability;**
- b) Review the current official translation of the Convention to Slovenian with a view to ensure the accuracy in all accessible formats;**
- c) Ensure the timely, thorough and full consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities in all stages of decision-making processes, particularly when**

designing, implementing and monitoring disability-related legislation, programmes and measures, pursuant to the rights enshrined in the Convention. The State party should ensure the impartiality, as well as autonomy and sustainable funding of the Foundation for the Financing of Disability and Humanitarian Organizations for the promotion and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention;

d) Provide duty-bearers at regional and national levels, including members of the National Assembly and government, judges and court staff, health care professionals, social workers, staff responsible for the provision of mobility aids and other administrative and professional staff with training on the rights of persons with disabilities and the State party's obligations under the Convention. The State party should develop such training, in close cooperation and collaboration with the representative organisations of persons with disabilities.

Sudan (2018)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

- a) The definition of disability in national legislation, in particular in the National Persons with Disabilities Act of 2017, not including psychosocial disability;
- b) The insufficient harmonization of domestic laws with the Convention;
- c) The limited effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes affecting them;
- d) The absence of clear plans, timelines or budgets to ensure the progressive implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Review the National Persons with Disabilities Act of 2017 to include psychosocial disability in the definition of disability;**
- b) **Establish a calendar for the harmonization of legislation with the Convention;**
- c) **Ensure that representative organizations of person with disabilities are meaningfully involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies and action plans and their views be considered prior to adopting decisions related to them;**
- d) **Develop, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, plans, timelines and budgets to ensure the implementation of the Convention in the State party.**

Latvia (2017)

6. The Committee is concerned that:

- a) There is a deficient-oriented approach to disability assessment, which is based on the medical model and which focuses on incapacity to work;
- b) Children with an intellectual or hearing disability whose impairment is not deemed severe enough by the Medical Disability Commission may not be entitled to receive official disability status and the consequent financial and other State support;
- c) The National Council on Disability Affairs lacks decision-making authority to implement policies on the rights of persons with disabilities and fails to ensure the meaningful participation of its representative organizations;
- d) The concepts of reasonable accommodation and universal design are not explicitly or comprehensively defined in legislation, mainstreamed into municipal regulations or enforced through monitoring mechanisms;
- e) The representative organizations of persons with disabilities are insufficiently funded to support the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Ensure that disability determination is based on a human rights model of disability, includes an assessment of the needs, will and preferences of the individuals concerned, with particular attention being paid to children with an intellectual and hearing disability, and focuses on the elimination of barriers and the promotion of the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society;**

- b) Enhance the decision-making capacity of the National Council on Disability Affairs to design, coordinate and evaluate disability-related policies across all sectors and levels of the public administration at the national and local levels, through meaningful cooperation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities;
- c) Assess the effectiveness of the action plan on the implementation of the Convention (2015-2017) after its expiration and establish a new action plan with clear benchmarks and indicators, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities;
- d) Mainstream the full concepts of reasonable accommodation and universal design in all relevant national and municipal legislation, policies and regulations, and ensure their effective implementation through monitoring;
- e) Provide adequate funding for activities, projects and programmes that are designed and implemented by representative organizations of persons with disabilities for the enhancement of their rights.

Luxembourg (2017)

6. The Committee is concerned that disability continues to be defined in laws, policies and practices using a medical approach. It is also concerned that the different assessment criteria for the eligibility of services continue to focus on the degree of impairment of persons and result in exclusion, particularly of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities. It is further concerned that the national plan of action to implement the Convention comes to an end in 2017 despite the lack of implementation of some of its foreseen measures.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party revise and amend all laws, policies and practices relating to the provision of services in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Convention, and that it establish criteria, for both social protection measures and access to services, in line with the human rights model of disability. It also recommends that the State party expedite the implementation of the national plan of action.

8. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a permanent coordinating mechanism equipped with sufficient human and financial resources to ensure coherence in the implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the lack of systematic consultations with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in the development of policies and decisions that affect them directly.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to increase cooperation and coherence on matters related to disability, that it establish a systematic mechanism to effectively and meaningfully consult with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of all laws, policies and programmes, and that it ensure that a broad range of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, participate meaningfully in an inclusive and accessible manner in public decision-making processes that affect them.

Montenegro (2017)

6. The Committee is concerned that progress in bringing national legislation into full compliance with the Convention and replacing the current medical model of disability with a human rights-based approach has been largely insufficient. The Committee is also concerned that there are no clear and identifiable budget lines within the public budgets for the implementation of laws, policies and programmes for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly for the implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a human rights-based approach to disability in all its laws, policies and measures. It also recommends that the State party educate and raise the awareness of its policymakers, professionals and the public in general on the rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the Convention and its Optional Protocol. It further recommends that the State party:

a) Continue its efforts to regularly review existing and draft legislation in regular and fully accessible consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations and ensure that disability rights impact assessments form an integral part of the legislative process;

b) Allocate identifiable, sufficient, coherent and continuous budget resources to the development and implementation of laws, policies and strategies that are relevant for the implementation of the Convention, including the Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities.

8. The Committee is concerned about the lack of regular and sustainable financial support for organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly at the local level. It is also concerned about the lack of a transparent and efficiently structured mechanism for regular consultation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party provide adequate and sustainable financial resources to organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party ensure effective participation of and consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including those representing women with disabilities, children with disabilities, persons with hearing impairments and the deaf, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities at the national and local levels through transparent frameworks in relation to law and policymaking.

Morocco (2017)

6. The Committee notes with concern that the concept of disability in various national laws, adopted before the ratification of the Convention, is contrary to the human rights model of the Convention. It also notes the prevalence of the medical approach, focusing mainly on the prevention of impairments and on health treatment or attention that is not in line with the recognition of persons with disabilities as human-rights holders.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party harmonize and update the definitions of disability in the various laws and policies and bring them into line with the human rights model of disability set out in the Convention.

8. The Committee is concerned that Framework Law 97-13 on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities does not specify the time frame for its entry into force and protects only persons with disabilities who hold a valid "disability card". It is also concerned that the law fails to include measures to protect persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities belonging to minority, ethnic and linguistic groups and those who are refugees and asylum seekers.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Revise Framework Law 97-13 to bring it into line with the Convention and adopt specific measures to protect all persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities belonging to national, ethnic, religious and/or linguistic minorities, such as Amazigh, black people, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and specify the time frame for its entry into force;

b) Include all persons with disabilities in the process of developing its public policies and plans of action in the area of disability aimed at implementing its obligations under article 4 (1) (c) and eliminate any distinction between persons with disabilities who are holders of disability cards and those who are not.

10. The Committee is concerned about the absence of effective participation and consultation mechanisms aimed at ensuring that opinions, concerns and proposals of organizations of persons with disabilities are adequately included in the process of enacting legislation and in processes of decision-making by public authorities at the national and local levels.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Establish mechanisms to ensure effective and meaningful participation and consultation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations and on a regular

basis, and that sufficient budgetary resources be provided to promote their meaningful participation;

b) Promote and support the participation of organizations of women, children and young people with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and design mechanisms for and information about consultation processes in accessible formats for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Panama (2017)

6. The Committee notes with concern that the medical model of disability continues to be applied in the State party and that legislation and public policies and programmes have not been aligned with the human rights model of disability established in the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a plan to amend, repeal, reform and/or adopt laws and policies with a view to recognizing persons with disabilities as fully-fledged rights holders, in keeping with the Convention.

8. The Committee notes that the criteria for classifying disabilities are not standardized or in line with the principles of the Convention, in that they are based on the impairment in question and do not take into account the barriers that persons with disabilities face.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party review its criteria for the classification and certification of disabilities and ensure that they reflect a human-rights-based approach.

10. The Committee is concerned that consultation with persons with disabilities is not a mandatory step prior to the adoption of policies and programmes that affect them.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party implement the coordination mechanism provided for in Act No. 15 of 2016 and ensure ongoing consultation, through the appropriate organizations, with persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, in rural and urban areas and in indigenous regions concerning the adoption of laws and policies and other issues of relevance to them.

12. The Committee is concerned at the limited economic, material and human resources available for the implementation of the National Strategic Plan.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the provision of sufficient economic, material and human resources for the implementation of the National Strategic Plan.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

6. The Committee welcomes the information about the support of the Government of the State party to the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories for the extension of the Convention. However, it observes with concern:

a) The insufficient incorporation and uneven implementation of the Convention across all policy areas and levels within all regions, devolved governments and territories under its jurisdiction and/or control;

b) The lack of consistency across the State party in the understanding of, adapting to and applying the human rights model of disability and its evolving concept of disability;

c) The absence of a comprehensive and cross-cutting review of the State party's legislation and policies, including within the devolved governments, in order to harmonize legal content and practice with the Convention;

d) The existing laws, regulations and practices that discriminate against persons with disabilities;

e) The lack of information on policies, programmes and measures that will be put in place by the State party to protect persons with disabilities from being negatively affected when article 50 of the Treaty on European Union is triggered.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Incorporate the Convention into its legislation, recognizing access to domestic remedies for breaches of the Convention, and adopt an appropriate and comprehensive response to

the obligations enshrined in the Convention in its policies and programmes across the State party, including all devolved governments;

b) Strengthen its efforts to extend the Convention and support its implementation in the Overseas Territories;

c) Adopt legally binding instruments to implement the concept of disability, in line with article 1 of the Convention, and ensure that new and existing legislation incorporates the human rights model of disability across all policy areas and all levels and regions of all devolved governments and jurisdictions and/or territories under its control;

d) Undertake a comprehensive cross-cutting review of its legislation and policies to bring them into line with article 1 of the Convention, and ensure that the legal framework protects persons with disabilities against discrimination on the grounds of disability. The State party should involve organizations of persons with disabilities and national human rights institutions in this process;

e) Expedite the process to develop a measurable strategic framework and plan of action, with sufficient financial resources, aimed at abolishing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities and ensuring the equal protection of persons with disabilities;

f) Prevent any negative consequences for persons with disabilities resulting from the decision to trigger article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee is concerned at the lack of State party-led initiatives aimed at assessing and sufficiently addressing the inclusion of and living conditions for persons with disabilities, particularly in Northern Ireland and the territories under its jurisdiction and/or control.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party collect information and adopt a strategic and measurable plan of action for improving the living conditions of all persons with disabilities, including in close cooperation with the authorities in Northern Ireland and the territories under its jurisdiction and/or control.

10. The Committee is concerned about:

a) The challenges facing organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations representing women, children and intersex persons with disabilities, in accessing support and being consulted and actively involved in the implementation of the Convention;

b) The lack of sufficient mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of all organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes concerning policies and legislation in all areas of the Convention, such as the strategy entitled "Fulfilling Potential: making it happen".

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Allocate financial resources to support organizations representing persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, and develop mechanisms to ensure the inclusive, strategic and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including women, children and intersex persons, in the planning and implementation of all legislation and measures that affect the lives of persons with disabilities;

b) Establish mechanisms to secure the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of strategic policies aimed at implementing the Convention across the State party, through objective, measurable, financed and monitored strategic action plans.

Armenia (2017)

5. The Committee is concerned about:

a) The insufficient and selective consultation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including the lack of appropriate support and reasonable accommodation, when drafting disability-related legislation, policies, strategies and action plans;

- b) The use of the concepts of prevention and treatment of disability in the revised Constitution (art. 48) and in the newly adopted comprehensive plan for 2017-2021 on social inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- c) The fact that the draft law on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion is not in line with the Convention, including the concept of disability, and provides for the prevention and treatment of disability and for legal incapacity;
- d) The fact that the State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention;
- e) The medically based determination of disability, which relies on impairments without considering social barriers and individual requirements for social participation;
- f) The lack of awareness of public servants working with persons with disabilities regarding the rights of those persons;
- g) The lack of concrete, effective and transparent measures taken by the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to implement the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Take the measures necessary to ensure the full and equal involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the process of decision-making for and drafting of all disability-related legislation, policies, strategies and action plans. The State party should also provide appropriate support and reasonable accommodation to ensure the participation of representatives of all persons with disabilities, including women, children, refugees and asylum seekers, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing and visual impairments, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons living in rural areas and persons in need of a high level of support, in consultation processes;**
- b) **Review its legislation and plans referring to the prevention and treatment of disability and align them with the human rights-based model of disability;**
- c) **Review the draft law on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion to ensure that it is in line with the Convention and the Committee's general comments;**
- d) **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention;**
- e) **Adopt a human rights-based concept of disability and ensure that disability determination focuses on the barriers to the social participation of persons with disabilities and refers to individual requirements, will and preferences;**
- f) **Provide regular training for public servants working with persons with disabilities, including teachers, law enforcement officers, judges, lawyers and medical staff, on the rights of persons with disabilities;**
- g) **Enhance the capacity of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to ensure intersectoral coordination and implementation of disability-related actions in public policies.**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

6. The Committee is concerned about the lack of transparent procedures and legislation regarding the consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of structured financial support and capacity-building for these organizations, particularly at the local level.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt formal and transparent mechanisms for regular consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities, including those representing women and children with disabilities, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in all entities and cantons. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide sufficient and regular financial resources to such organizations.

8. The Committee is concerned that there is no human rights-based concept of disability across the entities and cantons of the State party that is in line with the Convention. It is also concerned at the lack of efforts to revise the existing legislation and to bring it into full

compliance with the Convention, bearing in mind the provisions of article 4 (5) of the Convention.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a harmonized human rights-based concept of disability in accordance with the Convention. It also recommends that the State party review its existing and draft laws in regular consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Canada (2017)

7. The Committee is concerned about the State party's reservation, which it continues to uphold, to article 12 of the Convention, preserving substitute decision-making practices. The reservation contradicts the object and purpose of the Convention as enshrined in article 1 and prevents the State party from fully implementing and addressing all human rights of persons with disabilities in compliance with the human rights model of disability.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw its declaration and reservation to article 12 (4) of the Convention and carry out a process to bring into line with the Convention federal, provincial and territorial legislation that allows for the deprivation of legal capacity of persons with disabilities. The Committee encourages the State party, in doing so, to consider the criteria set out in the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law.

9. The Committee notes with concern:

- a) That the provisions of the Convention have yet to be appropriately incorporated into legislation and policies across sectors and levels of government;
- b) The uneven application of the Convention and the Committee's jurisprudence by the judiciary and law enforcement officials, including the police;
- c) The lack of legislation and public policies to protect the rights of persons with disabilities who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Take leadership in convening provinces and territories in order to ensure a pan-Canadian approach to implementation and enact a comprehensive national action plan for implementing the Convention in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments and in consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations. The State party should ensure that such an action plan includes benchmarks and a time frame for its implementation;
- b) Set up a mechanism aimed at ensuring that legislation at the provincial and territorial levels that is to be updated further includes specific measures to implement the obligations of the State party under the Convention;
- c) Strengthen the human, financial and technical resources of the Office for Disability Issues at the federal level and ensure appropriate formal and permanent mechanisms for coordination with provincial and territorial governments;
- d) Raise awareness among and develop capacity-building programmes for the judiciary and law enforcement officials about the Convention as a legally enforceable human rights instrument, the human rights model of disability and its principles, and the jurisprudence of the Committee, including its general comments and its Views on individual communications adopted, and inquiry procedures undertaken, under the Optional Protocol.

11. The Committee takes note of the consultations undertaken with Canadians, including Canadians with disabilities and their organizations, to inform the development of planned federal accessibility, as well as the promotion of organizations of persons with disabilities and their advocacy work at the national and international levels. However, the Committee is concerned about the absence of formal, recorded consultations on comprehensive plans for the implementation of the Convention, and about the absence of information on mechanisms to foster the leadership and participation of organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and children with disabilities in consultations.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Establish formal and permanent mechanisms for consulting with organizations of persons with disabilities in an effective and result-oriented manner at all levels of administration relating to the comprehensive implementation of the Convention;
- b) Take measures, including specific budget allocations, to strengthen the advocacy roles of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities, children with disabilities, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with neurodegenerative conditions, including Alzheimer's, dementia and multiple sclerosis.

Cyprus (2017)

5. The Committee notes with concern that the State party's national legislation has not fully incorporated a human rights-based approach to disability in line with the Convention, in particular its articles 1 and 3.

6. The Committee urges the State party to adopt and implement a human rights- based approach to disability and to review all laws and policies accordingly in collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention.

7. While noting the existence of a law regulating the obligation of public services to consult with the Confederation of the Disabled People Organization, the Committee remains concerned about the insufficient financial and other resources provided to and inadequate collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities regarding all disability-related issues. The Committee is also concerned by the absence of a representative organization of persons with intellectual disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that contributions by representative organizations of persons with disabilities into national decision-making processes are not acknowledged appropriately.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party urgently, effectively and substantially increase the support to, collaboration with and impact of all representative organizations of persons with disabilities in capacity-building and in cross-sectoral development, implementation and monitoring of policies, laws and programmes. It also recommends that the State party provide support for the creation of a representative organization of persons with intellectual disabilities.

9. The Committee is concerned about the very weak implementation of the National Disability Action Plan (2013-2015).

10. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, adopt a new National Disability Action Plan and allocate adequate funding to its implementation.

Honduras (2017)

5. El Comité observa con preocupación que se mantengan en la legislación, las políticas y los programas públicos, disposiciones sobre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y terminología peyorativa, que no están armonizadas con el modelo de discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos establecido en la Convención. Asimismo, le preocupa al Comité que el proyecto de ley de reformas a la Ley de Equidad y Desarrollo Integral para las Personas con Discapacidad contiene disposiciones de carácter muy general, y que actualmente dicho proyecto de ley se encuentra en dictamen de la Comisión de Equidad de Género del Congreso Nacional.

6. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte un plan para la revisión, derogación, reforma y/o adopción de legislación y políticas, con el objeto de reconocer a las personas con discapacidad como sujetos plenos de derechos humanos en armonía con la Convención y de eliminar toda terminología peyorativa. Asimismo, recomienda la aprobación definitiva de la actualización de la Ley de Equidad y Desarrollo Integral para las Personas con Discapacidad, tomando en cuenta las observaciones presentadas por la

Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos en Honduras en febrero de 2017.

7. Preocupa al Comité el rango de la Dirección General de Desarrollo para las Personas con Discapacidad, que es tan solo un programa de la Subsecretaría de Estado de Desarrollo e Inclusión Social, más ahora que se fusionó con la Dirección General del Adulto Mayor, que ejecuta el programa Honduras para Todos.

8. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte vele por que la Dirección General de Desarrollo para las Personas con Discapacidad sea una entidad nacional permanente, y le asigne recursos humanos y financieros suficientes y específicos para llevar a cabo su mandato.

9. El Comité observa con preocupación que ni la definición de discapacidad ni los criterios para calificarla no están estandarizados ni en armonía con los principios de la Convención.

10. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que armonice la definición de discapacidad con la Convención y los criterios para su certificación, con el fin de crear un sistema de certificación de la capacidad que refleje un modelo basado en los derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad.

11. Al Comité le preocupa que las consultas a personas con discapacidad no sean vinculantes en la adopción de políticas y programas que les afectan y que no se garantiza la participación en el Consejo Consultivo creado mediante Decreto Legislativo núm. 160- 2005.

12. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte un mecanismo vinculante de consultas permanentes a personas con discapacidad a través de sus organizaciones, incluyendo a niños y niñas con discapacidad, en la adopción de legislación, políticas y otros asuntos de su pertinencia y que se garanticen las sesiones del Consejo Consultivo.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

6. The Committee notes with concern the general reservation made by the State party upon its accession to the Convention, and the lack of awareness among public authorities and society about the Convention. It is also concerned about the absence of information on whether and when the State party will ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Withdraw its reservation to the Convention;

b) Disseminate the Convention and the Committee's general comments among the Government, ministries, members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, religious and community leaders, so as to create awareness of persons with disabilities' dignity and rights;

c) Carry out dialogue with religious and community leaders about the compatibility between Islamic laws with the Convention; and

d) Take measures aimed at signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

8. The Committee notes with concern that:

a) The State party understands disability as a health condition or 'disorder' which is 'continuous' or 'considerable' (See CRPD/C/IRN/1 para.13), and prioritizes the prevention of impairment, medical treatment, and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities;

b) The legislation and policy measures entail 'charity', 'care' and 'welfare' towards persons with disabilities rather than recognising them as rights-holders; and

c) The legislation contains derogatory language such as the terms 'mentally ill', 'insane' and/or 'retarded'.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Bring its legislation, particularly the Comprehensive Legislation on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2004) into line with the Convention, based on the human rights model of disability and repeal derogatory terminology against persons with disabilities, including in the New Criminal Code;

b) Ensure that the State Welfare Organization (SWO) recognises the evolving concept of disability, as a result of the interaction between any type of impairment and barriers that impede full participation of persons with disabilities in society;

c) Withdraw article 90 of the Sixth Development Plan of Iran that provides for compulsory premarital genetic examination and consultation to prevent the birth of children with disabilities; and

d) Reaffirm the right of all persons with disabilities to found a family, to marry, and to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.

10. The Committee notes with concern the lack of mechanisms to consult with organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes concerning the implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the lack of information about support to the work and advocacy of these organizations.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Ensure meaningful consultation with and participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in an independent manner, including organizations of women and children with disabilities, in the development and implementation of the Convention and ensuring that they can access financial resources to advocate for human rights; and

b) Ensure that representative organizations of persons with disabilities engage freely with international mechanisms regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, including in the periodic examination of State party reports by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Jordan (2017)

5. The Committee notes that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention in a timely manner.

7. The Committee is concerned that, contrary to the Convention, national legislation contains provisions that are discriminatory to persons with disabilities, including articles 127 and 128 of the Civil Code (Law No. 43 of 1976), article 467 of the Criminal Code (Law No. 16 of 1960), articles 12, 206, 211 and 212 of the Personal Status Law (No. 36 of 2010) and articles 2, 4 and 12 of the Nationality Law (No. 6 of 1954). The Committee is also concerned that the draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities does not contain clear criteria for meaningful participation of organizations representing persons with disabilities in the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party, in a timely manner:

a) Ensure that the provisions of the draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities are harmonized with the Convention, that legal sanctions for non-compliance are provided for and that increased and meaningful participation of organizations representing persons with disabilities is guaranteed in accordance with article 4 (3) of the Convention, prior to adopting it;

b) Repeal all legislative provisions that are discriminatory on the grounds of disability, including articles 127 and 128 of the Civil Code (Law No. 43 of 1976), article 467 of the Criminal Code (Law No. 16 of 1960), articles 12, 206, 211 and 212 of the Personal Status Law (No. 36 of 2010) and articles 2, 4 and 12 of the Nationality Law (No. 6 of 1954); and ensure the consistent application of the concept of persons with disabilities in line with articles 1 and 3 of the Convention as well as make explicit reference to the barriers faced by persons with disabilities;

c) Revise the title and purpose of the card that is issued exclusively to persons with disabilities and ensure that its use is compliant with the Convention.

9. The Committee notes with concern that a new national strategy for persons with disabilities has not yet been adopted to replace the previous strategy that expired in 2015.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) **Adopt a new national strategy for persons with disabilities and a related action plan and ensure that the financial, technical and human resources necessary for its implementation are allocated to it;**
- b) **Clarify the mechanisms that are responsible for its implementation and monitoring and ensure the full participation of organizations representing persons with disabilities.**

Republic of Moldova (2017)

6. The Committee is concerned that a medical approach to disability still persists and is widespread in the State party, as reflected in its legal framework and the medical assessment of disability, including in the determination of the working capacity of persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that:

- a) Disability policies and strategies and their implementation fall mainly within the remit of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and lack operative mechanisms to facilitate coordination among different government sectors and consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;
- b) The concepts of reasonable accommodation and universal design are not implemented, partly due to a lack of secondary legislation and monitoring mechanisms;
- c) The State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to move towards a human rights-based approach to disability and to ensure that disability determination focuses on the barriers to the social participation of persons with disabilities and refers to individual requirements, will and preferences. It also recommends that the State party:

- a) **Ensure effective government mechanisms for intersectoral coordination of disability-related actions in public policies and strategies, both as stand-alone and cross-cutting responsibilities of the State party and for systematic and meaningful consultations with different types of organizations of persons with disabilities throughout its territory;**
- b) **Provide training on the concepts of reasonable accommodation and universal design to public servants and adopt the legislative, administrative and other measures necessary to ensure their implementation across all sectors;**
- c) **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.**

8. The Committee is concerned about the human rights situation of Roma persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, who are living in extreme poverty and are vulnerable to marginalization as a result of intersecting forms of discrimination. It is also concerned that the insufficient allocation of resources to protect and promote the rights of Roma persons with disabilities places them at a high risk of human trafficking.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party include a disability perspective in the implementation of the Roma plan of action 2016-2020 and its funding. It also recommends that the State party develop and implement programmes addressing poverty and the exclusion of Roma persons with disabilities, particularly focusing on children, to address their human rights situation and eliminate intersecting forms of discrimination.

Bolivia (2016)

5. The Committee is concerned that the Constitution does not recognize persons with disabilities as full holders of all human rights, but rather considers them as in need of protection.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party review its entire legislation, including the Constitution, with a view to adopting laws that recognize persons with disabilities as full holders of all human rights.

7. The Committee is concerned that the criteria used in certifying disability continue to reflect the medical model and take no account of the barriers facing persons with disabilities or of the human rights-based model. It is also concerned that the procedure for obtaining a certificate of disability is complicated and expensive for the majority of persons with

disabilities, especially those living in rural areas and indigenous communities, with the result that disability is vastly underreported.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the criteria for certification of disability to reflect the social, human rights-based model of disability, and that it make the procedure accessible, simple and free of charge for all persons with disabilities.

9. The Committee notes with concern the lack of consultation with organizations that represent persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities and those that represent the interests of children. The Committee is further concerned that there is no established mechanism for such consultations when adopting legislation and policies or taking other decisions relevant to persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that the nine seats for civil society on the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities have not been filled.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt mechanisms for open, broad-based and democratic consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including those representing women and girls with disabilities and those representing the interests of children with disabilities, in connection with the adoption of policies and formulation of laws and when taking other decisions relevant to them. It also urges the State party to finish setting up the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities, so as to encourage the broad, democratic participation of independent organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations, and to consult organizations of persons with disabilities in accordance with Act No. 223.

Colombia (2016)

4. The Committee is concerned that the State party still has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

5. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee is concerned that the legislation and case law on the institutionalization of persons on the basis of disability, forced sterilization and procedures that restrict legal capacity have not been brought into line with the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a plan for the review and amendment of all legislation that includes the immediate repeal of provisions that restrict the full recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, including Acts Nos. 1306 (2009) and 1412 (2010), as well as the Civil Code, the Criminal Code and procedural laws.

8. The Committee is concerned that derogatory terminology continues to be used in laws, case law, regulations and official documents to refer to persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party remove all derogatory language that undermines the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee is concerned about the lack of processes for the extensive and accessible consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities in adopting policies and other matters affecting them, and about the fact that their views are not reflected in the decisions adopted. It is concerned that the National Disability System does not provide the necessary resources to promote the effective participation of organizations of persons with disabilities and that the accreditation procedures for such participation are complicated and expensive, especially in rural and remote areas. It is also concerned that not all the seats designated for civil society representatives on the National Council for Persons with Disabilities have been filled.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Establish and strengthen mechanisms for extensive and democratic consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including those that represent women and children and older persons with disabilities, and indigenous and Afro-Colombian persons

with disabilities, when adopting policies and other matters that concern them, take into account the results of such consultations and reflect them in the decisions adopted;

b) Make accreditation procedures accessible, simple and quick for representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities at all levels of the National Disability System;

c) Facilitate the appointment of representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities to the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

12. The Committee is concerned that the single register for locating and classifying persons with disabilities uses criteria based on the medical model of disability for the purposes of calculating pension and social assistance benefits. It is also concerned that to date only 2.59 per cent of the total population has been registered.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party review the criteria used for the single register for locating and classifying persons with disabilities and that it bring them into line with the human rights model of disability. It also recommends that the State party redouble its efforts to expand the register of persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas and the most remote locations. The Committee also recommends that it take steps to ensure data reliability and to update the data on a regular basis.

Ethiopia (2016)

5. The Committee is concerned that legislation and policies continue to employ derogatory terms to refer to persons with disabilities such as “insane”, “infirm” and “deaf-mute”.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party eliminate the use of all derogatory language to refer to persons with disabilities and ensure that all existing and new laws and regulations, and definitions used therein, comply with the human rights-based model of disability in accordance with the Convention.

7. The Committee is further concerned that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are not systematically consulted in the development of all policies and laws, training and awareness-raising across all sectors, and that restrictions to foreign donor funding of disability rights hinder the liberty of association of persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure systematic and meaningful consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of all policies and laws, training and awareness-raising across all sectors, including in the implementation of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2012-2021, and that the State party ensure the independence of association of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Guatemala (2016)

7. The Committee is concerned by the fact that the State party has not yet ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

8. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

9. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not established a procedure for certifying degree of disability and that assessments are made on the basis of a medical and charity-based approach.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party define the criteria for assessing the degree of a person’s disability in accordance with the human rights principles enshrined in the Convention and establish appropriate regulation in its legislation and policies. It also recommends that the State party ensure that all persons with disabilities are able to obtain a disability certificate free of charge, so as to facilitate the assessment process in rural and remote areas.

11. The Committee notes that the State party has not yet conducted a cross-cutting review of its legislation with a view to bringing it into line with the Convention and that laws,

regulations, customs and practices that constitute serious discrimination against persons with disabilities continue to be implemented.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct a comprehensive, cross-cutting review of its legislation and policies in order to align them with the Convention. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party expedite the process of approval of Framework Bill No. 5125 on disability, which provides a response in line with the Convention.

13. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities, especially women, children and indigenous peoples, are subject to serious forms of discrimination. The Committee is also concerned by the fact that the National Disability Policy is not being effectively implemented by all of the ministries and public institutions concerned. It is also concerned by the lack of consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities to ensure the allocation of the necessary resources and the introduction of an implementation schedule and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of its National Disability Policy by all ministries and public institutions concerned, allocate the necessary resources and establish an implementation schedule and a monitoring mechanism, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party mainstream disability and allocate the necessary resources to the National Development Plan, K'atun nuestra Guatemala 2032, ensuring that persons with disabilities participate in the urban and rural development councils that are responsible for monitoring its implementation. In addition, the Committee recommends that a national policy be drawn up on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Convention.

Italy (2016)

5. The Committee is concerned that there are multiple definitions of disability across sectors and regions leading to disparity in access to support and services. Furthermore, disability continues to be defined through a medical perspective, and the revised concept of disability, as proposed by the National Observatory on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, is not aligned to the Convention and lacks binding legislation at both the national and regional levels.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a concept of disability in line with the Convention and ensure legislation is enacted that incorporates the new concept in a homogeneous manner across all levels and regions of government and territories.

7. The Committee is concerned about the lack of consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and by the fact that the National Observatory on the Status of Persons with Disabilities is not a permanent consultative body. It is also concerned by the failure to prioritize the input of organizations of persons with disabilities by treating all stakeholder views equally and thereby limiting the input of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, in direct decision-making processes.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a permanent consultative body that effectively and meaningfully consults with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of all laws, policies and programmes, and that it ensure that a broad range of persons with disabilities that reflect the diversity of people's backgrounds, including age, sex, faith, race, sexual orientation, migrant status and impairment groups, meaningfully participate in an inclusive and accessible manner in direct decision-making processes that affect the lives of persons with disabilities at all levels and within all sectors of the State party.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

5. The Committee notes that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention. It also notes that the State party has not ratified other international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention as soon as possible and that it consider ratifying the international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

7. The Committee is concerned that:

- a) Legislation on persons with disabilities dates from before the ratification of the Convention, has not been harmonized with the latter and does not reflect the human rights model of disability;
- b) The definition of disability in Federal Act No. 29 of 2006 as amended by Federal Act No. 14 of 2009 is not in accordance with the criteria and principles set out in articles 1 to 3 of the Convention;
- c) Derogatory terminology concerning persons with disabilities has not yet been eliminated from all laws, policies and government discourse;
- d) Insufficient measures have been taken to ensure implementation of the Convention at the local level throughout the State party;
- e) There is a heavy focus on creating specialized solutions that lead to the segregation of persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, adopt all measures necessary to ensure that its legislation, policies and practices are in full compliance with the general principles and specific provisions of the Convention. In particular, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Undertake a comprehensive legislative and policy review in order to adopt, ensure and enforce the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability and the full transition to a human rights-based model of disability;
- b) Ensure that the definition of disability in the national legislation is in full conformity with the criteria and principles set out in articles 1 to 3 of the Convention;
- c) Ensure that derogatory terminology is eliminated from all laws, policies and government discourse;
- d) Engage in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities and their access to services for their full inclusion in the community.

9. The Committee notes with concern:

- a) That it did not receive any alternative reports from civil society in the United Arab Emirates, including from organizations of persons with disabilities;
- b) The lack of consultations involving persons with disabilities and the difficulties faced by independent organizations of persons with disabilities and their families in engaging in human rights advocacy aimed at a better implementation of the Convention;
- c) That foundations and other civil society organizations providing services to persons with disabilities do not fully comply with the principles of the Convention in terms of service provision.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Adopt the measures necessary – including a review of existing laws and their current requirements, the provision of financial and other support, and the establishment of a

formal mechanism recognized by law – to ensure that independent organizations of persons with disabilities can register as self-governing associations and can contribute effectively to the implementation of the Convention through law-making and policymaking and through systematic participation and consultation;

b) Ensure that all foundations and civil society organizations engaged in service provision, including organizations of persons with disabilities, comply with the principles and provisions of the Convention by developing guidelines and standards for service provision in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities;

c) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities have the freedom to engage independently with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

Uruguay (2016)

5. El Comité observa con preocupación que se mantengan en la legislación, las políticas y los programas públicos, disposiciones sobre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y terminología peyorativa que no están armonizadas con el modelo de discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos establecido en la Convención.

6. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte un plan para la revisión, derogación, reforma y/o adopción de legislación y políticas, incluyendo la Constitución Política del Estado parte, con el objeto de reconocer a las personas con discapacidad como sujetos plenos de derechos humanos en armonía con la Convención.

7. Preocupa al Comité el rango del Programa Nacional de Discapacidad (Pronadis), siendo tan sólo un programa dentro del mandato del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social.

8. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que vele porque el Pronadis sea una entidad nacional permanente con los recursos humanos y financieros suficientes y específicos para llevar a cabo su mandato.

9. El Comité observa con preocupación que no existe un adecuado entendimiento de los conceptos cubiertos por artículos 1 y 2 ni de los principios de la Convención y que existan criterios no estandarizados ni en armonía con los mismos para certificar la discapacidad.

10. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte medidas para revisar la definición legal de discapacidad con el objetivo de armonizarla con los principios y artículos de la Convención y, subsecuentemente, para establecer un sistema de certificación única de la discapacidad que refleje un modelo basado en los derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad.

11. Al Comité le preocupa que no haya suficientes consultas con personas con discapacidad, a través de sus organizaciones, a la hora de la adopción de políticas y programas que les afectan.

12. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte un mecanismo de consultas permanentes a personas con discapacidad a través de sus organizaciones, incluyendo a niños y niñas con discapacidad, en la adopción de legislación, políticas y otros asuntos de su relevancia.

Chile (2016)

5. Al Comité le preocupa la ausencia de una estrategia para la armonización legislativa relativa a personas con discapacidad, así como la persistencia del modelo médico y el uso de terminología peyorativa tales como “invalides”, “incapaces” y “dementes” en normas vigentes incluido el Código Civil y la Ley núm. 20422 de 2010.

6. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte un plan para armonizar plenamente toda su legislación y políticas, incluyendo la Constitución Política de la República y el Código Civil para hacerlo compatible con la Convención y promover el modelo de derechos humanos de la discapacidad.

7. El Comité observa que los criterios para calificar y certificar la deficiencia no están estandarizados ni en armonía con los principios de la Convención en tanto se basan en la deficiencia sin tomar en cuenta las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad.

8. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que revise los criterios para la calificación y certificación de la discapacidad y asegurar que reflejen un modelo basado en los derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad.

9. Al Comité le preocupa que las consultas a personas con discapacidad no sean vinculantes en la adopción de políticas y programas que les afectan.

10. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte un mecanismo vinculante de consulta permanente a personas con discapacidad a través de sus organizaciones, incluyendo a las mujeres, a las niñas y los niños con discapacidad, en la adopción de legislación, políticas y otros asuntos de su relevancia.

Lithuania (2016)

5. The Committee is concerned that the definition and understanding of disability in State party laws and regulations focuses on the individual impairment, thereby neglecting the social and relational dimension of disability, including, in particular, the barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the legal definition of disability in accordance with the criteria and principles provided in articles 1 to 3 of the Convention and that it effectively apply the amended legal definition in all laws and regulations.

7. The Committee is concerned by the frequent use of derogatory language, such as “deaf-mute” and “disorder”, when referring to persons with disabilities in legislation and data collection efforts, which perpetuate negative perceptions about persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party review and harmonize its legislation concerning the definition of persons with disabilities and in the collection of data related to such persons in such a way as to eliminate the use of all derogatory language to refer to persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that all existing and new laws and regulations, and the definitions used therein, comply with the human rights-based model of disability, in accordance with the Convention.

9. The Committee is concerned that between 2009 and 2014 there was a decrease in resources allocated for the support of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party regularly evaluate the national budget and its use of the European Union structural and investment funds to ensure that the maximum available resources are being used for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with article 4 (2) of the Convention. The Committee calls on the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, updated information on public spending demonstrating how social protection for persons with disabilities has been increasingly prioritized.

11. The Committee notes with concern that organizations of persons with disabilities are not included in all decision-making processes relating to matters affecting them, in a timely manner and with sufficient support, in accordance with the provisions of article 4 (3) of the Convention.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Develop, adopt and implement a strategy aimed at achieving the full inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities in all political decision-making processes relating to matters affecting persons with disabilities, from the early stages and across all sectors, including in relation to the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;

b) Provide sufficient financial support to build the capacity and enable the autonomous participation of those organizations in all decision-making processes.

Portugal (2016)

7. The Committee is concerned by the use of medical assessment of disability and that there are no legally-binding criteria for the eligibility of persons with disabilities in relation to

access to various social protection programmes, and instead the National Table of Incapacities caused by Work Accidents and Occupational Diseases is used by analogy.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party review the assessment criteria to determine the degree of disability of the individual to bring them into line with the Convention, and adopts suitable regulations in its legislation and policies. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensures that all persons with disabilities are able to secure their disability certificate, and that access to social protection programmes and aid is available to all persons with disabilities.

9. The Committee notes that the State party has still not carried out a comprehensive cross-cutting review of its legislation in order to harmonise it with the Convention, and that laws, regulations, customs and practises which discriminate against persons with disabilities continue to exist.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party perform a comprehensive cross-cutting review of its legislation and policies, in order to harmonise it with article 1 of the Convention to ensure protection against all kinds of discrimination on grounds of disability and that State Party involve in this process organizations which represent persons with disabilities and human rights independent institutions.

11. The Committee notes that the State party is working on a new disability strategy which will remain in place until 2020. Nevertheless, it is concerned by the failure to implement the I National Strategy on Disability 2011-2013, which was not assigned adequate budget resources for implementation and did not include the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in its design, monitoring or assessment.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a new strategy on the implementation of the Convention, with the involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities in the design, monitoring and assessment stages, a budget allocation, timeframes for implementation and a dedicated monitoring mechanism. The Committee also recommends that the European Union Structural Funds allocated to the State party until 2020 be used to develop policies which contribute to the implementation of the Convention in the State party.

Serbia (2016)

5. The Committee is concerned that some legislative provisions and bylaws are discriminatory and contravene the provisions of the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation, including assessment of disability and support schemes, and harmonize it with the Convention, including the human rights model of disability.

7. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient training of professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities in the rights recognised in the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends the State party promote, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), the training of professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities in the rights recognized in the Convention so as to better provide the assistance and services guaranteed by those rights.

Slovakia (2016)

5. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities among the Roma people.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a policy, action plan and indicators to implement the rights of persons with disabilities among the Roma people.

7. The Committee is concerned that progress on the national programme for the development of the living conditions of persons with disabilities towards the implementation of the Convention is unclear and too slow.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party develop goals, targets, indicators and a timeline for the above-mentioned programme, and ensure stakeholder involvement in its expected outcomes.

9. The Committee is concerned at the absence of frameworks for meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations with respect to the development and implementation of legislation and policies concerning persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development and implementation of disability-relevant legislation and policies, paying particular attention to women, girls, boys and the Roma population with disabilities.

11. The Committee is concerned that the medical approach to disability is still used in assessments and provisions addressing persons with disabilities, and is also concerned about the lack of understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities among professionals.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a human rights-based definition of disability in the regulations relating to the assessment of disability. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide policymakers and professionals with training and raise awareness among them on the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention.

Thailand (2016)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

6. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned about the fact that the new draft Constitution of Thailand ad referendum appears to weaken the overall legal protection of persons with disabilities when compared to the 2007 Constitution and omits specific references to persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the legal protection of persons with disabilities in its new draft Constitution.

9. The Committee is concerned that national laws are not fully harmonized with the Convention, particularly with respect to the concept of disability in section 4 of the Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act and the criteria for access to services and funds that rely heavily on a medical assessment.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party take the steps necessary to revise national legislation and policies in accordance with the human rights model of disability, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

11. The Committee is concerned with the overall limited empowerment of representative organizations of persons with disabilities by the State party, and the obstacles encountered by civil society organizations in obtaining certification and grants for setting up disability service centres as provided for in legislation.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the measures necessary to ensure the active participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities and facilitate their empowerment as service providers.

Uganda (2016)

4. The Committee is concerned about the varying definitions of disability throughout its legislation, that legislation and policies are not in line with the Convention, and the delay in the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014, as well as of several bills that would advance the rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the Convention. It also notes with

concern that derogatory language against persons with disabilities persists in legislation and policies of the State party, such as the terms “unsound mind” and “lunacy”.

5. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Harmonize definitions of disability in various laws and policies and systematically review all legislation and bring it into line with the Convention;

b) Adopt measures to amend and/or repeal legislation with derogatory terminology against persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee is concerned about the absence of specific mechanisms to ensure a high-level consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities that goes beyond the National Council for Disability. It is also concerned that civil society does not fully participate in processes to enact legislation, and in the discussion and adoption of public policies both at the national and district level, including the involvement of women with disabilities, young people, children with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party establish high-level formal mechanisms to conduct consultations with organizations representing persons with disabilities, systematically and on a regular basis, with allocation of budgetary resources, and promote the meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities, young people, children with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

Brazil (2015)

6. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a coherent and comprehensive disability strategy to implement the human rights model of disability established in the Convention and harmonize the State party's legislation, policies and programmes.

7. The Committee recommends the State party to develop a disability strategy to implement the human rights model of disability. The Committee further recommends that, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the State party initiates a systematic review of existing legislation, policies and programmes and where necessary brings them into line with the Convention. This should include a review of any legislation, policies or programmes upon which the rights of persons with disabilities are restricted or denied on the basis of impairment, or where services or benefits to persons with disabilities lead to their segregation or exclusion.

8. The Committee is concerned that the Statute of Persons with Disabilities (Lei Brasileira de Inclusão da Pessoa com Deficiência) does not meet all of the State party's obligations under the Convention.

9. The Committee urges the State party to take immediate steps to bring the Statute of Persons with Disabilities (Lei Brasileira de Inclusão da Pessoa com Deficiência) into full alignment with the Convention before it enters into force, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee is concerned at the lack of mechanisms in place for the participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in decision-making processes relating to the implementation of the Convention.

11. The Committee recommends the adoption of a consultative mechanism for systematic consultations with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, on policies, programmes and legislation relating to the implementation of the Convention. The Committee also recommends the State party to promptly implement the results of all national conferences on the rights of persons with disabilities, including the proposals from the “III National Conference on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (CRPD/C/BRA/Q/1/Add.1 para. 11).

European Union (2015)

6. The Committee is concerned that the European Union has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. The Committee calls upon the European Union to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

8. The Committee is concerned that the European Union failed to conduct a cross-cutting, comprehensive review of its legislation aimed at its harmonization with the Convention, and that a strategy on the implementation of the Convention across all its institutions is missing.

9. The Committee recommends the European Union to conduct a cross-cutting, comprehensive review of its legislation in order to ensure full harmonization with the provisions of the Convention and to actively involve representative organisations of persons with disabilities and independent human rights institutions in this process. It further recommends adopting a strategy on the implementation of the Convention with an allocated budget, timeframe, as well as a monitoring mechanism.

10. The Committee is concerned that the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 has not had its mid-term assessment due in 2015, and there are no clear benchmarks and guidelines on how these Concluding Observations will be incorporated into the implementation of the second term 2016-2020.

11. The Committee recommends that the European Union implement the mid-term assessment of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, and establish clear guidelines on the inclusion of these concluding observations with clear benchmarks and indicators, in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

12. The Committee is concerned that the impact assessment guidelines only include one issue relating to the compliance with the Convention.

13. The Committee recommends that the impact assessment guidelines be reviewed and modified in order to include a more comprehensive list of issues to better assess compliance with the Convention.

14. The Committee is concerned at the lack of cross-cutting, overarching framework for the consultation between different authorities in the European Union, and persons with disabilities, including women, girls and boys with disabilities, through their representative organisations.

15. The Committee recommends the European Union to take necessary measures to set up Structured Dialogue with an independent budget line and sufficient funding for coordination between European Union institutions, agencies and bodies, and for meaningful consultation with and participation of persons with disabilities, including women, girls and boys with disabilities, through their representative organisations.

16. The Committee is concerned that the Declaration of Competence has not been updated and does not comprehensively refer to legislation applicable to or affecting persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the European Union regularly update the Declaration of Competence and its list of instruments to include recently adopted instruments and those instruments that have no specific reference to disability but that are relevant to persons with disabilities.

Gabon (2015)

6. The Committee is concerned that the State party has no legal definition of 'reasonable accommodation' and 'universal design'.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party amend national legislation to include definitions of 'reasonable accommodation' and 'universal design' in line with the Convention and to provide guidance and training to both the public and private sectors on these concepts and how they can be applied in practice.

8. The Committee is concerned about the lack of consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities within the State party.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party establish permanent mechanisms at the national and local level for participation and consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities in relation to law and policy making, by creating the 'National Committee for the Insertion of Persons with Disabilities' and the 'monitoring and assessment commission on social development' and guaranteeing the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in its membership. The Committee also recommends that the State party support organizations of persons with disabilities with the sufficient, independent and continuous financial resources so as to provide the State party with information on the needs and views of persons with disabilities to be taken into account in future planning processes.

10. The Committee is concerned that: a) national legislation is not fully harmonised with the Convention and the Convention is not enforceable in domestic courts; b) the State party has not adopted a human rights model of disability in legislation and policies; and c) the State party uses stigmatising terminology to refer to persons with disabilities, notably intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) domesticate its national legislation in line with the Convention, including provisions to enforce the Convention in domestic courts,**
- b) adopt a human rights model of disability in legislation and policy, and**
- c) eliminate stigmatizing terminology.**

Kenya (2015)

5. The Committee is concerned about measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention and, the delay in the process to amend the Persons with Disabilities Act 2003. It also observes with concern that derogatory terminology against persons with disabilities persists in the Constitution and in other pieces of legislation such as the Local Government Act, the Election Act, the Mental Health Act, and the Marriage Act.

6. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

- a) Complete as a matter of priority and within a specific timeframe the process to review the Persons with Disabilities Act 2003 and bring it into line with the provisions of the Convention and the human rights-based approach to disability;**
- b) Ensure adequate processes in the Parliament to enact various bills regarding the rights of persons with disabilities pending approval;**
- c) Adopt measures to amend and/or repeal legislation with derogatory terminology against persons with disabilities; and**
- d) Raise awareness among members of Parliament with regard to the Convention and convey their involvement in implementing the Committee's concluding observations.**

7. The Committee observes with concern the absence of specific legal and policy frameworks for implementing the Convention at county and municipal levels. It is also concerned about the lack of mechanisms to ensure permanent and formal consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities in processes to enact legislation, and in the discussion and adoption of public policies both at the national level and in the county level.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- a) Adopt measures to ensure that county governments and all local authorities allocate budgetary resources and establish action plans to implement the Convention with targets and indicators to monitor their results; and**
- b) Establish formal mechanisms and protocols, at the national, county and municipal levels and conduct consultation with organizations representing persons with disabilities, in line with the State party obligations in article 4.3 of the Convention, including the required financial resources; and promote the meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in both rural and urban areas.**

Mauritius (2015)

5. The Committee is concerned that the definitions contained in the Equal Opportunities Act and the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act still reflect the medical approach of disability and are therefore incompatible with the concept of disability in the Convention. The Committee is also concerned about the use of derogatory language against persons with disabilities throughout laws, policies and discourse. The Committee is further concerned that achievements obtained through the implementation of the 2007 Action Plan on Disability are unclear and that persons with disabilities have not been consulted in the development of the draft Disability Bill and the Strategy Paper and Action Plan on Disability 2015-2020.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the Equal Opportunities Act and the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act to reflect the human rights model of disability and that it eliminate the use of derogatory language throughout its laws, policies and discourse. The Committee also urges the State party to fully associate and regularly, transparently and meaningfully consult with organization of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and action plans, which have an impact on them, especially the draft Disability Bill and the Disability Strategy and Action Plan (DSAP 2015-2020) and to ensure that the DSAP contain clear goals, benchmarks and indicators and that necessary resources are provided for its effective implementation.

7. The Committee notes the commitment by State Party to withdraw its reservations to articles 9 (para.2), 11 and 24 (para. 2) to the Convention (A/HRC/25/8 para. 129.10, 129.11 and 129.12), but is concerned that this process has yet to be engaged. The Committee also regrets that the State party conditions the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention to the withdrawal of these reservations.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw all its reservations to the Convention and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention without further delay.

Qatar (2015)

5. The Committee notes that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention. It also notes that the State party has not ratified other treaties of the international system of promotion and protection of human rights, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention as soon as possible and that it consider ratifying the international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

7. The Committee is concerned that legislation on persons with disabilities was adopted prior to ratification on the Convention and does not reflect the human rights model of disability and that there is a heavy focus on creating specialized solutions which lead to segregation. It is also concerned that subsequent efforts to harmonize legislation on persons with disabilities with the Convention have not advanced to fruition.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, adopt all necessary measures to ensure full compliance of legislation with the general principles and specific provisions in the Convention. In particular, the Committee recommends the adoption of measures in matters relating to non-discrimination and to the full transition to a human rights-based model of disability and that the State party engage in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities and their access to services within existing systems for their inclusion in the community.

9. The Committee is concerned by the lack of consultation of persons with disabilities and of difficulties for the independent organization of persons with disabilities and their families to engage in human rights advocacy for better implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the lack of diversity in the range of organizations with disabilities independent to the State party. The Committee is further concerned by the lack of participation by organizations of persons with disabilities throughout the process of its consideration of the implementation of the Convention and that it did not receive any alternative reports from Qatari civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the necessary measures, including a review of existing laws and their current requirements; the provision of financial and other support; and the establishment of a formal mechanism recognized in the law to ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities can register as associations, participate and be consulted and are enabled to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Convention in relation to law and policy making. Further, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all foundations and civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, comply with the principles and the provisions of the Convention, through the development of guidelines and standards for service provision. It also recommends that the State party ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities have the freedom to engage with the United Nations' human rights mechanisms.

Ukraine (2015)

5. The Committee notes the State party's query in relation to the terminology to refer to persons with disabilities and is of the opinion that the use of terminology in Ukrainian that refers to persons with disabilities as "invalids" or "persons with limited abilities" is not consistent with the Convention.

6. The Committee calls upon the State party to remove the reference to "invalids" or "persons with limited abilities" from all its legislative and policy documents, including the Ukrainian translation of the Convention and use terminology that is in compliance with the Convention in consultation with the representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee notes with concern that the medical model of approach to disability is still predominant especially in policies addressing the persons with disabilities due to lack of professional training for and understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities among public officials and professionals.

8. The Committee strongly recommends the State party to adopt human rights based approach to disability in all its laws, policies and decisions. It also urges the State party to educate and raise awareness of its policy makers, professionals and public in general on the rights of persons with disabilities based on the Convention and its Optional protocol.

Cook Islands (2015)

The Committee is concerned that the definitions in the Disability Act 2008 and the Cook Islands Welfare Act 1989 (including amendments) are incompatible with the concept of disability in the Convention.

5. The Committee recommends the State party amend the Disability Act 2008 and Cook Islands Welfare Act 1989 to reflect the concept of disability in the Convention and eliminate the use of derogatory language throughout its laws, policies and discourse.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Establish a legally recognised formal mechanism with funding to ensure the effective participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the process of drafting, development and implementation of laws and policies concerning all

persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, children with disabilities, women with disabilities, and older persons with disabilities;

b) Ensure persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are invited to international meetings and engagements that involve decision-making on issues of disability.

Croatia (2015)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet comprehensively reviewed domestic legislation with a view to implementing the human rights model of disability. It notes that there seems to be a lack of understanding of the meaning of reasonable accommodation and universal design in areas such as education, health, employment, built environment. The Committee is concerned that due to the lack of a broad service providers' network, organisation of persons with disabilities (DPOs) have been forced to assume this role at the expense of their advocacy role.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party initiates a comprehensive review of existing legislation and where necessary brings legislation in alignment with the Convention. It recommends that the concepts of reasonable accommodation and universal design are regulated beyond the context of the anti-discrimination act in areas such as education, health, transportation and building. It is recommended that the State party provide funding to enable DPOs to fulfil their role under article 4(3) of the Convention.

Czech Republic (2015)

5. The Committee notes that State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

6. The Committee calls upon the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as indicated at the outcome of the second round of the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/22/3/Add.1, para.6) and in line with the new National Plan on Promoting Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2015-2020.

7. The Committee notes that various definitions of disability and persons with disabilities in State party's legislation (in the Act on Employment and the School Act among others) are based on the medical model of approach to disability and are not in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

8. The Committee calls upon the State party to amend the definitions of disability and persons with disabilities in its legislation and to make explicit reference to the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the above-mentioned definitions, in order to harmonize them with the definitions in the Convention.

Dominican Republic (2015)

4. The Committee is concerned that no regulations have yet been passed to implement Act No. 5-13 and that there is no systematic strategy to harmonize national legislation with the Convention, including the removal of derogatory language such as "disabled", "imbecility" and "mental derangement" from the Labour Code and the Civil Code. It is also concerned at the absence of action lines inclusive of persons with disabilities in the 2010–2030 National Development Strategy.

5. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately set in motion a plan to review its legislation, with a view to removing terminology and provisions that are contrary to the Convention and prioritizing the harmonization of laws relating to the human rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends the inclusion of action lines inclusive of persons with disabilities in its 2010–2030 National Development Strategy.

6. The Committee is concerned that there are no mechanisms for consulting with organizations of persons with disabilities when taking decisions in implementation of the Convention and in all matters affecting these persons.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party establish mechanisms for permanent consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, as legally recognized procedures for the adoption of measures in implementation of this Convention and in all matters affecting them, in particular including them in the decision-making structures of the National Council on Disability (CONADIS).

Germany (2015)

5. The Committee is concerned that the application of the State party's obligations under the Convention in all parts of its territory have led to the uneven development of disability action plans at the Länder level, namely in their content, orientation, and in the consistent adoption of a human rights-based approach aligned to the Convention.

6. The Committee emphasises the State party's obligations under article 4 paragraph 5 and recommends that the State party ensure that Federal, Länder and local authorities are aware of the rights set out in the Convention and of their duty to effectively ensure their implementation.

7. The Committee is concerned that domestic law does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the concepts provided in articles 1 and 2 of the Convention, especially its translation into existing legal provisions using a human rights approach.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure:

a) That both the federal government and the Länder revise the legal definition of disability in laws and policies with a view to harmonising it with the general principles and provisions in the Convention, particularly in matters relating to non-discrimination and full transition to a human rights-based model;

b) That federal and all local governments establish overarching human rights-based action plans with a clear concept of disability, setting adequate measures to promote, protect, and fulfil rights, and with targets and indicators to monitor the implementation of the Convention.

9. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are not guaranteed meaningful and effective participation in decision-making related to their lives and that accessible communication is insufficient. It is also concerned about the lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities regarding the implementation of the Convention.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party develop frameworks for the inclusive, comprehensive and transparent participation of organisations representing persons with disabilities (DPOs), including those experiencing intersectional discrimination regarding the adoption of legislation, policies and programmes for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention. It also recommends that the State party provide resources to facilitate the participation of DPOs, especially smaller self-advocacy organisations.

11. The Committee is concerned that both existing and new legal provisions, at the federal and the Länder level, are not always in line with the Convention. It is also concerned that the significance and scope of the rights of persons with disabilities are not sufficiently recognised in legislative processes and that, in practice, legal remedies and recognition of the Convention before the courts are not ensured.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee that:

a) All relevant existing domestic laws are examined by an independent body of experts and harmonised with the Convention accordingly;

b) All future laws and policies are aligned to the Convention;

c) Existing and future legislation incorporate measures to guarantee that the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention are invocable before the courts with concrete effective remedies.

Mongolia (2015)

6. The Committee is concerned that while the State party adheres to the World Health Organisation (WHO) concept of disability with a focus on conditions arising from inherent personal or medical impairment, it overlooks interactions with environmental factors. While the Convention recognizes an evolving concept of disability, the State party appears to be trapped by the concept of a 'permanent disability'.

7. The Committee is concerned that the State party's legislation and policies on persons with disabilities are not harmonised and do not adequately reflect the inter-dependent aspects of each article with other articles.

8. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(a) Harmonize its national legislation and policies to ensure full compliance with the Convention and the inter-dependent aspects of its provisions, and adopt the human rights model of disability that stress human dignity of persons with disabilities and conditions arising from interactions with various barriers that may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.;

(b) Develop a strategy for implementation with clear structures for policy co-ordination, benchmarks, timelines and appropriate funding: and, ?

Turkmenistan (2015)

9. The Committee is concerned that the definition of disability in the Social Protection Code does not fully comply with the Convention and that the State party follows a medical approach in the disability determination. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has not clarified how the definition of disability is binding upon enterprises, institutions and organisations, especially in the field of employment. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of sufficient information on the legal safeguards and remedies available in case of violation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party review and harmonize its legislation with the Convention, including by adopting a social and human rights model of disability. The State party should also ensure the involvement of experts from social, labour and education fields within the assessment panels on disability determination. The State party should further provide clear legal safeguards and remedies, as well as related procedures, in case of violation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

11. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information in the replies to the List of Issues regarding the legal grounds applicable when refusing to register a voluntary association in the framework of the Voluntary Association Act of 2014. It is also concerned at the lack of measures taken to ensure that organization of persons with disabilities are systematically involved in the implementation of the Convention.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective steps to ensure that the legislation relevant to voluntary associations is available in accessible formats to persons with disabilities, and that it includes appropriate legal safeguards. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that international organisations, agencies and experts facilitate and support the creation, capacity-building and effective participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including by establishing regular and better-documented mechanisms for convening consultations with them.

New Zealand (2014)

5. The Committee notes that the State party has begun the domestic treaty examination process with a view to acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Optional Protocol as soon as is practicable.

7. The Committee is concerned that, when using the Google search engine on Google's New Zealand website (www.google.co.nz), and on other English-language Google websites,

disturbing phrases occur when some phrases relating to autistic persons are typed into the search box. Since the conclusion of the constructive dialogue with New Zealand, Google has removed some, but not all, of the offending phrases. The Committee is further concerned that persons with autism are subject to this type of “hate speech”, which is not generated by humans but rather is the result of an automated search engine process.

8. The Committee recommends that the State Party bring this matter to the attention of Google, which has a registered office in New Zealand, to discuss what can be done to prevent or eliminate this type of “hate speech”.

Denmark (2014)

8. The Committee is concerned that the National Disability Action Plan of 2013 does not cover broadly all of the rights and substantive areas under the Convention, and that it remains relatively general.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party review the National Disability Action Plan to ensure the coverage of all rights and substantive areas under the Convention, and that it establish, in this regard, concrete objectives, measurable targets, adequate budget, and indicators, to evaluate progress in the implementation of the Government’s disability policy.

10. The Committee is concerned about the absence of disability policy action plans in the Faroe Islands and Greenland, and in particular about the lack of support for organizations of persons with disabilities in Greenland to enable them to engage with the Government in implementation of the Convention.

11. The Committee recommends that the Governments of the Faroe Islands and of Greenland adopt dedicated disability policy action plans to effectively implement the Convention. It also recommends that the Government of Greenland support the work of organizations of persons with disabilities to ensure their effective participation in consultations on and implementation of the Convention.

12. The Committee is concerned that the Convention is not explicitly incorporated into the laws of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. It is also concerned at the insufficient information about the application of the Convention by the State party’s courts and authorities. The Committee notes with concern that officials of State, regional and municipal authorities are not sufficiently aware of their obligation to promote the implementation of the Convention.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure incorporation of the Convention so that it is applicable as law of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. The Committee also recommends that the State party take measures to facilitate direct application of the Convention by the courts and the authorities, and undertake training programmes to facilitate the active application and implementation of the Convention by the officials of State, regional and municipal authorities in all parts of the Kingdom of Denmark, including by providing guidance to the municipalities on the implementation of the respective acts on social services in observance of the Convention’s provisions.

Republic of Korea (2014)

6. The Committee is concerned that the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act refers to the medical model of disability.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party review the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act and harmonize it with the human rights-based approach to disability as espoused in the Convention.

8. The Committee is concerned that the new disability determination and rating system under the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act relies only on medical assessments in providing services and fails to take into account the various needs of persons with disabilities and to encompass all persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial disabilities. The

Committee is also concerned that, as a result, this system limits the eligibility of persons with disabilities for welfare services and personal assistance, based on their ratings.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party review the current disability determination and rating system under the Welfare of Disabled Persons Act to ensure that the assessment reflects the characteristics, circumstances and needs of persons with disabilities, and that welfare services and personal assistance be extended to all persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial disabilities, in accordance with their requirements.

10. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

Belgium (2014)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not brought its domestic legislation into line with the Convention, and notes that there are no specific regulations with provisions that apply to persons with disabilities. The Committee also notes the absence of a national plan or strategy focusing exclusively on persons with disabilities. Moreover, little attention is paid to the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, in policymaking processes.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party proceed to bring its domestic legislation into line with all its obligations under the Convention, adopt and implement a plan for persons with disabilities, and ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and disabled persons' organizations in these processes.

7. The Committee is concerned that the implementation of regulations often reflects a medical model of disability.

8. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability in line with the Convention, in consultation with disabled persons' organizations.

9. The Committee notes that persons with disabilities are represented by the National Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities at the federal level. However, it regrets the absence of advisory councils in the Flemish Region and in the French- and German-speaking Communities.

10. The Committee urges the State party to establish, and allocate adequate resources to, advisory councils in all regions. These advisory councils should be closely involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of legislation and policies.

Ecuador (2014)

8. The Committee is concerned that, although the Organic Act on Disabilities was published after the State party's ratification of the Convention, it retains a definition and understanding of disability that are based on a medical approach. This definition of persons with disabilities emphasizes their limited abilities and neglects the social and relational dimension of disability.

9. The Committee recommends that a comprehensive review of the Organic Act on Disabilities be carried out with a view to harmonizing it with the general principles and specific provisions in the Convention, particularly in matters relating to nondiscrimination and full transition to a human rights-based model.

10. The Committee expresses its concern that the State party's legislative framework has not been the subject of a comprehensive review, with the aim of bringing laws on education, transport, urban development, prevention of violence, health, family relationships, work, culture and sport into line with the rights contained in the Convention.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a multilateral commission, comprising independent organizations of persons with disabilities and the different government departments, to carry out a systematic review of the legislative framework relating to education, transport, urban development, prevention of violence, health, family relationships, work, culture and sport in order to bring it into line with the Convention.

12. The Committee notes with concern the fact that organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations representing women and children with disabilities, did not participate, through submission of independent contributions, in the Committee's consideration of the State party's initial report. It also notes with concern the absence of mechanisms in the State party for the independent participation of organizations of persons with disabilities outside the governmental structure.

13. The Committee calls on the State party to adopt measures promoting the effective participation of organizations representing women with disabilities, children with disabilities, persons from indigenous nations and peoples, and Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio people in decision-making processes in matters relating to disability. It urges the State party to guarantee the independence and autonomy of organizations of persons with disabilities in their participation in, and contributions to, the adoption of legislation, policies and programmes for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

Mexico (2014)

5. The Committee is concerned that the civil legislation of some federal entities still contains pejorative language in reference to persons with disabilities.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party redouble its efforts to harmonize its laws with the Convention, so that all the federal states eliminate pejorative terminology relating to the rights of persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee is concerned that disabled persons' organizations have only limited involvement in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party establish regular mechanisms for convening consultations with disabled persons' organizations, thereby ensuring that their opinions are properly taken into consideration.

Sweden (2014)

5. The Committee is concerned that the system of indicators established by the State party to monitor the implementation of the Convention is based only on those areas that strictly relate to the disability policy and does not cover broadly all of the rights areas under the Convention, and that there is a lack of indicators. It is further concerned that this reporting system is voluntary based at the municipal level, even though the State Party had not made a reservation in this respect when ratifying the Convention.

6. The Committee recommends that the State party review the indicators system to ensure its coverage of all areas of the Convention, and design measures to encourage municipalities to monitor its implementation.

7. The Committee is concerned that the Convention has not been integrated into Swedish law and is therefore left to the interpretation of authorities and courts. The Convention articles cannot serve as guidelines in court rulings, as they are not explicitly included in the texts of the national law. There is a serious gap between the policies followed by the State party and those followed by the municipalities with respect to the implementation of the Convention. That concern also has been raised in the official communications between the State party and the Committee with regard to individual communication No. 3/2011, H.M. v Sweden.

8. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the Convention is properly incorporated into Swedish legislation in order for it to be applicable as Swedish law.

Azerbaijan (2014)

8. The Committee notes that the State party has a draft law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which reportedly seeks to incorporate the provisions of the Convention. However, the Committee is concerned that the State party's legislation and policies still refer to the medical model of disability. The Committee is also concerned that the State party's harmonization efforts only deal with this specific draft law and not the whole of the state's

legislative legal order. The Committee is further concerned that there is a need for legislative harmonization and the revision of the nomenclature which the State party uses to refer to persons with disabilities in order to prevent derogatory language.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party should review and harmonise its legislation, as well as ensure that the new draft law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities strictly comply with the provisions of the Convention by adopting the human rights based model to disability. In the conduct of the review and harmonisation of legislation, the State party should ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and disabled peoples' organisations. The State party should further revise its legislation and policies with a view to removing all disparaging and degrading references to persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee is concerned that despite the use of sign language in the State party, it is still not officially recognised.

11. The State party should take effective steps to recognise sign language as one of the official languages of the State party.

Costa Rica (2014)

5. The Committee is concerned that the State party continues to use inappropriate and pejorative terminology when referring to persons with disabilities in various pieces of legislation, employing terms such as "inválidos" (invalids), "incapaces" (incapacitated), "minusválidos" (handicapped), "insanos" (insane) and "enfermos desvalidos" (infirm persons who are destitute or helpless). It notes with concern that the disability assessment criteria used for purposes of medical or social assistance are limited to the medical model of disability.

6. The Committee calls on the State party to eliminate the use of pejorative terms when referring to persons with disabilities. In addition, it urges the State party to ensure that the disability assessment criteria used by the various services are standardized, in line with the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not systematically harmonized its legislation since ratifying the Convention, that the only reference to the rights of persons with disabilities is to be found in Act No. 7600 on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, which dates from 1996, and that the Act does not include the general principles and obligations contained in the Convention.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically revise its domestic law, including the Constitution, in order to bring it into line with the general principles and obligations contained in the Convention. The revision should cover civil, family, criminal, labour and education law.

9. The Committee expresses its concern that the State party has not established permanent mechanisms for consulting organizations of persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention, when adopting plans, policies and legislation to give effect to the Convention.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party establish permanent consultation mechanisms with organizations of persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention, respecting their autonomy and taking into account the diversity of persons with disabilities, including children and women with disabilities, and the country's indigenous population.

Australia (2013)

8. The Committee is concerned that despite the adoption of the National Disability Strategy, the State party has not to the full extent enacted legislation that corresponds to the contents of the Convention. It is further concerned about the existence of interpretative declarations to articles 12, 17 and 18 of the Convention.

9. The Committee recommends the State party to incorporate all rights under the Convention into domestic law and to review the interpretative declarations on art.12, 17 and 18 in order to withdraw them.

10. The Committee regrets that there is a lack of mechanism for consultation and engagement between Government and persons with disabilities and their organisations in all matters of Convention policy development and legislative reform.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, including children with disabilities, establish engagement mechanisms for ensuring meaningful participation in the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the Convention.

12. The Committee is concerned that not all the organisations of persons with disabilities, including those of people with psychosocial disabilities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, are provided with adequate resources for their operations.

13. The Committee recommends the State party to take initiatives to increase the resources available for independent organisations of persons with disabilities, including organisations representing children with disabilities.

Austria (2013)

6. The Committee is concerned that the German translation of the Convention does not accurately represent the meaning of the Convention and may cause decisions incompatible with the Convention. For example, the word "integration" is used instead of the word "inclusion". The translation of "independent living" does not accurately reflect the meaning of this term and may in fact lead to people being denied the chance to live in the community. During the constructive dialogue the Austrian delegation intimated the possibility of revisiting the German translation of the Convention.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the German translation of the Convention in line with the Convention. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensures that persons with disabilities and disabled persons organisations be involved in the process of revision.

8. The Committee noted that there are differing concepts of disability across the State Party's laws and policies. The Committee is concerned that the State Party misunderstands the difference between defining disability and identifying groups of persons who can benefit from different kinds of services. The Committee is concerned that some of these definitions constitute a medical model of disability.

9. The Committee recommends that the relevant laws be amended to include the concept of disability in accordance with the Convention.

10. The Committee notes that Austria has a federal system of government and is concerned that this has led to an undue fragmentation of policy, especially as the Länder (regions) are the providers of social services. This fragmentation can be seen in the development of the National Disability Action Plan, in the development of which the Länder's participation was intermittent and uneven. Fragmentation is also apparent in the different definitions of disability, different accessibility standards, and different protections against discrimination across the various Länder. The Committee notes that article 4(5) of the Convention makes it clear that the administrative difficulties of a federal structure do not allow a state to avoid its obligations under the Convention.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that federal and regional governments consider an overarching legislative framework and policy on disability in Austria in conformity with the Convention. It is recommended that this policy should include frameworks for real and genuine participation by persons with disabilities through their representative organisations with respect to the development and implementation of legislation and policies concerning persons with disabilities in accordance with article 4 paragraph 3 of the Convention.

El Salvador (2013)

5. The Committee is concerned about the general reservation made by the State party upon ratifying the Convention, according to which implementation of the Convention is contingent on its compatibility with the Constitution.

6. The Committee urges the State party to expedite the process of withdrawing its general reservation to the Convention. It also recommends that the State party should incorporate a definition of disability in accordance with the criteria and principles in articles 1 to 3 of the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a national strategy, also covering rural areas, for the implementation of the rights-based disability model set out in the Convention. The Committee is also concerned that the State party's legal framework on disability is not fully in line with the Convention and that, among other facts:

(a) The Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act has not been aligned with the provisions of the Convention and does not provide for all the human rights elements covered in the Convention;

(b) The State party has not conducted a thorough review of its legal framework in order to identify the areas that still need to be harmonized, especially in the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Criminal Code, the Employment Act and the Special Act on a Violence-Free Life for Women.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct a full review of its legal framework to align it with the Convention.

9. The Committee notes with concern the absence of provisions recognizing discrimination on the grounds of disability and the fact that the Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act focuses on a social welfare approach rather than the human rights model set out in the Convention.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party recognize discrimination on the grounds of disability in its legislation and ensure that the review of the Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act brings it into compliance with the human rights approach of the Convention.

11. The Committee is concerned that the organizations of persons with disabilities are not consulted in the design of laws and policies and that the law includes demeaning terminology regarding persons with psychosocial, intellectual or motor impairments.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt new legislation specifically defining the obligations contained in the Convention and that the process include the broad participation of organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends that the State party revise its legislation with a view to removing any discriminatory terminology against persons with disabilities.

Paraguay (2013)

7. The Committee is concerned at the State party's use of derogatory terminology and definitions of persons with disabilities in various pieces of legislation and data-gathering instruments, including in the initial report and the replies to the list of issues. The use of such terms is a reminder of the prevalence of the charity and medical models of disability.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party modify the terminology it uses to refer to persons with disabilities and bring its legislation into line with the content of the Convention, in accordance with its obligations. It also recommends that the State party promote human rights-based plans and programmes on disability in line with the fundamental principles of the Convention.

9. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not established mechanisms for consultation with disabled persons' organizations, when adopting legislation and policies on persons with disabilities or in decision-making forums such as the National Commission on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS).

10. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a mechanism for ongoing consultation with disabled persons' organizations, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention, taking into account the range of disabilities represented, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention, and including children with disabilities, women with disabilities and Paraguay's indigenous population.

11. The Committee notes that one of the strategic objectives of the National Human Rights Plan concerns persons with disabilities. Yet the actions outlined are of a general nature and do not contain specific measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

12. The Committee urges the State party to include persons with disabilities as a cross-cutting component of the National Human Rights Plan and to ensure that its strategies and actions are directed towards guaranteeing the full enjoyment of Convention rights in conditions of equality and eliminating all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Argentina (2012)

5. The Committee notes with concern that, despite the steps taken to align the domestic legal system with the Convention, the former continues to exhibit major inconsistencies with the principles and requirements of the Convention, especially as regards equal recognition of persons with disabilities before the law. It also notes with concern that, because not all of the State party's provincial legislation is aligned with the Convention, disparities arise in the approach taken at the local level to the rights of persons with disabilities and to the effective exercise of those rights.

6. The Committee urges the State party to take the necessary steps to bring all its federal, provincial and local legislation into line with the Convention and to ensure the effective participation of organizations representing persons with disabilities in this process in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

7. The Committee is concerned at the absence of a coherent, overall strategy for the implementation of the human rights model established in the Convention that provides for affirmative action measures to achieve de facto and de jure equality for persons with disabilities and for giving full effect, at all levels, to the principles and requirements set out in the Convention.

8. The Committee urges the State party to pursue a broad and comprehensive strategy to realize all the rights set out in the Convention, taking due account of the human rights model of disability. The Committee also recommends that the State party take effective steps to ensure that persons with disabilities – including children and women with disabilities – are actively involved in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating this strategy.

9. The Committee acknowledges the progress represented by the introduction of the Single Disability Certificate. However, it notes with concern that the certificate has not yet been rolled out nationwide and that there are disparities in the criteria used for its issuance. The Committee is also concerned that some provinces are not yet in compliance with Act No. 24.901 on basic services for persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee urges the State party to take steps to guarantee the effective implementation of the Single Disability Certificate throughout the country and to standardize the criteria used by the National Rehabilitation Service and the provincial evaluation boards for its issuance. It also urges the State party to ensure that all provinces are in compliance with Act. No. 24.901.

China (2012)

9. The Committee takes note of the prevalence of the medical model of disability in both the definition of disability as well as the enduring terminology and language of the discourse on the status of persons with disabilities. Therefore, the Committee is concerned about the lack of a coherent and comprehensive disability strategy to implement the human rights model

of disability that the CRPD establishes to achieve the de facto equality of persons with disabilities and implement the rights enshrined in the CRPD at all levels. The committee is concerned that DPOs outside of the China Disabled Persons' Federation are not included in the implementation of this CRPD.

10. The Committee urges the introduction of a comprehensive and inclusive national plan of action, which includes full participation of all representatives of persons with disabilities in China, to introduce the human rights model of disability into Chinese disability policy

Hong-Kong

53. The Committee regrets the out-dated eligibility standard in the Disability Allowance Scheme and lack of unity in the various definitions of disability that have been adopted in different pieces of legislation and by Government bureaux and departments.

54. The Committee encourages Hong Kong, China, to revise the inappropriate eligibility standard and to adopt definition of persons with disabilities that adequately reflects article 1 and the human rights model of the CRPD.

Hungary (2012)

10. The Committee notes with concern that definitions of disability and persons with disabilities in the State party's legislation focus on the impairments of an individual rather than on the barriers he/she faces. The Committee expresses its concern that such definitions fail to encompass all persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial disabilities.

11. The Committee notes with appreciation that Act XXVI of 1998 on the Rights and Equal Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities was drafted to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the State party. The Committee expresses, however, concern over that the Act has not been reviewed since the adoption by the State party of the Convention, with a view to aligning it with the provisions of the Convention.

12. The Committee recommends the State party to use the upcoming review of Act XXVI of 1998 on the Rights and Equal Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities to: ensure that it is in full compliance with the Convention and reflects the human rights-based approach to disability as embodied in the Convention; and to incorporate an inclusive definition of disability and persons with disabilities that is firmly rooted in the human rights based approach to disability and encompasses all persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial disabilities.

13. The Committee regrets the insufficient participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the review and design of disability-related legislation and policies, as well as in other policy and decision-making processes, in line with their obligation under 4(3) in the CRPD. The Committee furthermore regrets the fact that representative organisations of persons with disabilities from Hungary did not participate in the constructive dialogue with the Committee.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children and women with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the planning, executing, and monitoring of public decision-making processes at all levels and in particular in the matters affecting them, giving them reasonable and realistic timelines in providing their views, and providing them with adequate funding in order to enable them to fulfil their role under article 4, paragraph 3, of the CRPD.

Peru (2012)

6. The Committee is concerned at the absence of a coherent and comprehensive strategy to implement the social model that the Convention establishes, including affirmative actions, to achieve the de facto equality of persons with disabilities and the full realization of the rights enshrined in the Convention, at all levels, including in rural areas. The Committee is

further concerned that the State party's legislative framework for disability is not yet in full conformity with the Convention, inter alia:

- (a) Law 27050 on Persons with Disability provides a definition of disability based on a medical, rather than a social perspective and does not include references to the core principles contained in articles 2 and 3 of the Convention;
- (b) Absence of reference to denial of reasonable accommodation and discrimination by association as forms of disability-based discrimination;
- (c) Existence of discriminatory requirements to acquire Peruvian nationality that prohibits persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to do so.

7. The Committee recommends that State party bring forward a far reaching strategy to implement all the rights enshrined in the Convention and speed up the review of its legislative framework to bring it in full conformity with all provisions of the Convention, including its core principles, and in particular:

- (a) Amend Law 27050 to include a comprehensive definition of a person with disability;**
- (b) Define denial of reasonable accommodation and discrimination by association as forms of disability-based discrimination;**
- (c) Amend the Act for Foreigners in order to eliminate the requirements that discriminate against persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.**

8. While recognizing positive developments, such as the creation of a Permanent Multi-Sectoral Commission and the establishment of the CONADIS (National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disability), the Committee regrets the lack of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, in particular the involvement of children and women with disabilities, and their representative organizations in the design of the legislation, as well as in other policy and decision-making processes.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party take specific measures to ensure active participation of persons with disabilities, including children and women with disabilities, in planning, executing, and monitoring of public decision-making processes at all levels and in particular in the matters affecting them.

10. While taking note with appreciation of the adoption of a number of provisions, such as the public budget acts which authorize local and regional governments to allocate 0.5 per cent of their budgets to the improvement or provision of accessibility features, the Committee is concerned at the lack of information regarding compliance of municipalities with those regulatory provisions.

11. The Committee urges the State party to implement the provisions of the Convention in all its territory and to regularly assess compliance and impact of policies and programmes aimed at further equalizing opportunities for persons with disabilities, including at regional and local levels.

Spain (2011)

11. The Committee takes note of the adoption of Act 26/2011, which introduces the concept of persons with disabilities as defined in the Convention and expands the protection of such persons. However, it is concerned that not all persons with disabilities are covered by the law.

12. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that all persons with disabilities enjoy protection against discrimination and have access to equal opportunities irrespective of their level of disability.

13. The Committee welcomes Act 49/2007 of 26 December 2007, which establishes the Permanent Specialized Office to deal with offences and sanctions in the areas of equal opportunities, non-discrimination and universal accessibility by persons with disabilities. However, it is concerned by the slow development and lack of promotion of this arbitration system at the regional government level, by the lack of information on the number of sanctions submitted and resolved, and by the failure of the State party to report on actions

undertaken to implement this law. The Committee is concerned about the overall effectiveness of the system.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness among persons with disabilities about the system of arbitration, increase the level of free legal aid, and ensure the regulation of offences and sanctions at the regional government level.

15. The Committee regrets the lack of information on the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at the regional level in designing and evaluating the implementation of legislation, policy and decision-making processes, and on the participation of children with disabilities at all levels.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party take specific measures to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities in public decision-making processes at the regional level, and to include children with disabilities at all levels.

17. The Committee takes note of Act 2/2010 of 3 March 2010 on sexual and reproductive health, which decriminalizes voluntary termination of pregnancy, allows pregnancy to be terminated up to 14 weeks and includes two specific cases in which the time limits for abortion are extended if the foetus has a disability: until 22 weeks of gestation, provided there is "a risk of serious anomalies in the foetus", and beyond week 22 when, inter alia, "an extremely serious and incurable illness is detected in the foetus". The Committee also notes the explanations provided by the State party for maintaining this distinction.

18. The committee recommends that the State party abolish the distinction made in Act 2/2010 in the period allowed under law within which a pregnancy can be terminated based solely on disability.

Tunisia (2011)

8. The Committee notes Order No. 3086 of 29 November 2005, defining disability and setting forth the proof required to obtain a disability card, and the State party's endeavour to shift from a medical approach to a social approach. However, it is concerned at the risk of exclusion of persons who should be protected by the Convention, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities ("mental illness") or intellectual disabilities, or others who are unable to obtain a disability card, either due to disability or by association with a disability.

9. The Committee invites the State party to review and reformulate the definition of disability based on the Convention.

10. In accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party encourage and support the creation, capacity-building and effective participation of representative organizations or groups of persons with disabilities, and parents of persons with disabilities at the local and national levels in the conception, design, reform and implementation of policies and programmes. In particular, the Committee urges the State party to ensure that persons with disabilities are consulted and actively involved, including as members of the Constitutional Council, in the drafting of the new Constitution.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to further facilitate the full participation of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities and their families in society.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 5 CRPD
(Equality and non-discrimination)*

September 2025

Article 5 - Equality and non-discrimination

1. States Parties recognize that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.
2. States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.
3. In order to promote equality and eliminate discrimination, States Parties shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided.
4. Specific measures which are necessary to accelerate or achieve de facto equality of persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination under the terms of the present Convention.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)

Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
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Norway (2019)
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Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Turkiye (2019)

Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Northern Macedonia (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2016)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016)
Canada (2016)
Cyprus (2016)
Honduras (2016)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2016)
Jordan (2016)
Republic of Moldova (2016)
Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)

Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
Belgium (2014)
Denmark (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
New Zealand (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)

Hungary (2012)

Peru (2012)

Spain (2011)

Tunisia (2011)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

7. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) The Constitution does not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability or guarantee equality for persons with disabilities, including protection from multiple and intersectional discrimination, and domestic law does not recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;
- (b) The absence of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law covering both public and private sectors; the persistence of stigma and negative societal attitudes, rooted in cultural ideals of physical strength and productivity, which result in the exclusion, concealment, and institutionalization of persons with disabilities; and the State party's two-tiered approach whereby veterans with physical impairments receive differentiated treatment while others, particularly in rural areas, are excluded from services, although veterans with physical impairments also face barriers to accessing services;
- (c) The lack of clarity and effectiveness of the national system for addressing complaints and petitions from persons with disabilities or their organizations, including in cases of denial of reasonable accommodation, and the absence of mechanisms to address multiple and intersectional discrimination.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and involvement of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Amend the Constitution to explicitly guarantee equality and non-discrimination on the basis of disability, and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination in its legislation;**
- (b) Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law applicable to all sectors, prohibit direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of disability, ensure denial of reasonable accommodation is explicitly recognized as a prohibited form of discrimination, ensure equal access to services, and benefits for all persons with disabilities, whether or not they are veterans with disabilities, address disparities between urban and rural environments, and combat stigma and harmful stereotypes through awareness campaigns, inclusive education, and training of officials;**
- (c) Strengthen and clarify the national complaints and petitions system to ensure accessible, effective, and timely remedies for all persons with disabilities, including in cases of denied reasonable accommodation and multiple or intersectional discrimination.**

Finland (2025)

8. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) The 2023 amendments to the Non-Discrimination Act do ensure accessibility in practice, do not provide for remedies that de facto render goods and services accessible, and may weaken the position of children with disabilities in education by removing the obligation to draw up site-specific equality plans in early childhood education and care;
- (b) The recommendations from the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal on compensation to victims of discrimination are not legally binding;
- (c) Proposed amendments to Section 2 of the Discrimination Services Act may exclude many persons with disabilities from services that are required under the Convention.
- (d) The Government's proposal of 2025 to amend the Disability Services Act that is currently under preparation and has not yet been submitted to parliament, seeking to distinguish between requirements for assistance and support "normally associated with the stage of life in question" would, in its current form, discriminate on the basis of age, and would be incompatible with article 1 of the Convention;
- (e) The lack of a comprehensive strategy for the promotion and use of Easy Read;
- (f) The lack of information on the invocation of the Convention by Finnish courts and information received that direct references to it are rare and usually of pro forma nature;

(g) The findings of a scientific study showing that persons with disabilities experience continued discrimination.

9. The Committee recommends the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Taking into consideration the insufficient accessibility requirements in the Building Code, broaden the scope of the Non-Discrimination Act to include discrimination in access to goods and services, ensure that redress for victims of discrimination includes de facto access to goods and services, and consider re-introducing the obligation to draw up site-specific equality plans in early childhood education and care;

(b) Consider conferring jurisdiction to the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal to render binding decisions on compensation for victims of discrimination under the Non-Discrimination Act;

(c) Ensure that Section 2 of the Disability Services Act guarantees access to all disability entitlements of the Convention;

(d) Refrain from introducing the “life stages” criteria in the Disability Services Act;

(e) Develop a nationwide programme to promote and use Easy Read and ensure its implementation in the public and private sector;

(f) Analyse the use of the Convention in the judicial application of domestic legislation and ensure that courts give the Convention the full effect permitted under domestic law;

(g) Update the 2019 fundamental rights barometer of the Ministry of Justice to provide reliable information on the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention.

Kiribati (2025)

9. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of inequality and discrimination experienced by all persons with disabilities throughout Kiribati, the lack of anti-discrimination protections and redress and that the denial of reasonable accommodation is not understood as discrimination and proscribed in law.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations develop and adopt an anti-discrimination framework that encompasses prohibition of all forms of disability-based discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation and intersectional discrimination and provides persons with disabilities who are victims of discrimination with legal remedies, redress and support.

Maldives (2025)

9. The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party's Constitution and the Disability Act prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities. However, it is concerned about the limited scope of application and the limited enforcement of the existing provisions.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations expedite the ongoing review of the Disability Act and ensure that the anti-discrimination framework encompasses prohibition of all forms of disability-based discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation and intersectional discrimination and provides persons with disabilities who are victims of discrimination with legal remedies, redress and support. It also recommends that the State party adopt policy measures in order to ensure its implementation in practice.

Canada (2025)

9. The Committee notes with concern the persistent discrimination against persons with disabilities, in particular, that Indigenous persons with disabilities experience greater socioeconomic marginalization including higher rates of unemployment, mental health-related detentions and forced treatment, and inadequate access to healthcare; persistent ableism against 2SLGBTQI+ persons with disabilities, particularly in healthcare; high rates of discrimination against Black and racialized persons with disabilities; discrimination and stigma against persons with dementia, Multiple Chemical Sensitivities and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder; exclusion of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, particularly from public spaces, recreational activities, and cultural events; and persistent discriminatory attitudes towards people with Down Syndrome;

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No.6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Conduct a comprehensive and intersectional study on disability discrimination cases across all jurisdictions and branches of government, identifying trends and root causes, and develop a plan to address them, with clear timelines, targets, and indicators of progress;

(b) Develop intersectional, comprehensive, and cross-sectoral strategies and statistics to implement the right to equality and non-discrimination, for persons with disabilities, including Indigenous persons with disabilities, 2SLGBTQI+ persons with disabilities, Black and racialized persons with disabilities, persons with dementia, Multiple Chemical Sensitivities and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with Down Syndrome on the Federal level and in the provinces and territories, and in all branches of government, and remedy the effects of colonialism within Indigenous communities.

Dominican Republic (2025)

9. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Persistent discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially women, children and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and the lack of accessible complaint and redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination on the basis of disability;

(b) The disparities in policy enforcement and practices across different regions and institutions across the State party, which lead to highly inconsistent protection and support for persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of consideration of intersectionality in policies and laws, in particular the absence of measures to address the requirements and experiences of and the multiple and intersecting barriers faced by persons with disabilities, who may experience discrimination on multiple grounds.

10. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish accessible and effective mechanisms, including judicial and administrative complaint procedures, to combat discrimination on the basis of disability, and ensure that victims receive redress and that perpetrators are punished;

(b) Develop and implement clear guidelines and procedures to ensure the consistent application and enforcement of anti-discrimination policies and practices across all the State party's territory and all the concerned institutions;

(c) Specifically address issues of intersectionality in the national strategy for the implementation of the Convention.

European Union (2025)

18. The Committee remains concerned about:

- (a) The European Commission's announcement to withdraw the proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of disability, religion or belief, age or sexual orientation (Equal Treatment Directive);
- (b) The confinement of anti-discrimination legislation for persons with disabilities to employment and vocational training;
- (c) The very limited explicit recognition of multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of disability and other grounds.

19. The Committee recalls its previous concluding observations and recommendations (para. 19) and its general comment No.6 (2018) and recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Undertake sustained efforts to generate the necessary political support to pass the Equal Treatment Directive;**
- (b) Ensure that legal protection against discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation, includes all areas of all European Union competences and all modalities of European Union action;**
- (c) Improve explicit legal protection of persons with disabilities against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, in all areas of life, including discrimination based on the intersection between disability and age, gender, sex, LGBTIQ+ status, religion or belief, ethnicity, migration situation, national origin, and economic situation.**

Palau (2025)

9. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of legislation to prohibit disability-based discrimination, including by recognizing the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;
- (b) Intersectional discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, including discriminatory cultural practices;
- (c) The absence of an accessible and effective complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities to report incidences of discrimination.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend article IV of the Constitution and other relevant legislation to include disability as a prohibited ground of discrimination and ensure that the Disabled Person's Anti-Discrimination Act encompasses all forms of disability-based discrimination and recognizes the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;**
- (b) Recognize multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, or any other status, and adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and ensure effective investigation of reports of such discrimination;**
- (c) Put in place an accessible and effective complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities to report incidences of discrimination, and provide persons with disabilities subjected to discrimination with redress, compensation, and rehabilitation and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned.**

Tuvalu (2025)

9. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of inequality and discrimination experienced by all persons with disabilities throughout Tuvalu, and the lack of anti-discrimination protections and redress.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations develop and adopt an anti-discrimination framework that encompasses prohibition of all forms of disability-based discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation and intersectional

discrimination and provides persons with disabilities who are victims of discrimination with legal remedies, redress and support.

Viet Nam (2025)

9. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) While the legal framework prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities, enforcement remains inconsistent, limiting the effectiveness of protections against discrimination;
- (b) Penalties for discriminatory actions against persons with disabilities are insufficient to serve as an effective deterrent;
- (c) Discrimination persists against minority populations such as indigenous persons with disabilities, persons who acquired a disability after the war, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as persons with autism;

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the enforcement of non-discrimination laws by ensuring effective mechanisms for reporting, investigation, and redress of discrimination cases;**
- (b) Increase penalties for acts of discrimination against persons with disabilities to provide a stronger deterrent and ensure effective remedies for victims;**
- (c) Modify legislation to explicitly include actions to eliminate discrimination and empower persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in particular persons with autism, indigenous persons with disabilities, and persons who acquired disabilities after the war, applying measures of access to restorative justice.**

Belarus (2024)

9. With reference to the State party's adopted definition of discrimination on the basis of disability and the provisions on prohibition of discrimination in the Law on the rights of persons with disabilities and their social integration 2022, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a national mechanism to observe and investigate the discriminatory individual or/and institutional practices and to receive complaints from the victims of discrimination encountered on the basis of disability;
- (b) The absence of measures to identify the cases in relation to the denial of reasonable accommodation and necessary procedures for its implementation.

10. Recalling its General comment No.6 on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State party in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

- (a) Establish a national mechanism to monitor and investigate all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities and adopt effective and equitable remedies;**
- (b) Expedite inclusion of measures in national legislation and implement the recognition of denial of reasonable accommodation in all areas of life, in the public and private sector, as a form of discrimination and develop measures to combat it in every area.**

Belgium (2024)

10. The Committee acknowledges that at the federal level, there is recognition of the requirement to include intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination in legislation. However, it is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information on the recognition of intersectional discrimination on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as race, age, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender;
- (b) Procedural barriers to the implementation of the anti-discrimination laws due to the high complexity of answering the questions as to whether different types of protection against discrimination are a federal matter or a regional matter.

11. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Enhance protection against discrimination, multiple and intersectional discrimination by revising and implementing legislation that addresses these forms of discrimination at the federal level and in the regions;**
- (b) Create reporting centres and conduct surveys to collect the necessary data for the documentation of discrimination, particularly intersectional discrimination;**
- (c) Establish a single point of contact, for federal, regional, community and municipal matters, for victims of discrimination and multiple and intersectoral discrimination to file complaints.**

Benin (2024)

9. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That national legislation does not recognize multiple and intersectional discrimination nor the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;**
- (b) That the State party has neither developed regulations or mechanisms to give effect to the duty to provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities nor set out procedures for persons with disabilities to challenge the absence of reasonable accommodation;**
- (c) The absence of an accessible and effective complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities to report disability and intersectional discrimination and seek redress.**

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review and amend national legislation to recognize disability discrimination and multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability and other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity and any other status, and to adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;**
- (b) Develop regulations and mechanisms in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and establish mechanisms, policies and practices to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation, and establish effective and easily accessible remedies in cases where reasonable accommodation has not been provided;**
- (c) Put in place an accessible and effective complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities to report allegations of discrimination and provide persons with disabilities who have been subjected to discrimination with redress and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned.**

Burkina Faso (2024)

10. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The insufficient measures taken to ensure that anti-discrimination laws recognize discrimination on the basis of disability, notably the 1991 Constitution;**
- (b) De facto discrimination against persons with disabilities living in rural areas, mainly due to insufficient access to services in the community, and intersectional discrimination of among others, internally displaced persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities in the Fulani groups;**
- (c) That denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a form of discrimination against persons with disabilities.**

11. The Committee recalls its general comment No.6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review anti-discrimination legislation so that it recognizes multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination that are based on disability and other grounds such as age, sex, race, ethnic origin, gender identity or any other factors, and take appropriate measures to end**

these forms of discrimination and to ensure that persons with disabilities who are subjected to discrimination obtain redress and compensation;

(b) Adopt legislative and policy measures at the national and municipal levels aimed at addressing the situation of persons with disabilities living in rural areas, including timebound targets and indicators of progress;

(c) Ensure that the concept of reasonable accommodation is defined in legislation and enforced in accordance with Article 2 of the Convention, in particular that denial of reasonable accommodation is expressly considered in domestic law as a form of disability discrimination, and to ensure that allegations of disability discrimination are properly investigated;

(d) With the close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, provide capacity-building programmes on anti-discrimination and the concept of reasonable accommodation to legal professionals, in particular members of the judiciary and persons with disabilities themselves.

Denmark (2024)

17. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The Act No. 688 of 2018 on the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability explicitly states that it does not impose any obligation to provide reasonable accommodation or accessibility, and its revision in 2020 introduced a duty of reasonable accommodation only in daycare and primary schools;

(b) No steps have been taken to introduce general, cross-cutting legislation against disability discrimination that extends protection beyond the labour market in the Faroe Islands;

(c) The Greenland's Inatsisartut Act on Equality and Anti-Discrimination does not contain a right to reasonable accommodation and mandatory rules on accessibility.

18. The Committee recalls its general comment No.6 (2018), targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and its previous recommendation , and recommends that:

(a) The Government of Denmark amend the Act No. 688 of 2018 on the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability to recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination, introduce an obligation of reasonable accommodation and ensure accessibility in all aspects of life, in compliance with the Convention;

(b) The Government of the Faroe Islands adopt new comprehensive cross-sectoral anti-discrimination legislation on disability that extends protection beyond the labour market and specifically provides for reasonable accommodation;

(c) The Government of Greenland amend the Inatsisartut Act on Equality and Anti-Discrimination to guarantee an explicit individual right to reasonable accommodation and the right to accessibility.

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures taken to revise current legislation on insurance to repeal discriminatory provisions concerning premiums and health, life, travel and home contents insurance coverage for persons with disabilities, and to ensure equal access to disability-related entitlements, including compensation to cover additional costs of disability regardless of age or eligibility for the national pension scheme.

20. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark take measures, including legislation, to ensure that the right of persons with disabilities to have access to insurance, including insurance by private providers, on an equal basis and at the same cost as other citizens is guaranteed.

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of funding and resources of the Board of Equal treatment, which results in a significant increase of the processing time for settling complaints about discrimination on the grounds of disability.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to ensure that the Board of Equal Treatment has sufficient resources to greatly reduce case-processing time and to ensure effective enforcement of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Ghana (2024)

10. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) National legislation, including the Constitution, does not explicitly recognize the principles of equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and persons with albinism continue to be reported;
- (c) Denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognised in law as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability;
- (d) Effective complaint mechanisms or remedies for disability-based discrimination and that multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination are neither recognized nor enforced in law and in practice.

11. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Align its legislation with the Convention and amend all relevant national legislation to explicitly recognize disability as a prohibited ground for discrimination and sanction discrimination based on disability, and modify any policies that discriminate against persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Provide legal protection against multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and persons with albinism;**
- (c) Take measures to ensure that all contradictory laws are reviewed to guarantee prohibition of discrimination on basis of disability in all aspects of life including legally recognizing denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination;**
- (d) Provide legal protection against disability-based discrimination, multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities and establish accessible reporting mechanism and effective legal remedies.**

Mauritius (2024)

9. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) While noting that the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2024 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, articles 3 and 16(3) of the Constitution still lack specific reference that would provide further constitutional protection to persons with disabilities, including against multiple and intersectional discrimination;
- (b) The law lacks explicit recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;
- (c) Complaints mechanisms, such as the Equal Opportunities Commission, remain largely inaccessible and ineffective for persons with disabilities to report and seek redress for incidents of discrimination.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend articles 3 and 16(3) of the Constitution to expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, including multiple and intersectional discrimination, in order to provide greater constitutional protection to persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Take legislative and policy measures to recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas of life, and adopt procedures and standards on its implementation;**
- (c) Ensure that complaints mechanisms are accessible for persons with disabilities to file complaints and that they provide effective remedies when persons with disabilities face discrimination.**

Netherlands (2024)

15. The Committee notes with concern that studies and data indicate that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, continue to face stigmatization and discrimination in various forms despite existing legal provisions. The Committee is also concerned about:

- (a) The exemption of education from anti-discrimination legislation;
- (b) The disparities in policy enforcement and practices across different regions and institutions that lead to highly inconsistent protection and support for persons with disabilities infringing on their rights under the Convention;
- (c) The lack of consideration of intersectionality in policies and laws, namely the absence of measures to address requirements, experiences and multiple and intersecting barriers of persons with disabilities who may experience discrimination on multiple grounds;
- (d) The limited complaint procedures, legal remedies, and redress mechanisms for persons with disabilities experiencing discrimination;
- (e) The absence of data on disability, gender or age, namely in the courts' data collection system, which makes it impossible to monitor the intersectionality of discrimination.

16. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the Equal Treatment of Disabled and Chronically Ill People Act and explicitly include the right to inclusive education;**
- (b) Develop and implement clear guidelines and procedures to ensure the consistent application and enforcement of anti-discrimination policies and practices across all regions and institutions;**
- (c) Specifically address issues of intersectionality in the National Strategy 2040 for the implementation of the Convention;**
- (d) Ensure the effectiveness of complaint procedures and redress mechanisms and their accessibility for persons with disabilities and their representative organisations;**
- (e) Systematically collect disaggregated data on disability, race, gender, age, ethnicity and other status, in order to take adequate measures against and focus on intersectionality of discrimination in all areas of life.**

Ukraine (2024)

10. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the State party's legislation, including the Law of Ukraine on the principles of prevention and combating discrimination (No. 5207-VI), does not contain a cross-cutting obligation not to discriminate against persons with disabilities and does not ensure criminal liability for discrimination;
- (b) About prevailing obstacles to take discrimination-related cases to court;
- (c) That the denial of reasonable accommodation is not effectively recognized as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability in all areas of life;
- (d) That the legal framework of the State party does not protect persons with disabilities from multiple and intersectional discrimination, nor it provides mechanisms to prevent, report, investigate and sanction these cases.

11. The Committee recalls its previous recommendations (CRPD/C/UKR/CO/1, para. 10) and recommend that the State party:

- (a) Amend its legislation, including the Law of Ukraine on the principles of prevention and combating discrimination (No. 5207-VI), to include provisions setting forth the cross-cutting obligation of all authorities to not to discriminate against persons with disabilities, and criminal sanctions for lack of compliance thereof;**
- (b) Foster the use of available legal remedies by persons with disabilities facing the discrimination;**
- (c) Explicitly include in its legislation the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination, and ensure criminal liability for it;**

(d) Establish accessible mechanisms to prevent and protect persons with disabilities from multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, as well as mechanisms to investigate and sanction these cases.

Azerbaijan (2024)

11. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The new law "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" lacks an explicit prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability across all sectors and areas of life, including by recognizing the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of prohibited discrimination;
- (b) The legal and policy frameworks do not contain measures to address multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities living in rural areas, persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, internally displaced persons, refugee, asylum seekers and persons in refugee-like situations with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities in the State party;
- (c) Information and access to remedies and redress in cases of discrimination is limited, including among persons with disabilities in residential institutions.

12. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee reiterates its previous Concluding observations and recommendations (CRPD/C/AZE/CO/1, para. 13), and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that explicitly prohibits disability-based and other discrimination against persons with disabilities, including direct and indirect discrimination, in public and private spheres, and that it covers areas including education, employment, goods and services;**
- (b) Recognize the obligation to provide persons with disabilities with reasonable accommodation in all areas of life and in public and private sectors and the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;**
- (c) Address intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities living in rural areas, internally displaced persons, refugee, asylum seekers, and those in refugee-like situations with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Ensure appropriate and effective legal remedies and sanctions in relation to intersectional discrimination in civil, administrative and criminal proceedings.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

10. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The complete absence of a definition of discrimination on the basis of disability in the State party's national legislation.
- (b) The absence of a complaints and verification mechanism for cases of direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of disability
- (c) The absence of a definition of reasonable accommodation and the failure to recognise its denial as a form of discrimination
- (d) Persons with disabilities with non-Bahraini parents are denied access to the measures and services provided for in Law 74 of 2006 (on the care, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities) and other legislation.

11. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Include in national legislation a clear definition of discrimination on the basis of disability in line with the general principles of the Convention.**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

- (b) Establish an easily accessible national mechanism to seek redress for cases of direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of disability.**
- (c) Include in national legislation provisions that recognise the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination and establish measures to combat it.**

Costa Rica (2024)

9. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) La persistente discriminación hacia las personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres, niños y niñas, y personas con discapacidad psicosocial e intelectual, y la inexistencia de mecanismos accesibles de denuncia y reparación para las víctimas de discriminación por motivos de discapacidad;
- b) La demora para la aprobación del Proyecto de Ley Expediente N. 20174 “Ley Marco para Prevenir y Sancionar todas las Formas de Discriminación, Racismo e Intolerancia”, así como la ausencia del criterio de discapacidad en la definición de discriminación y de referencias sobre las formas múltiples e interseccionales de discriminación.

10. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:**

- a) **Establecer mecanismos accesibles y eficaces, incluyendo procedimientos judiciales y administrativos, para combatir la discriminación por motivos de discapacidad, y garantizar que las víctimas reciban reparación y los perpetradores sean castigados.**
- b) **Acelerar la aprobación y adopción del Proyecto de Ley Expediente N. 20174 “Ley Marco para Prevenir y Sancionar todas las Formas de Discriminación, Racismo e Intolerancia”, con la incorporación del criterio de discapacidad en la definición de discriminación, así como de las formas múltiples e interseccionales de discriminación.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

11. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That national legislation lacks provisions defining discrimination on the basis of disability, and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, gender, place of living, residence status and socio-economic situation;
- (b) That the provision of reasonable accommodation (CRPD/C/KAZ/1, para. 80) is limited to physical accessibility and that denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a form of discrimination;
- (c) The limited mandate of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Commissioner for the Rights of Socially Vulnerable Categories of the Population to protect persons with disabilities from all forms of discrimination and prevent such discrimination.

12. **Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that protects persons with disabilities from direct, indirect, multiple and intersectional discrimination and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination in all areas of life;**
- (b) **Include a definition of reasonable accommodation consistent with article 2 of the Convention;**
- (c) **Provide for effective remedies, including judicial and administrative complaint mechanisms, for persons with disabilities in cases of discrimination, and ensure just satisfaction to the injured parties;**
- (d) **Provide the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Kazakhstan with a broad mandate and independence to consider and address discrimination and other human rights violations against persons with disabilities, and the human, technical and financial resources necessary to perform its functions across the State party;**
- (e) **Ensure that the mandate of the Commissioner for the Rights of Socially Vulnerable Categories of the Population include prevention and combating discrimination on the basis of disability in all areas of life and at the national and local levels.**

Nicaragua (2024)

8. Al Comité le preocupa:

- a) La falta de información sobre los resultados de las “medidas específicas” (CRPD/C/NIC/3, párrafo 29) tomadas por el Estado parte para eliminar todas las formas de discriminación basada en la discapacidad, incluida la discriminación por género, interseccional, múltiple y la discriminación por asociación;
- b) La falta de claridad sobre si existe en el Estado parte un sistema establecido para recibir quejas y denuncias relacionadas con la discriminación hacia personas con discapacidad, así como el número de quejas recibidas y qué acciones se han tomado al respecto, incluyendo medidas de justicia restaurativa, investigación y en su caso sanciones correspondientes para aquellos responsables de la discriminación.

9. En consonancia con su observación general núm. 6 (2018), sobre la igualdad y la no discriminación, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Promulgar, cuanto antes, una legislación contra toda forma de discriminación, incorporando las formas múltiples e interseccionales de discriminación, incluyendo la discriminación a las personas indígenas con discapacidad, el concepto de ajustes razonables en los distintos ámbitos y que reconozca la denegación de ajustes razonables como discriminación por motivos de discapacidad;**
- b) Establecer procedimientos que sean accesibles y eficaces, incluyendo procedimientos judiciales, administrativos y de presentación de quejas, para las víctimas de discriminación por motivos de discapacidad, y garantizar que se les proporcione una reparación y se investigue y, de ser el caso, sancione a los autores.**

Sweden (2024)

13. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the Discrimination Act 2008 does not contain any explicit provisions on intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination;
- (b) That the State party's legislation, including the Discrimination Act 2008, does not define the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination throughout the legal system, but that reasonable accommodation is confined to a few selected areas, and that the concept of inadequate accessibility used by the State party is too narrow;
- (c) At the lack of data about hate crime against persons with disabilities, and that hate speech against persons with disabilities is not prohibited under the specific hate crime legislation;
- (d) That police activities cannot be challenged under the Discrimination Act 2008, in particular the introduction of new “visitation zones” that have a higher risk for persons with disabilities to be stopped, searched and interrogated without probable cause;
- (e) That not all persons who are blind or partially sighted are eligible for support services under the Act on Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments (LSS), or other support schemes, and need to bear additional cost for support, inhibiting them from participation in political and public life, cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport;
- (f) At the lack of implementation of the recommendations issued in its communication No. 45/2018 (Richard Sahlin v. Sweden).

14. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Discrimination Act 2008 to provide for explicit protection from multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on the intersection between disability and other status, such as age, sex, gender, race, indigeneity, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status, ethnicity, migration status, or national origin;**
- (b) Amend the Discrimination Act 2008, as well as other relevant legislation and policies to rescind the restrictions on the prohibition of inadequate accessibility with respect to persons inquiring for work, housing and private persons, and include an express guarantee of**

reasonable accommodation consistent with article 2 of the Convention, applicable in all areas of the law;

(c) Amend the national legislation on hate crimes and include provisions on hate crimes against persons with disabilities, and ensure the collection and analysis of data on hate crimes specifically against persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure that all discriminatory actions by the police force can effectively be challenged in a court of law;

(e) Extend of provision of support to all persons with disabilities who are blind or partially sighted, under the national legislation, including the Act on Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments (LSS), in order to improve their participation in political and public life, cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport;

(f) Extend its policy to adhere to recommendations issued in the procedure under Article 2 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, as practiced with respect to interim measures in communications in asylum cases, to all recommendations issued under this procedure, implement the recommendations issued in Communication No. 45/2018 (Richard Sahlin v. Sweden), and ensure adherence to recommendations under this procedure in the future.

Zambia (2024)

9. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That despite a comprehensive review undertaken by the Zambia's Law Development Commission of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code to remove derogatory and discriminatory terminology used to describe persons with disabilities, the proposed amendments have not been put into effect;

(b) That Constitution in its Bill of rights does not recognise disability-based discrimination and intersectional discrimination, and it does not recognize denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;

(c) That despite the recognition by the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2012 the denial of reasonable accommodation as a prohibited ground of discrimination, the State party has not developed guidance or mechanisms to give effect to the duty to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities, nor set out procedures for persons with disabilities to challenge the lack of provision of reasonable accommodations;

(d) Persons who are deaf are still discriminated against under the Traffic Act with regard to obtaining motor vehicle driving licenses;

(e) The absence of an accessible and effective complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities to report incidences of discrimination.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to ensure that the proposals made in the comprehensive review of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code by Zambia's Law Development Commission that included the removal of derogative and discriminatory words used to describe persons with disabilities are legislated and put into effect;

(b) Review and amend the Bill of Rights of the Constitution and other existing anti-discrimination legislation to recognize multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, or any other status, and adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; and ensure that it explicitly recognizes that the denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability, and ensure effective investigation of reports of such discrimination;

(c) Develop regulations and guidelines in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations and establish mechanisms, policies, and practices to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodations as specified under sections 2 and 6 of the Persons with Disabilities Act and establish effective and easily accessible remedies in cases where reasonable accommodations have not been provided;

- (d) Review the Roads and Road traffic Act to allow issuance of motor vehicle driving licenses to persons who are deaf;**
- (e) Put in place an accessible and effective complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities to report incidences of discrimination, and provide persons with disabilities subjected to discrimination with redress, compensation, and rehabilitation and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned.**

Andorra (2023)

11. The Committee is concerned about the following:

- (a) The lack of a normative framework prohibiting intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities and insufficient measures to address intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, children with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) That only one complaint of disability-based discrimination has been received by the Ombudsman (Raonador del Ciutadà) between October 2017, when its mandate was expanded by Act No. 26/2017, and December 2021, date of reception of the Replies to List of Issues by the State party;
- (c) The absence of statistics on disability-related cases before the judiciary;
- (d) The limited guidance and provision of reasonable accommodation in a broad range of areas.

12. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Incorporate the concept of intersectional discrimination into domestic legislation, including the Act No. 13/2019 on Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination, and reinforce strategies to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability, in particular, against women and girls with disabilities, children with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (b) Strengthen its efforts to raise awareness of non-discrimination among persons with disabilities themselves and their families, and guarantee accessible complaint mechanisms, including judicial and administrative procedures, for victims of disability-based discrimination, provide them with redress, and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned;**
- (c) Collect disaggregated data by sex, age, type of barrier encountered and sector in which the discrimination occurred, as well as on remedies and redress available, and sanctions applied in the framework of the judiciary;**
- (d) Adopt guidelines and training for State and non-State actors on their obligations to provide reasonable accommodation in a broad range of areas, including health, education, employment and access to services in the community.**

Austria (2023)

16. The Committee recognizes the progress made by the State party in developing anti-discrimination laws at the Federal and regional levels. However, it notes that with some exceptions, such as suits in the employment sector and suits against harassment and against large companies, the only remedy available to victims of discrimination based on disability is financial compensation. It further notes several reports that, despite strict legal requirements, the mandatory conciliation procedure in civil suits based on the Federal Disability Equality Act is, in fact, often not fully accessible.

17. The Committee recommends the State party further strengthen its Federal Disability Equality Act by extending the scope of available remedies to injunctive and remedial relief in all areas, render the conciliation procedure under the Act in fact fully accessible, and improve the financial support of organizations of persons with disabilities who have standing in such procedures.

Germany (2023)

11. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Legal protection against discrimination and of the specific rights under the Convention does not, with few exceptions, encompass private providers of goods and services;
- (b) The State party's laws do not define the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination throughout the legal system, but are confined to some specific areas, and that the understanding of the requirements to implement reasonable accommodations could be improved;
- (c) The State party's laws, including the laws of the Länder, do not generally and explicitly address multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination;
- (d) The relief of burden of proof in the General Law on Equality (AGG) does not unequivocally encompass the parties' obligations to prove the existence of a disadvantage.

12. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Fulfil its pledges in the Coalition Agreement and extend the legal protection against discrimination and of the specific rights under the Convention to all private entities who provide goods and services to the public, and establish effective remedies to enforce the respective obligations;**
- (b) Amend its laws, at the Federal and Länder levels, so as to include an explicit recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination in all areas of the law, and to include a legal definition of reasonable accommodation consistent with the meaning provided in article 2 of the Convention;**
- (c) Adopt legal and other measures necessary to provide for explicit protection from multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on the intersection between disability and other status, such as age, sex, gender, race, indigeneity, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status, ethnicity, migration status, and national origin;**
- (d) Amend its laws on the relief of burden of proof, in particular para. 22 of the General Law on Equality (AGG), to explicitly include the parties' obligations to prove the existence of a disadvantage as a part of that relief.**

Israel (2023)

11. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Gaps in legislation to address discrimination on the basis of disability, including its intersection with other grounds, in all areas of life;
- (b) That the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities is prevented from filing lawsuits against government authorities in its own name in all areas of life.

12. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that protects persons with disabilities from direct, indirect, multiple and intersectional discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation by State and non-State actors in all areas of public life. The State party should strengthen accountability mechanisms with respect to State and non-State actors;**
- (b) Strengthen its efforts to ensure the improvement of the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities' enforcement powers;**
- (c) Provide different forms of reparations, including non-pecuniary reparations and strengthen the human, technical and financial resources of the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities to undertake its mandate concerning all persons with disabilities, including the most marginalized, and with respect to all fields of life.**

Malawi (2023)

11. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of legislative and executive measures to give effect to the guarantees of equality and the prohibition of discrimination for persons with disabilities contained in the Constitution, particularly against women and girls with disabilities and persons with albinism, and the insufficient enforcement mechanisms, including to ensure reasonable accommodation;
- (b) The decline in and current low number of cases dealing with disability discrimination by the Malawi Human Rights Commission, and the lack of information about remedies and redress in cases of discrimination;
- (c) The absence of information about measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability and its intersection with other grounds, and about measures to make operative section 20 of the Constitution that guarantees the protection of children with disabilities from discrimination.

12. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact specific and comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to enforce constitutional provisions on non-discrimination, prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and its intersection with other grounds (such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity or any other status), and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination. The State party should set up a framework for the provision of remedies and sanctions in relation to discrimination, including the granting of compensation and non-pecuniary remedies;**
- (b) Adopt measures to inform and raise awareness of the right of persons with disabilities to equality and non-discrimination under the Convention, and of the ability to seek redress. The State party should develop information about complaint mechanisms in Easy Read and other accessible formats and provide free legal aid for persons with disabilities seeking judicial and administrative remedies;**
- (c) Establish research programmes to identify inequalities, discriminatory practices and patterns of disadvantage affecting persons with disabilities, including intersectional discrimination, and adopt, in consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, a strategy to prevent and tackle intersectional discrimination, including discrimination against children with disabilities in all areas covered in the Convention.**

Mauritania (2023)

9. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a comprehensive definition of discrimination against persons with disabilities, encompassing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination;
- (b) The lack of recognition of denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination on grounds of disability, including multiple and intersectional disability encompassing age, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, language, sexual orientation, nationality and migration status, or any other status, and ensure that persons with disabilities are comprehensively protected from discrimination;**
- (b) Adopt legal provisions to recognize denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination in all areas of life and include an express definition of reasonable accommodation consistent with article 2 of the Convention.**

Mongolia (2023)

11. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the State party has not yet taken measures to enact a specific comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation on disability and to mainstream into policy and legislation a legal

definition of discrimination against persons with disabilities that would allow for the provision of appropriate and effective legal remedies and sanctions in civil, administrative and criminal proceedings;

(b) That the denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a form of discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas of life;

(c) There is a lack of recognition of multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities in law and policy, particularly on the ground of disability, age, gender, ethnicity, religion, language, nationality and migration status.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, to ensure equal and effective legal protection against direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of disabilities, including, harassment, abuse, denial of reasonable accommodation, and multiple and intersectional discrimination., to recognize multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other status, and adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(b) In close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, include the provision of reasonable accommodation in all relevant laws and policies and adopt procedures and standards on implementation, including the duty to negotiate accommodations and applicant(s) requesting such accommodations, and access to action and remedy.

Paraguay (2023)

11. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) Que siga sin aprobarse un proyecto de ley contra toda forma de discriminación que contenga transversalmente la obligación de no discriminar a las personas con discapacidad, enfoque de género y de edad, con mecanismos para la presentación de quejas por motivo de discriminación y establezca sanciones a quienes discriminen, acorde con el eje 6.3 del Plan de Acción Nacional por los Derechos de Personas con Discapacidad;

b) Que persista la discriminación hacia personas con discapacidad, y no existan mecanismos accesibles de denuncia y reparación para las víctimas de discriminación por motivos de discapacidad.

12. En consonancia con sus anteriores observaciones finales (CRPD/C/PRY/CO/1, párrafo 14) y con su observación general núm. 6 (2018), sobre la igualdad y la no discriminación, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Aprobar, cuanto antes, la ley contra toda forma de discriminación que incorpore las formas múltiples e interseccionales de discriminación, incluyendo la discriminación a las personas indígenas con discapacidad, el concepto de ajustes razonables en los distintos ámbitos, y que reconozca la denegación de ajustes razonables como discriminación por motivos de discapacidad;

b) Establecer procedimientos que sean accesibles y eficaces, incluyendo procedimientos judiciales, administrativos y de presentación de quejas, para las víctimas de discriminación por motivos de discapacidad, y garantizar que se les proporcione una reparación y se sancione a los autores.

Angola (2023)

7. The Committee observes with concern that:

(a) Despite the explicit prohibition of discrimination against persons with disabilities by the Constitution, the anti-discrimination legislation excludes certain categories;

(b) The definition of persons with disabilities in disability-related legislation is not in line with that of the CRPD, as it is based on the medical model instead of the human rights model;

(c)There is a lack of accessible complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities whose rights have been violated.

8.The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and recommends that the State party:

(a)Review the existing anti-discrimination legislation, as well as relevant sections of the Constitution, and take appropriate measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities are protected from discrimination, such as children, women, persons affected by leprosy and persons with albinism;

(b)Ensure that the definition of persons with disabilities in domestic law is brought in line with the CRPD;

(c)Establish an accessible complaint mechanism for persons with disabilities whose rights have been violated, as well as appropriate means of redress and appropriate sanctions for the perpetrators.

Argentina (2023)

11.Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

a)La Ley 23.592 contra actos discriminatorios (1988) no reconoce las formas múltiples e interseccionales de discriminación ni la denegación de ajustes razonables como una forma de discriminación por motivos de discapacidad;

b)El aumento de la discriminación, destacando la discapacidad como uno de los primeros motivos discriminación, conforme al Mapa Nacional de la Discriminación;

c)La falta de un Plan Nacional contra la Discriminación con perspectiva de discapacidad que aborde la situación de las personas con discapacidad que experimentan múltiples e interseccionales formas de discriminación, incluyendo las personas indígenas con discapacidad;

d)La falta de mecanismos accesibles de denuncia y reparación para las víctimas de discriminación por motivos de discapacidad.

12.El Comité, en consonancia con su observación general núm. 6 (2018), sobre la igualdad y la no discriminación, recomienda al Estado parte:

a)Promulgar una nueva legislación contra la discriminación que incorpore las formas múltiples e interseccionales de discriminación, incluyendo la discriminación a las personas indígenas, el concepto de ajustes razonables en los distintos ámbitos, y que reconozca la denegación de ajustes razonables como discriminación por motivos de discapacidad;

b)Incrementar acciones para prevenir y eliminar las barreras que causan discriminación en perjuicio de las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo la provisión individual de ajustes razonables en todos los ámbitos de la vida, tanto en la esfera privada como en la pública;

c)Aprobar el Plan Nacional contra la Discriminación y asegurar que incluya la situación específica de las personas con discapacidad que enfrentan múltiples e interseccionales formas de discriminación; incluyendo niños y niñas con discapacidad, mujeres con discapacidad, personas LGBTQI+ con discapacidad, las personas indígenas con discapacidad, las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, las personas sordociegas, las personas migrantes con discapacidad, incluyendo a quienes viven en zonas rurales;

d)Establecer mecanismos accesibles y eficaces, incluyendo procedimientos judiciales y administrativos, para las víctimas de discriminación por motivos de discapacidad, y garantizar que se les proporcione una reparación y se sancione a los autores.

Georgia (2023)

11.The Committee is concerned about:

(a)The lack of legislative and executive measures to give effect to the guarantees of equality and the prohibition of discrimination of persons with disabilities contained in the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and about insufficient enforcement mechanisms, including coordination of enforcement;

(b)The absence of provisions in the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities accounting for the specific requirements of older persons with disabilities, and about information that older persons with disabilities had to choose between social benefits for older persons or for persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(c)De facto discrimination of persons with disabilities living in rural areas, mainly due to insufficient access to services in the community, and about intersectional discrimination affecting LGBTQI persons with disabilities, including the absence of a normative framework recognising intersectional discrimination;

(d)The limited often ad-hoc provision of reasonable accommodation in a broad range of areas, including in health, education, employment and access to services in the community.

12.The Committee, taking note of its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, recommends that the State party:

(a)Include the right to equality and protection against discrimination of persons with disabilities in all legislative and executive measures and establish enforcement mechanisms for all legislation protecting persons with disabilities against unequal treatment and discrimination, and endow these mechanisms with sufficient financial resources and personnel;

(b)Amend the law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to account for the specific requirements of older persons with disabilities therein;

(c)Institute legislative and policy measures at the national and municipal levels aimed at addressing the situation of persons with disabilities living in rural areas, including timebound targets and indicators of progress, and measures to combat discrimination against LGBTQI persons with disabilities;

(d)Adopt guidelines and training, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, for State and non-State actors on their obligations to provide reasonable accommodation, and particularly on the application of the concept of “a disproportionate or undue burden” as contained in article 2 of the Convention.

Peru (2023)

10.Al Comité le preocupa:

a)Que pese a la existencia de leyes que prohíben todas las formas de discriminación, esta persiste en todos los ámbitos de la vida de las personas con discapacidad, particularmente en la denegación de ajustes razonables en el sector público y privado;

b)La falta de información, incluidos datos desglosados, sobre la situación de las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, personas indígenas y afrodescendientes con discapacidad, y sobre el impacto de la legislación y las políticas públicas en sus derechos bajo la Convención.

11.Recordando su observación general núm. 6 (2018) sobre la igualdad y la no discriminación, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

a)Establezca un marco global de lucha contra la discriminación de las personas con discapacidad que abarque a los agentes estatales y no estatales, asimismo que otorgue protección contra la discriminación directa e indirecta, la denegación de ajustes razonables, el acoso y la discriminación interseccional. Además, que proporcione recursos jurídicos efectivos y reparación por todas las formas de discriminación, incluidas sanciones e indemnizaciones y facilite procedimientos claros y la asignación de recursos financieros suficientes para la realización de ajustes razonables. Adicionalmente, que encomiende a la Autoridad Nacional de Protección del Consumidor, el Instituto Nacional de Defensa de la Competencia y de la Protección de la Propiedad Intelectual (INDECOPI), que inicie procedimientos de oficio para monitorear situaciones de discriminación por motivos de discapacidad en el sector privado;

b)Garantice que los sistemas de recopilación de datos y las evaluaciones de impacto de la legislación y las políticas incluyan indicadores y datos desglosados sobre la situación de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad y personas indígenas y afrodescendientes con discapacidad.

Togo (2023)

9. The Committee observes with concern the absence of an anti-discrimination framework which prohibits discrimination based on disability including direct and indirect discrimination, the denial of reasonable accommodation, harassment and vilification, and multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Incorporate the definition of reasonable accommodation into domestic legislation and apply it in accordance with article 2 of the Convention and, in particular, ensure that it explicitly recognizes that the denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability, and ensure effective investigation of reports of such discrimination;

(b) Review and amend the existing anti-discrimination legislation to recognize multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, or any other status, and adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(c) Strengthen its efforts to raise awareness of non-discrimination among legal professionals, in particular members of the judiciary, and among persons with disabilities themselves, inter alia, through training programmes on the concept of reasonable accommodation;

(d) Adopt measures to provide persons with disabilities subjected to discrimination with redress, compensation, and rehabilitation and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned.

Tunisia (2023)

7. The Committee is concerned that discrimination against persons with disabilities still persists particularly in the areas of education and employment. It is further concerned that the State party maintains segregated programmes for persons with disabilities, which are discriminatory. It is also concerned that no specific actions have been taken to ensure that denial of reasonable accommodation is fully recognised as discrimination, in line with the Convention.

8. The Committee, recalling its General Comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination as well as SDG Goal 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries, recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the anti-discrimination legislations on persons with disabilities and ensure that they are complied with in all situations;

(b) Develop inclusive program in replacement of segregationist policies by meaningfully involving persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of all programmes that affect them and ensure that they are included in all development programmes on equal basis with others;

(c) Include the denial of reasonable accommodation in anti-discrimination legislations, as a form of discrimination on the ground of disability, and ensure that this is complied with in all settings;

(d) Provide an accessible mechanism for reporting discrimination cases against persons with disabilities as well as means for appropriate redress.

Bangladesh (2022)

11. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The lack of legislative and policy measures in the Constitution and laws of the State party that explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in line with the Convention, particularly against persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and multiple intersecting forms of discrimination;

(b) Insufficient steps taken to repeal all legislation and policies that are discriminatory in nature, particularly the policy for implementation of living standard development programs for

Vedas and backward people of 2013 and section 21 of the Mental Health Act of 2018 on the guardianship of a person with mental illness;

(c) The delay in the adoption of the Anti-discrimination Act which would recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Review and amend the Constitution and the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2013 to prohibit disability-based discrimination in line with the Convention, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, caste, profession, nature and type of disability;

(b) Repeal all laws and policies that are discriminatory to persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Adopt without delay the Anti-discrimination Act (2015) and ensure that it prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all areas of life, provides appropriate protection against disability-based discrimination, including multiple and intersectional discrimination and considers the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination.

China (2022)

12. The Committee observes with concern that:

(a) The State party has not yet taken measures to enact specific and comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and to mainstream into policy and legislation a legal definition of discrimination against persons with disabilities that would allow for provision of appropriate and effective legal remedies and sanctions in civil, administrative and criminal proceedings;

(b) There is a lack of recognition of multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities in law and policy, particularly on gender-based discrimination against women with disabilities;

(c) The denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination against persons with disabilities is restricted to laws and regulations in sectors such as Education, Employment and Transportation, and is not accompanied by guidance on implementation and effective legal remedies.

13. The Committee, in line with its General Comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, to ensure equal and effective legal protection against all discrimination on the basis of disability, including indirect discrimination, harassment, denial of reasonable accommodation, multiple and intersectional discrimination;

(b) Include provision of reasonable accommodation in all relevant laws and policies and adopt procedures and standards on implementation, including the duty to negotiate accommodations with the applicant(s), and access to action and remedy.

Indonesia (2022)

10. The Committee observes with concern the lack of harmonisation of the Convention equality provisions across national, provincial, city and regency and sub-district levels, in particular protection from direct, indirect, multiple and intersectional discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation by State and non-State actors in all areas of public life, and the lack of a right of action and access to a remedy.

11. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party adopt measures to harmonise legislation at the national, provincial, city and regency and sub-district levels to ensure comprehensive and uniform protection for all persons with disabilities from all forms of discrimination and to ensure a right of action and access to a remedy.

Japan (2022)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities does not include multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, and is concerned about the limited scope of the definition of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a form of discrimination on the ground of disability in all areas of life;
- (c) There is no accessible complaint and redress mechanisms for victims of disability-based discrimination.

14. The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities to prohibit disability-based discrimination, in accordance with the Convention, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability, sex, age, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation and any other status, and the denial of reasonable accommodation;**
- (b) Adopt the necessary measures to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to all persons with disabilities in all areas of life, including in the private and public spheres;**
- (c) Establish accessible and effective mechanisms, including judicial and administrative procedures, for victims of disability-based discrimination, and provide them with comprehensive redress, and sanctions against the perpetrator.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

8. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Legislation does not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability (including against persons affected by leprosy), in all areas of life, including health and education;
- (b) The definition of discrimination does not include multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination;
- (c) The denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a form of discrimination on the ground of disability;
- (d) The lack of effective redress in cases of discrimination on the basis of disability and multiple and intersectional discrimination.

9. The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review legislation to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability (including against persons affected by leprosy), including the Law No.73 on Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the Law No.62 on Education, and the Law No.77 on Gender Equality;**
- (b) Prohibit multiple and intersectional discrimination on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation and any other status, and adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersectional discrimination;**
- (c) Recognize within anti-discrimination law the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination within all areas of life;**
- (d) Ensure access by persons with disabilities to effective legal remedies and redress, including compensation in cases of disability-based discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation.**

New Zealand (2022)

7. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of an explicit provision within the Human Rights Act of 1993 to recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;

(b) Multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including for Māori and Pasifika persons with disabilities;

(c) The high number of complaints received by the Human Rights Commission on the ground of disability and the significant length of time for the resolution of complaint cases submitted to the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Review Tribunal.

8. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Human Rights Act of 1993 to include an explicit recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination and include a legislative definition of reasonable accommodation consistent with the meaning provided in article 2 of the Convention;

(b) Adopt the legal and other measures necessary to provide for explicit protection from multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on the intersection between disability and other identities and life status, such as age, sex, gender, race, indigenous status, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status, ethnicity, migratory status and national origin;

(c) Provide the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Review Tribunal with the necessary financial and human resources for timely resolution of discrimination complaints.

Republic of Korea (2022)

11. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That the Act on the Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, Remedy against Infringement of their Rights, Etc., does not recognize multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, migrants with disabilities, LGBTI persons with disabilities and HIV infected persons with disabilities;

(b) The fact that the amended article 15 of the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities excludes persons with psychosocial disabilities from the universal welfare service delivery system;

(c) The lack of recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability in all areas of life;

(d) The burden of litigation costs, including attorney fees, which limits access to justice of persons with disabilities.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the existing anti-discrimination legislation, in particular the Act on the Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, Remedy against Infringement of their Rights, Etc., and enact a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, to recognize multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other status, and adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(b) Review Article 15 of the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities in line with the Convention, to include persons with psychosocial disabilities in the universal welfare service delivery system;

(c) Exempt persons with disabilities who lose a case about the rights of persons with disabilities from being burdened with the opposing party's attorney's fees and ensure accessible and fair reimbursement schemes in order to prevent any additional costs or administrative burdens for persons with disabilities;

(d) Recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination on the grounds of disability and ensure effective investigation of reports of such discrimination.

Singapore (2022)

9. The Committee is concerned about the absence of:

- (a) A comprehensive definition of discrimination against persons with disabilities, encompassing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination;
- (b) The recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination on the ground of disability, including multiple and intersectional disability encompassing age, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, language, sexual orientation, nationality and migration status, or any other status, and ensure that persons with disabilities are comprehensively protected from discrimination;**
- (b) Adopt legal provisions and create a practice recognizing the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination in all areas of life, and include an express definition of reasonable accommodation consistent with article 2 of the Convention.**

Hungary (2022)

10. The Committee observes with concern the lack of:

- (a) Recognition of multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including gender-based discrimination against women with disabilities, in the anti-discrimination legislation of the State Party;
- (b) Recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability in all areas of life;
- (c) Investigation of reports of disability-based discrimination, effective remedies for victims of disability-based discrimination, and prosecution and enforcement of punishment for perpetrators.

11. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination in its anti-discrimination legislation, including all forms of gender-based discrimination against women with disabilities;**
- (b) Recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination under Act CXXV of 2003 on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities and ensure its effective enforcement across all sectors and all areas of life;**
- (c) Provide for mechanisms of effective remedy to victims of discrimination on the grounds of disability and ensure effective investigation of reports of such discrimination.**

Jamaica (2022)

10. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The fact that despite the explicit prohibition of discrimination against persons with disabilities by the Disabilities Act, 2014, the anti-discrimination legislation excludes persons with psychosocial disabilities from political participation;
- (b) The delay in the enactment of the Disabilities Act, 2014, which only has taken effect in February 2022, as well as the delay in the operationalization of the Disabilities Rights Tribunal and the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities;
- (c) That despite the fact that the National Housing Trust reserves 5 per cent of all housing developments for persons with disabilities and provides a special loan option within its benefits programme which gives assistance to contributors with disabilities wishing to purchase homes, many persons with disabilities are excluded from these programmes due to the prohibitive costs of mortgages, and loan interest, as well as stereotypes and stigmatization of persons with disabilities by landlords.

11. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the existing anti-discrimination legislation, in particular section 36 of the Disabilities Act, 2014, as well as relevant sections of the Constitution, to ensure that persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial disabilities, are comprehensively protected from discrimination;
- (b) Accelerate the operationalization of the Disabilities Rights Tribunal and the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities and ensure the availability of sustainable and appropriate human and financial resources to carry out their mandates;
- (c) Establish mechanisms, including social protection measures, to ensure full implementation of 5 per cent housing quotas and that housing is available to all regardless of economic status.

Mexico (2022)

15. The Committee is concerned that the federal government and some states and municipalities have not adopted laws prohibiting discrimination of persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and other persons facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; that many laws in force do not recognize a denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination; and that reparation and compensation are not available as remedies against discrimination in all areas of the Convention.

16. The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, and taking into account targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt laws in all States that explicitly prohibit multiple and intersectional discrimination of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Recognize a denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination within all areas of life;
- (c) Provide, inter alia, effective legal remedies and redress against discrimination in all areas of the Convention, including compensation in cases of disability-based discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation, taking account of the gender dimension of discrimination against women with disabilities.

Switzerland (2022)

11. The Committee notes with concern that provisions on equality across the federal, cantonal and municipal levels are not harmonized with each other or with the Convention, in particular regarding protection from direct, indirect, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation by State and non-State actors in all areas of public life, and the lack of a right of action and access to a remedy.

12. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018), the Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to harmonize legislation at the federal, cantonal, and municipal levels to ensure comprehensive, uniform protection for all persons with disabilities, to ensure that all the elements of the Convention's standard of non-discrimination are included, and to ensure a right of action and access to a remedy.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2022)

8. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) There is no law or mechanism for identifying and punishing acts of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including persons with sequelae of leprosy, persons of African descent and women, that provides for preventive measures, monitoring, sanctions and full redress, including non-repetition;
- (b) The obligation to provide reasonable accommodation is not mainstreamed in the State party's legislation, accommodations of this sort are infrequent and the denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a form of discrimination.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a law on the prevention and elimination of discrimination, based on general comment No. 6 (2018) and the commitments made at the Global Disability Summit 2022, that expressly refers to disability-based discrimination and that mainstreams recognition of multiple and intersectional discrimination, particularly against women, children, indigenous persons and persons of African descent with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons living with leprosy, in all spheres of life;
- (b) Put in place a specific, independent mechanism for receiving, investigating and following up on complaints of discrimination while also providing for the imposition of sanctions in both the public and private spheres and for measures that will afford full redress; establish a system for compiling data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin and basis of the complaint; and disseminate the results of the follow-up conducted;
- (c) Incorporate an explicit provision into its domestic legislation under which the denial of reasonable accommodation is defined as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability.

Djibouti (2021)

7. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the definition of discrimination under Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018) does not consider explicitly the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination and lacks provisions to address multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including gender-based discrimination against women with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of information on the availability of legal remedies, complaint procedures, and redress mechanisms for persons with disabilities subjected to discrimination.

8. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018) to explicitly recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination and to prohibit multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities;
- (b) Adopt measures to provide persons with disabilities subjected to discrimination with redress, compensation, and rehabilitation and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned.

France (2021)

11. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That the current definition of discrimination does not include multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the basis of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as the grounds of age, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity;
- (b) That the denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognised as a form of discrimination on the ground of disability in all areas of life, except in the areas of work and employment, and in education with regards examinations.

12. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Prohibit multiple and intersectional discrimination on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other status, and adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersectional discrimination;
- (b) Recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination within all areas of life within anti-discrimination law.

Estonia (2021)

11. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That anti-discrimination law recognises discrimination on the basis of disability only in relation to vocational training and work, and that it has not made provision about multiple and

intersectional forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including gender-based discrimination against women with disabilities;

(b) The insufficient financial and human resources of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner to implement its mandate concerning persons with disabilities;

(c) The absence of measures to prevent and address discrimination on the basis of disability in all areas of life;

(d) The limited awareness about the right of persons with disabilities to request reasonable accommodation and that denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognised as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability.

12. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Accelerate the amendment of the Equal Treatment Act, ensuring that it recognises discrimination on the basis of disability across all areas of life, and sectors, and multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including all forms of gender-based discrimination against women with disabilities;

(b) Ensure sustainable and appropriate human and financial resources for the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner to carry out its mandate;

(c) Adopt mechanisms to allow persons with disabilities exposed to discrimination access redress, including compensation, and rehabilitation, and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned;

(d) Adopt a definition of reasonable accommodation in line with the Convention and recognize it across all sectors and areas of life, and recognise in legislation the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability.

Albania (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a clear prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability as well as sanctions and remedies available in cases of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation, especially in the Law on Protection from Discrimination and the Law on Inclusion and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities;

(b) The amendment made to Law 93/2014 which establishes different legal entitlements for persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of a strategy to promote the rights of Roma persons with disabilities and the lack of information on their situations, particularly women and girls, with a focus on all aspects of their lives, mainly their rights to education, health care and employment.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review its legislation to incorporate a clear prohibition of disability-based discrimination that explicitly includes all forms of discrimination on grounds of disability including multiple and intersecting discrimination, and the denial of reasonable accommodation;

(b) Develop and apply harmonized and transparent criteria, fair assessment procedures and equal entitlements for persons with disabilities regardless of where they live in the State party;

(c) Adopt a national programme with effective incentives to improve the situation of Roma persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, with a focus on, inter alia, their rights to education, health care and employment, on an equal basis with others.

Australia (2019)

9. The Committee is concerned that there is no effective legislative framework to protect persons with disabilities from systemic, intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination, especially at the Commonwealth level, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged and are often not consulted on matters that affect

them, and that the complaints mechanisms under existing law, especially the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, are inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

10. In line with its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/AUS/CO/1, para. 15) that the State party strengthen anti-discrimination laws, particularly the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, to:

(a) Address and prohibit systemic, intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination, recognizing discrimination on a single or on multiple and/or intersectional characteristics and allowing for systematic complaints, representative and group actions and sanctions for addressing lack of access and discriminatory behaviour;

(b) Support persons with disabilities in making their own decisions, taking action and filing complaints, especially persons with high support requirements and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

Ecuador (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Ecuadorian law does not incorporate an explicit, cross-cutting definition or prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability, particularly with regard to women, children, indigenous persons, persons of African descent, Montubio persons, migrants and refugees with disabilities, in all areas of life;

(b) There is no law or mechanism for the identification and punishment of acts of discrimination against persons with disabilities that provides for preventive measures, monitoring, sanctions and full redress, including non-repetition;

(c) The definition of reasonable accommodation is not mainstreamed in the State party's laws, accommodations of this sort are infrequent and the denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a form of discrimination.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that its laws, policies and strategies for eliminating discrimination include an explicit definition and prohibition of disability-based discrimination and that they incorporate, on a cross-cutting basis, a recognition of multiple and intersectional discrimination, particularly in the case of women, children, indigenous persons, persons of African descent, Montubio persons, asylum seekers, migrants and refugees with disabilities, in all areas of life;

(b) Adopt a law on the prevention and elimination of discrimination that expressly refers to disability-based discrimination; put in place a specific, independent mechanism for receiving, investigating and following up on complaints of discrimination while also providing for the imposition of sanctions in both the public and private spheres and for measures that will afford full redress; establish a system for compiling data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin and basis of the complaint; and disseminate the results of its follow-up actions;

(c) Incorporate an explicit provision in its national legislation under which the denial of reasonable accommodation is defined as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability (CRPD/C/ECU/CO/1, para. 15).

El Salvador (2019)

8. The Committee is concerned that there is lack of recognition and prohibition of multiple and intersectional discrimination, especially against women, indigenous persons and persons of African descent with disabilities. It is also concerned that legislation, such as the Law on Equality, Fairness, and the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Comprehensive Law for a Violence-free Life for Women, does not include or consider the perspective of women and girls with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities. It is concerned about the lack of progress in recognizing denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination under the law.

9. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt effective legal and policy measures, including the prohibition of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly on the grounds of disability, sex, age, ethnicity and gender identity. It also recommends that denial of reasonable accommodation be recognized as a form of disability-based discrimination under the law.

10. The Committee is concerned that governmental entities such as the General Inspectorate of Public Security and the Human Rights Unit of the National Civil Police are responsible for receiving complaints of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent and impartial mechanism to receive complaints of discrimination against persons with disabilities, and maintain a system for collecting disaggregated data, including by age, sex, and reason for complaint.

Greece (2019)

7. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive legislative framework guaranteeing equal treatment and protection from discrimination, including the provision of specific measures and individualized support, and protection from the denial of reasonable accommodation, particularly in such key sectors as education, social protection and the provision of goods and services;

(b) The lack of effective implementation of the existing standards on equality and non-discrimination, including provision of specific measures and individualized support, particularly in the areas of education for children with disabilities and protection of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with disabilities;

(c) The delay in the adoption of secondary legislation based on Law No. 4488/2017 (art. 74) extending protection against discrimination on the grounds of disability in the fields of education and the provision of goods and services.

8. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take legislative measures to ensure protection against discrimination on the grounds of disability, including to provide for specific measures, individualized support and protection from the denial of reasonable accommodation in all areas of life, in line with the Convention;

(b) Improve the implementation of standards on specific measures and individualized support in the public and private sectors, particularly in schools and in relation to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with disabilities;

(c) Adopt the secondary legislation required under article 74 of Law No. 4488/2017 to guarantee equal treatment and prohibit discrimination of persons with disabilities in the areas of education and the provision of goods and services;

(d) Take into account article 5 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

India (2019)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of an explicit prohibition of disability-based discrimination in the Constitution, and the exception to the anti-discrimination clause in section 3 (3) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, which allows discrimination against persons with disabilities under certain circumstances;

(b) Multiple and intersecting discrimination and discrimination by association in legislation and in practice against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, particularly women, who experience isolation, seclusion in “leprosy colonies” or at home, rejection from school, dismissal from jobs, and barriers to autonomy;

(c) The absence of measures to combat multiple and intersecting discrimination against, inter alia, persons with disabilities in scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, including Dalits and

Adivasi, older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities living with HIV/AIDS, indigenous persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities who belong to ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities;

(d) The lack of effective redress in cases of discrimination on the basis of disability and multiple and intersecting discrimination, including gender-based discrimination against women with disabilities.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and taking account of targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Amend the Constitution to explicitly prohibit disability-based discrimination and repeal section 3 (3) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, ensuring that its legislation recognizes direct and indirect disability-based discrimination and multiple and intersecting discrimination as faced by persons with disabilities;

(b) Repeal all discriminatory legislation against persons affected by leprosy in all areas, including provisions in the Hindu marriage rules and the family court rules and provisions restricting their freedom of movement or preventing them from participating in public life, and be guided by the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members (A/HRC/15/30, annex) in order to address the situation of persons affected by leprosy and their family members;

(c) Assess the situation of and adopt anti-discrimination legislation and public policies to tackle multiple and intersecting discrimination, with the aim of achieving inclusive equality for persons with disabilities facing such discrimination;

(d) Ensure access by persons with disabilities to effective legal remedies and redress, including compensation in cases of disability-based discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation, taking account of the gender dimension of discrimination against women with disabilities.

Iraq (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Discrimination against persons with disabilities remains widespread, especially against persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and women with disabilities, and that limited progress has been made in combating multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of, among other grounds, age, gender, ethnicity and geographical location, especially rural areas;

(b) National legislation does not recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen mechanisms for persons with disabilities exposed to discrimination to obtain redress, including compensation, and rehabilitation and for perpetrators to be sanctioned, ensure that such mechanisms are accessible to persons with disabilities and raise awareness among persons with disabilities, public officials and service providers on the available legal remedies;

(b) Explicitly include denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability in Law No. 38 (2013) and take all measures necessary to ensure the provision of individualized supports and the implementation of specific measures to ensure equality.

Kuwait (2019)

10. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Constitution and Act No. 8/2010 do not explicitly recognize the right to equality, do not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the grounds of disability, including multiple and

intersectional forms of discrimination, and do not view the denial of reasonable accommodations as constituting discrimination;

(b) Act No. 8/2010 does not apply to non-Kuwaiti nationals unless they are children of a Kuwaiti woman married to a non-Kuwaiti man;

(c) There are no effective legal remedies for persons with disabilities to claim their rights;

(d) Derogatory language towards persons with disabilities is used in legislation.

11. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and recommends that the State party:

(a) Review its legislation, including the Constitution and Act No. 8/2010, to ensure that it prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, and to ensure also that its legislation recognizes and sanctions the denial of reasonable accommodations as constituting discrimination on the basis of disability;

(b) Ensure that equality and non-discrimination provisions apply to all persons with disabilities within its territory, including non-Kuwaiti nationals and stateless persons (Bidoon), and review its legislation, including Act No. 8/2010 and the Nationality Act accordingly;

(c) Ensure the availability of effective legal remedies for persons with disabilities to claim their rights, including in cases of disability-based discrimination;

(d) Remove any derogatory language against persons with disabilities from all legislation, including the Civil Code, the Penal Code and the Code of Civil Procedure.

Myanmar (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

(a) Legal provisions in the Constitution and laws of the State party that explicitly prohibit disability-based discrimination in line with the Convention, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation;

(b) A comprehensive anti-discrimination policy that provides appropriate protection from disability-based discrimination in all areas of life, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation;

(c) Accessible complaints and redress mechanisms for victims of disability-based discrimination.

12. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the necessary legal measures, including reviewing the Constitution and laws to prohibit disability-based discrimination in line with the Convention, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability, sex, age, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, and any other status, and the denial of reasonable accommodation, in all areas of life;

(b) Adopt and implement a comprehensive anti-discrimination policy to provide appropriate protection against disability-based discrimination, including multiple and intersectional discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation;

(c) Establish accessible and effective mechanisms, including judicial and administrative procedures, for victims of disability-based discrimination, and provide them with comprehensive redress, including compensation, rehabilitation and sanctions against the perpetrator.

Cuba (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of measures prohibiting and sanctioning all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including denial of reasonable accommodation;

(b) Derogatory terms that stigmatize persons with disabilities in the legislation, including the Civil, Administrative, Labour and Economic Procedure Act, the Children and Youth Code, the

Family Code (1975), the Public Health Act (1983) and the National Plan of Action for persons with disabilities (2006-2010).

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Institute measures to prohibit all forms of discrimination on grounds of disability, including the denial of reasonable accommodation, as well as sanction violations;**
- (b) Repeal all legislation that still contains derogatory terms and stigmatizes persons with disabilities.**

13. The Committee notes that there is no impartial and independent mechanism to receive complaints from persons with disabilities that is accessible to persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities in rural areas. It is also concerned that there are insufficient measures to expedite the complaint processes, including absence of trained personnel to assist in the process of filing complaints, nor any mechanisms of redress in cases of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to achieve de facto equality of persons with disabilities and institute expeditious and independent judicial and administrative remedies to guarantee reparation in cases of discrimination.

Niger (2019)

7. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Discrimination against persons with disabilities, including in employment and education, particularly against women and children with disabilities, and migrants and refugees with disabilities, and those living in rural areas;
- (b) The absence of recognition in the legislation of denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;
- (c) The lack of legislation to protect persons with disabilities, especially women, children, migrants and refugees with disabilities, and those living in rural areas, against multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; and the absence of information about legal remedies, and compensation for persons with disabilities.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party include in national law the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination; adopt relevant laws including the draft Law on Equal Opportunities and the Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities, and ensure that those laws are in line with the CRPD and explicitly protect persons with disabilities against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, provide redress for persons with disabilities who are victims of discrimination, and sanction the perpetrators.

Norway (2019)

7. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) There is an absence of effective legislation and mechanisms addressing multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially against persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities;
- (b) There is poor access to legal aid in discrimination cases;
- (c) The Anti-Discrimination Tribunal has limited powers to impose restitution and compensation;
- (d) Persons with disabilities with Sami background and children with disabilities from families with an immigrant background have poor access to public services because of communication problems, cultural differences and poor knowledge of the welfare system;
- (e) There is no specific research on the living conditions for persons with disabilities belonging to national minorities, including Roma and Tater/Romani.

8. The Committee, in line with its General Comment no. 6 (2018), recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt the necessary legal and other measures to provide for explicit protection against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the basis of age, disability, national**

origin, sex, gender, ethnicity and migratory status, and for effective sanctions against perpetrators;

(b) Take effective measures to provide legal aid in all discrimination cases and increase the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud's resources to enable it to assist persons with disabilities with filing complaints to the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal, including cases of and intersectional forms of discrimination;

(c) Amend the Anti-discrimination Act to expand the range of remedies available to complainants in disability discrimination cases before the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal;

(d) Undertake awareness-raising campaigns and training to inform indigenous persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities from ethnic minorities, and immigrants with disabilities about their rights and how to access them;

(e) Conduct a study on the living conditions of persons with disabilities belonging to minorities, such as the Roma and Tater/Romani, to design and adopt appropriate legislative, administrative and practical steps to address inequality and discrimination.

Rwanda (2019)

9. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of recognition in the national legislation of denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;

(b) Insufficient laws and policies to combat multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities;

(c) The lack of accessible mechanisms for reporting cases of discrimination on the grounds of disability, and the lack of redress mechanisms and statistics on cases of disability-based discrimination.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to prevent and address all forms of disability-based discrimination. It recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish in law the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;

(b) Adopt a legislative framework to combat the multiple and intersectional discrimination experienced, particularly by women and children with disabilities, together with a coordinated strategy for its implementation;

(c) Take formal measures to ensure that mechanisms for reporting acts of discrimination on grounds of disability, as well as redress mechanisms are made available and accessible, and provide in its next periodic report, statistics on cases of disability based discrimination.

Senegal (2019)

7. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The definition of discrimination does not include the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability based discrimination and that persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, persons with disabilities in rural areas, and persons with albinism, are not adequately provided with individualized accommodations;

(b) There is widespread multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities, and that legal remedies, complaint mechanisms and sanctions against perpetrators are lacking;

(c) There is no available information on the legal remedies and measures of redress and compensation for persons with disabilities subjected to discrimination or statistics on the number of investigations of cases of discrimination on grounds of disability conducted, sanctions imposed and/or remedies provided to victims, particularly women and girls with disabilities.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take the necessary legal and other measures to recognise the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination and to promote awareness about the concept of individualized support and accommodations among the general public;
- (b) Adopt measures to combat the widespread multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially women, girls and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, persons with albinism, and persons with disabilities in rural areas, and adopt measures for the provision of legal remedies, complaint mechanisms and sanctions against perpetrators, including redress and compensation mechanism for victims;
- (c) Take the necessary steps to increase the availability of information, including statistics, on the number of investigations of cases of discrimination on the basis of disability conducted, sanctions imposed and/or remedies provided.

Spain (2019)

8. The Committee is concerned about the lack of explicit recognition and prohibition of multiple and intersectional discrimination on the grounds of disability, sex, age, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation and any other status in all areas of life. The Committee regrets that a number of mental health conditions are not considered as disabilities under Spanish Law. It is further concerned about the lack of recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination in all areas of life.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party refer to its general comment No. 6 (2018) on the right to equality and non-discrimination and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to revise legislation to adhere to the Convention and to explicitly recognize and prohibit multiple and intersectional discrimination on the grounds of disability, sex, age, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation and any other status in all areas of life within its anti-discrimination legislation, policies and strategies, including the Equality Act. Furthermore, the Committee reminds the State party that all persons with mental health conditions are considered as persons with psychosocial disabilities and fall under the scope of the Convention. Finally, it recommends that the State party recognise the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination and ensure effective mechanisms of legal redress and reparation.

Turkiye (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Discriminatory legislation and practices against persons with disabilities, such as the denial of legal capacity on the basis of impairment, unjustifiable provisions restricting the appointment of persons with disabilities as judges, prosecutors, governors or diplomats, and the legal prohibition of disability-based discrimination, which does not encompass indirect discrimination;
- (b) Article 122 of the Turkish Penal Code No. 5237, according to which the criminal offense of disability-based discrimination requires the proof of hatred motivation;
- (c) The absence of effective (recorded) sanctions in legislation in cases of denial of reasonable accommodation and the lack of information available about effective redress, including compensation and reparation in cases of disability-based discrimination;
- (d) The absence of information about the situation and measures taken to address multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, against persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic groups, such as Roma persons with disabilities or persons with disabilities of Kurdish origin.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Revise its legal framework to repeal discriminatory provisions against persons with disabilities, as well as its anti-discrimination legislation and harmonize it with the Convention, particularly apply the concept of reasonable accommodation in all areas of life, and establish appropriate sanctions in case of non-compliance with reasonable

accommodation required by persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Eliminate the requirement of hatred motivation in the prosecution of cases of discrimination on the basis of disability;

(c) Monitor the number of discrimination claims on the basis of disability as a proportion of the total number of claims of discrimination, disaggregated by sex, age, geographical location, barriers identified and the number and percentage of judgments that led to compensation or sanctions, ensure legal safeguards and remedies, as well as related procedures and provide data on applied sanctions and fines, in cases of denial of reasonable accommodation;

(d) Adopt an antidiscrimination policy and concrete measures to achieve inclusive equality by all persons with disabilities, including those belonging to minority groups.

Vanuatu (2019)

10. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The lack of legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, including the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;

(b) Intersectional discrimination faced by persons with disabilities and the lack of data on the number of victims of such discrimination;

(c) The lack of mechanisms to provide remedy to persons with disabilities who are victims of discrimination.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend article 5 of the Constitution and other relevant legislation to include disability as a prohibited ground of discrimination and ensure that the anti-discrimination framework under the National Disabilities Inclusive Development Policy (2018-2025) encompasses all forms of discrimination on the basis of disability, including the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;

(b) Address and explicitly prohibit intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities and collect data on multiple and intersectional discrimination disaggregated by sex, age, type of impairment and place of residence;

(c) Establish a mechanism to monitor complaints of disability-based discrimination and provide legal remedy and support to persons with disabilities who are victims of discrimination.

Algeria (2018)

10. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) National legislation, including the Constitution, which does not explicitly recognize the principles of equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities;

(b) The fact that the law does not explicitly identify the denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination on the grounds of disability, and that reasonable accommodation is not well understood nor widely applied by employers and service providers, resulting in persons with disabilities being unable to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others and;

(c) Derogatory terms that stigmatize persons with disabilities in the legislation, including the Civil Code and the Family Code;

(d) Discriminatory policies, notably the fact that persons with disabilities must produce a certificate of exoneration from liability before travelling on the national airline.

11. The Committee recalls its General Comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and recommends that the State party:

(a) Align its legislation with the Convention and amend all relevant national legislation to prohibit and sanction discrimination based on disability and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination;

(b) Repeal all legislation which still contains derogatory terms and stigmatizes persons with disabilities;

(c) Modify any policies that discriminate against persons with disabilities.

12. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There is no specific legislation protecting against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination;

(b) There have been no complaints brought in relation to article 295 bis 1 of the Criminal Code dealing with discrimination on grounds of disability, which may indicate that complaints procedures are not well known to the victims

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Introduce legislation and policy measures to ensure that persons with disabilities effectively enjoy their right to equality and non-discrimination in line with General Comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and its concept of inclusive equality;

(b) Raise awareness among public and private actors, in particular lawyers, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, civil servants, employers, educational and health professionals and persons with disabilities themselves, of the right to equality and non-discrimination, including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, the provision of reasonable accommodation and provide the relevant training;

(c) Raise awareness among persons with disabilities, public officials and service providers on available legal remedies and increase efforts to foster environments that enable persons with disabilities to claim their rights.

Bulgaria (2018)

15. The Committee notes with concern that under the current legislation, denial of reasonable accommodation is not explicitly recognized as an act of prohibited discrimination in all areas. It is also concerned about the lack of enforceability of the decisions issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission on equality and non-discrimination, and about the insufficient implementation of provisions of legislation on multiple and intersectional discrimination as an aggravated form of discrimination. It is further concerned about barriers faced by persons with disabilities to access remedies in cases of discrimination.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's General comment No. 6 (2018) on Equality and non-discrimination:

(a) Amend its legislation and explicitly prohibit denial of reasonable accommodation as an act of disability-based discrimination in all spheres of life;

(b) Repeal provisions that discriminate persons with disabilities in legislation;

(c) Enhance the enforceability of decisions on disability-based discrimination, including decisions of multiple and intersectional discrimination, which persons with disabilities may face;

(d) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons under guardianship can access remedies available in cases of disability-based discrimination, and strengthen the capacity of the Equality Body to exercise its mandate concerning procedures for protection of persons with disabilities against discrimination.

Malta (2018)

7. The Committee notes with concern that the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act refers to multiple discrimination, but does not, however, protect persons with disabilities from intersectional discrimination in its article 3A (1). It is also concerned that the institutions responsible for the monitoring of disability-based discrimination, including the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, lack the human and CRPD/C/MLT/CO/1 3 financial resources to address complaints relating to discrimination in a timely manner and that legal aid is not provided to victims. While noting an increase in the number of complaints, the Committee remains concerned that the limited number of complaints by persons with disabilities, as reported by the State party, may indicate that such persons are not aware of the complaint procedures in place and of their rights, and that they may lack the necessary support to seek redress.

8. With reference to its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, while reviewing its legislation to bring it into line with the Convention:

- (a) Amend article 3A (4) of the Equal Opportunity (Persons with Disability) Act to protect persons with disabilities against intersectional discrimination;**
- (b) Ensure the provision of adequate human, technical and financial resources to the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, so that it can address disability-based discrimination complaints in a timely and cost-effective manner;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with accessible information on the mechanisms and procedures for lodging complaints and seeking remedies.**

Northern Macedonia (2018)

7. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Article 9 of the Constitution of the State Party does not mention disability as a ground of discrimination;
- (b) There is no penalties in national laws, both for public and private institutions or individuals who discriminate against persons based on their disability and the lack of effective legal remedies against discrimination;
- (c) Training on non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation are not regularly imparted to public and private actors.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Revise all legislation to incorporate all forms of discrimination on grounds of disability, including multiple and intersecting discrimination;**
- (b) Establish measures to provide redress, including compensation, for persons who have faced discrimination on the basis of disability, and sanction perpetrators;**
- (c) Regularly train public and private actors on non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities, focusing on the human rights-based approach to disability instead of the traditional medical and charity approach.**

9. The Committee is concerned that although the State Party instituted a National Coordinative Body for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCOPDs) to serve as a bridge between government and organisations of persons with disabilities, its mandate and structures are not in line with the Convention.

10. The Committee urges the State Party to strengthen the effectiveness of the National Coordinative Body for Equal Rights of Persons with disabilities and ensure that its mandate and structures are in line with CRPD provisions.

11. The Committee is concerned that the National Strategy on Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2010-2018 was not fully implemented, particularly in the field of support services that are necessary to ensure independent living of persons with disabilities.

12. The Committee recommends that the new National Strategy on Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities provide adequate resources for its implementation, particularly regarding the support services for independent living of persons with disabilities.

Philippines (2018)

10. The Committee observes with concern that:

- (a) Provisions in the Magna Carta of Persons with Disabilities of 1992 (RA 7277) and its subsequent amendments in 2007 and 2016 only address disability based discrimination in employment, transportation, and use of public accommodations and services;
- (b) The absence of information and measures to address multiple and intersectional discrimination against Indigenous peoples and Muslim persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of recognition of reasonable accommodation in several areas of life and the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;

(d) The lack of remedies and complaint procedures available in cases of discrimination on the basis of disability, and the absence of information about redress provided, including compensation.

11. The Committee, in line with its General comment No. 6 (2018) equality and non-discrimination, recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize in its general legislation disability as a ground for discrimination in all areas of life;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities to prevent intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities on the grounds of sex, age, origin, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, impairment, migrant, asylum seeking or refugee status, and social status;

(c) Establish accessible and effective redress mechanisms, including judicial and administrative procedures, and ensure access to justice, on an equal basis with others, for victims of discrimination based on disability. The State party should provide persons with disabilities with accessible information about complaint procedures, and free legal aid to courts;

(d) Recognise in its legislation the concept of reasonable accommodation in line with article 5 (3) and the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;

(e) Take into account article 5 of the Convention in implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability, and leprosy through anti-discrimination legislation and policies to help address stigma against persons with disabilities.

Poland (2018)

7. The Committee is concerned at the absence of:

(a) A clear definition of reasonable accommodation and obligation to provide it to all persons with disabilities in all spheres of life, including the absence of recognition of denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;

(b) Recognition of multiple and intersectional discrimination in the anti-discrimination legislation, and prohibition of discrimination against all persons with disabilities on grounds such as sex, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity in all areas of life;

(c) Effective mechanisms to prevent and protect persons with disabilities against discrimination and violation of their right to equal treatment;

(d) Awareness of the State and public actors as well of persons with disabilities themselves about the right of persons with disabilities to equality and non-discrimination, including to accessible legal information and legal counselling.

8. Recalling its general comment No. 6 (2017) on Equality and Non-Discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Enact legislation that define and recognize reasonable accommodation across all areas of life, and that sanctions its denial as a form of disability-based discrimination;

(b) Explicitly recognize and prohibit multiple and intersectional discrimination on the grounds of disability, sex, age, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation and any other status in all areas of life within its anti-discrimination legislation, policies and strategies, including the Equality Act;

(c) Establish judicial and quasi-judicial mechanisms to ensure prevention and protection of persons with disabilities against discrimination, including comprehensive redress;

(d) Take effective measures to provide continuous training and awareness-raising for civil servants and non-state actors, including persons with disabilities themselves about the rights of persons with disabilities to equality and non-discrimination, including to accessible legal information and free legal counselling.

South Africa (2018)

8. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Understanding of the concept of reasonable accommodation is limited among public authorities and the society at large and is therefore not adequately applied to persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities as well as persons with albinism;
- (b) Discrimination remains widespread especially against persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism, including persons with disabilities in rural areas;
- (c) The lack of specific legislation protecting persons with disabilities against multiple and intersectional discrimination;
- (d) The slow pace in promulgating Chapter 5 of the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (PEPUDA), which imposes obligations on all members of society to promote equality, including the private sector;
- (e) The absence of information on the legal remedies and measures of redress and compensation for persons with disabilities subjected to discrimination and statistics on the number of investigations conducted, sanctions imposed and/or remedies provided to victims, particularly women and girls with disabilities.

9. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Take concrete measures to promote awareness about the concept of reasonable accommodation among the general public and the private sector and ensure its application at all levels of government;**
- (b) Adopt effective legislation and policies that will explicitly provide protection against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination;**
- (c) Establish effective mechanisms for persons with disabilities exposed to discrimination, to obtain redress, including compensation, rehabilitation and sanction perpetrators;**
- (d) Set up an integrated system to collect data on complaints submitted by persons with disabilities disaggregated by sex, age and disability type across all sectors, including information in accessible formats about the legal remedies and measures of redress and compensation provided for persons with disabilities who have faced disability-based discrimination.**

Haiti (2018)

8. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of legislation prohibiting discrimination on grounds of disability, including inter alia the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination and the express recognition of multiple and intersectional discrimination;
- (b) The lack of legal remedies available to persons with disabilities who have been victims of discrimination on grounds of disability, and the absence of redress and compensation measures;
- (c) The absence of a specific independent mechanism to deal with disability discrimination complaints and the lack of information on the number of complaints investigated and monitored regarding disability-based discrimination.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Explicitly include disability as a grounds in national legislation prohibiting discrimination, incorporate the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on grounds of disability, and recognize intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination based on, inter alia, sex, gender, age, disability, national origin, ethnicity and immigration status, and effective redress and compensation measures;**
- (b) Ensure victims of discrimination on grounds of disability can seek redress, remedies and compensation;**

(c)Set up an independent mechanism or strengthen the national human rights institution to investigate, evaluate and monitor disability discrimination complaints and collect and update data in this regard.

Nepal (2018)

9.While noting that the Constitution prohibits discrimination of persons with disabilities, the Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities still face multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on other grounds such as caste, and ethnicity, in particular women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, autistic persons, persons from ethnic, Dalit, Madhesi and Muslim communities.

10.The Committee recommends that the State party implement existing anti-discrimination legislation, policies and programmes in order to prevent multiple and intersectional discrimination targeting disadvantaged groups including, autistic persons, ethnic, Dalit, Madhesi and Muslim communities. The Committee also recommends that the State party establish accessible and effective mechanisms for victims of discrimination to seek redress and commensurate compensation.

Oman (2018)

11.The Committee is concerned that:

(a)Discrimination based on disability and denial of reasonable accommodation are not explicitly prohibited in the Basic Law of the State nor in the Law for the Care and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act of 2008;

(b)The concept of reasonable accommodation is not comprehensively defined in national legislation nor is it well understood by employers and service providers, resulting in failure to ensure the enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;

(c)There is a lack of specific legislation concerning protection against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination.

12.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Amend its legislation to explicitly refer to discrimination in Article 17 of the Basic Law of the State, the Law for the Care and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons of 2008, and in all relevant national legislation to prohibit and sanction discrimination based on disability;

(b)Recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as prohibited ground of discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas and, adopt measures, including compensation and redress, for persons with disabilities who have faced discrimination on the basis of disability, including migrant workers;

(c)Raise awareness and provide training, in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, on the concept of reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination to public and private actors, in particular lawyers, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, civil servants, employers, educational and health professionals and persons with disabilities;

(d)Adopt measures in national legislation to protect persons with disabilities, against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, particularly women and girls with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and provide effective sanctions against perpetrators.

Russian Federation (2018)

13. The Committee notes with concern that under the current legislation denial of reasonable accommodation is not explicitly recognized as an act of prohibited discrimination in all areas. It is further concerned about the low amount of fines prescribed for in Code of Administrative Offences in articles 5.62, 5.42, 9.13, 9.14 and 11.24 which may not secure efficiently adequate protection of rights of persons with disabilities on an equal basis.

14. The Committee recommends that the State Party amend its legislation and explicitly prohibit denial of reasonable accommodation as prohibited ground of discrimination in all

spheres of life in line with article 5 of the Convention. It further recommends that the State Party amend its Code of Administrative Offences with the view to increase the amount of fines prescribed for in articles 5.62, 5.42, 9.13, 9.14 and 11.24 of the Code. It also recommends the State party to be guided by the Convention in the implementation of target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Seychelles (2018)

6. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of public policies and measures focusing on and prioritizing equality, and the protection of persons with disabilities against all forms of discrimination, and the lack of recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;
- (b) The lack of capacity, coordination and measurable impact of focal points designed for combating discrimination, and the absence of effective affirmative actions in this regard;
- (c) Multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including Roma, Sinti and persons with disabilities of other ethnic groups, and the lack of information about discrimination against LGBTI persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact legislation that explicitly recognises and sanctions the denial of reasonable accommodation, across all areas of life, as a form of disability-based discrimination;**
- (b) Strengthen the capacity and role of the focal points designed for combating discrimination, including discrimination against persons with disabilities, and provide them with adequate resources and capacity to effectively respond to cases of disability-based discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation and multiple and intersectional discrimination;**
- (c) Explicitly incorporate in its anti-discrimination legislation, policies and strategies, the recognition of multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, age, disability, migrant, asylum seeking, refugee, ethnic background, sexual orientation and any other status. The Committee also recommends that the State party provides for judicial and quasi-judicial remedies in cases of discrimination from public and/or private actors, disseminate information among persons with disabilities about such remedies, provide redress and adequate compensation, and establish sanctions for perpetrators;**
- (d) Take into account article 5 of the Convention in implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Slovenia (2018)

6. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of public policies and measures focusing on and prioritizing equality, and the protection of persons with disabilities against all forms of discrimination, and the lack of recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;
- (b) The lack of capacity, coordination and measurable impact of focal points designed for combating discrimination, and the absence of effective affirmative actions in this regard;
- (c) Multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities, including Roma, Sinti and persons with disabilities of other ethnic groups, and the lack of information about discrimination against LGBTI persons with disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact legislation that explicitly recognises and sanctions the denial of reasonable accommodation, across all areas of life, as a form of disability-based discrimination;**
- (b) Strengthen the capacity and role of the focal points designed for combating discrimination, including discrimination against persons with disabilities, and provide them with adequate resources and capacity to effectively respond to cases of disability-based**

discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation and multiple and intersectional discrimination;

(c) Explicitly incorporate in its anti-discrimination legislation, policies and strategies, the recognition of multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, age, disability, migrant, asylum seeking, refugee, ethnic background, sexual orientation and any other status. The Committee also recommends that the State party provides for judicial and quasi-judicial remedies in cases of discrimination from public and/or private actors, disseminate information among persons with disabilities about such remedies, provide redress and adequate compensation, and establish sanctions for perpetrators;

(d) Take into account article 5 of the Convention in implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sudan (2018)

7. The Committee is concerned that the Interim Constitution of 2005 and the National Persons with Disabilities Act of 2017 do not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and that denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party review article 3 of the National Persons with Disabilities Act of 2017 to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and to ensure that deniable reasonable accommodation is recognized as a form of disability-based discrimination. It further recommends that the State party include these provisions in the forthcoming draft Constitution, as to provide the highest legal protection against disability-based discrimination and multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities.

9. The Committee is concerned about the absence of penalties in national laws, both for public and private institutions or individuals who discriminate against persons based on their disability and the lack of effective legal remedies against discrimination.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to strengthen the effectiveness of the National Commission on Human Rights and the Prosecutor's office to provide redress, including compensation, for persons who have faced discrimination on the basis of disability, and sanction perpetrators.

11. The Committee is concerned that training on non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation are not regularly imparted to public and private actors.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party regularly train public and private actors on non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities, focusing on the human rights-based approach to disability instead of the traditional medical and charity approach.

Latvia (2017)

8. The Committee is concerned that the Law on Disability is narrow in its scope and purpose, lacks an explicit prohibition of discrimination on the basis of all types of disability, and does not recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination. The Committee regrets the absence of effective complaint mechanisms for disability-based discrimination and the lack of disaggregated data collected on cases of disability-based discrimination and their resolution.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review its legislation to incorporate a definition of discrimination that explicitly addresses all forms of discrimination on the basis of disability, including intellectual and psychosocial disability, across all sectors and areas of life and that recognizes the denial of reasonable accommodation, and multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination;

(b) Establish an effective mechanism to monitor all aspects of compliance with anti-discrimination legislation, including by providing accessible methods for persons with

disabilities to seek legal remedies and by ensuring sanctions for the perpetrators of discrimination;

(c) Reinforce the provision of training developed in consultation with, and that involve the participation of, disabled persons' organizations on the non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and the duties concerning the provision of reasonable accommodation to public and private actors, in particular members of the legal profession and the judiciary, law enforcement officers, civil servants, employers, the State Labour Inspectorate, educational and health professionals, and persons with disabilities themselves;

(d) Collect and analyse disaggregated data on cases of disability-based discrimination and publish information on their resolution, including details on the sanctions for perpetrators and remedies for victims;

(e) Take into account article 5 of the Convention, while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Luxembourg (2017)

10. The Committee is concerned that national legislation lacks a definition of reasonable accommodation in fields other than employment and education. It is also concerned that, apart from the education field, the law does not include an explicit recognition that the denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes disability-based discrimination. The Committee is concerned that other fields, such as employment and accessibility to information and communications technology, lack the enforceable legal provisions to sanction the denial of reasonable accommodation or, alternatively, the enforcement of legal provisions depends on the goodwill of officials and available resources.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the adoption of a definition of reasonable accommodation aligned with the Convention and enact legislation that explicitly recognizes and sanctions the denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination across all areas of life, including within the public and private sectors. It also recommends that the State party set up appropriate monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance with legislative and other policy measures relating to the denial of reasonable accommodation, including an effective complaint mechanism and appropriate remedies in the event of non-compliance.

12. The Committee notes with concern that the institutions responsible for the monitoring of discrimination, including the Consultative Council of Human Rights and the Centre for Equal Treatment, lack the requisite legal jurisdiction to deal with complaints relating to discrimination, particularly multiple discrimination or discrimination in the private sector, or the power to remedy complaints. It is also concerned by the insufficient resources to carry out their mandates, including effective sanctions and remedies. It is further concerned by the absence of cases of discrimination on grounds of disability, which could be partly explained by the lack of awareness by persons with disabilities of existing mechanisms to defend their rights.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account article 5 of the Convention while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it:

(a) Enact appropriate legislation and policies providing the relevant entities with the requisite legal powers to enable them to effectively monitor discrimination, including multiple and intersectional discrimination, and in the private sector;

(b) Ensure sufficient human and financial resources and the necessary powers so that they can remedy complaints of disability-based discrimination in a timely and cost-effective manner;

(c) Ensure persons with disabilities have information on lodging complaints and seeking remedies;

(d) Establish an accurate system of data collection with regard to the number of complaints received and dealt with by the institutions tasked with monitoring discrimination.

Montenegro (2017)

10. The Committee notes with concern that certain anti-discrimination provisions on disability are themselves discriminatory as they apply to discrimination based only on certain types of impairments. It is concerned about:

- (a) The very small number of complaints based on discrimination, which may point to insufficient knowledge among the population, particularly persons with disabilities, about the rights under the Convention and the available measures to complain about discrimination, as well as a lack of trust in the justice system;
- (b) The lack of effective equal protection of persons with disabilities who may be subjected to intersectional discrimination, such as persons with disabilities who are members of different ethnic groups, including Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, and refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons;
- (c) The continued use of assessments of disability to access certain human rights and of different definitions of disability, including with derogatory terminology;
- (d) The fact that the Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities Act does not define reasonable accommodation in accordance with the Convention.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party make the necessary legislative amendments to ensure that all persons with disabilities are equally and fully protected against all forms of discrimination, including intersectional discrimination, in accordance with the Convention. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take awareness-raising measures to encourage persons with disabilities to report discrimination and ensure their access to accessible information on their rights under the Convention and on available measures to submit complaints;**
- (b) Train relevant professionals, particularly law enforcement personnel and members of the judiciary, on the Convention and on how to adequately handle complaints of discrimination based on disability;**
- (c) Strengthen its efforts to prevent and remedy intersectional discrimination experienced by persons with disabilities who belong to a minority group, particularly children, and ensure that they have equal access to all rights under the Convention;**
- (d) Ensure that any assessment procedures are in line with the Convention and do not lead to discriminatory treatment, abolish the use of different definitions for disability and derogatory terminology and apply a human-rights based approach to disability instead;**
- (e) Adopt and apply the concept of reasonable accommodation with effective sanctions in order to ensure that the denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination on the ground of disability.**

Morocco (2017)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of recognition in the national legislation of denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;
- (b) The lack of specific legislation concerning protection against multiple and intersectional discrimination;
- (c) The absence of information on the legal remedies and measures of redress and compensation provided for persons with disabilities who have faced disability-based discrimination.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish in national law the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination;**
- (b) Provide for, in national law, explicit protection against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, age, disability, national origin, ethnicity and migratory status, and for effective sanctions against perpetrators;**

(c) Establish measures, including to provide compensation and redress, for persons with disabilities who have faced discrimination on the basis of disability, and impose sanctions on perpetrators.

Panama (2017)

14. The Committee is concerned that, although Act No. 42 of 1999 recognizes discrimination on the basis of disability, it does not include the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination against persons with disabilities. It is also concerned at the lack of policies to combat multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially women, indigenous persons and persons of African descent.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that its legislation recognizes the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability in all spheres of activity and provides for appropriate penalties for such discrimination. It further recommends that the State party ensure that its legislation covers multiple and intersectional discrimination.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

12. The Committee is concerned about perceptions in society that stigmatize persons with disabilities as living a life of less value than that of others and about the termination of pregnancy at any stage on the basis of fetal impairment.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its abortion law accordingly. Women's rights to reproductive and sexual autonomy should be respected without legalizing selective abortion on the ground of fetal deficiency.

14. The Committee is concerned that the State party's anti-discrimination legislation does not provide comprehensive and appropriate protection, particularly against multiple and intersectional discrimination, including in access to housing. It is also concerned about the low level of redress in rulings adopted by the judiciary when adjudicating cases of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with Goal 10 and targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, explicitly incorporate in its national legislation protection from multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of gender, age, race, disability, migrant, refugee and/or other status, and provide appropriate compensation and redress for victims, and sanctions proportional with the severity of the violation.

16. The Committee is concerned that the duty to make reasonable adjustments to the common parts of residential properties in the Equality Act 2010 is not yet in force, and that persons with disabilities living in Northern Ireland are not adequately protected against direct and indirect disability-based discrimination and against discrimination by association.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Bring its anti-discrimination legislation into accordance with the Convention and speed up the process to bring into force all legislative provisions in the Equality Act 2010, including those concerning reasonable accommodation in the housing sector;

(b) Take the necessary measures through the appropriate authorities, once the Northern Ireland government is in place, to ensure that the Northern Ireland Executive reform on disability rights law reflects the recommendations made by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in its 2012 Strengthening Protection for Disabled People report to protect persons with disabilities in Northern Ireland from direct and indirect disability-based discrimination and discrimination through association.

Armenia (2016)

7. The Committee is concerned about discrimination against persons with disabilities. It also notes with concern that:

(a) Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are not prohibited;

- (b) The concept of reasonable accommodation and the denial of such accommodation as a form of discrimination are not included in anti-discrimination laws;
- (c) There is a lack of publicly available information on cases of disability discrimination and their outcomes.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the adoption of the draft law on anti-discrimination and ensure that it encompasses a definition of disability-based discrimination in the public and private sectors, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly gender-based discrimination, and set up mechanisms to impose sanctions for contravening the rights of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Include the concept of reasonable accommodation in anti-discrimination legislation and recognize the denial of such accommodation as a form of discrimination;**
- (c) Make available information about cases of disability-based discrimination and legal remedies, including on the sanctions imposed on perpetrators and redress for victims, in accessible formats.**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016)

10. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The anti-discrimination legislation not being systematically applied and implemented, and the lack of a clear definition of disability-based discrimination with effective and applicable sanctions in relation to article 2 of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in particular;
- (b) Different legal entitlements for persons with disabilities whose impairment is not a consequence of the war, in comparison with those for civilian victims of war and for war veterans with disabilities;
- (c) The ongoing practice of different assessments of the same disability based on the cause and/or origin of the disability;
- (d) The lack of provisions on reasonable accommodation, with sanctions;
- (e) The insufficient information on combating multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and on the usage of notions such as “temporary specific measures” or “special needs” which are not clearly regulated, especially in education and in cases regarding ethnic minorities.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review its legislation to incorporate a definition of disability-based discrimination that clearly includes all forms of discrimination on grounds of disability, including multiple and intersecting discrimination, and allocate financial resources for its effective implementation;**
- (b) Develop and apply harmonized criteria, assessment procedures and entitlements for assessing the degree of impairment for all persons with disabilities regardless of the cause of the impairment;**
- (c) Adopt and apply the concept of reasonable accommodation, with effective sanctions, in order to ensure that denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination on the ground of disability;**
- (d) Introduce effective and appropriate remedies, as well as progressive sanctions for the public and private sectors.**

Canada (2016)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persisting gaps in the exercise and enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities, such as the rights to education, work and employment and an adequate standard of living, due to, among other things, a lack of affordable housing and access to water and sanitation;
- (b) The intersecting nature of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, indigenous persons with disabilities and migrant persons with disabilities, who face heightened risks of gender-based violence, poverty, marginalization and barriers in access to mental health-care services;

(c) The absence of measures to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided in all areas of the Convention beyond work and employment.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt cross-sectoral strategies with a view to combating inequality and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities through, inter alia, affirmative action measures that include clear targets and the collection of data on progress achieved disaggregated by age, sex and indigenous background;

(b) Take into account article 5 of the Convention while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Set up criteria aimed at addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination through legislation and public policies, including through affirmative action programmes for women and girls with disabilities, indigenous persons with disabilities and migrant persons with disabilities, and provide effective remedies in cases of such discrimination;

(d) Develop regulations and further guidelines for proactive implementation of the duty to accommodate, including provisions to increase awareness among public and private actors about the duties of and available tools for reasonable accommodation;

(e) Ensure that services for indigenous persons with disabilities in First Nation communities are equitable and appropriate, including health services aimed at preventing suicide among indigenous young persons with disabilities.

Cyprus (2016)

11. The Committee is concerned that national legislation lacks a definition of discrimination that recognizes that denial of reasonable accommodation is a form of disability-based discrimination in all areas of life.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement immediately a definition of discrimination fully aligned with the Convention, explicitly recognizing the denial of reasonable accommodation across all areas of life, including within the public and private sectors as disability-based discrimination.

13. The Committee is concerned about the absence of effective legislation and mechanisms addressing multiple and intersectional discrimination, including against persons with disabilities of ethnic minorities. It is furthermore concerned at the lack of disaggregated data on cases of multiple and intersectional discrimination.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party enact appropriate and enforceable legislation, policies and programmes preventing multiple and intersectional disability-related discrimination, including effective sanctions and remedies, and that it collect and disseminate disaggregated data on such cases. It also recommends that the State party take into account the Sustainable Development Goals, especially target 10.2 and 10.3, while implementing article 5 of the Convention.

15. The Committee is deeply concerned about the precarious situation of refugees and asylum-seeking persons with disabilities in the State party and also notes with concern that the refugee status determination procedures are not accessible. While noting the indication of the State party delegation that refugees with disabilities are entitled to the same disability support schemes and benefits – including wheelchairs, care and information – as Cypriot citizens with disabilities, the Committee notes with concern that equal access to these support schemes and benefits is not available for all refugees and asylum seekers. The Committee furthermore notes with concern that, in the Refugees Law, refugees with disabilities are referred to as “persons with special needs”, a subcategory of “vulnerable persons”, which constitutes an approach that may hamper the application of a human rights- based approach.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the accessibility of all refugee status determination procedures;

(b) Ensure an adequate standard of living, including access to disability support schemes and allowances in law and in practice for all non-nationals with disabilities residing in the State party on an equal basis with Cypriot citizens;

- (c) Incorporate disability, and a human-rights-based approach to disability, in the Refugees Law and all other relevant refugee and asylum legislation, policies and programmes;**
- (d) Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and endorse the 2016 Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.**

Honduras (2016)

13. Al Comité le preocupa que la legislación del Estado parte no reconozca la discriminación múltiple e interseccional y no incluya la denegación de ajustes razonables como forma de discriminación contra las personas con discapacidad (especialmente con discapacidad intelectual y psicosocial, niños y niñas, afrohondureños, mujeres e indígenas), en otros ámbitos además del empleo. Preocupa al Comité que si bien el artículo 321 del Código Penal sanciona la discriminación por razón de discapacidad, no existen mecanismos accesibles para denunciar los casos de discriminación de personas con discapacidad, ni mecanismos de reparación, ni estadísticas de discriminación.

14. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que reconozca en su legislación la discriminación múltiple e interseccional y la denegación de ajustes razonables como forma de discriminación basada en la discapacidad en todos los ámbitos de participación y que la sancione. Asimismo, le recomienda que incluya mecanismos expeditos para denunciar la discriminación en su legislación antidiscriminación. También le recomienda que adopte medidas que garanticen mecanismos accesibles para denunciar actos de discriminación por parte de las personas con discapacidad y sus mecanismos de reparación.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2016)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a definition of disability-based discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of it;
- (b) Multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and discrimination against persons perceived to have a disability, including on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation, being forced to undergo medical treatment;
- (c) The lack of information about measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities on equal basis with others; and
- (d) The difference in measures taken by the State Welfare Organization and the Foundation of Martyr and Veterans Affairs (FMVA) concerning persons with disabilities and veterans of war.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Introduce in its legislation disability as a ground of discrimination and prohibit direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of disability, intersectional and multiple discrimination, including discrimination by association;**
- (b) Define in its legislation the concept of reasonable accommodation, in line with article 2 of the Convention, and the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;**
- (c) Withdraw legislation that restricts rights of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and tackle discrimination against persons perceived to have a disability due to their gender identity and sexual orientation, by prohibiting forced medical treatment and providing appropriate remedies and redress;**
- (d) Adopt public policies to ensure access by persons with disabilities to all rights enshrined in the Convention, in particular members of the religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities;**
- (e) Ensure that all persons with disabilities and veterans of war, irrespective of impairment, receive equal protection concerning their rights under the Convention; and**
- (f) Take into account article 5 of the Convention while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the SDGs.**

Jordan (2016)

11. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Under the current legislation, denial of reasonable accommodation is not explicitly recognized as an act of prohibited discrimination in all areas;
- (b) The concept of reasonable accommodation is not well understood by employers and service providers, resulting in failure to ensure the enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend its legislation to explicitly prohibit denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas and ensure sanctions for non-compliance;
- (b) Raise awareness about the duty to provide reasonable accommodation, among, inter alia, employers and service providers.

13. The Committee is concerned about the lack of coordination and efficient monitoring in cases of disability-based discrimination, including the absence of a mechanism tasked with documenting and verifying cases where reasonable accommodation was denied.

11. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Under the current legislation, denial of reasonable accommodation is not explicitly recognized as an act of prohibited discrimination in all areas;
- (b) The concept of reasonable accommodation is not well understood by employers and service providers, resulting in failure to ensure the enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend its legislation to explicitly prohibit denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas and ensure sanctions for non-compliance;**
- (b) Raise awareness about the duty to provide reasonable accommodation, among, inter alia, employers and service providers.**

13. The Committee is concerned about the lack of coordination and efficient monitoring in cases of disability-based discrimination, including the absence of a mechanism tasked with documenting and verifying cases where reasonable accommodation was denied.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish the Equal Opportunities Committee, as provided for under the new draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities, to receive complaints on disability-based discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation in both the public and private sectors, to enforce sanctions on perpetrators of discrimination and to provide persons exposed to discrimination with remedies;**
- (b) Strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and the Higher Council for Disabilities and ensure clear rules regarding complaints filed with these bodies and the Equal Opportunities Committee;**
- (c) Build the capacity of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to encourage their engagement in available legal redress mechanisms.**

Republic of Moldova (2016)

10. The Committee is concerned about discrimination against persons with disabilities and by:

- (a) The ineffective implementation of legislation and procedures that address discrimination against persons with disabilities, including the lack of a mechanism to monitor remedies and sanctions for the denial of reasonable accommodation;
- (b) The lack of recognition of multiple and intersecting discrimination in anti-discrimination laws;
- (c) The lack of publicly available information on cases of disability discrimination and their respective outcomes.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen anti-discriminatory legislation and procedures to effectively address disability-based discrimination in the public and private sectors, including legislation and procedures with respect to the recognition of

multiple and intersecting discrimination and the right to appeal the denial of reasonable accommodation and other forms of disability- based discrimination, and mechanisms to impose sanctions for contravening the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party publish information about cases of disability discrimination and their outcomes in accessible formats.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (2016)

11. The Committee is concerned about the ineffectiveness of legal remedies, as reflected in the low number of complaints of discrimination on the basis of disability.

12. The Committee recommends the creation and consolidation of a system for the submission of complaints of discrimination on the basis of disability that is effective, simple and accessible, and that provides redress for persons with disabilities who claim to have suffered discrimination, in all departments and in all languages, including Bolivian sign language.

13. The Committee is concerned that denial of reasonable adjustments is not recognized as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability; it is also concerned at the scant efforts made to recognize and eliminate multiple and intersectional discrimination.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party recognize denial of reasonable adjustments as a form of disability-based discrimination and take measures to prevent and eliminate multiple and intersectional discrimination. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 5 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

14. The committee is concerned about discrimination against persons with disabilities, mainly against women and girls. It is also concerned that the denial of reasonable accommodation is not acknowledged as a form of discrimination, and that reasonable accommodation is rarely provided. It is concerned that multiple and intersectional discrimination is not recognized and that the State party has not taken steps to combat it; that few complaints have been filed for denial of reasonable accommodation; and that the complaints filed are not clearly disaggregated by type of disability.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish, within anti-discrimination legislation, the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination in all areas of participation;

(b) Establish penalties under the law and remedies for those affected and recognize the multiple and intersectional dimensions of discrimination;

(c) Register the complaints filed for discrimination, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, age and type of disability, among others;

(d) The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 5 of the Convention in pursuing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ethiopia (2016)

9. The Committee is concerned that the concept of reasonable accommodation enforced in domestic law is only related to employment and not to other areas covered by the Convention. It also notes with concern that the denial of reasonable accommodation is not recognized as a form of discrimination in all areas, including the denial of reasonable accommodation in detention and in education.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive definition of reasonable accommodation in the law that applies to all rights. It also recommends that the State party recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation in all areas as amounting to discrimination, as prescribed by article 5, and provide training to the public and private sectors on this obligation.

11. The Committee is concerned that there are no effective complaint mechanisms or remedies for disability-based discrimination and that multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination are neither recognized nor sanctioned in law and in practice.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party provide legal protection against disability-based discrimination, multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities and establish effective legal remedies. It also recommends the provision of training and awareness-raising for public officers, the judiciary and organizations of persons with disabilities on how to bring complaints and access justice. It further recommends that the State party take into account article 5 of the Convention while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guatemala (2016)

15. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, women, children and indigenous peoples, are regularly subjected to multiple forms of discrimination and that their human rights are limited or restricted by the law. It is also concerned that the legislation of the State party does not recognize multiple, intersectional discrimination or the denial of reasonable accommodation as aggravated forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party review all of its legislation and policies on equality and non-discrimination with a view to ensuring the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of all human rights on an equal basis with others and that it recognize multiple, intersectional discrimination and the denial of reasonable accommodation as aggravated forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities in its legislation and policies.

17. The Committee is concerned by the limited number of complaints, records and decisions concerning cases of discrimination on the basis of disability and by the failure to inform persons with disabilities of the legal remedies available to combat discrimination.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate resources to the Office of the Human Rights Advocate to ensure that cases of discrimination against persons with disabilities are recorded and ruled upon, as well as to distribute information widely in an accessible form to all persons with disabilities regarding the legal remedies available to combat discrimination, particularly in institutions that provide care for persons with disabilities, in rural areas and remote communities. The Committee also encourages the State party to conduct campaigns to fight discrimination against persons with disabilities, targeting the legal profession, including officials of the judiciary and lawyers. Lastly, the Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 5 of the Convention in its implementation of targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy (2016)

9. The Committee is concerned that national legislation lacks a definition of reasonable accommodation and does not include an explicit recognition that the denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes disability-based discrimination.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately adopt a definition of reasonable accommodation aligned with the Convention and enact legislation that explicitly recognizes the denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination across all areas of life, including within public and private sectors.

11. The Committee is concerned about the absence of legislation and mechanisms with a mandate that addresses multiple discrimination, including effective sanctions and remedies.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party enact appropriate legislation and policies designating enforcement mechanisms to address multiple and intersectional discrimination, including effective sanctions and remedies, and that it provide training to all departments and ensure persons with disabilities have information on lodging complaints and seeking remedies. It also recommends that the State party take into account article 5 of

the Convention while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

11. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the national legislation makes no reference to the denial of reasonable accommodation and discrimination by association as forms of disability-based discrimination;

(b) That training opportunities developed in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities on the concept of reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities are not available to public and private actors and, in particular that such opportunities are not available to members of the legal profession and the judiciary, law enforcement officers, civil servants, employers, educational and health professionals, and persons with disabilities themselves;

(c) About the lack of specific legislation concerning protection against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Explicitly define in national law that denial of reasonable accommodation and discrimination by association are forms of disability-based discrimination;

(b) Provide training opportunities developed in consultation with and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities on the concept of reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities to public and private actors, in particular members of the legal profession and the judiciary, law enforcement officers, civil servants, employers, educational and health professionals, and persons with disabilities themselves;

(c) Incorporate into national law a provision explicitly guaranteeing protection against multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability and migrant status, and ensure that such a provision is accompanied by greater sanctions for perpetrators and higher levels of compensation and redress for victims;

(d) Be guided by article 5 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uruguay (2016)

13. Al Comité le preocupa que la legislación del Estado parte no incluya la denegación de ajustes razonables como forma de discriminación contra las personas con discapacidad en otros ámbitos además del empleo. También le preocupa la ausencia de políticas que combatan la discriminación múltiple e interseccional. Preocupa al Comité que no existan mecanismos accesibles para denunciar los casos de discriminación por motivo de discapacidad, ni mecanismos de reparación.

14. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que reconozca en su legislación la denegación de ajustes razonables como forma de discriminación por motivo de discapacidad en todos los ámbitos de participación y que la sancione. Asimismo le recomienda que incluya las formas múltiples e interseccionales de discriminación en su legislación antidiscriminación. También le recomienda que adopte medidas que garanticen métodos accesibles para la denuncia de actos de discriminación por motivo de discapacidad, así como mecanismos de reparación.

Chile (2016)

11. Al Comité le preocupa que la definición de ajuste razonable no se adapte al artículo 2 de la Convención y que la legislación del Estado parte no incluya la denegación de ajustes razonables como forma de discriminación contra las personas con discapacidad en otros ámbitos además del empleo. También le preocupa la ausencia de políticas que combatan la discriminación múltiple e interseccional.

12. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que revise la definición de ajuste razonable y reconozca en su legislación la denegación de ajustes razonables como forma de

discriminación basada en la discapacidad en todas las esferas de la vida. Asimismo le recomienda que incluya las formas múltiples e interseccionales en su legislación contra la discriminación, proporcione remedios adecuados e imponga sanciones en caso de violación.

Lithuania (2016)

13. The Committee is deeply concerned that the State party does not consistently apply the concept of reasonable accommodation in relation to the principle of non-discrimination.

14. With reference to target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take all the legislative, juridical and administrative measures necessary to:

(a) Promote, ensure and monitor the provision of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities across all public and private sectors;

(b) Recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability.

Portugal (2016)

13. The Committee is concerned that State party's legislation does not include an obligation to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities in the exercise of all their rights.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party explicitly sets out in its legislation the obligation to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention.

15. The Committee is concerned about the lack of efficiency of legal remedies provided to persons with disabilities in the framework of responsibilities granted to the National Institute for Rehabilitation to assess non-compliance with disability policies, since claims and complaints lodged by persons with disabilities often remain unresolved and/or without sanction.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation and policies in order to provide efficient legal remedies to persons with disabilities in cases of discrimination.

Serbia (2016)

9. The Committee is concerned that anti-discrimination legislation is not systematically applied, that legislation lacks clear definition of disability-based discrimination and does not address all forms of discrimination. It is further concerned that neither the concept of reasonable accommodation nor recognition that the denial of such accommodation is a form of discrimination are explicitly included in anti-discrimination laws. The Committee also expresses its concern that little information has been provided on sanctions available for contravening the rights of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislative framework to incorporate a definition of disability-based discrimination that explicitly deals with all forms of discrimination, incorporate the concept of reasonable accommodation and ensure that the relevant laws and regulations define the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on grounds of disability. The Committee also recommends that the State party introduce effective and proportional remedies, including dissuasive penalties.

Slovakia (2016)

13. The Committee is concerned that legislation that prohibits disability-based discrimination has not been extended beyond the employment sector.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party enact disability-based anti-discrimination legislation in all sectors, and provide training and guidance for the public and private sectors.

15. The Committee is concerned that reasonable accommodation has been misinterpreted as a temporary special measure and that there is a lack of an explicit definition of reasonable accommodation in legislation. The Committee is concerned that the denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination is not recognized in law.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party amend section 2a (1) of the Anti-Discrimination Act to include denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination; and to introduce specific provisions in relation to sanctions for non-compliance.

17. The Committee is concerned that the law does not recognize multiple and intersectional discrimination, especially against women and girls with disabilities and members of ethnic minorities with disabilities, especially Roma people.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party amend section 2a (1) of the Anti-Discrimination Act to include intersectional and multiple discrimination as a form of discrimination, and definitions of the term, and adopt legal remedies and sanctions to reflect the aggravated nature of violations arising from multiple and intersectional discrimination.

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of awareness of the public and private sectors about multiple discrimination and the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party provide the public and private sectors with mandatory training on multiple discrimination and legal obligations to provide reasonable accommodation in all sectors.

Thailand (2016)

13. The Committee is concerned that national laws, including the Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act and the Gender Equality Act permit discrimination in specific cases; that denial of reasonable accommodation is not considered discrimination; and that the Sub-Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities does not have the authority and resources necessary to appropriately address complaints of discrimination on grounds of disability by persons seeking remedies.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party amend legislation to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities without exceptions, and to include a definition of reasonable accommodation, in conformity with the Convention; and take all the measures necessary, including upgrading the Sub-Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities to a Committee, to ensure that it can effectively and independently address cases of discrimination on the grounds of disability, including intersectional and multiple discrimination.

Uganda (2016)

8. The Committee is concerned about persisting discrimination against persons with disabilities, including in particular persons with albinism, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and on other grounds, such as gender identity and sexual orientation. It is also concerned about insufficient legal remedies to protect them against such discrimination. It is further concerned about the non-recognition of reasonable accommodation in the legislation of the State party and that the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission has not been made known widely among persons with disabilities.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Provide for legal protection against disability-based discrimination and multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Incorporate the concept of reasonable accommodation in its legislation as defined in article 2 of the Convention and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination based on disability;**
- (c) Make the work of the Equal Opportunities Commission widely known among persons with disabilities.**

Brazil (2015)

12. The Committee is concerned at the lack of measures to address discrimination against indigenous and Afro-descendant persons with disabilities. In particular, it is concerned about the isolation of indigenous communities that place persons with disabilities in extreme exclusion conditions.

13. The Committee recommends the State party to implement legislation, inter-sectorial policies and programmes to address the multiple forms of discrimination against indigenous and Afro-descendant persons with disabilities, in particular, to prevent persons with disabilities living in isolated indigenous communities or remote areas from being excluded.

European Union (2015)

18. The Committee is concerned that Directives 2000/43, 2004/113 and 2006/54 failed to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on disability and prescribe for duty to provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities in the areas of social protection, health care, (re)habilitation, education and provision of goods and services, such as housing, transport and insurance.

19. The Committee recommends that the European Union adopt its proposed horizontal Equal Treatment Directive extending protection from discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by the provision of reasonable accommodation, to all areas of competence. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the European Union ensure discrimination in all aspects based on disability is prohibited, including multiple and intersectional discrimination.

EU Institutions compliance with the Convention (as public administrations)

78. The Committee is concerned that not all employees or delegates of the EU who are persons with disabilities, or have family members with disabilities, receive the reasonable accommodation they need to enjoy their rights from the labour and related relationships equally.

79. The Committee recommends that the European Union take necessary measures to ensure that all employees of the European Union who are persons with disabilities, or have family members with disabilities, receive the reasonable accommodation they need to enjoy their rights from the labour and related relationships on an equal basis with others.

Gabon (2015)

12. The Committee is concerned about the absence of:

- (a) An explicit prohibition of disability-based discrimination and the lack of legal remedies and sanctions to uphold the right to non-discrimination by persons with disabilities;
- (b) A dedicated mechanism to deal with cases of discrimination;
- (c) Appropriate labour laws and measures to end discrimination in the workplace;

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact disability anti-discrimination law and establish legal remedies and sanctions to uphold the prohibition of disability-based discrimination in a cross-cutting way to all rights and areas of life;**
- (b) Include in legislation the recognition that the denial of reasonable accommodation is a form of discrimination on the basis of disability;**
- (c) Establish a dedicated mechanism to deal with cases of discrimination and foster the use of available legal remedies by persons with disabilities facing discrimination and inequality;**
- (d) Reform labour laws and adopt measures to end discrimination in the workplace.**

Kenya (2015)

9. The Committee is concerned that mediation and conciliation prevail on claims by persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the absence of information on the definition of reasonable accommodation and that the denial of such accommodation is not considered a form of discrimination.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enforce measures to ensure that cases of discrimination against persons with disabilities are invocable before courts and victims receive appropriate redress; and
- (b) Define in its legislation the principle of reasonable accommodation in all areas in line with article 2 of the Convention and ensure legal recognition of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination.

Mauritius (2015)

9. The Committee is concerned that the legislation of the State party, in particular the Equal Opportunities Act still reflect the medical approach of disability. The Committee is also concerned that the concept of reasonable accommodation has yet to be defined and included in the legislation of the State party.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all its legislation is aligned with the Convention and define the concept of reasonable accommodation in line with article 2 of the Convention and recognizes the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination, as well as intersectional discrimination and discrimination by association.

Qatar (2015)

11. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a definition of reasonable accommodation in law and that the denial of such accommodation is not considered a form of discrimination. It is also concerned about the lack of specific legislation on equality and non-discrimination including protection against multiple and intersectional discrimination.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party incorporate an explicit prohibition of disability-based discrimination in its national legislation. It also recommends that the State party incorporate the definition of reasonable accommodation in national law, and apply it in accordance with the Convention in particular through explicit recognition that denial of reasonable accommodation is disability-based discrimination. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide training on the concept of reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities to public and private actors, in particular members of the legal profession, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, and persons with disabilities themselves. Further, the Committee recommends the explicit incorporation in national law of protection against multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability, migrant status, among other grounds, accompanied by higher sanctions for perpetrators and higher compensation and redress for victims.

Ukraine (2015)

9. The Committee is concerned that only few cases related to discrimination on the basis of disability have been considered by courts and no criminal proceedings have been initiated under article 161 of the Criminal Code. The Committee is also concerned that the principle of reasonable accommodation is not consistently implemented and the failure to provide it does not carry any sanctions. The Committee is further concerned that multiple and inter-sectoral discriminations are not properly addressed in the State party's laws and policies.

10. The Committee calls upon the State party to strengthen legislation to extend the application of the principle of reasonable accommodation to all areas of life and make the failure to provide it punishable by law. The State party is urged to take all necessary measures, including training of the judiciary and capacity- building of persons with disabilities and their organizations, to foster the use of available legal remedies by persons with disabilities facing the discrimination and inequality. It further recommends that the State party establish mechanisms in its legislation and include measures in its policies to prevent and protect from multiple and inter-sectoral forms of discrimination.

Cook Islands (2015)

9. The Committee is concerned that the Disability Act does not provide for reasonable accommodation nor prohibits its denial as disability-based discrimination. Furthermore the Committee is concerned that State party does not legally provide for provision of reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities in enjoyment of their different fundamental rights. Neither does it provide a definition nor guidance on what constitutes disproportionate and undue burden. The Committee is further concerned that there is a lack of provision with regard to other forms of discrimination, including intersectional discrimination, for example, the Employment Relations Act 2012 does not recognize discrimination across more than one protected group. The Committee also notes that several laws continue to permit disability based discrimination.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Disability Act to ensure the denial of reasonable accommodation is recognised in law as a form of disability-based discrimination and that it applies explicitly to all rights including fundamental rights;

(b) Amend laws on discrimination, including the Employment Regulations Act 2012, to introduce additional legal and policy measures using a human rights framework to address multiple or intersectional grounds for discrimination, discrimination by association, and discrimination against persons perceived to have a disability;

(c) Repeal discriminatory laws and provisions that deny rights and exclude participation and inclusion on the ground of disability, including the Entry, Residence and Departure Act, the Electoral Act, and laws permitting substituted decision-making, involuntary detention and forced treatment.

Croatia (2015)

7. The Committee is concerned that for the entitlement to social services and benefits, distinction is made between different causes of impairments, such as war or accidents. It is further concerned that exclusion and segregation in education, work or residential living is not regarded as a form of discrimination.

8. The Committee recommends that disability based services and benefits are made available to all persons with disabilities irrespective of the cause of their impairment. It further recommends that the State party takes legislative and policy measures to clarify that disability based exclusion and segregation in education, employment and other fields of social life, is a form of discrimination.

Czech Republic (2015)

9. The Committee notes with concern that under the Anti- discrimination Act duty to provide reasonable accommodation is limited to employment and related labor relations.

10. The Committee calls upon the State party to amend its legislation and extend the prohibition of denial of reasonable accommodation to other areas besides employment and labor relations, in line with provisions of article 5 of the Convention.

11. The Committee is concerned at admitted absence of case law relating to judicial protection from disability-based discrimination.

12. The Committee calls upon the State party to take all necessary measures, including training of the judiciary, strengthening of independent human rights bodies and capacity-building of persons with disabilities and their organizations, to foster the use of available legal remedies by persons with disabilities facing the discrimination and inequality.

Dominican Republic (2015)

8. Although the Criminal Code establishes the offence of discrimination based on disability, the Committee notes with concern that the definition does not cover multiple or intersectional discrimination, to which persons with disabilities are often subject, and that there is no record of sentences handed down for discrimination against persons with disabilities. It is also

concerned that denial of reasonable accommodation is not included as a form of discrimination on grounds of disability.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party include multiple and intersectional discrimination in the definition of the offence of discrimination on grounds of disability. It also recommends that it adopt measures, including training, to enable persons with disabilities effectively to pursue the available legal remedies. In addition, it recommends that the State party recognize in law the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination in the exercise of all rights recognized in the Convention.

Germany (2015)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Current legislation does not contain a definition of reasonable accommodation and that the denial of such accommodation is not considered a form of discrimination;
- (b) The understanding of how reasonable accommodation can be implemented is still largely underdeveloped relating to administration, jurisdiction and social services provision;
- (c) There is no fixed schedule for implementing legal requirements at either the federal or Länder level.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop protection against discrimination for persons with disabilities, including intersectional discrimination, as a comprehensive, cross-cutting right in domestic legislation, including at Länder level, and collect relevant data on case law;**
- (b) Take steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation provisions are enshrined in law as an immediately enforceable right in all areas of law and policy, with an explicit definition in the law in line with Article 2 of the Convention, and that the denial of reasonable accommodation is recognised and punishable as a form of discrimination.**
- (c) Undertake systematic training on reasonable accommodation at federal, Länder and local levels across all sectors and with the private sector.**

Mongolia (2015)

9. The Committee is concerned about the fragmentation within the State party's disability-relevant anti-discrimination legislation and the lack of coordination, including with organisations of persons with disabilities and ministries, to ensure the effective implementation of coherent domestic laws as part of a strategy to implement the Convention. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the lack of legal recognition of denial of reasonable accommodation as a prohibited ground of discrimination in the State party.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party address discrimination on the grounds of disability as a cross-cutting issue in its legislation followed by the concrete incorporation of the concept of non-discrimination into all legislation concerning persons with disabilities. The State party is further recommended to adopt legislation securing denial of reasonable accommodation as an act of discrimination on the grounds of disability across all legislation. The State party is also recommended to establish an effective monitoring mechanism to deal with all aspects of compliance with this legislation. This should include the possibility for persons with disabilities to seek redress and commensurate compensation on discrimination based on disability. The Committee also recommends the State party to initiate the necessary training for and of public and private actors, including, among others, juridical persons, civil servants and representatives organisations of persons with disabilities on discrimination based on disability and the duty and possibilities to provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities.

Turkmenistan (2015)

13. The Committee is concerned that the legislation of the State party lacks a definition of disability-based discrimination, which explicitly addresses all forms of discrimination,

including the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination. It is also concerned about the lack of information and data regarding the implementation of measures taken to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, including legal remedies and measures.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation to incorporate a definition of disability-based discrimination, which explicitly addresses all forms of discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of existing measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, with clear targets based on comparable disaggregated data, and consider adopting further affirmative action measures and remedies to ensure equal and effective inclusion and protection of persons with disabilities.

Belgium (2014)

11. The Committee takes note of the anti-discrimination law which recognizes the concept of reasonable accommodation. It remains concerned about the situation of foreign persons with disabilities living in Belgium who experience situations of discrimination, and about cases of discrimination by association with a person or child with disabilities.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party review the remedies provided for by this law to ensure that complainants are able to seek injunctions and can receive damages once their claims for discrimination have been proven in court. It urges the State party to strengthen protection against discrimination, including discrimination by association, through the introduction of positive discrimination measures and awareness-raising and training of public officials at all levels.

Denmark (2014)

14. The Committee notes the establishment of the Government's anti-discrimination unit which has a mandate to monitor and prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities; however, it is concerned that the State party lacks comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that would provide protection from discrimination on the basis of disability beyond the labour market. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of legal remedies for persons with disabilities whose rights under the Convention have been violated, and the absence of available information thereon.

15. The Committee urges the Governments of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland to adopt new comprehensive cross-sectoral anti-discrimination legislation that extends protection to beyond the labour market and affirms the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided in all spheres of society, without any exemption; that it ensure effective legal remedies to persons with disabilities, including the possibility of submitting complaints related to discrimination on the basis of disability to the Board of Equal Treatment; and that it promote better awareness of the Convention among rights-holders.

16. The Committee is concerned at the lack of disaggregated data on cases of multiple and intersectional discrimination, and at the inadequate measures for dealing with cases of intersectional discrimination – for example, disability combined with gender or ethnicity – which require more development.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party collect and disseminate disaggregated data on cases of multiple and intersectional discrimination, and that it adopt effective and specific measures to prevent multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including permitting complaints of discrimination on more than one ground, establishing higher levels of compensation for victims, and imposing higher penalties for perpetrators.

Ecuador (2014)

14. The Committee is concerned that Ecuadorian legislation does not contain a definition of reasonable accommodation and that the denial of such accommodation is not considered a form of discrimination. The Committee is also concerned at the absence of institutional mechanisms to sanction discriminatory acts against persons with disabilities and identify and sanction intersecting forms of discrimination and the lack of measures to ensure the non-repetition of such acts.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party include in its domestic legislation the express requirement to make reasonable accommodation where necessary in a particular case and establish that the denial of such accommodation constitutes a form of discrimination on grounds of disability. The Committee recommends the establishment of independent bodies that are competent to deal with complaints and cases filed by persons with disabilities to combat discriminatory acts. Such bodies should have sufficient powers to carry out investigations and impose sanctions on public or private bodies that commit acts of discrimination, including forms of intersectional discrimination.

Mexico (2014)

9. The Committee is concerned at discrimination against persons with disabilities, which is compounded by other factors of social exclusion, such as age, gender, ethnicity and rural isolation. It is also concerned that, in some states, action is still pending on the adoption of laws prohibiting discrimination on grounds of disability and recognizing the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination based on disability.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party establish specific budget lines to meet its targets in respect of equality, as well as specific actions to combat cases of intersectional discrimination based on disability, age, gender, indigenous background and rural isolation, among other factors of exclusion. The Committee also encourages the State party to step up its efforts, by developing strategies for dissemination, awareness-raising and dialogue with local authorities, to ensure that all the states issue laws prohibiting discrimination based on disability and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination.

11. The Committee is concerned at the low number of complaints and rulings regarding cases of discrimination on grounds of disability, the lack of regulations under the Federal Act on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and the dearth of information on its dissemination in accessible formats, including in different indigenous languages.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate resources to have the Federal Act on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination translated into all indigenous languages in accessible formats (including Braille, sign language, easy-read and electronic formats). The Committee encourages the State party to conduct campaigns to fight discrimination against persons with disabilities, targeting the legal profession, including officials of the judiciary and lawyers.

New Zealand (2014)

9. The Committee notes that, in 2012, the New Zealand Court of Appeal affirmed that the policy of not paying some family carers to provide disability support services to adult disabled family members constituted unjustifiable discrimination on the basis of family status. The Committee is concerned that the Public Health and Disability Amendment Act 2013 reversed this court decision by denying carers' pay to some family members. The Committee is also concerned that these provisions also prevent some family members who are carers from making complaints of unlawful discrimination with respect to the Government's family care policy. The Committee notes that the independent monitoring mechanism has recommended reconsideration of this matter.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party reconsider this matter to ensure that all family members who are carers are paid on the same basis as other carers are, and recommends that family members who are carers be entitled to make complaints of unlawful discrimination in respect of the State party's family care policy.

11. The Committee is concerned that the Human Rights Act 1993 does not contain a separate definition of reasonable accommodation. The Committee appreciates that one can infer the concept from provisions of the Act. However, the Committee is concerned about its opaqueness and lack of clarity.

12. The Committee recommends that, in order to clarify the meaning of reasonable accommodation, the State Party give consideration to amending the Human Rights Act 1993 to include a definition of reasonable accommodation, in conformity with the definition of reasonable accommodation in article 2 of the Convention.

13. The Committee notes that a failure to understand the principle of reasonable accommodation is at the centre of many complaints that come to the New Zealand Human Rights Commission. The Committee notes that work has commenced on establishing guidelines on the application of the principle of reasonable accommodation, especially in the area of employment.

14. The Committee recommends that these guidelines be promptly completed in line with provisions of the Convention, and distributed.

Republic of Korea (2014)

11. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective implementation of the 2008 Anti-discrimination against and Remedies for Persons with Disabilities Act. It is particularly concerned that the majority of complaints seeking remedies have not been resolved. The Committee notes that the courts need to exercise the injunctive powers conferred upon them.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the human resources and independence of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. It also recommends that the cost of lawsuits be waived or reduced for victims of disability discrimination in order to ensure access to remedies through the courts, and that the requirements be lowered for the issuance by the Minister of Justice of a remedial order (set out in article 43 of the Anti-Discrimination against and Remedies for Persons with Disabilities Act). The Committee also encourages the State party to raise awareness among judges on the need to implement effectively the Anti-Discrimination against and Remedies of Persons with Disabilities Act and to exercise the injunctive powers conferred upon them.

Azerbaijan (2014)

12. The Committee is concerned that legislation on equality and non-discrimination in the State party lacks an express prohibition of disability-based discrimination, which presents challenges with regard to compliance with the law by the general public.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party should include in the new draft law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities an express prohibition of disability based discrimination and multiple forms of discrimination experienced by persons with disabilities. The Committee also urges the State party to incorporate the concept of reasonable accommodation into its new draft Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to ensure that this piece of legislation and all other relevant laws clearly affirm the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the grounds of disability.

14. The Committee is concerned at the lack of statistical information on the number of persons with disabilities belonging to national minorities, especially the Lezghin and the Talysh populations, which, according to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/AZE/CO/3), continue to be the victims of widespread discrimination, particularly in employment, housing, health and education.

15. The Committee recommends the introduction of policies targeted at eliminating discrimination among persons with disabilities pertaining to national minorities, especially the Lezghin and the Talysh populations that recognize that persons with disabilities often suffer from multiple forms of discrimination.

Costa Rica (2014)

11. The Committee regrets that anti-discrimination legislation does not recognize discrimination on the basis of disability and denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination. It is also concerned about the limited progress made in combating multiple discrimination on the basis of, among other grounds, age, gender, ethnicity and residence in a rural area.

12. The Committee urges the State party to take the legislative and administrative measures necessary to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and to explicitly include denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on the basis of disability. The State party should strengthen institutions and mechanisms to protect the rights of persons with disabilities by means of inter-agency coordination and specific measures to combat multiple discrimination.

Sweden (2014)

9. The Committee is concerned that the new bill on discrimination, which classifies the denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination, exempts organizations employing fewer than 10 employees. It is also concerned that the concept of denial of reasonable accommodation is not considered to be of general application throughout the legal framework of the State party and that authorities from the different levels of government are not bound by this legal obligation.

10. The Committee urges the State party to review the proposed draft bill with a view to ensuring its full harmonization with the provisions of article 5 of the Convention, and to take all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided in all spheres of society, in both public and professional contexts, without any exemption, based on the principle of equal opportunities for all. It also urges the State party to adopt a legal definition of reasonable accommodation and incorporate it into all relevant statute laws so that it can be applicable in all areas of government, including judicial and administrative areas.

11. The Committee is concerned that the systems for dealing with cases of intersectional discrimination, for example disability combined with gender or ethnicity, require more development.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party examine the appropriateness of the current structure used to deal with situations of intersectional discrimination.

Australia (2013)

14. The Committee is concerned that the scope of protected rights and grounds of discrimination in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* is narrower than under the Convention and does not provide the same level of legal protection to all persons with disabilities.

15. The Committee recommends the State party to strengthen anti-discrimination laws to address intersectional discrimination and to guarantee the protection from discrimination on the grounds of disability to explicitly cover all persons with disabilities including children, indigenous people, women and girls, hearing impaired, deaf, and people with psychosocial disabilities.

Austria (2013)

12. The Committee recognises the progress made in Austria in developing anti-discrimination laws at the federal and regional levels, however it notes that with one exception, the only remedy available is financial compensation. The exception is in employment matters, where further training programs and improvements of conditions in employment may be mandated. It appears that systems for dealing with matters of multiple discrimination, where disability is combined with gender or ethnicity, require more development.

13. The Committee recommends that the discrimination laws be strengthened by broadening the available remedies to include other remedies that require a change of behaviour in people who discriminate against persons with disabilities, such as injunctive powers. The Committee recommends that the State party examine the appropriateness of the current structures used to deal with situations of multiple discrimination.

14. While the Committee recognises women's right to reproductive autonomy, the Committee notes that under Austrian law it is legal for a foetus to be aborted up to the onset of birth if serious damage to the health of the foetus can be expected. The Committee is concerned that there appears to be a link between this provision and the fact that according to OECD statistics, births of children with Down's syndrome in Austria fell by 60% between 1995 and 2006. The Committee notes that discussions on this matter are underway.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish any distinction in the period allowed under law within which a pregnancy can be terminated based solely on disability.

El Salvador (2013)

13. The Committee is concerned about the absence of measures prohibiting and punishing all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities and the fact that the law does not recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt legislation prohibiting all forms of discrimination on the grounds of disability, setting out penalties in cases of discrimination and defining the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination.

15. The Committee notes that there are no affirmative action measures to speed up the de facto equality of persons with disabilities nor any mechanisms for reparation if they suffer discrimination.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to achieve real equality for persons with disabilities and that it establish fast-track legal and administrative remedies to obtain reparation in cases of discrimination.

Paraguay (2013)

13. The Committee acknowledges the measures taken by the State party to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities and prohibit discrimination against them; it is nevertheless concerned at the lack of any specific provision to prevent, eliminate and penalize discrimination against persons with disabilities, and that there is no provision that explicitly defines the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination.

14. The Committee urges the State party to take the necessary legislative and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination on grounds of disability and adopt legislation prohibiting discrimination; such measures should explicitly refer to the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on grounds of disability.

15. The Committee takes note of the adoption of the Plan on Equality and Non-Discrimination in the Civil Service; it is nevertheless concerned that the Plan does not explicitly cover persons with disabilities and that efforts to ensure its implementation in respect of persons with disabilities are inadequate.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to guarantee the material equality of persons with disabilities in the civil service and promote, alongside the Plan on Equality and Non-Discrimination, a broad policy of equality and non-discrimination in all areas, based on the tenets and principles of the Convention.

Argentina (2012)

11. The Committee notes with concern that neither the concept of reasonable accommodation nor recognition that the denial of such accommodation is a form of discrimination are explicitly included in anti-discrimination laws or in the laws on, among other things, employment, health and education. It also wishes to express its concern at the lack of simplified judicial and administrative remedies that would allow persons with disabilities to report cases of discrimination on grounds of disability. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on measures and actions designed to address the specific situations of persons with disabilities who belong to indigenous peoples and of deaf-blind persons.

12. The Committee urges the State party to incorporate the concept of reasonable accommodation into its anti-discrimination legislation and to ensure that the relevant laws

and regulations define the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination on grounds of disability. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to simplify existing judicial and administrative remedies in order to enable persons with disabilities to report acts of discrimination to which they have been subjected. The Committee also recommends that the State party devote special attention to the development of policies and programmes for persons with disabilities who belong to indigenous peoples and for deaf-blind persons with a view to putting an end to the many forms of discrimination to which these persons may be subjected.

China (2012)

11. While commending the legal prohibition of disability-based discrimination in the state party, the Committee is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive definition of discrimination against persons with disabilities. The Committee also worries about the contradictions between many local law regulations and the national law with regard to the prohibition of discrimination. The Committee is concerned that the state party does not consistently apply the concept of reasonable accommodation in relation to the principle of non-discrimination

12. The Committee explicitly encourages the state party to provide a legal definition of discrimination against persons with disabilities and include in such a definition also the prohibition of indirect discrimination. The Committee suggests to include a definition of reasonable accommodation in Chinese law which reflects the CRPD definition covering necessary and appropriate modification and adjustment applicable in a particular case beyond general accessibility. Furthermore, the State party should ensure that the law explicitly recognises the refusal of reasonable accommodation constitutes disability based discrimination.

Hong-Kong

55. The Committee is concerned about the rather passive role adopted by the Equal Opportunities Commission which is responsible for monitoring and executing the Disability Discrimination Ordinance.

56. The Committee recommends that the Equal Opportunities Commission review its role and assume a more proactive part, especially when handling complaint cases.

Macao

88. The Committee is concerned about the existence of de facto inequality in Macao, China,

89. The Committee recommends that the state party continue its efforts to ensure equality for persons with disabilities, so as to ensure the implementation of the spirit of the CRPD.

Hungary (2012)

15. The Committee notes with concern that the State party's legislation, including Act XXVI of 1998 on the Rights and Equal Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities and Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and Promotion of Equal Opportunities, fails to state that denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination.

16. The Committee calls upon the State party to take steps to ensure that its legislation explicitly prescribes that failure to provide reasonable accommodation constitutes a prohibited act of discrimination.

17. The Committee notes with concern that the Act on the protection of the life of the fetus makes "abortive treatment possible for a wider circle than in general for the fetuses deemed to have health damage or some disability" (CRPD/C/HUN/1), thus discriminating on the basis of disability.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish the distinction made in the Act on the protection of the life of the fetus in the period allowed under law within which a pregnancy can be terminated, based solely on disability.

Peru (2012)

12. The Committee is concerned that, albeit the existence of a large number of different ethnic groups in Peru, indigenous and minority persons with disabilities are not considered as being at high risk of suffering multiple discrimination and that no data on their number and situation exists. In this connection, the Committee expresses its concern at the situation of indigenous and minority persons with disabilities, in particular women and children with disabilities that live in rural areas, as well as persons with disabilities of African descent.

13. The Committee urges the State party to improve its data gathering in order to have clear statistics on indigenous and minority persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends that the State party place emphasis on the development of policies and programmes on indigenous and minority persons with disabilities, in particular women and children with disabilities that live in rural areas, as well as persons of African descent, in order to address the multiple forms of discrimination that these persons may suffer.

Spain (2011)

19. The Committee welcomes the regulatory amendments introduced under Act 26/2011 that would abolish the need to have a disability certificate to bring a discrimination claim before a judicial body. However, it regrets the lack of information on cases of discrimination, and it is concerned that persons with disabilities will still be marginalized. The Committee is further concerned by the lack of information on reasonable accommodation. It is also concerned that, in practice, disability affects parents' guardianship or custody of their children and that legal protection against discrimination on the grounds of disability is not enforceable in cases of discrimination due to perceived disability or association with a person with a disability.

20. The Committee urges the State party to expand the protection of discrimination on the grounds of disability to explicitly cover multiple disability, perceived disability and association with a person with a disability, and to ensure the protection from denial of reasonable accommodation, as a form of discrimination, regardless of the level of disability. Moreover, guidance, awareness-raising and training should be given to ensure a better comprehension by all stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, of the concept of reasonable accommodation and prevention of discrimination.

Tunisia (2011)

12. The Committee takes note of Law No. 2005-83 on the advancement and protection of persons with disabilities. However it regrets the lack of clarity on the application of the concept of reasonable accommodation.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party incorporate the definition of reasonable accommodation in national law, and apply it in accordance with article 2 of the Convention, in particular by ensuring that the law explicitly recognizes the denial of reasonable accommodation as disability-based discrimination. The Committee invites the State party to make greater efforts to raise awareness on non-discrimination among members of the legal profession, particularly the judiciary, and persons with disabilities themselves, including through training programmes on the concept of reasonable accommodation. The Committee recommends that the State party act with urgency to include an explicit prohibition of disability-based discrimination in an anti-discrimination law, as well as ensure that disability-based discrimination is prohibited in all laws, particularly those governing elections, labour, education, and health, among others.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 6 CRPD
(Women with disabilities)*

September 2025

Article 6 – Women with disabilities

1. *States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard, shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.*
2. *States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.*

Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)

Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)

Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Uganda (2016)

Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
Belgium (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Hungary (2012)
Peru (2012)
Spain (2011)
Tunisia (2011)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

9. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Sexual and reproductive health services that are not fully accessible, inclusive, or rights-based for women and girls with disabilities, especially in rural and underserved areas, with insufficient mental health support and information, and no gender-responsive budgeting or tracking of resources benefiting women with disabilities;
- (b) Significant barriers for women and girls with disabilities to inclusive education, employment, social welfare, and leadership opportunities, compounded by underrepresentation in decision-making and lack of disaggregated data on participation;
- (c) Women and girls with disabilities are subjected to violence, including gender-based and sexual violence, coerced marriage, abduction, trafficking, and rape, and there is a lack of adequate investigation, legal prohibition, protective measures, as well as information on measures taken to prevent such violations.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Provide inclusive, rights-based sexual and reproductive healthcare, including mental health support, ensuring availability in rural and underserved areas, and establish gender-responsive budgeting and expenditure-tracking systems with data disaggregated by gender and disability;**
- (b) Ensure equal access for women and girls with disabilities to inclusive education, employment, and social welfare, promote their participation in leadership and decision-making roles through targeted measures and outreach, and collect and publish disaggregated participation data;**
- (c) Prohibit, prevent, and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities, including gender-based and sexual violence, coerced marriage, abduction, trafficking, and rape; ensure that all cases are promptly and impartially investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and that victims receive protection and redress.**

Finland (2025)

10. The Committee is concerned that the Government Equality Program 2024-2027 and other gender policies, including those on gender-based violence:

- (a) Do not mainstream disability, lack an intersectional approach, nor they address the requirements of Roma, Sámi and immigrant women and girls with disabilities only in passing;
- (b) Do not contain effective mechanisms for their implementation, monitoring and accountability.

11. The Committee recommends the State party:

- (a) Mainstream disability and follow an intersectional approach in all legislation and policies on gender equality, gender-based violence and disability, and ensure that they encompass intersectional forms of discrimination faced by Roma, Sámi and immigrant women and girls with disabilities;**
- (b) Develop mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and accountability of policies on women with disabilities;**

Kiribati (2025)

11. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The insufficient inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the design and implementation of gender programs and policies, such as the National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Development 2019-2022, in all consultation and decision-making processes affecting women, and in the programs and activities of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs;
- (b) The lack of support and resourcing for women and girl with disabilities to be able to participate and engage through their representative organizations in consultations, programs

and activities, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation and accessible processes and events.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop strategies and protocols for the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the design and implementation of gender programmes and policies, in all consultation and decision-making processes affecting women, and in the programs and activities of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs;

(b) Work in partnership with and provide sufficient resources to women and girls with disabilities through their representative organisations to facilitate participation in consultations, programs and activities, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation and accessible processes and events.

Maldives (2025)

11. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the lack of strategies, policies and programmes, as well as adequate information, including disaggregated data, on the situation of women with disabilities;

(b) At the lack of inclusion of a gender perspective in disability-related legislation and policies, and of a disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, which leads to the further marginalization and exclusion from protection of women and girls with disabilities;

(c) That the existing patriarchal norms and attitudinal barriers prevent women and girls with disabilities from participation in public life and access to education, employment, social protection and health, in particular sexual and reproductive health services.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and adopt strategies, policies and programmes, in particular in the fields of education, employment, health and social protection, that promote their autonomy and full participation in society, and adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women with disabilities in all spheres of life, in particular in all public decision-making processes;

(b) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in all gender legislation and policies, in particular the Gender Equality Act (2016) and Gender Equality Action Plan, mainstream a gender perspective in disability legislation, policies and programmes, in close consultation and active involvement of women and girls with disabilities through their representative organizations, in the design and implementation of gender- and disability-related policies and programmes;

(c) Develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns and educational programmes throughout society, including at the family level, with regard to women with disabilities to promote respect for their rights and dignity, combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices and ensure their access to social services and health, in particular sexual and reproductive health services and strengthen redress mechanisms to ensure that it is disability inclusive and accessible for women with disabilities.

Canada (2025)

11. The Committee notes with concern that women with disabilities:

(a) Experience disproportionate rates of poverty, barriers to accessible housing, homelessness, and lack of access to financial resources, particularly First Nations, Inuit and Métis women with disabilities, and off-reserve and non-status Indigenous women with disabilities;

(b) Are insufficiently represented in political, advocacy, and leadership positions in public life, private enterprises, and medium and small businesses.

12. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Mainstream gender and disability into all poverty and homelessness laws, policies, and strategies, including the Poverty Reduction Act and the National Housing Strategy, and ensure that they address the requirements of women with disabilities, including women with disabilities and intersecting identities;

(b) Take concrete action to achieve the participation and representation of women with disabilities in decision-making positions in all areas of political and public life, private enterprises, and medium and small businesses, on an equal basis with others.

Dominican Republic (2025)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of laws, policies, programmes and measures to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, in particular in cases of gender-based violence, such as the Strategic Plan for a life free from violence for women (2020) that do not have specific provisions for women with disabilities;

(b) The lack of measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities have autonomous access to protection mechanisms, including temporary shelters and therapies to aid recovery from violence, abuse and exploitation, throughout the territory of the State party;

(c) Women and girls with disabilities not being represented on the Peer Council for Equality and Equal Opportunities.

12. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party, in close consultation with women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Establish or amend laws, policies, programmes and other measures to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, with a particular focus on preventing gender-based violence against them;

(b) Ensure that services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, including support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible throughout the State party and that the necessary support is provided;

(c) Implement measures to ensure the representation of women and girls with disabilities on all platforms where women's issues are discussed, in particular within the Peer Council for Equality and Equal Opportunities.

European Union (2025)

20. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) EU legislation and policies on gender equality and disability insufficiently protect the rights of women with disabilities, in particular that the EU Gender Equality Strategy for 2020-2025 and the 2021-2030 Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities lack a focus on the rights of women with disabilities;

(b) The implementation of the Gender Action Plan GAP III at the level of Member States and in EU external action do not systematically consider experiences of multiple and intersectional discrimination;

(c) The views of women and girls with disabilities have not been consistently incorporated in policy development, even when they are consulted;

(d) There is a gap in disaggregated data on the participation of women with disabilities in decision-making positions across the political, economic and social spheres and there is a lack of data collection on inclusion and intersectionality in EU external action.

21. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Mainstream disability and gender across all legislation and policy frameworks and programmes, and expand the scope of the Gender Equality Strategy to include the rights of women with disabilities to work and employment, and the rights of women and girls with disabilities to political participation, an adequate standard of living, health and education;
- (b) Strengthen cooperation between the European Institute for Gender Equality and Member States' national programmes for the advancement of women and girls to effectively address multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, and ensure that all international cooperation is disability- and gender-responsive and that it protects women and girls with disabilities in institutions, belonging to ethnic minorities, and in situation of migration;
- (c) Ensure close consultation and active involvement of women and girls with disabilities through their representative organizations in the preparation and implementation of the EU policies and programmes;
- (d) Improve disaggregated data collection on the participation of women and girls with disabilities in the political, economic and social spheres and on inclusion and intersectionality in EU external action in partner countries, and closely consult and actively involve their representative organizations, in the EU and in partner countries, in the development of data collection systems that identify their diverse lived experiences.

Palau (2025)

11. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of adequate information, including disaggregated data, about the situation of women and girls with disabilities, in particular on women with disabilities in economic activity as well as in their representation in decision making at all levels;
- (b) The lack of inclusion of disability perspective in gender related legislation and policies, such as the Family Protection Act (FPA), as well as the lack of a gender perspective in disability-related legislation and policies, which leads to further marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities;
- (c) That the national legislative framework does not explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;
- (d) The lack of empowerment programmes for women with disabilities in employment, in public and political life and in decision-making.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct a study on the situation of women and girls with disabilities in the State party to collect gender-disaggregated data and identify the specific situation and needs of women with disabilities in order to develop and adopt strategies, policies and programmes, especially in the fields of education, employment, health and social protection, that promote their autonomy and full participation in society and adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, as well as their involvement in all public decision-making processes;
- (b) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation, and mainstream a gender perspective in disability policies and programmes, while ensuring consultation with and the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities, in the design and implementation of gender- and disability-related policies and programmes;
- (c) Recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and adopt specific legislation and strategies that reflect a gender perspective and intersectionality;
- (d) Develop and adopt strategies, policies and programmes, as well as awareness-raising campaigns and educational programmes throughout society that promote the autonomy and full participation in society and adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and

full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, as well as their involvement in all public decision-making processes.

Tuvalu (2025)

11. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the design and implementation of gender programs and policies, such as the National Gender Equity Policy 2024, the work of the Gender Affairs Division (GAD) and in UN Women partner programs, such as Advancing Gender Justice In the Pacific and the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that the issues and recommendations pertaining to women and girls with disabilities in the 2018 Tuvalu Study on People with Disability are included in gender policies, programs, the work of the Gender Affairs Division and in partner programs designed for women;

(b) Work in partnership with, and provide sufficient resources to organizations of persons with disabilities, including Fusi Alofa Association to closely consult and actively involve women and girls with disabilities, including those on outer islands in the design, implementation and review of gender policies and programs, including the National Gender Equity Policy 2024, the work of the Gender Affairs Division and in partner programs designed for women and girls.

Viet Nam (2025)

11. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Despite legal frameworks on gender equality, women and girls with disabilities continue to experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in areas such as employment, healthcare, education, and family life;

(b) There is insufficient gender-disaggregated data on the participation of women with disabilities in political, economic, and social decision-making processes, particularly in leadership, employment, and access to public services;

(c) Cultural norms on gender and disabilities discourage discussions on sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially for single women, deterring them from seeking information;

(d) Opportunities for the economic empowerment of women with disabilities remain limited, particularly in terms of entrepreneurship, vocational training, and employment opportunities.

12. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Take targeted measures to address the unique barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities in accessing education, employment, independent living, and other services, ensuring their full participation in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others;

(b) Improve data collection on women and girls with disabilities, with a focus on their participation in leadership, employment, and access to public services, ensuring that gender-disaggregated data feeds into policy and programme development;

(c) Guarantee, through public policies, the promotion of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities, married or not, enabling them to exercise these rights without impediments due to cultural norms;

(d) Develop programmes and policies to support the economic empowerment of women with disabilities, including through entrepreneurship, vocational training, and employment opportunities that are inclusive and accessible.

Belarus (2024)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of mainstreaming of the rights of women with disabilities in the existing national policy and the Action Plan on Gender Equality;
- (b) The lack of representation of women with disabilities in the National Council on Gender Policy;
- (c) The lack of effective legal provisions and practical measures to protect women with disabilities from multiple discrimination and violence.

12. Recalling the Committee's general comment No. 6 on equality and non-discrimination (2018), and the concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2016 (CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/8), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the current national policies, strategies and action plans on gender equality in close consultation with, and with active involvement of the organizations of women with disabilities to ensure full inclusion of their rights;**
- (b) Ensure effective representation of women with disabilities in National Council on Gender Policy;**
- (c) Amend the current national legislation, in particular the Civil Code, Criminal Code, Marriage and Family Code, and harmonize them with the Convention and the relevant human rights treaties for the protection of women with disabilities from violence, forced abortion and "forced abandonment" of their children, and ensure equality for women with disabilities on all spheres of life.**

Belgium (2024)

12. The Committee notes with concern, that:

- (a) The consideration of women and girls with disabilities and their rights under the Convention in strategies, public policies and plans on disability and gender equality measures is scarce and selective, on the federal level as well as in the regions;
- (b) There is limited information on statistics on the barriers encountered by women and girls with disabilities in the exercise of their rights under the Convention, rendering it impossible to reliably understand the current situation of women and girls with disabilities in state, society and economy and its causes.

13. Recalling its General Comment No. 3 (2016) and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities under the Convention in all public policies, action plans and strategies on all levels of government, including in those concerning persons the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of women;**
- (b) Establish mechanisms to collect and compile statistics on the barriers women and girls with disabilities encounter in the exercise of their rights under the Convention, disaggregated by impairment, race, age, region and other relevant criteria.**

Benin (2024)

11. The Committee notes with concern that the gender equality legislation and policies, including Act No. 2021-13 of 20 December 2021 amending and supplementing Act No. 2002-07 of 24 August 2004 on the Personal and Family Code of the Republic of Benin, and Act No. 2011-26 of 9 January 2012 on the prevention and punishment of violence against women and girls, lack measures to address the situation of women and girls with disabilities. The Committee also notes with concern that disability, gender and inclusion focal points have yet to be appointed in all ministries.

12. The Committee recommends that in keeping with its General Comment No. 3 on women and girls, SDGs 5.1 and 5.c, and with the close consultation and active involvement of women and girls with disabilities through their representative organizations, the State party:

- (a) Ensure, as soon as possible, that all gender equality legislation and policies incorporate disability and that targets, timeframes and mechanisms for independent monitoring are established;
- (b) Establish disability and gender inclusion focal points in all government ministries and provide them with human, technical and financial resources to enable their work in mainstreaming the rights of women and girls with disabilities in their work;
- (c) Establish binding targets, deadlines and indicators to measure progress in advancing the situation of women and girls with disabilities.

Burkina Faso (2024)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient protection of women with disabilities against gender-based violence, access to justice, education, health, access to basic social services beyond health care comprehensively covering the extra costs that arise from a disability, and economic empowerment of women and girls with disabilities in laws and policies, including laws and policies relating to persons with disabilities which do not explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;
- (b) The insufficient participation of women with disabilities and their representative organizations in decision-making processes in public and political life;
- (c) The insufficiency of disaggregated information and data collection on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, in order to design adequate policy responses.

13. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Undertake an intersectional analysis of the implementation of the Convention with regard to women and girls with disabilities in all policy areas, including education, employment, health and justice, and mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in all legislation and strategies;
- (b) Engage with organizations of women and girls with disabilities and ensure their close consultation and active involvement in all public decision-making processes, and in the development of all policies concerning gender equality and gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, forced marriages and human trafficking;
- (c) Ensure systematic data collection and periodic studies on the situation of women and girls with disabilities and adopt benchmarks and indicators on progress towards inclusive equality for women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life.

Denmark (2024)

23. The Committee is concerned that the Act on Gender Equality has not been amended to specifically include women and girls with disabilities since the initial report of the State party. It is also concerned about the lack of disaggregated information and data collection on intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.

24. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and its previous recommendation , recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark ensure that the perspective of gender and disability is included in its laws and policies, and in their implementation and evaluation. It also recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark ensure systematic data collection and periodic studies on the situation of women and girls with disabilities.

Ghana (2024)

12. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The Persons with Disabilities Act 715 lack a specific provisions relating to women and girls with disabilities;

- (b) The absence of disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities;
- (c) Women and girls with disabilities have limited access to equality inclusive education, health and equal employment opportunities, and that social protection programs fail to reach women and girls with disabilities and their families.

13. Recalling General Comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Align its legislation with the Convention and amend all relevant national legislation to address issues faced by women and girls with disabilities;**
- (b) Implement measures in close consultation and with the active involvement of women and girls with disabilities through their representative organizations, including those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and with albinism, to collect data in all sectors, including health, education, employment, political participation, access to justice, social protection, violence, migration and internal displacement;**
- (c) Ensure that public policies on education, labour and health are disability and gender responsive and include measures for access to information and communications. The Committee also recommends the provision of training for all professionals to give services to women and girls with disabilities, including women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with albinism.**

Mauritius (2024)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a gender perspective in disability-related legislation and policies, and the absence of explicit reference to intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities in the national legislative framework, including in relation to access to health, education and political and public life;
- (b) The lack of representation of women with disabilities on the National Women's Council and the National Women's Entrepreneur Council, among other bodies.

12. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in all gender legislation and strategies based on the human rights model of disability, mainstream a gender perspective in disability policies and programmes and recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure the inclusion and active involvement of women and girls with disabilities in the National Women's Council and the National Women's Entrepreneur Council.**

Netherlands (2024)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of laws and policies on gender equality in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of policies, programs, and measures to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, particularly in cases of domestic and sexual violence;
- (c) The absence of government plans to take action aimed at the advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities and the omission to place the position of women and girls with disabilities on the national agenda;
- (d) The lack of explicit inclusion of women with disabilities in policies about gender equality or disability even though they are more likely to fall victim to violence, including sexual violence, than other women and men with disabilities, and the lack of awareness of the intersection of gender and disability at the level of policy makers.

18. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends

that the State party, in close consultation with women and girls with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Enact specific laws and policies that guarantee gender equality in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, in order to provide a foundation for women with disabilities to enjoy equal rights across all aspects of society.

(b) Establish policies, programs, and other measures to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, with a particular focus on preventing domestic and sexual violence against them.

(c) Ensure that the rights of women with disability are taken into account in all relevant legislative and policy frameworks and placed prominently on government plans and agendas;

(d) Develop policies and programs on gender equality and disability that explicitly address the requirements of women with disabilities, and improve the awareness of the intersection of gender and disabilities at the level of policy makers.

Ukraine (2024)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of support of the State party for women and children with disabilities in conflict-affected areas, including women with and without disabilities who are in charge of the care and education of children with disabilities;

(b) The prevalence of discrimination against women, particularly women with disabilities that are internally displaced or seeking international protection, in charge of supporting persons with disabilities and/or that have acquired a disability during the conflict, in accessing social entitlements, housing, humanitarian aid, and other entitlements.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement urgent measures so that mothers and children with disabilities receive State support to protect their rights, including for the care and education of children with disabilities;

(b) Ensure the implementation of the 2022 recommendations from CEDAW (CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/9) on the adoption of comprehensive policies and programs to protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, in particular those facing intersecting forms of discrimination.

Azerbaijan (2024)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Gender-based violence and access to services, education and economic empowerment for women and girls with disabilities are neither sufficiently addressed in the laws and policies relating to equality such as the National Activity Plan on the Enhancement of the Efficiency of Human Rights nor in the laws and policies relating to persons with disabilities such as the new law "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities";

(b) Laws and policies relating to gender equality, such as the National Action Plan on the Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence in Azerbaijan for 2019-2023, the Law N-150-IIIQ on Gender Equality passed in 2006 and the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence passed in 2010, have not sufficiently addressed issues affecting women and girls with disabilities;

14. Recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into disability policies and programmes and into gender equality legislation and policies, in particular the National Activity Plan on the Enhancement of the Efficiency of Human Rights, the Law "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" and policies to combat gender-based violence, while ensuring

consultation with and the active involvement of women and girls with disabilities in the design and implementation of gender- and disability-related policies and programmes;

(b) Strengthen gender-responsive budget allocations for the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes and measures to empower and ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life, combat gender-based stereotypes and promote their involvement and equal participation in all public decision-making processes.

Bahrain (2024)¹

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information and disaggregated data on women with disabilities showing their vulnerability to abuse and violence.

(b) The lack of measures in national policies and legislation, including the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, to ensure that women with disabilities are protected from all forms of violence and have access to complaint and protection mechanisms.

(c) Women with disabilities in residential institutions and day-care centres are deprived of their fundamental freedoms and rights, including their right to independent living, education and employment.

(d) The lack of participation of women with disabilities in decision-making processes and their lack of representation in national councils and institutions, including institutions concerned with women's and family issues and rights.

13. Recalling the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/4, para. 27), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide disaggregated information on the situation of women with disabilities in the areas of prevention and protection from violence, access to sexual and reproductive health and equal access to employment opportunities.

(b) Include effective measures in national policies and legislation to ensure that women with disabilities are protected from all forms of violence and have access to complaint mechanisms.

(c) Review Law No. 17 of 2015 on Protection from Domestic Violence and include provisions to ensure that girls and women with disabilities are fully protected from violence and have access to protection and rehabilitation programmes for victims of violence.

(d) Include women with disabilities in decision-making processes in all matters related to their rights and issues, and represent them in national bodies and councils, including those specific to women.

Costa Rica (2024)

11. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) Las insuficientes medidas legales y políticas para promover y proteger los derechos de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, de manera explícita, particularmente en la Política Nacional para la Igualdad efectiva entre Mujeres y Hombres 2018-2030 (PIEG);

b) Que los programas de formación y capacitación política del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INAMU) no prioricen a las mujeres con discapacidad;

c) La inexistencia de un protocolo para la protección de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad contra la explotación, la violencia y el abuso, derivado de la violencia de género;

d) La falta de medidas para asegurar el acceso, de manera autónoma, de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad a los mecanismos de protección, incluyendo albergues temporales y terapias de recuperación en casos de violencia, abuso y explotación en todo el territorio del Estado parte;

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

e) La baja representatividad de las mujeres con discapacidad en el Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INAMU) y la falta de programas de empoderamiento para las mujeres con discapacidad en el empleo, la vida pública y política, la toma de decisiones y el poder judicial;
f) La falta de datos sobre violencia contra mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, debido a la inexistencia de información desagregada del sistema de recolección de datos estadísticos.

12. Recordando su observación general núm. 3 (2016), sobre las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, así como las metas 5.1, 5.2 y 5.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Incrementar esfuerzos para incorporar la perspectiva de discapacidad en las leyes y políticas de igualdad de género, de manera explícita, e incorporar una perspectiva de género en las leyes y políticas de discapacidad, en estrecha consulta y con la participación activa de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, en particular las organizaciones de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, así como agregar la perspectiva de género y de discapacidad en la estrategia nacional para la inclusión financiera;**
- b) Incrementar las medidas de apoyo para que las mujeres con discapacidad se incluyan en la vida política y pública del Estado e incluirlas como grupo objetivo en los programas de capacitación y formación del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INAMU);**
- c) Acelerar la elaboración e implementación del protocolo para la protección de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad contra la explotación, la violencia y el abuso;**
- d) Garantizar que los servicios, incluidos centros de apoyo y refugios de emergencia, para mujeres y niñas con discapacidad que son víctimas de violencia de género sean accesibles en todo el territorio del Estado parte y que se brinde el apoyo necesario;**
- e) Adopte medidas destinadas a lograr el empoderamiento de las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad y garantizar que estén representadas en la vida política en funciones decisorias, entre otros en el Instituto Nacional para las Mujeres y otros órganos gubernamentales, así como en el Parlamento y el poder judicial;**
- f) Reforzar la labor de recopilación de datos exhaustivos y desglosados sobre violencia contra mujeres y niñas con discapacidad.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

13. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of measures relating to women and girls with disabilities in legislation and public policies for the promotion of gender equality and womens' rights, including in the legislation to combat domestic violence and the Concept of Family and Gender Policy until 2030;**
- (b) The absence of information about the situation of women and girls with disabilities facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and the lack of legal provisions expressly protecting them from discrimination on the basis of gender and its intersection with other grounds for discrimination.**

14. Recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct a comprehensive review of legislation and public policies to mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in all gender equality legislation and to incorporate a gender perspective and intersectionality into public policies, including gender equality and disability policies and programmes;**
- (b) Collect information about the situation of women and girls with disabilities facing multiple and intersectional discrimination, recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including against women and girls with disabilities and take measures to prevent and protect women and girls with disabilities from multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination.**

Nicaragua (2024)

10. A pesar de que el Estado parte ha sido reconocido por Organismos Internacionales por el avance en la reducción de la desigualdad de género, que cuenten con el Ministerio de la Mujer y con la “Ley Integral contra la Violencia hacia la Mujer” (Ley 779), el Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) Las pocas medidas transversales que promuevan y protejan los derechos de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad;
- b) La ausencia de legislación que reconozca la discriminación indirecta por razón de sexo y género, así como de medidas para prevenir y eliminar la discriminación múltiple y la violencia en contra de mujeres con discapacidad, en particular, aquélla que experimentan las mujeres con discapacidad intelectual, psicosocial o múltiple, las mujeres indígenas con discapacidad y las que viven en áreas rurales;
- c) La falta de información detallada sobre las políticas y programas destinados a promover la igualdad entre hombres y mujeres, así como la incertidumbre mencionada en el párrafo 37 del 3er informe sobre la participación de las mujeres con discapacidad en dichos programas específicos.
- d) La falta de información sobre la coordinación entre el Ministerio de Asuntos de la Mujer y el Ministerio de Asuntos de la Familia, la Juventud y la Infancia en relación con el tema de la discapacidad;
- e) Que no se cuenta con datos de cuántas mujeres y niñas con discapacidad son beneficiarias de los programas sociales como el “Programa Usura Cero”, los bonos productivos, el “Programa Nicaragua – Fuerza Bendita”, los programas de viviendas y los programas de salud de atención integral a las mujeres.

11. Recordando su observación general núm. 3 (2016), sobre las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, así como las metas 5.1, 5.2 y 5.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Transversalizar el enfoque de derechos humanos sobre la discapacidad en sus leyes y políticas de igualdad de género, e incorporar una perspectiva de género en las leyes y políticas de discapacidad, con la participación efectiva de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan;**
- b) Establecer políticas claras contra la discriminación de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, y mecanismos para la presentación de quejas, su seguimiento, investigación y, en su caso, sanción y restauración;**
- c) Fortalecer las medidas que promuevan el empoderamiento de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, su inclusión en el ámbito educativo, laboral y de salud;**
- d) Transversalizar las políticas de los Ministerios para que contemplen a las personas con discapacidad con enfoque de género y edad;**
- e) Crear registros desagregados que identifiquen el número de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad beneficiadas por los distintos programas sociales.**

Sweden (2024)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive intersectional approach to ensure that issues pertaining to women and girls with disabilities, including migrant and national minority women and girls with disabilities, are mainstreamed into both gender and disability legislation and policies;
- (b) The lack of disaggregated data about the situation of women and girls with disabilities, and on the impact of legislation and public policies on their rights under the Convention.

16. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016), reiterates its previous recommendation and the recommendations by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and recommends that the State party, at the national, regional and municipal levels:

- (a) Strengthen measures and policy mechanisms to ensure that the rights of women and girls with disabilities, including migrant and national minority women and girls with**

disabilities, are comprehensively mainstreamed into all gender equality and disability-related legislation and policies;

(b) Ensure that data collection systems and impact assessment of legislation and policies include indicators and disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities.

Zambia (2024)

11. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of adequate information, including disaggregated data, about the situation of women and girls with disabilities, in particular on women with disabilities in economic activity as well as in their representation in decision making at all levels;

(b) That a large number of women and girls with disabilities are reported to live in poverty due to limited education, employment and economic opportunities and social exclusion;

(c) That programmes aimed at the advancement of women, including Girls Education and Women's Empowerment Programme and livelihoods projects do not specifically target girls and women with disabilities;

(d) That women with disabilities are victims of widespread stigma and discrimination with regard to access to health and particularly reproductive health services.

12. **The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Conduct a study on the situation of women and girls with disabilities in the State party to identify the specific situation and needs of women with disabilities in order to develop and adopt strategies, policies and programmes, especially in the fields of education, employment, health and social protection, that promote their autonomy and full participation in society and adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, as well as their involvement in all public decision-making processes;**

(b) **Put in place measures, including affirmative actions to ensure that women with disabilities have full access to education opportunities, empowerment programmes and social services for enhancement of their participation in development on equal basis with others, and that they are represented in economic activities and in leadership positions at local and national levels;**

(c) **Ensure that Girls Education and Women's Empowerment Programme and livelihoods projects include women and girls with disabilities;**

(d) **Develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns and educational programmes throughout society, including at the family level, with regard to women with disabilities and in a manner that promotes respect for their rights and dignity, combats stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices and promotes awareness of their capacities and contributions, and ensure their access to social services including access to health and particularly reproductive health services.**

Andorra (2023)

13. The Committee notes that Act No. 6/2022 on the effective application of the right to equal treatment and opportunities and non-discrimination between women and men includes disability as a ground of discrimination. However, it observes with concern:

(a) The limited disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, as well as the lack of a gender perspective in disability-related legislation and policies;

(b) That women and girls with disabilities are not protected sufficiently from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and the lack of data collection mechanisms aimed at identifying these areas of discrimination;

(c) The lack of empowerment programmes for women and girls with disabilities in employment, in public and political life, and in decision-making.

14. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into gender legislation and policies and a gender perspective into disability legislation and policies;**
- (b) Strengthen strategies to combat multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, and promote research on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, including their concerns in the collection of data on persons with disabilities, and on women in general;**
- (c) Implement measures, in consultation with representative organizations of women with disabilities, to empower women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life, as well as ensure their involvement in all public decision-making processes.**

Austria (2023)

18. The Committee notes with the concern:

- (a) The lack of participation of women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development and implementation of measures relating to the implementation of the Convention, including in higher education, employment, and public affairs.
- (b) The insufficient measures to establish effective violence prevention and protection mechanisms accessible for all women and girls with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities in institutions;
- (c) The lack of disaggregated data about the situation of women and girls with disabilities on the Federal and Länder levels.
- (d) The lack of a disability perspective in gender equality laws;
- (e) The lack of mechanisms and procedures to address multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women with disabilities.

19. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt effective and specific measures to prevent multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.**
- (b) Ensure women and girls with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities in institutions, have effective access to prevention and protection mechanisms against gender-based violence, including helplines, shelters, sexual education programs, crisis management plans, and health counselling.**
- (c) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender equality and disability-related legislation and policies.**

Germany (2023)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive intersectional approach to ensure that issues pertaining to women and girls with disabilities, including migrant women and girls with disabilities, are mainstreamed in both gender and disability legislation and policies;
- (b) The lack of sufficient long-term funding of representative organizations of women and girls with disabilities to advance and promote their human rights.

14. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and recommends that the State party, at the Federal and Länder levels:

- (a) Strengthen measures and policy mechanisms to ensure that the issues pertaining to women and girls with disabilities, including migrant women and girls with disabilities, are comprehensively addressed within gender and disability legislation and policies;**

(b) Develop measures, including sufficient long-term financial resourcing, to support organizations of women and girls with disabilities to advance their human rights.

Israel (2023)

13. The Committee notes with concern that women and girls with disabilities experience multiple and intersectional discrimination on the basis of, sex, age, LGBTIQ status, place of residence, migrant, refugee status or ethnic origin. It is particularly concerned about:

(a) The absence of measures concerning women and girls with disabilities in disability specific laws and policies and in legislation to promote gender equality in areas such as work, and sexual and reproductive health and rights;

(b) The insufficient disaggregated information and data collection about women and girls with disabilities, including women living in occupied territories and in relation to areas such as participation in public and political life, access to land ownership, and parental rights.

14. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and adopt specific legislation and strategies that reflect a gender perspective and intersectionality;

(b) Establish a consultation process with women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations aimed at identifying gaps and mainstreaming the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation and a gender perspective into disability policies and programmes, including in the Disability Law of 1998, the Welfare Services for Persons with Disabilities Law of 2022 and their subordinate legislation;

(c) Conduct gender and disability impact assessments of any proposed policy, legislation, regulation, budget, investment or other government action to introduce measures towards the advancement of gender equality and the rights of women and girls with disabilities, including those still living in institutions;

(d) Ensure systematic data collection and periodic studies on the situation of women and girls with disabilities including in occupied territories, with the aim to adopt comprehensive measures to empower women, promote their rights and guarantee their inclusion in society.

Malawi (2023)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Gender-based violence, access to justice and economic empowerment for women and girls with disabilities have been insufficiently addressed in the laws and policies relating to persons with disabilities;

(b) Laws and policies relating to women and girls, such as the 2013 Gender Equality Act, the 2011 Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance, and Protection) Act, and the 2014 – 2020 National Plan of Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence have not sufficiently addressed issues affecting women and girls with disabilities;

(c) The low budget allocation for mainstreaming disability in public policies of the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability, and Social Welfare.

14. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into disability policies and programmes and into gender equality legislation and policies, in particular the new Persons with Disabilities Bill 2023, the 2013 Gender Equity Act, the 2011 Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance, and Protection) Act, and policies to combat gender-based violence, while ensuring consultation with and the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities in the design and implementation of gender- and disability-related policies and programmes;

(b)Strengthen budget allocations for the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes and measures to empower and ensure inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life, combat gender-based stereotypes, and promote their involvement and equal participation in all public decision-making processes.

Mauritania (2023)

11.The Committee notes with concern:

(a)The insufficient participation of women with disabilities and their representative organizations and groups in decision-making processes in public and political life, in particular in the National Observatory on the Rights of Women and Girls (established by Decree No. 2020/140), and beyond disability-specific consultative bodies and mechanisms;

(b)The failure in the national legislative framework to explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, and the absence of data gathered and research conducted on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities with a view to designing adequate policy responses.

12.The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a)Engage with organizations and groups of women and girls with disabilities and secure their direct participation in all processes of public decision-making, particularly their representation in the National Observatory on the Rights of Women and Girls, and in the development of all policies regarding gender equality and gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, forced marriages and trafficking;

(b)Conduct an intersectional analysis of implementation of the Convention with respect to women and girls with disabilities across all policy areas, including education, employment, health and justice and recognize in the national legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and adopt specific legislation and strategies that reflect a gender perspective and intersectionality;

(c)Adopt benchmarks and indicators about the progress in achieving inclusive equality for women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life.

Mongolia (2023)

13.The Committee notes with concern:

(a)The lack of the inclusion of a gender perspective in the disability-related legislation and policies, as well as the lack of a disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, which leads to further discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities;

(b)The lack of gender-sensitive budgeting based on the human rights model of disability for planning and implementing activities related to persons with disabilities;

(c)That the national legislative framework does not explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, as well as the absence of data and research carried out on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities with a view to designing adequate policy responses;

(d)That women with disabilities are not represented in the National Gender Committee, as well as overall lack of empowerment programmes for women with disabilities in employment, in public and political life, in decision-making and in the judiciary.

14.The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a)Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation, in particular the Law on Gender Equality, and mainstream a gender perspective in disability policies and programmes, while ensuring close consultation with and the active involvement of women and girls with disabilities through their representative organizations, in the design and implementation of gender- and disability-related policies and programmes;

- (b)Take measures to ensure that any programs and activities related to general disability issues are planned and budgeted based on the gender equality perspective;
- (c)Recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and adopt specific legislation and strategies based on the data and results of the research, that reflect a gender perspective and intersectionality;
- (d)Adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, as well as their involvement in all public decision-making processes. The State party should implement measures to ensure that women with disabilities are represented in political life in decision-making roles, including in the State Great Khural, the National Gender Committee, government bodies and the judiciary.

Paraguay (2023)

13.A pesar de los esfuerzos realizados por el Estado parte con la promulgación de leyes en la materia, el Comité observa con preocupación:

- a)Las pocas medidas transversales que promuevan y protejan los derechos de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad;
- b)La falta de empoderamiento de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, de información sobre el diseño, consulta e implementación de políticas y planes para la igualdad de oportunidades, así como la falta de una perspectiva de género en las políticas públicas y en la estrategia nacional para la inclusión financiera;
- c)La falta de información sobre la existencia de legislación o políticas adoptadas para acelerar la igualdad *de facto* de mujeres con discapacidad en su participación política y pública;
- d)La falta de medidas para prevenir y eliminar la discriminación múltiple y la violencia en contra de mujeres con discapacidad, en particular, aquella que experimentan las mujeres con discapacidad intelectual, psicosocial o múltiple, las mujeres indígenas con discapacidad y aquellas que habitan en áreas rurales;
- e)La falta de información sobre los resultados del Observatorio de Género, especialmente en mujeres y niñas con discapacidad.

14.**Recordando sus anteriores observaciones finales (CRPD/C/PRY/CO/1, párrafo 18), su observación general núm. 3 (2016), sobre las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, así como las metas 5.1, 5.2 y 5.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:**

- a)Transversalizar la perspectiva de discapacidad en sus leyes y políticas de igualdad de género, e incorporar una perspectiva de género en las leyes y políticas de discapacidad, con la participación efectiva de las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad;
- b)Fortalecer las medidas que promuevan el empoderamiento de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, y agregar la perspectiva de género y de discapacidad en todas las políticas públicas, especialmente en la estrategia nacional para la inclusión financiera;
- c)Incrementar el apoyo para que las mujeres con discapacidad se incluyan en la vida política y pública del Estado parte;
- d)Establecer políticas claras contra la discriminación de las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad y mecanismos para la presentación de quejas, su seguimiento, sanción y restauración;
- e)Ampliar el alcance del Observatorio de Género, para conocer los datos de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres indígenas con discapacidad y las que habitan en zonas rurales y remotas.

Angola (2023)

9.The Committee notes with concern:

- (a)The lack of adequate information, including disaggregated data, about the situation of women and girls with disabilities;
- (b)The lack of inclusion of a gender perspective in disability related legislation and policy, and the lack of inclusion of a disability perspective in gender related legislation and policy, which

leads to the further marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities from protection;

(c) That domestic law does not explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, the lack of adequate policy responses to address such discrimination, including the lack of data-driven research carried out on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced them;

(d) The limited access to justice for women with disabilities due to the lack of accessibility and procedural accommodations, including due to the lack of sign language interpretation and captioning, as well as the lack of information provided in accessible formats by the relevant authorities;

(e) The lack of programmes designed to promote the empowerment of women with disabilities in public and political life as well as in decision-making, particularly those living in rural areas.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends the State party to:

(a) Ensure that data collection systems and impact assessments of laws and policies include indicators and disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation and, mainstream gender perspective in disability policies and programmes, and ensure the consultation and effective participation of organization of women and girls with disabilities, including those in rural areas, in the design and implementation of gender and disability related policies and programmes;

(c) Recognize in multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities in domestic law, and adopt specific strategies to address intersectional forms of discrimination against them;

(d) Ensure that all women with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and women with albinism, have access to justice and to accessible information on how to vindicate their rights;

(e) Adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, as well as their involvement in all public decision-making processes and their representation in political life and in decision-making, including in the executive branch and the judiciary.

Argentina (2023)

13. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) Las pocas medidas que transversalicen la igualdad de género en la legislación y las políticas relacionadas con la discapacidad, y para promover los derechos de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad en la legislación y las políticas de igualdad de género;

b) La falta de empoderamiento de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, y de información sobre el monitoreo del Programa Equiparar dirigido a promover el acceso de mujeres y personas LGBTQI+ con discapacidad a sus derechos y a una vida libre de violencia de género;

c) El insuficiente apoyo para las organizaciones de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad;

d) La falta de aprobación del Proyecto de Ley Cuidar en Igualdad presentado en 2022.

14. Recordando su observación general núm. 3 (2016), sobre las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, así como las metas 5.1, 5.2 y 5.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Incrementar esfuerzos para transversalizar la perspectiva de discapacidad en sus leyes y políticas de igualdad de género, e incorporar una perspectiva de género en las leyes y políticas de discapacidad, con la participación activa y efectiva de las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad;

b) Fortalecer el Programa Equiparar, incluyendo medidas que promuevan el empoderamiento de las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, su inclusión en el ámbito educativo, laboral, salud y en la prevención y el abordaje de la violencia basada en género, con su participación

efectiva en los procesos de toma de decisiones, así como garantizar un mecanismo efectivo de monitoreo del Programa;

c) Incrementar el apoyo para las organizaciones de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad;

d) Aprobar el Proyecto de Ley Cuidar en Igualdad y adoptar un sistema nacional integral de apoyo y cuidados, conforme a la Convención.

Georgia (2023)

7. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The lack of implementation of the Convention in the occupied territories of Abkhazia, Georgia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia, and the risk of persons with disabilities therein to internal displacement and other infringements on their human rights;

(b) The prevalence of the medical approach to disability in the State party's disability assessment system, which persists in the reform process;

(c) That legislation and practices in areas such as mental health, participation in social and political affairs and family matters reinforce negative stereotypes against persons with disabilities, including dependence from third parties and a lack of autonomy, and retain derogatory language;

(d) The absence of a national strategy and action plans on disability at the national and local levels to implement the Convention, and the limited scope of disability rights in the National Human Rights Strategy (2022-2030) and its action plan.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Include internally displaced persons with disabilities from the territories of Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, in long term-housing initiatives for internally displaced persons and take into consideration the recommendations made in the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review in relation to Georgia in 2021 (A/HRC/47/15), aimed at enhancing cooperation with international partners to ensure unrestricted access of humanitarian and development organizations and international human rights monitoring bodies by the Russian Federation to address the situation of persons with disabilities within these regions;

(b) Complete the process to establish a disability assessment system and ensure: (i) that organizations of persons with disabilities are involved in its design; (ii) that multiple assessments do not create an undue burden for applicants; (iii) that policies and programmes shift from care, treatment and protection towards the removal of environmental and attitudinal barriers that prevent equality and inclusion; and (iv) that the disability assessment system ensures that disability entitlements are tailored to the requirements of each individual;

(c) Expedite the review process to bring legislation and public policies, including the Law of Georgia on Medical and Social Expertise and Mental Health Development and the Action Plan, in line with the human rights model of disability as elaborated in the Committee's general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination;

(d) Enact a comprehensive strategy and a national action plan to implement the Convention that contains appropriate human, technical and financial resources, benchmarks and a timeframe, in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities across the territory of the State party.

9. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The lack of provisions to ensure access to national public funds by organizations of persons with disabilities that mainly rely on international cooperation to function and to carry out their advocacy work;

(b) The unsystematic involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in measures to implement the Convention and other matters related to persons with disabilities across state entities and at the municipal level and information about recommendations from organizations of persons with disabilities being overlooked during consultations;

(c) That organizations of service providers prevail in government's consultative mechanisms, in which they regularly hold the majority in respective votes to the detriment of grass-roots organizations of persons with disabilities, organizations of women with disabilities and organizations of children and young persons with disabilities;

(d) The absence of accessible information, disability inclusive methodologies, and human, technical and financial resources for conducting periodic consultations including with organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities.

10. With reference to its General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the right of persons with disabilities to freedom of association, including by making national funds available to all organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities and self-advocate organizations, and guaranteeing their right to seek and access legitimate foreign funding;

(b) Introduce mandatory and regular consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities across all levels and sectors of the administration, based on transparency, mutual respect, meaningful dialogue and a sincere aim to reach collective agreements on procedures that respond to the diversity of organizations led by persons with disabilities, allowing for reasonable and realistic timelines and giving due weight to persons with disabilities' views through the public decision-making process;

(c) Prioritize involvement and consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in consultative bodies and mechanisms, providing due weight to their opinions, and ensuring participation of organizations of women and girls with disabilities and organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities;

(d) Allot human, technical and financial resources to conduct public consultations with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop accessible methodologies for consultation and information tools, including in Easy Read, provide sufficient time for informed decision-making, and establish capacity building programmes of public officers and persons with disabilities participating in consultative procedures.

Peru (2023)

12. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) La falta de información sobre el impacto de la Política Nacional de Igualdad de Género en las niñas y mujeres con discapacidad;

b) Que en la Ficha de Valoración del Riesgo en el que se identifican las situaciones de violencia que sufren las mujeres por parte de sus parejas, no se reflejen las situaciones de violencia específicas que enfrentan las mujeres con discapacidad perpetradas por sus familiares, tutores y cuidadores;

c) Que la Ley N° 30364, Ley para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra las Mujeres y los Integrantes del Grupo Familiar, no incorpore el enfoque de discapacidad en sus disposiciones, no especifique expresamente la necesidad de adaptar ciertos espacios, como los refugios, para las víctimas de violencia de género e implementar ajustes razonables cuando sean necesarios.

13. El Comité recuerda su observación general núm. 3 (2016) sobre las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad y el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 5, y recomienda al Estado parte que:

a) Garantice que todas las acciones llevadas a cabo para implementar la Política Nacional de Igualdad de Género y para promover la igualdad de género incluyan una perspectiva de discapacidad e incluyan indicadores y datos desglosados sobre la situación de las niñas y las mujeres con discapacidad;

b) Reforme la Ficha de Valoración de Riesgo y que se incorpore la identificación de las situaciones de violencia que sufren las niñas y mujeres con discapacidad por parte de familiares, tutores y cuidadores;

c)Garantice que todos los servicios de apoyo a las sobrevivientes de violencia sean accesibles e incluyan a las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, incluso mediante la modificación de la Ley N° 30364, Ley para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra las Mujeres y sus Familiares, para incorporar una perspectiva de discapacidad.

Togo (2023)

11.The Committee notes with concern:

(a)The lack of inclusion of disability perspective in gender related legislation and policies, such as the national policy on equity and gender equality, the strategy against violence and the Individual and Family Code, as well as the lack of a disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, which leads to further marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities, in public and political life, decision-making, employment, education, vocational training, healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health;

(b)That the national legislative framework does not explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;

(c)The lack of empowerment programmes for women with disabilities in employment, in public and political life, in decision-making and in the judiciary.

12.The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a)Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation, and mainstream a gender perspective in disability policies and programmes, in particular the 2011 National Gender Equity and Equality Policy and the 2018 – 2028 National Strategy, while ensuring consultation with and the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities, in the design and implementation of gender- and disability-related policies and programmes;

(b)Recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and adopt specific legislation and strategies that reflect a gender perspective and intersectionality;

(c)Conduct a study on the situation of women and girls with disabilities in the State party to identify the specific situation and needs of women with disabilities in order to develop and adopt strategies, policies and programmes, especially in the fields of education, employment, health and social protection, that promote their autonomy and full participation in society and adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, as well as their involvement in all public decision-making processes;

(d)Develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns and educational programmes throughout society, including at the family level, with regard to women with disabilities and in a manner that promotes respect for their rights and dignity, combats stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices and promotes awareness of their capacities and contributions.

Tunisia (2023)

9.The Committee is concerned that

(a)Law No. 58 of 11 August 2017 on the elimination of violence against women does not include specific provisions for procedural accommodation, and the lack of adequate training for professional in contact with women and girls with disabilities, which hinder the access of women with disabilities to justice and protection measures, as well as the lack of access to health, education and training.

(b)The Committee is further concerned about the very limited statistics available on cases of violence against women and girls with disabilities which significantly limit any follow up on these cases.

(c) It is also concerned that women and girls with disabilities are not represented in the Council of Peers for Equality and Equal Opportunity between Men and Women. It is further concerned that the representation of women with disabilities in economic initiatives and their participation in political life and public administration is scarce, at best.

10. The Committee, in line with its General Comment No. 3 (2016) on Women with disabilities, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Put in place specific regulations and mechanisms that include procedural accommodations to enable women with disabilities to report abuse and facilitate their access to justice;**
- (b) Organise training programmes for agents responsible for receiving, listening to and accompany women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence so that they have the capacity to address the problems faced by them and provide adequate care to the victims, including impartial investigations and prosecution and proportionate sanctions and redress;**
- (c) Gather statistical information on cases of violence against women and girls with disabilities and organize the information to enable their monitoring and follow-up;**
- (d) Put in place measures to include representation of women and girls with disabilities on all platforms where issues of women are discussed, in particular in the Council of Peers for Equality and Equal Opportunity between Men and Women;**
- (e) Ensure the participation of women with disabilities in economic initiatives and in political life and public administration.**

Bangladesh (2022)

13. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The persistent multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, by sex, age, ethnic, linguistic or religious background;
- (b) That the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2013 and the National Women Advancement Policy of 2011 have not been reviewed to include the rights of women and girls with disabilities belonging to marginalized and minority groups, and to develop inclusive programmes to protect their rights;
- (c) That laws and policies have not been reviewed to mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities, including by eliminating family and social customs that are discriminatory against women with disabilities, especially women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women affected by leprosy;
- (d) Significant barriers that hinder the full and effective participation of representative organisations of women with disabilities in all decision-making processes, in all aspects of life.

14. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement necessary measures to address multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, especially against women with disabilities belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, women affected by leprosy, women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and refugees with disabilities; and collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnic, linguistic and religious background;**
- (b) Revise the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2013 to include the rights of women with disabilities belonging to marginalized groups, and also review the National Women Advancement Policy of 2011 to address the rights of women with disabilities belonging to minorities and develop inclusive programmes to protect their rights;**
- (c) Revise all laws and policies, to mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities, including by eliminating family and social customs that are discriminatory against women with disabilities, especially against women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women affected by leprosy;**

(d) Take steps to eliminate all barriers that hinder the full and effective participation of representative organisations of women with disabilities in all decision-making processes, including by allocating sufficient resources for their participation.

China (2022)

14. The Committee notes with concern the insufficient participation of women with disabilities and their representative organizations in decision-making processes in public and political life, including beyond disability-specific consultative bodies and mechanisms.

15. The Committee, recalling its General Comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Engage with organizations of women and girls with disabilities and secure their direct participation in all processes of public decision-making in a safe environment, particularly relating to the development of policies regarding gender equality and gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, forced marriage and trafficking;

(b) Allocate specific funds for organizations of women with disabilities to enable their full and effective participation in the process of drafting, developing and implementing laws and policies and in the monitoring framework, including in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not integrated gender sensitivity in the data collection and analysis processes, resulting in the absence of disaggregated recent data, particularly regarding gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities; women and girls with disability and their access to reproductive health-care; women and girls with disabilities living in rural areas; and women with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party combat multiple and intersectional discrimination through systematically collecting and analysing data on the situation of women with disabilities in all areas relevant to them, and in consultation with organizations of women with disabilities with a view to guiding policy planning for the implementation of article 6 and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, as well as other international frameworks.

Indonesia (2022)

12. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Legislation that discriminates against women with disabilities, including Law No. 1 of 1974 concerning marriage and the Lampung province regulation No. 17 of 2014 Article 6 clause (3) and (7) on exclusive breastfeeding;

(b) The lack of the inclusion of a gender perspective in disability-related legislation and policies, as well as the lack of a disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, which leads to further exclusion, inequality and discrimination of women and girls with disabilities;

(c) The lack of a specific intersectional analysis for women and girls with disabilities, including those from Indigenous, ethnic and religious minorities and rural areas and remote islands, across all policy areas, including education, family, employment, justice and health.

13. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal or amend legislation that discriminates against women with disabilities, including Law No. 1 of 1974 concerning marriage and the Lampung province regulation No. 17 of 2014 Article 6 clause (3) and (7) on exclusive breastfeeding;

(b) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender-related legislation and policies, and mainstream a gender perspective in disability-related legislation and

policies, in close consultation with and the active involvement of women and girls with disabilities;

(c) Include an intersectional analysis for women and girls with disabilities including those from Indigenous, ethnic and religious minorities and rural areas and remote islands, across all policy areas, including education, family, employment, justice and health.

Japan (2022)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Lack of sufficient measures to promote gender equality in disability-related legislation and policies, such as the Fourth Basic Programme for Persons with Disabilities, and to promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender equality legislation and policies, including the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality;

(b) Lack of specific measures to empower women and girls with disabilities.

16. The Committee recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt effective and specific measures to ensure equality and prevent multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities in its gender equality policies, and mainstream a gender perspective into its disability-related legislation and policies;

(b) Take measures to empower women and girls with disabilities, ensuring that all their human rights and fundamental freedoms are equally protected, and including their effective participation in the design and implementation of these measures.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

10. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of protection in legislation from intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, particularly, under the Law No.8 on the Development and Protection of Women and the Law No.77 on Gender Equality, and absence of a two-pronged approach to gender mainstreaming;

(b) Multiple and intersectional discrimination and stigmatization against women and girls with disabilities, especially those belonging to ethnic and religious groups, women victims of unexploded ordnance, and women affected by leprosy;

(c) Insufficient empowerment and involvement of women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations in consultations related to legislation and policies on gender equality.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party take note of the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities in its implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5, and that it, in particular:

(a) Adopt effective and specific measures to mainstream the human rights model to disability in its gender equality policies, and mainstream a gender perspective into its disability-related legislation and policies;

(b) Implement measures to prevent multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, in particular, those belonging to ethnic and religious groups, women victims of unexploded ordnance, and women affected by leprosy, in all aspects of life, in both urban and rural areas;

(c) Take steps to empower women and girls with disabilities and support their representative organizations, including the Women with Disabilities Association, and ensure their effective participation in the design and implementation of legislation and policies on gender equality.

New Zealand (2022)

9. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive intersectional approach to ensure that issues for women and girls with disabilities, including for Māori, Pasifika and migrant women and girls with disabilities are mainstreamed in both gender and disability legislative and policy areas;
- (b) The lack of a representative organisation of women and girls with disabilities to advance and promote their human rights.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen measures and policy mechanisms, including within the Gender Impact Statement and the Disability Perspective Statement to ensure that the issues for women and girls with disabilities, including for Māori, Pasifika and migrant women and girls with disabilities are comprehensively addressed within gender and disability legislative and policy areas;**
- (b) Develop strategies and measures, including financial resourcing, to support women and girls with disabilities to develop their own representative organisation.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

13. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of the inclusion of a gender perspective in the disability-related legislation and policies, as well as the lack of a disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, which leads to further discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of gender-sensitive budgeting based on the human rights model of disability for planning and implementing activities related to persons with disabilities;
- (c) That the national legislative framework does not explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, as well as the absence of data and research carried out on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities with a view to designing adequate policy responses;
- (d) The lack of empowerment programmes for women with disabilities in employment, in public and political life, in decision-making and in the judiciary.

14. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation, and mainstream a gender perspective in disability policies and programmes, in particular the Third Gender Equality Master Plan (2023 – 2028) and disability agenda, while ensuring consultation with and the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities, in the design and implementation of gender- and disability-related policies and programmes;**
- (b) Take measures to ensure that any programs and activities related to general disability issues are planned and budgeted based on the gender equality perspective;**
- (c) Recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and adopt specific legislation and strategies that reflect a gender perspective and intersectionality;**
- (d) Adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, as well as their involvement in all public decision-making processes. The State party should implement measures to ensure that women with disabilities are represented in political life in decision-making roles, including in government bodies and the judiciary.**

Singapore (2022)

11. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of specific indicators and mechanisms to measure and monitor the outcomes of public policies aimed at achieving inclusive equality for women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The lack of a gender perspective in disability-related legislation and policies, as well as the lack of a disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, reinforcing discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities belonging to ethnic and linguistic minorities, migrant women and girls with disabilities, and women and girls affected by leprosy;

(c) That the national legislative framework does not explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, as well as the absence of data and research carried out on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities with a view to designing adequate policy responses;

(d) The lack of empowerment programmes for women with disabilities in public and political life, in decision-making processes in public and private entities, including those in the judiciary.

12. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt benchmarks and indicators about the progress in the achievement of inclusive equality for women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life;

(b) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in all gender equality legislation, policies and programmes, particularly in the Women's Charter 1961 and its amendments, and the Administration of Muslim Law, and ensure close consultation with and the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities and their representative organisations in the design and implementation of all gender- and disability-related legislation, policies and programmes;

(c) Include an intersectional analysis of the implementation of this Convention with respect to women and girls with disabilities across all policy areas, including education, employment, health and justice;

(d) Adopt legislation and take all adequate additional measures aimed at achieving empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life, particularly in political life and in public decision-making processes, including in government bodies and in the judiciary.

[Hungary \(2022\)](#)

12. The Committee notes with concern the reported gender inequality in the State Party, adversely affecting women with disabilities, including limited work opportunities for them in an open and inclusive labour market.

13. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) and recommends that the State party ensure that the protection of the rights of women and girls with disabilities is included in the national strategy on gender equality and that it adopts targeted measures to implement the recommendations directed at European Union Member States in the European Union Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025.

[Jamaica \(2022\)](#)

12. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of information, including disaggregated data, about the situation of women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The lack of the inclusion of a gender perspective in the disability-related legislation and policies, as well as the lack of a disability perspective in gender-related legislation and policies, which leads to further discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities;

(c) That the national legislative framework does not explicitly address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, as well as the absence of data and research carried out on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities with a view to designing adequate policy responses;

(d) The limited access to justice for women with disabilities due to a lack of accessibility and procedural accommodations, lack of sign language interpretation and captioning, and lack of accessible formats in information provided by the Bureau of Gender Affairs;

(e) The lack of empowerment programmes for women with disabilities in public and political life, in decision-making and in the judiciary, particularly for those living in rural area.

13. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that data collection systems and impact assessments of legislation and policies include indicators and disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation, and mainstream a gender perspective in disability policies and programmes, while ensuring consultation with and the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities, particularly those in rural areas, in the design and implementation of gender- and disability-related policies and programmes;

(c) Recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and adopt specific legislation and strategies that reflect a gender perspective and intersectionality;

(d) Ensure that all women with disabilities, including women living in rural areas, women with intellectual disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities, have access to justice, and accessible information on how to claim their rights;

(e) Adopt measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, as well as their involvement in all public decision-making processes. The State party should implement measures to ensure that women with disabilities are represented in political life in decision-making roles, including in government bodies and the judiciary.

Mexico (2022)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific measures to empower women and girls with disabilities, in particular indigenous women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure that all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls with disabilities are fully and equally protected by the State party.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party take note of the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities in its implementation of efforts aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5, and that it take measures to empower women and girls with disabilities, in particular indigenous women and girls with disabilities. In addition, the Committee, with reference to recommendations made in paragraph 14 (a) of its previous concluding observations, recommends that the State party put into effect the legislation and all of the programmes and actions targeting women and girls with disabilities, including support measures, to prevent multiple and intersecting discrimination against women and girls with disabilities in all aspects of life, in both urban and rural areas, and to ensure their effective participation in the design and implementation of these measures.

19. The Committee is concerned that legislation on the federal and state levels does not provide protection from intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including indigenous women and girls with disabilities, and by migrant and refugee persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement laws at the federal and state levels preventing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, and mainstream a gender and age perspective into its disability-related legislation and policies.

21. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information, including disaggregated data, about the situation of women and girls with disabilities, and about the impact of legislation and public policies on their rights under the Convention.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that data-collection systems and impact assessments of legislation and policies include indicators and disaggregated data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities.

Switzerland (2022)

13. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of measures taken to promote gender equality in disability-related legislation and policies and to promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender equality legislation and policies;

(b) The lack of effective consultations with and involvement of women and girls with disabilities in legislation and policies on gender equality and international cooperation.

14. Recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender equality- and disability-related legislation and policies, including the 2030 Gender Equality Strategy and its action plan, and into international cooperation and humanitarian initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality;**

(b) **Ensure close consultation and active involvement of women and girls with disabilities in order to comprehensively include their rights in the national action plan for implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention);**

(c) **Promote the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of all gender equality strategies and programmes on international cooperation, including in the review of the 2017 Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights;**

(d) **In close cooperation with the Federal Office for the Equality of Persons with Disabilities and the Federal Office for Gender Equality, establish and adequately resource a federal mandate to ensure implementation of the rights of women and girls with disabilities.**

Venezuela (2022)

10. It is of concern to the Committee that:

(a) In both urban and rural areas, women and girls with disabilities do not benefit from special protection against discrimination, gender-based violence and the harmful effects of the economic situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

(b) Shelters for women and girls who are survivors of violence are not physically accessible, do not use accessible modes of information and communication and do not have sufficient trained personnel for women and girls with disabilities;

(c) Teenage pregnancy rates remain high and that there is still no information on how many of these pregnancies are among women with disabilities.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party, with reference to general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and taking into account targets 10.2, 10.3, 16 and 16.b of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) **Adopt public policies aimed at preventing and eliminating discrimination against girls and women with disabilities that include a gender perspective and a focus on sexual and reproductive health training as a means of preventing sexual violence and human trafficking;**

(b) **Develop strategies to ensure the accessibility of the physical environment, information and communications and the availability of trained staff to support victims with disabilities, and provide reasonable accommodation in accordance with the human rights model used in the Convention;**

(c) **Take measures to prevent high rates of teenage pregnancy and gather information to determine how many of these pregnancies are among teenage girls with disabilities;**

(d) Ensure that institutions such as the Ministry of People's Power for Women and Gender Equality, the National Institute for Women and the Women's Development Bank, as well as prosecutors' offices and courts specializing in women's rights, have departments specializing in women and girls with disabilities.

Djibouti (2021)

9. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of the inclusion of disability perspective in gender related legislation and policies, which leads to further marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities, particularly women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, women and girls with disabilities living in rural areas and in refugee camps, and older women with disabilities, in public and political life, employment, education, vocational training, health-care, including sexual and reproductive health;

(b) The lack of a national action plan to eliminate discrimination against women with disabilities and the discriminatory laws against women and girls with disabilities by which women may enter into marriage only with the consent of a guardian and exceptions that allows for child marriage;

(c) The lack of empowerment programmes for women with disabilities in public and political life, particularly those living in rural areas.

10. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation and policies and to mainstream gender perspective in disability policies and programmes, while ensuring the consultation and effective participation of organizations of women and girls with disabilities, particularly those in rural areas and in refugee camps, in the design and implementation of gender and disability related policies and programmes;

(b) Adopt legislative measures to repeal discriminatory provisions under the Family Code against women and girls with disabilities regarding marriage and family and to protect them from forced and early marriage;

(c) Adopt measures for the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities in all sphere of life, particularly in public and political life, employment, education, vocational training, health care, including sexual and reproductive health, while addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

France (2021)

13. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of information, including disaggregated data, about the situation of women and girls with disabilities, and the impact of legislation and public policies on their rights under the Convention;

(b) Insufficient measures to promote gender equality in disability-related legislation and policies, and the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender equality legislation and policies, and lack of effective consultations and involvement in initiatives such as the "Generation Equality Forum" in 2021.

14. The Committee recalling its General comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that data collection systems and impact assessments of legislation and policies include indicators and disaggregated data about women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender equality and disability-related legislation and policies and promote effective participation of women and girls with disabilities through their representative organisations in fulfilling the commitments made during the "Generation Equality Forum".

Estonia (2021)

13. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The insufficient information about specific measures concerning women and girls with disabilities, in anti-discrimination, gender equality and disability-related legislation and policies;

(b) Insufficient information about measures to facilitate that women with disabilities benefit from policies for reconciling work and family life, and to ensure their development, advancement and empowerment in all areas of life.

14. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its efforts, with the meaningful participation of women and girls with disabilities and their representatives, to mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender-specific, and disability related legislation and policies;

(b) Ensure the reconciliation of the work, private and family life of women with disabilities through regulatory measures, ensuring that flexible working arrangements are available and the right to seek reasonable accommodation is recognised;

(c) Adopt measures aimed at empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, ensuring their involvement in all public decision-making processes. The State party should implement measures to ensure the representation of women with disabilities in political life at the decision-making level including in appointed governmental bodies, and ensure their participation throughout procedures at the office of the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner.

Albania (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive gender equality policy and strategy which addresses the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The lack of reliable information on the level of implementation of and results achieved by the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2016–2020), particularly in the area of women and girls with disabilities;

(c) The lack of adequate and concrete measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/4, para. 39), insofar as they pertain to women and girls with disabilities.

14. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that laws and policies adhere to the Convention, provide for the full protection of the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and incorporate a disability perspective into all gender-equality policies and programmes, including employment-related policies and measures and adopt an effective strategy for their implementation;

(b) Ensure the full implementation of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2016–2020) and take all necessary, appropriate and transparent measures with a concrete timeline to prevent and eliminating multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that women and girls with disabilities face, especially in access to justice, education, health and employment;

(c) Implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/4, para. 39).

Australia (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The low percentage of women and girls with disabilities, particularly of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, that have access to services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme;

(b) The limited opportunities for women and girls with disabilities to participate in the development of policies regarding the rights of women and gender equality.

12. In line with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and, in particular, that it:

(a) Facilitate access to services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme for women and girls with disabilities, particularly those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background;

(b) Adequately support organizations and networks of women and girls with disabilities, particularly those representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls with disabilities, to engage in all initiatives to promote gender equality and ensure their effective participation in the development of policies for gender equality and the advancement of women and girls.

Ecuador (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned at the fact that public policies on disability and on gender equality do not provide for measures to prevent and combat multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against girls and women with disabilities and that girls and women with disabilities are not participating on an effective, independent basis in the design, implementation and follow-up of public policies.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, bearing in mind the Committee's general comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination and targets 10.2, 10.3, 16 and 16.b of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopt public policies that incorporate a gender perspective and focus on the prevention and elimination of discrimination against girls and women. It also recommends that the State party promote the independent, effective participation of girls and women with disabilities in the design, implementation and follow-up of public policies.

El Salvador (2019)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Gender equality policies and specific programmes for women which are not inclusive of women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The low rate of participation of organizations of women with disabilities in all matters affecting them, particularly crimes related to gender-based violence.

13. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt effective measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are included in gender equality policies and programmes, and ensure that public and private service providers working for or with women with disabilities mainstream a gender and disability perspective in their work;

(b) Ensure that organizations of women and girls with disabilities are closely consulted in the formulation of policies and programmes at the urban and rural levels, including those relating to addressing gender-based violence.

Greece (2019)

9. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive gender equality policy and strategy and of specific legislation containing concrete measures and timelines to address multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, including Roma women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The lack of information about the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016–2020 and the results achieved in relation to women and girls with disabilities, and about measures taken to promote the participation of women with disabilities in all decision-making processes.

10. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt an effective policy and strategy containing the necessary mechanisms to ensure the full protection of women and girls with disabilities against discrimination and to ensure the enjoyment of their rights, in line with the Convention;

(b) Incorporate a disability perspective into all gender-equality policies and programmes, in all areas of life, and promote the effective participation of women with disabilities in all decision-making processes;

(c) Take effective measures to prevent and combat multiple and intersectional discrimination and gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including Roma women and girls with disabilities.

India (2019)

14. The Committee is concerned about multiple and intersecting discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, and:

(a) The disability stereotypes and stigmas and lack of awareness about multiple and intersecting discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and those living in rural areas, and the lack of inclusion of women with disabilities in general and disability-inclusive policies;

(b) The lack of gender-responsive policies and budgeting, and the absence of disaggregated information by gender concerning equal enjoyment of and access to all rights and services, in all areas of life, by women and girls with disabilities;

(c) Barriers to the participation and involvement of women with disabilities in policymaking processes.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and taking account of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Strengthen measures to address multiple and intersecting discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Adopt national and state action plans for promoting equality and the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life, ensure that the national policy for women mainstreams disability, and ensure the effectiveness of campaigns to raise awareness and reduce stigmatization and gender and disability stereotypes, involving women with disabilities through their representative organizations in such awareness-raising programmes in line with general comment No. 7;

(c) Establish gender-responsive policies and budget allocations at the national and state levels to address the rights of all women and girls with disabilities, irrespective of impairment, rural or urban location, ethnic identity and social or economic background, and collect data disaggregated by gender, age and ethnic, linguistic or religious background to better inform policy and the provision of services;

(d) Ensure the full and effective participation of women with disabilities in decision and policymaking at all levels, including in relation to policies adopted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the National Commission for Women and state women commissions.

Iraq (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of mainstreaming of a gender perspective in disability-specific policies and the lack of mainstreaming of a disability perspective in gender-specific legislation and policies,

such as the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women in Iraq (2014–2018), the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women (2013), the National Action Plan for Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (2014–2018) and the National Strategy to Develop the Situation of Women in the Kurdistan Region (2013–2019);

(b) The insufficient implementation of measures to combat multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, particularly against women with disabilities living in rural areas, women with disabilities who are internally displaced, refugees or migrants, and women with disabilities belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, including in the Kurdistan Region;

(c) The limited information on policies and strategies to ensure the development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities in the political, social and economic spheres.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take effective measures, with the active involvement of organizations of women and girls with disabilities, to mainstream a disability perspective into all gender-specific policies and legislation, including the draft bill on protection against domestic violence, and to mainstream a gender perspective in all disability-specific policies and legislation;

(b) Step up efforts and take effective measures to combat multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;

(c) Develop and adopt affirmative measures aimed at the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, including by ensuring their representation in high-level committees for the enhancement of the status of Iraqi women and rural women of the department for the empowerment of women in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and by strengthening the efforts of the Commission for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs to provide professional capacity-building to women with disabilities.

Kuwait (2019)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of provisions specifically on the rights of women and girls with disabilities in laws, including in Act No. 8/2010, policies and programmes;

(b) Barriers, fostered by misconceptions about disability, hindering the enjoyment of the rights of women and girls with disabilities in all areas of life, in particular in education, marriage and relationships, on an equal basis with others;

(c) The absence of data on the participation of women with disabilities in the labour market;

(d) The absence of measures taken for the advancement, empowerment and development of women and girls with disabilities and for the promotion of their participation in public and political life.

13. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into its legislation, including Act No. 8/2010, policies and programmes such as the welfare programme, the housing fund and the National Development Plan (2015–2020);

(b) Take measures to remove all barriers so that women and girls with disabilities can enjoy their rights to inclusive education, health care and employment, as well as their rights in all matters relating to marriage and relationships, on an equal basis with others, including by taking awareness-raising measures to combat stereotypes, prejudices and misconceptions;

(c) Ensure the collection of disaggregated data on women with disabilities in all areas under the Convention;

(d) Adopt measures for the advancement, empowerment and development of women and girls with disabilities and promote their participation in public and political life, including by setting and implementing quotas.

Myanmar (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities persists, especially against women with disabilities belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, in all spheres of life;

(b) The rights of women and girls with disabilities are not systematically mainstreamed in specific policies on gender equality or disability.

14. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement effective legislation and policy measures, including specific measures, to address exclusion of and multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, in particular against those belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, in all spheres of life;

(b) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender equality and disability policies.

Cuba (2019)

15. The Committee notes that the State party has adopted strategies and plans to promote equality of women with disabilities in the areas of employment, education, sports and culture. It is concerned, however, that:

(a) The laws and policies on equality of women do not recognize multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The absence of any specific organizations of women with disabilities, so that women with disabilities, particularly women of African descent, are automatically excluded in decision-making processes that affect them;

(c) Women and girls with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities living in rural areas, women of African descent and women with intellectual disabilities or psychosocial disabilities, face obstacles in accessing services, particularly access to health services.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize in its legislation multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and adopts special legislation and strategies with gender and intersectional perspectives;

(b) Continue promoting an inclusive environment to facilitate participation by women with disabilities and their representative organizations, including women with disabilities of African descent, in decision-making processes that affect them;

(c) Ensure that all women with disabilities, including women in rural areas, women of African descent and person with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, have access to health services, including reproductive and sexual health rights.

Niger (2019)

9. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Discriminatory laws against women and girls with disabilities, especially regarding marriage and family matters; forced and early marriages; and the lack of a national action plan to combat discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;

(b) The multiple forms of discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities, particularly in public and political life, employment, career development programmes, education, vocational training, and health care including sexual and reproductive health;

(c) The absence of measures to mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in public life, as well as in gender equality, education and employment policies and strategies;

(d) The lack of sufficient awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes, particularly at the family level, to combat stereotypes and prejudices, against women and girls with disabilities, and foster respect for their rights.

10. In line with article 6 of the Convention, General comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Revise the Quota Act and adopt legislative measures to ensure equality and non-discrimination for women and girls with disabilities, including regarding marriage and family matters, and protect them from forced and early marriage;**
- (b) Eliminate multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, and promote their access to inclusive education, health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and their participation in public life, and decision-making processes;**
- (c) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in the National Gender Policy (2008), the National Social Development Policy, and all disability related legislation and policies; conduct awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes regarding their rights and eliminate stereotypes, prejudices, and misconceptions about them.**

Norway (2019)

9. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) There are multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by women with disabilities and the absence of measures to prevent and combat different forms of discrimination;**
- (b) Compared to men with disabilities, women with disabilities are less likely to be in full-time employment;**
- (c) Gender perspective is not included in disability studies and the rights of women and girls with disabilities are missing from gender equality and disability agendas.**

10. In line with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in the view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and, in particular:

- (a) Implement effective legal, policy and practical measures to address multiple and intersectional discrimination;**
- (b) Take specific measures to promote full-time employment opportunities in the public and private sectors for women with disabilities, including by improving their access to education, skills development and life-long learning with the active involvement of employers;**
- (c) Mainstream the gender perspective in disability studies and the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender equality and disability agendas.**

Rwanda (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of reliable disaggregated data to better understand the human rights situation of women and girls with disabilities;**
- (b) The insufficient application of a disability perspective in general gender equality policies and programmes, as well as the limited application of a gender equality perspective in disability policies and programmes;**
- (c) The inadequacy of policies and programmes for the advancement, development and empowerment of girls and women with disabilities.**

12. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Systematically collect disaggregated data on women with disabilities and develop specific indicators to assess intersectional discrimination, ensuring close cooperation between the Gender Monitoring Office and organizations of women with disabilities with a view to inform and develop adequate public policies;**

- (b) Mainstream a disability perspective in general gender equality policies and programmes, as well as a gender equality perspective in disability policies and programmes;**
- (c) Develop and implement specific policies with the necessary human and financial resources for the advancement, development and empowerment of girls and women with disabilities.**

Saudi Arabia (2019)

9. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The absence of specific measures taken to promote the participation in political and public life of women with disabilities, particularly women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) The continued system of male guardianship, which subjects the enjoyment of most of the rights guaranteed to women with disabilities under the Convention to the authorization of a male guardian.**

10. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, and that it:

- (a) Take measures to permit and promote the participation of women with disabilities in public and political life, including by setting and implementing specific quotas for women with disabilities, and mainstreaming the rights of women with disabilities across all laws, policies and programmes, with an intersectional perspective;**
- (b) Repeal all discriminatory provisions in its legislation, which also affect women with disabilities, in particular those that require a male guardian's authorization of women's exercise of their rights under the Convention (CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 16 (c)).**

Senegal (2019)

9. The Committee is concerned about the lack of equal opportunities for women and girls with disabilities in obtaining access to education, employment and health care services, including HIV and AIDS-related services. It is also concerned about the higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS in women with disabilities. The Committee is concerned about the exclusion of women with disabilities from public and social life.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party take note of General Comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities in its implementation of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and:

- (a) Develop and adopt measures aimed at the empowerment and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life geared towards addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly in education, employment and health care services, including HIV and AIDS-related services;**
- (b) Adopt effective measures towards combatting the spread of HIV/ AIDS and reduce the prevalence among women and girls with disabilities;**
- (c) Adopt the necessary legal and other measures to increase the participation of women with disabilities in public and social life.**

Spain (2019)

10. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That women with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination because of their gender and disability, and may also be at risk of gender-based violence;**
- (b) That public policies on disability and on gender equality, respectively, do not include measures to combat multiple and intersectional discrimination of women with disabilities.**

11. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Institute, as a matter of urgency, effective measures to identify, prevent and provide protection from the multiple discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, in**

particular women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and allocate adequate resources for their support;

(b) Adopt effective and specific measures to ensure equality and prevent multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination of women and girls with disabilities in its gender equality policies, and to mainstream a gender perspective in its disability-related legislation and policies.

Türkiye (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned about the lack of concrete indicators and mechanisms to measure and monitor the outcomes of public policies in achieving inclusive equality for women with disabilities. It is also concerned about the *de facto* inequality of women with disabilities in access to education and work, compared to men with disabilities. It is further concerned about the intersectional discrimination and exclusion of Roma girls with disabilities, particularly from education.

14. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt specific policies and affirmative action measures for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities and ensure that general public policies for women mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Adopt benchmarks and indicators concerning the progress on achieving inclusive equality for women and girls with disabilities, particularly in education and work, in urban and rural areas through general public policies on women;

(c) Adopt legislation and policies addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, including those belonging to Roma communities.

Vanuatu (2019)

12. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The persistence of patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes concerning women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The lack of reasonable accommodation for women with disabilities.

13. Recalling its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen awareness campaigns, at village level, to modify stereotypes and prejudices against women and girls with disabilities and on their rights;

(b) Ensure women and girls disabilities and not denied reasonable accommodation in all areas, including the provision of individualized support in education, political and public life and economic activities, including through meaningful participation of women with disabilities.

Algeria (2018)

14. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There are no laws and policies to address the multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination experienced by women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Disability has not been mainstreamed in national efforts for gender equality;

(c) Organizations of women and girls with disabilities are neither involved nor consulted regarding the implementation of the Convention.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account article 6 of the Convention and the Committee's General Comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, in its implementation of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and:

(a) Step up its efforts to mainstream the rights of women with disabilities in law and in practice, including by adopting laws to strengthen the legal protection to women and girls with disabilities against multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination;

- (b) Mainstream disability in all national efforts on gender equality, including the future “National Strategy for the Promotion and Integration of Women and its Action Plans”;
- (c) Ensure the consultation and involvement of representative organizations of women and girls with disabilities with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

Bulgaria (2018)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient implementation on measures to combat inter-sectional forms of discrimination, gender-based violence, and abuse against women and girls with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of mainstreaming of the disability perspective in gender legislation and policies, as well as the lack of mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the disability specific policies and legislation, including in the Action Plan for implementation of the Convention;
- (c) The lack of information about the provision of sexual and reproductive health care and rights of women with disabilities, including family planning.

18. The Committee, in line with its General comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and bearing in mind targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Step up efforts and take effective measures for combating inter- sectional discrimination of women and girls with disabilities, and violence and abuse they experience, in close cooperation with organizations of women and girls with disabilities;
- (b) Take effective measures in close consultation with organizations of women with disabilities to mainstream disability perspective into all gender specific policies and legislation, and to mainstream gender perspective in all disability specific policies and legislation;
- (c) Adopt public policies for the protection of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities.

Malta (2018)

9. The Committee is concerned about the absence of reliable disaggregated data aimed at better understanding the human rights situation of women and girls with disabilities. It is also concerned about the multiple and intersectional discrimination that women with disabilities face, particularly in the area of employment, and the lack of information on policies and strategies to ensure the development, advancement, and empowerment of women in the political, social and economic spheres.

10. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen data collection and publication of the human rights situation of women and girls with disabilities and establish programmes in accordance with article 6 (2) of the Convention. It also recommends that all measures be undertaken in close consultation with women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Philippines (2018)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The overall lack of information about the situation of women and girls with disabilities, in particular their access to social protection and an adequate standard of living, economic, employment conditions, and enjoyment of political rights by women with disabilities;
- (b) The overall exclusion of women with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual disabilities and with psychosocial disabilities as well as those from Indigenous peoples and other ethnic and religious minorities, in decision-making processes concerning matters affecting them.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party takes into account the Committee’s General comment No. 3 (2016) Women and girls with disability, and:

- (a) Strengthen data collection and publication of the human rights situation of women and girls with disabilities with a view to developing the appropriate policies to combat sex and gender-based discrimination;**
- (b) Ensure that general legislation about gender equality and disability related legislation mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities. The State party should reinforce the application of the Compendium of Monitoring and evaluation Indicators on Gender Equality and Women's empowerment in all processes related to legislation and public policy reform;**
- (c) Ensure that the Philippine Commission on Women, and the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines allocate specific human, technical and budgetary resources for the advancement of the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and promotes full participation of organizations of women with disabilities in their work;**
- (d) Undertake consultations with women and girls with disabilities with a view to using these as a basis for implementing law reform and policy changes, with particular attention to their family lives, education, health services, employment and all forms of gender-based violence against women as well as discriminatory practices;**
- (e) Put into consideration the obligations of the Convention in implementing measures for the achievement of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

14. The Committee is concerned about the high level of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including sexual violence and abuse. In particular, it is concerned about the research data by organizations of persons with disabilities showing that rape cases filed by women and girls who are deaf or hard of hearing outnumber all other types of complaints of women with disability, in a ratio of 10:1. It is further concerned about violence against women and girls with psychosocial disabilities as they are overrepresented in the Supreme Court cases about gender-based violence.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a time frame and a strategy to protect women and girls with disabilities against all forms of gender-based violence, and prohibit all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including violence within the family;**
- (b) Provide women and girls with disabilities with accessible information and reporting mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat all forms of violence, including sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities;**
- (c) Adopt measures to provide women with disabilities with redress in cases of violence, including access to rehabilitation, and compensation.**

Poland (2018)

9. The Committee is concerned that women with disabilities:

- (a) Despite being at highest risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, domestic and institutional violence, are inadequately protected from violence because of gaps in the legal framework on violence and disability;**
- (b) Lack effective system to fight violence, including ineffective investigations in cases of violence and lack of support when subjected to violence;**
- (c) Experience significant barriers to exercising their sexual and reproductive rights, including access to related education, contraception information and services, and to making decisions about their sexual and reproductive health;**
- (d) Remain invisible in gender and disability policies, in policy making, data collection and research, and generally in legislation and policies.**

10. Recalling its general comments No. 3 (2014) on Women and Girls with Disabilities, as well as the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Recognize women and girls with disabilities as rights holders, adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities in all settings, including home and institutions, and enact a legislation that ensure**

their protection against violence, the prosecution of perpetrators and the provision of redress to victims;

(b) Develop a strategy to prevent and combat violence against women and girls with disabilities in all settings, introduce disability specific indicators in the Blue Card procedure and ensure the development of accessible quality services for women and girls with disabilities victims of gender-based violence;

(c) Recognise sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls with disabilities, and provide them with inclusive services to help them caring for their children, support their decision-making on matters relating to their sexual and reproductive health, contraception as well as sexual education for women with disabilities according to the UNESCO international standards for comprehensive sexual education;

(d) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender equality and disability agendas, collect disaggregated data and carry out participatory researches on the social condition of women and girls with disabilities across the State Party, systematically consult and include them into policy making through their representative organisations.

South Africa (2018)

10. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The multiple forms of discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities in obtaining access to education, employment and health care and their exclusion from public and social life;

(b) The lack of legislation and policies, including affirmative action measures, aimed at addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, particularly against black women and girls with disabilities, including discrimination arising from traditional and cultural practices; and the limited opportunities for women with disabilities, particularly black women with disabilities, to be systematically involved in decisions that concern them directly;

(c) The absence of measures to prevent and combat discrimination and violence, including rape and other forms of gender-based sexual violence, exploitation, and abuse against women and girls with disabilities and the lack of information in accessible formats for health, psychosocial and legal services for victims of violence and abuse or to those who are at such risk.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party take note of general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities in its implementation of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and:

(a) Adopt as a matter of priority measures to prevent and combat discrimination, violence and abuse against women and girls with disabilities and enact legislation and adopt effective strategies to that effect and ensure that information in accessible formats are available for victims to access health, psychosocial and legal services;

(b) Develop and adopt affirmative action measures aimed at the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life geared towards addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against black women and girls with disabilities and raise awareness about all forms of discrimination arising from traditional and cultural practices.

North Macedonia (2018)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Existing legislation does not contain specific measures on women and girls with disabilities, particularly the Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, and the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men - and as a result, women and girls with disabilities face multiple and intersectional discrimination and exclusion in all areas of life;

(b) National gender policies and programmes do not include a disability perspective whilst disability is not mainstreamed in gender policies;

(c) There is a lack of specific measures to protect women and girls with disabilities, especially those with psychological disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities from gender-based violence;

(d) There is poor access to mainstream services and reasonable accommodation for women and girls with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities.

14. In line with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in the view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and, in particular:

(a) Include specific measures for women and girls with disabilities in the existing legislation, mainstream their rights in gender policies and programmes and promote affirmative action to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Implement effective legal, policy and practical measures to address gender-based violence of women and girls with disabilities; prevent and investigate violations of their human rights and prosecute and punish those responsible; and ensure that those affected have access to immediate protection and accessible support services, including reasonable accommodation in mainstream services and shelter facilities;

(c) Take all measures necessary to increase accessibility of mainstream services and reasonable accommodation for all women and girls with disabilities and ensure the involvement of organizations of women and girls with disabilities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of such services.

Haiti (2018)

10. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The aggravated forms of discrimination, including multiple and intersectional discrimination and discrimination by association experienced, in particular by women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The marginalization and exclusion of women and girls with disabilities from existing programmes and policies promoting the rights of women, including the national policy on equality between women and men (2014-2020);

(c) The lack of specific and targeted support for organizations of women and girls with disabilities, insufficient participation of women and girls with disabilities in the decision-making processes concerning them, and the absence of programmes for their empowerment.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Integrate the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender equality legislation, as well as in laws and policies on disability, and conduct public awareness campaigns to modify stereotypes, prejudices and myths about women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Modify the national policy on equality between women and men (2014-2020) to include women and girls with disabilities and ensure a follow-up mechanism between the Ministry of the status of women and women's rights and organizations of women and girls with disabilities;

(c) Adopt a strategy to promote the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities and ensure consultation with and participation of organizations representing them in the formulation and implementation of policies that concern them.

Nepal (2018)

11. The Committee is concerned about the overall lack of information on social, economic, employment and other areas of public life, and political situations of women with disabilities in Nepal. In particular, it is concerned at the overall exclusion of women with disabilities in decision-making processes. The Committee is also concerned at the reportedly high incidence of sexual violence and abuse of women and girls, including cases of gang rape of women and girls with disabilities and that some cases remain unreported.

12. The Committee urges the State party to undertake consultations with organisations representing women and girls with disabilities with a view to using these as a basis for ensuring their participation in political and public life and in implementing law reform and policy changes, - with particular attention to their family lives, education, health services, employment. The Committee recommends that the State party combat discriminatory practices as stipulated under the Three Year Interim Plan (TYIP) (2010–2013) that lays emphasis on: policy, legal and institutional reform to eliminate all forms of discrimination affecting women and girls. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen and implement legislation and provide for accessible monitoring and reporting mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat all forms of violence, including sexual violence, against women and girls with disabilities.

Oman (2018)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The multiple forms of discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities in accessing education, employment and health care, and their overall marginalization and exclusion from public and social life and discriminatory laws relating to marriage and family matters;**
- (b) Violence against women and girls with disabilities and the absence of specific mechanisms for them to lodge complaints, including seeking reparations and punishing perpetrators;**
- (c) The absence of measures for advancement, empowerment and development of women and girls with disabilities, including participation and consultation with their representative organizations in decision-making processes that affect them.**

14. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 6 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities in the implementation of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and further recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures in both law and in practice for the elimination of all forms of multiple and intersectional discrimination, and violence against women and girls with disabilities, including mechanisms for remedies and sanctions against perpetrators as well as access to medical, psychological and legal services on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Adopt measures for the advancement, empowerment and development of women and girls with disabilities, including participation and consultation with their representative organizations in all spheres of life and mainstream rights for women and girls with disabilities in all national strategies and action plans for women and girls, in particular education, employment and health care, including reproductive health strategies;**
- (c) Carry out awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes at all levels, in particular the family level, to foster respect for the rights and dignity of women and girls with disabilities, and combat stereotypes, prejudices and misconceptions about women and girls with disabilities;**
- (d) Strengthen capacity-building training programmes for professionals working with and/or for women and girls with disabilities, including government officials, on the rights and requirements of women and girls with disabilities;**
- (e) Strengthen the capacity of the General Directorate of Women to effectively coordinate and develop a gender mainstreaming strategy to be used in all policies and programmes that reflect the situation of women and girls with disabilities;**
- (f) Adopt concrete measures to promote the access of women with disabilities to inclusive education, health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, public and social life and decision-making processes.**

Russian Federation (2018)

15. The Committee notes with concern the absence of a legal framework relevant to combating multiple and inter- sectional discrimination faced by women and girls with

disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the insufficient implementation of public policies, including access to justice and complaint mechanisms, aimed at ensuring the development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

16. The Committee in line with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State Party develop a legislative framework for combating multiple and inter- sectional discrimination of women and girls with disabilities in close cooperation with organizations of women and girls with disabilities.

Seychelles (2018)

14. The Committee is concerned that legislative and policy measures and action plans to support women and girls do not explicitly consider women and girls with disabilities nor address intersectional discrimination against them, including those living in rural and dispersed outer islands. It is also concerned by the absence of data and research carried out on multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women with disabilities with a view to designing adequate policy responses. It regrets the absence of any specific measures to increase the visibility of women with disabilities and ensure their full development, advancement and empowerment.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party, with reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Provide adequate support for women and girls with disabilities, including those living in rural and dispersed outer islands, particularly in the fields of education, health, employment and political and public life;**
- (b) Mainstream the issues of women and girls with disabilities in the anti-discrimination legal provisions and policies related to women and girls;**
- (c) Collect data systematically on women and girls with disabilities and establish indicators that can be used to assess the impact of the measures taken to counter discrimination against them with regard to their socio-economic and cultural participation;**
- (d) Adopt specific measures for the full development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.**

Slovenia (2018)

8. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of specific legislation and policies regarding the rights of women and girls with disabilities, as well as insufficient measures addressing their multiple and intersectional discrimination;**
- (b) The lack of specific measures to protect women and girls with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and those living in institutions from gender-based violence;**
- (c) The fact that poverty disproportionately affects women with disabilities, especially older women, and the negative impact of the economic crisis and subsequent austerity measures on them;**
- (d) The underrepresentation of women with disabilities in decision-making processes related to legislation and public policies on disability;**
- (e) The lack of specific and up-to-date information and data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities.**

9. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and taking into account targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a twin-track approach by mainstreaming the rights of women with disabilities across all national action plans and strategies concerning women's rights in general and equality between women and men, as well as on sectorial plans, concerning access to justice, combating violence, education, health, political participation, employment, and**

social protection; and by adopting targeted and monitored measures aimed specifically at supporting and empowering women with disabilities;

(b) Provide women and girls with disabilities, especially women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities with specific protection measures and redress in cases of gender-based violence against them, ensuring dissemination of information in accessible formats about available remedies, and effective prosecution and sanctions of perpetrators;

(c) Redress the consequences of austerity measures for women with disabilities, and adopt measures to address the root causes of exclusion and poverty affecting women with disabilities, paying particular attention to older women with disabilities;

(d) Adopt measures to ensure the participation of women with disabilities in decision-making processes at the local and national levels, including by facilitating the establishment and functioning of organizations of women with disabilities and their access to financial resources, and adopting legislation requiring authorities to consult with representative organizations of women with disabilities;

(e) Allocate sufficient resources to conduct research and collect statistical data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, disaggregated by age, geographical area, type of impairment, family situation, and place of residence.

Sudan (2018)

13. The Committee is concerned about women and girls with disabilities facing multiple and intersectional discrimination and exclusion in all areas of life and, in particular, is concerned about:

(a) The lack of legislation protecting women and girls with disabilities from gender-based violence, particularly at home and in institutions and the persistence of cases of neglect, violence, restraint and seclusion, sexual violence and abuse, including genital mutilation, of women and girls with disabilities, as well as the lack of access to shelters and adequate services for victims of such violence;

(b) National gender policies and programmes not sufficiently including a disability perspective whilst gender is not mainstreamed in disability policies;

(c) The lack of accessibility to mainstream services and reasonable accommodation for women and girls with disabilities, especially with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

14. In line with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in the view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and, in particular:

(a) Implement effective legal, policy and practical measures to address gender-based violence including genital mutilation of women and girls with disabilities; prevent and investigate violations of their human rights and prosecute and punish those responsible; and ensure that those affected have access to immediate protection and accessible support services, including reasonable accommodation in mainstream services and shelter facilities;

(b) Include the rights of women and girls with disabilities in national gender policies and programmes, in particular the Sudanese National Strategy for Women, and mainstream gender into disability-related public measures;

(c) Take all measures necessary to increase accessibility of mainstream services and reasonable accommodation for all women and girls with disabilities and ensure the involvement of organizations of women and girls with disabilities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of such services.

Latvia (2017)

10. The Committee is concerned about the:

(a) Low level of participation of women with disabilities in political and public life and their invisibility in laws, programmes and policies related to the advancement of women;

(b) Lack of data and research on women and girls with disabilities, including insufficient recognition of the multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities in the State party.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party, with reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Mainstream the issues of women and girls with disabilities in the anti-discriminatory legal provisions and policies related to women and girls, including those aimed at combating gender-based violence;

(b) Promote the representation and participation of women with disabilities in political and public life;

(c) Collect data systematically on women and girls with disabilities and establish indicators that can be used to assess the impact of the measures taken to counter discrimination against them with regard to their social participation and inclusion;

(d) Ratify the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence adopted by the Council of Europe.

Luxembourg (2017)

14. The Committee is concerned about the absence of reliable disaggregated data to better understand the human rights situation of women and girls with disabilities. It is concerned about the multiple and intersectional discrimination that women with disabilities face; that women and girls with disabilities are not systematically mainstreamed in the gender equality agenda and disability agenda; and by the inadequacy of programmes for the advancement, development and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

15. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen data collection and publication of the human rights situation of women and girls with disabilities with a view to developing the appropriate policies to combat discrimination. It also recommends that the State party mainstream gender in disability policies and mainstream disability in gender policies, and establish programmes in accordance with article 6 (2) of the Convention. It also recommends that all measures be undertaken in close consultation with women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Montenegro (2017)

12. The Committee is concerned about ongoing discrimination and violence against women and girls with disabilities and the fact that the measures taken by the State party to prevent such discrimination and violence and provide redress when they do occur have been largely insufficient. It is also concerned about:

(a) The lack of specific data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The largely insufficient specific measures concerning women and girls with disabilities in legislation and policies on gender and disability, as well as the absence of any measures concerning women and girls with disabilities who are subjected to intersectional forms of discrimination;

(c) The fact that women and girls with disabilities are frequently victims of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, which they are often reluctant to report, and that violence prevention measures are insufficiently accessible;

(d) The lack of information on adequate and transparent funding and affirmative employment-related measures tailored to the needs of women with disabilities.

13. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, with the active involvement of women with disabilities through their representative organizations at all stages of the development of measures and decision-making processes:

- (a) Allocate sufficient resources to research and data collection on women and girls with disabilities, disaggregated by age, geographical area, type of impairment, family situation, and place of residence (institution or community care);
- (b) Include a disability perspective in gender equality legislation, policies and programmes, as well as a gender perspective in disability legislation and policies, and develop specialized policies for women with disabilities;
- (c) Prevent and combat the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that women and girls with disabilities face, with a particular focus on access to justice, protection against violence and abuse, education, health care and employment;
- (d) Include a disability perspective in all laws, policies and programmes on protection from violence, abuse and exploitation, take awareness-raising measures to encourage women and girls with disabilities to report all forms of harassment and violence to which they have been subjected, ensure their access to accessible information and adequate victim support services, including at the local level, and adequately punish perpetrators.

Morocco (2017)

14. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against, and marginalization of, women and girls with disabilities, in the absence of programmes to promote their rights on an equal basis with men;
- (b) The discrimination by association experienced by women with children with disabilities;
- (c) The information received on cases of violence and abuse against women and girls with disabilities;
- (d) The absence of measures to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities in all settings and to provide health, psychosocial and legal services for those who have been affected by such violence.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other forms of exploitation. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities in gender-equality legislation and in disability-related legislation and policies, and conduct public awareness-raising campaigns to combat stereotypes, prejudices and myths about them;
- (b) Raise awareness about all forms of discrimination against women, and include the perspectives of women who are caregivers for children with disabilities in policies on tackling gender-based discrimination;
- (c) Revise bill 103-13 on combating violence against women, so as to include the disability perspective and address the specific risks of gender-based violence and the barriers to protection faced by women and girls with disabilities, in particular women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (d) Put in place effective mechanisms to ensure that women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence and abuse are protected and that they have access to medical, psychological and legal services on an equal basis with others.

Panama (2017)

16. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a gender equality plan, the fact that disability policies do not specifically cover women and girls and the lack of policies and strategies on the prevention and punishment of violence against women and girls with disabilities, including indigenous persons and persons of African descent with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations that represent women and girls with disabilities and bearing in mind the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Include women with disabilities in the plans and strategies of the National Secretariat for Disabilities;**
- (b) Revise its disability policies to incorporate a gender-based approach;**
- (c) Revise its policies on violence against women with a view to introducing a disability dimension;**
- (d) Allocate dedicated human and financial resources to the advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities;**
- (e) Be guided by article 6 of the Convention in pursuing targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

18. The Committee is concerned about the invisibility of discrimination and violence, including domestic and sexual violence, against women with disabilities in the State party and notes that women with disabilities in rural areas and indigenous regions are particularly vulnerable. It is concerned that there are still some shelters for women victims of violence that are not accessible to all women with disabilities. The Committee regrets the lack of disaggregated data on cases of discrimination and/or violence against women with disabilities.

19. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to:

- (a) Combat violence against women with disabilities, including indigenous and Afrodescendent women with disabilities, in urban and rural areas and indigenous regions;**
- (b) Ensure that shelters for women victims of violence are accessible for women with disabilities and that the officials in charge have received training on assisting persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Systematically compile data and statistics on the situation of women and girls with disabilities and establish indicators that can be used to assess the impact of the measures taken to counter discrimination against them.**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

18. The Committee is concerned that the rights of women and girls with disabilities have not been systematically mainstreamed into both the gender equality and disability agendas. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of measures and available data concerning the impact of multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of women and girls with disabilities, mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into disability and gender equality policies. It also recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopt inclusive and targeted measures, including the collection of disaggregated data, to prevent multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in education, employment, health and access to justice and in terms of poverty and violence.

Armenia (2017)

9. The Committee is concerned that women and girls with disabilities face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion in all areas of life. In particular, it is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of reference to women with disabilities in disability and gender- related national legislation and policies;**
- (b) The lack of accessibility of mainstream services and reasonable accommodation for women and girls with disabilities, especially women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;**
- (c) The lack of legislation and relevant regulations protecting women and girls with disabilities from gender-based violence, particularly at home and in institutions, as well as the lack of access to shelters and adequate services for victims of such violence;**
- (d) The persistence of cases of neglect, violence, restraint and seclusion, as well as sexual abuse, of women with disabilities.**

10. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Incorporate a disability perspective in all national legislation and policies related to women and girls;**
- (b) Take all measures necessary to increase accessibility of mainstream services and reasonable accommodation for all women and girls with disabilities, including by ensuring the involvement of representative organizations of women with disabilities in the development, implementation and monitoring of service provision programmes;**
- (c) Strengthen its efforts to develop efficient community-based services to advance the deinstitutionalization of women and girls with disabilities and prevent any new institutionalization;**
- (d) Implement effective legal, policy and practical measures to address gender-based violence against women with disabilities, particularly those living in institutions; prevent and investigate violations of their human rights and prosecute and punish those responsible; and ensure that those affected have access to immediate protection and accessible support services, including reasonable accommodation in mainstream services and shelter facilities, as well as means of redress;**
- (e) Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;**
- (f) Implement the recommendations contained in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning women with disabilities (see CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/5-6, paras. 27, 34-35 and 37).**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

12. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The insufficient information on a comprehensive gender equality policy or strategy in relation to the 2013-2017 Gender Action Plan;**
- (b) The lack of wide-ranging consultations with and participation by organizations of women with disabilities also at the local level;**
- (c) The lack of adequate and transparent funding and employment-related measures tailored to the requirements of women with disabilities;**
- (d) The fact that “there is almost no record of” political participation of women with disabilities.**

13. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt an effective strategy to ensure that laws provide for the full protection and enjoyment of the rights of women and girls with disabilities, in line with the Convention, and incorporate the disability perspective into all gender- equality policies and programmes, including employment-related policies and measures;**
- (b) Take appropriate measures to prevent and combat multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that women and girls with disabilities face, especially in access to justice, protection against violence and abuse, education, health and employment;**
- (c) Ensure the effective participation of women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in consultations, political participation and decision-making processes.**

Canada (2017)

15. The Committee is concerned that women with disabilities face intersectional discrimination, including in access to justice, which particularly affects indigenous women with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on legislation to promote

the economic empowerment of women with disabilities through legislation and public policies on gender equality.

16. The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the federal strategy against gender-based violence includes lines of action and specific programmes and benchmarks to address all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities;**
- (b) Remove barriers and develop inclusive practices in order to create financial and practical support and address prejudices and negative stereotypes;**
- (c) Ensure that indigenous women with disabilities have access to available education programmes, are aware of their rights under the Convention and have access to the support available to claim their rights;**
- (d) Bear in mind its obligations under article 6 of the Convention while implementing targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Cyprus (2017)

17. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Women and girls with disabilities are not equally and systematically mainstreamed in the gender equality agenda;
- (b) There is a lack of measures to eliminate intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;
- (c) The application of a gender perspective with respect to legislation, policies and programmes for persons with disabilities, and with respect to data collection, is insufficient.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that women and girls with disabilities are mainstreamed into all gender equality policies, laws, regulations and action plans in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, with a special focus on the collaboration with women and girls with disabilities, in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention;**
- (b) Adopt and implement effective measures to empower women and girls with disabilities and to ensure their protection from gender-based discrimination, including intersectional discrimination, and that such measures provide for effective access to all rights and services for women and girls with disabilities, both in urban and in rural areas on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Include a gender perspective in all legislation, policies and programmes for persons with disabilities and in the collection of data on all issues;**
- (d) In taking the above measures, be particularly guided by general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and target 5.1, 5.2, 5.5 and 5 (c) of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Honduras (2017)

15. Preocupa al Comité la falta de implementación de las normas y políticas públicas sobre los derechos de las mujeres así como la ausencia de políticas y estrategias para la prevención y sanción de la violencia en contra de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad.

16. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que incluya a las mujeres con discapacidad en los planes y estrategias del Programa Nacional de Discapacidad. Asimismo, recomienda que el Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres revise las políticas sobre discapacidad para incluir un enfoque de género, y revise las políticas de combate a la violencia contra las mujeres para incluir la dimensión de discapacidad, asegurando que todas estas acciones se hagan en consulta con mujeres y niñas con discapacidad a través de sus organizaciones representativas. Además, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte armonizar su legislación sobre los derechos sexuales y reproductivos con la Convención y desarrollar acciones para garantizar el respeto de los derechos sexuales y reproductivos de las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

14. The Committee is concerned about multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, including several forms of gender-based violence against them, as well as the absence of public policies aimed at ensuring their development, advancement and empowerment. It also notes with concern that legislation and public policies emphasise caring roles of women in families with children with disabilities, instead of recognising women and girls with disabilities themselves as rights-holders under the Convention.

15. The Committee, in line with its General Comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognise in its legislation and practices the principle of equality between women and men with disabilities established in article 3 (g) of the Convention, and undertake measures to prevent multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Establish a time frame and a strategy to enforce the comprehensive legislation for securing women against violence, and prohibit all forms of gender- based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including within the family;

(c) Ensure that the Office of the Vice-president for Women and Family Affairs allocates human, technical and budgetary resources for the advancement of the rights of women and girls with disabilities, promote full participation of organizations of women with disabilities in its work;

(d) Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol; and

(e) Bear in mind its obligations under article 6 of the Convention while implementing targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Jordan (2017)

15. The Committee notes with concern the lack of a coordinated and strategic framework to combat intersectional discrimination experienced by women and girls with disabilities, including the cultural stigma regarding their ability to marry and found a family. It notes the absence of a disability perspective in all elements of the National Strategy for Women (2013-2017), including in strategic plans for the provision of reproductive health services in the State party.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a legislative framework to combat the intersectional discrimination experienced by women and girls with disabilities, together with a coordinated strategy for its implementation;

(b) Mainstream rights for persons with disabilities in all national strategies and action plans for women and girls, including reproductive health strategies;

(c) Carry out awareness-raising campaigns aimed at generating a change in cultural attitudes towards women and girls with disabilities.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

12. The Committee is concerned that women and girls with disabilities face multiple discrimination and exclusion in all areas of life. It is concerned about the low participation of women with disabilities in political and public life and their invisibility in the anti-discriminatory legal provisions and policies related to women. In particular, it is concerned that:

(a) Non-consensual termination of a pregnancy on the grounds of impairment is still practised;

(b) Legislation to prevent and combat domestic violence fails to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls;

(c) Mainstream services for women affected by violence are inaccessible to women and girls with disabilities and, instead of providing reasonable accommodation, redirect women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities to psychiatric hospitals.

13. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address multiple discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and mainstream the issues of women and girls with disabilities in the anti-discriminatory legal provisions and policies related to women and girls, and that it promote the representation and participation of women with disabilities in political and public life. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the right of women with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health on an equal basis with others and repeal legislation that allows for the non- consensual termination of pregnancy;

(b) Incorporate a disability perspective into all policies and strategies aimed at combating gender-based violence and take measures to ensure that laws address domestic violence against women and girls with disabilities;

(c) Ensure that women and girls with disabilities affected by violence have access to immediate protection and accessible support services, including reasonable accommodation in mainstream services and shelter facilities, as well as means of redress;

(d) Ratify the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence adopted by the Council of Europe.

14. The Committee is particularly concerned that women with disabilities, especially women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are still living in institutions where cases of neglect, violence, forced contraceptive measures, forced abortion, forced medication, restraint and sexual abuse, including by medical staff, remain common.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its efforts to develop efficient community-based services to advance the deinstitutionalization of women, particularly those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) Prevent any new cases of institutionalization;

(c) Implement effective legal, policy and practical measures to address gender-based violence against women with disabilities still living in institutions and to prevent, investigate and provide redress for violations of their human rights, and prosecute those responsible;

(d) Monitor residential institutions, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, in the interim period.

Bolivia (2016)

15. The Committee is concerned about the fact that women and girls with disabilities are not mentioned in policies and strategies aimed at equal opportunities for men and women, and most notably in the National Equal Opportunities Plan "Women Building a New Bolivia for Good Living".

16. The Committee recommends that the State party review and amend the National Equal Opportunities Plan to incorporate the perspective of women with disabilities. It urges the State party to review its policies on inclusion of persons with disabilities and ensure that they include a gender perspective. The Committee further recommends that the State party be guided by article 6 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities in its efforts to achieve targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

16. The Committee is concerned about the limited measures taken to mainstream the disability perspective in the policies adopted by the High-level Presidential Advisory Office for Equality for Women and the national policy on women contained in CONPES social policy

paper No. 161, and about the absence of the disability perspective in the policies and legislation designed to combat discrimination and gender-based violence.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the policies and strategies of the High-level Presidential Advisory Office for Equality for Women and the national policy on women contained in CONPES social policy paper No. 161 in order to better account for women with disabilities as a priority and in a cross-cutting manner;

(b) Incorporate the disability perspective in all the policies and strategies aimed at combating gender-based violence and take account of intersectional discrimination resulting from membership in Afro-Colombian, Raizal and indigenous communities, or from living in rural or remote areas;

(c) Be guided by article 6 of the Convention in pursuing targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ethiopia (2016)

13. The Committee is concerned that the rights of women and girls with disabilities are not effectively mainstreamed and respected in law and in practice. It is also concerned that organizations of women and girls with disabilities are neither involved nor consulted on the implementation of the Convention.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of women with disabilities in law and in practice. It also recommends that the State party ensure the consultation and involvement of organizations of women and girls with disabilities with regard to the implementation of the Convention. It further recommends that the State party take into account article 6 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, while implementing targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guatemala (2016)

19. The Committee is concerned by the lack of attention paid by the State party to preventing and combating the intersectional discrimination that is frequently suffered by women and girls with disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of women with disabilities and taking into account the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all policies and programmes on gender equality and discrimination and take remedial measures and affirmative action to eliminate discrimination against them and to empower them, making sure to include those living in rural areas or indigenous communities. The Committee also recommends systematically compiling data and statistics on the situation of women and girls with disabilities and establishing indicators that can be used to assess the impact of the measures taken to counter discrimination against them. The Committee encourages the State party to entrust the Presidential Secretariat for Women with the task of allocating dedicated human and financial resources to the advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 6 of the Convention in its implementation of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

21. The Committee is concerned by the fact that the legislation of the State party limits or restricts the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls with disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party bring its legislation on sexual and reproductive rights into line with the Convention and ensure that those rights are not limited or restricted for women and girls with disabilities.

Italy (2016)

13. The Committee is concerned that women and girls with disabilities are not systematically mainstreamed in the gender equality agenda and disability agenda.

14. The Committee recommends that gender be mainstreamed in disability policies and disability be mainstreamed in gender policies, both in close consultation with women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations. It also recommends that the State party take into account article 6 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities while implementing targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The multiple forms of discrimination that women and girls with disabilities experience in the State party, including as relates to loss of personal status and rights within the family as set out in the law on personal status and the Penal Code, and the lack of measures taken to address the issue;

(b) The overall lack of information on the social, economic and political situation of women and girls with disabilities and of measures to increase the participation of women with disabilities in the making of decisions affecting them.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all legal provisions, including those in the law on personal status and the Penal Code (see CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/2-3, para. 14) in order to ensure that women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, enjoy rights within the family on an equal basis with men and boys;

(b) Carry out awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes at all levels, in particular the family level, to foster respect for the rights and dignity of women and girls with disabilities and combat stereotypes, prejudices and misconceptions about women and girls with disabilities;

(c) Mainstream, in consultation with representative organizations, the full range of rights of women and girls with disabilities on the women's rights agenda with a view to developing policies to promote the autonomy and full participation in society of such women and girls;

(d) Be guided by article 6 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities in the implementation of target 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uruguay (2016)

15. Preocupa al Comité la ausencia de un plan de igualdad de oportunidades entre mujeres y hombres, que las políticas de discapacidad no incluyan específicamente a las mujeres y niñas, así como la ausencia de políticas y estrategias para la prevención y sanción de la violencia en contra de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad.

16. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que incluya a las mujeres con discapacidad en los planes y estrategias del Pronadis y del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, revise las políticas sobre discapacidad para incluir un enfoque de género, y las de combate a la violencia contra las mujeres para incluir la dimensión de discapacidad. Recomienda también que dichas acciones se lleven a cabo en consulta con organizaciones representativas de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 6 de la Convención y el comentario general No. 3 del Comité sobre mujeres y niñas con discapacidad y las metas 5.1, 5.2 y 5.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, para eliminar toda forma de discriminación, y violencia en contra de las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, promoviendo su participación plena y efectiva en la sociedad.

Chile (2016)

13. Preocupa al Comité que las políticas de género y las políticas de discapacidad del Estado parte no incluyan a las mujeres con discapacidad, y que tampoco existan políticas y estrategias dirigidas a ellas específicamente.

14. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que incorpore a las mujeres con discapacidad en las políticas de género y en las políticas de discapacidad y que ponga en marcha políticas y estrategias dirigidas a ellas específicamente, todo ello en estrecha consulta con las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad a través de las organizaciones que las representan.

Lithuania (2016)

15. The Committee notes with concern the absence of concrete measures to prevent and eradicate discrimination against women and girls with disabilities as well as multidimensional discrimination of women and girls with disabilities based on other grounds, especially on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in the action plan for the National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015-2021.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party revise its action plan for the National Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015-2021 to include an explicit focus on prevention and eradication of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, including multiple and intersectional discrimination, as well as measures for their development, advancement and empowerment, in particular to foster their participation in public life. The Committee also recommends that the State party include measures to prevent and eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the action plan.

Portugal (2016)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of actions by the State party focusing specifically on preventing and combating the multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, as well as about the lack of information in this respect. It is also concerned that women with disabilities are not consulted when designing programmes and measures related to women in general or to persons with disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party incorporate the perspective of women and girls with disabilities in its gender equality policies, programmes and strategies, and the gender perspective in its disability strategies, employing a twin-track approach which also includes levelling and affirmative action measures to eliminate multiple and intersectional discrimination from all areas of life, both in urban and in rural areas. Likewise, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that women with disabilities are consulted, through their representative organisations, on the design of programmes and measures related to all issues affecting them directly.

Serbia (2016)

11. The Committee is concerned at the lack of specific actions implemented by the State party to prevent and combat multiple and intersectional discrimination that women and girls with disabilities face, particularly in access to justice, protection against violence and abuse, education, health and employment. It is also concerned at the lack of sufficient or transparent funding and employment-related measures tailored to the needs of women with disabilities, and that women with disabilities are not consulted in the design of programs and measures aimed at women in general or at persons with disabilities.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) incorporate the perspective of women and girls with disabilities in its gender equality policies, programs and strategies and the gender perspective in its strategies on disability, to eradicate its multiple and intersectional discrimination in all areas of life;**
- (b) take appropriate measures to prevent and combat multiple and intersectional discrimination that women and girls with disabilities face, particularly in access to justice, protection against violence and abuse, education, health and employment;**
- (c) ensure consultation with women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, on the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and measures in all matters that affect them directly;**
- (d) provide sufficient resources for the improvement of the status and the employment of women with disabilities and promotion of gender equality-related programmes.**

Slovakia (2016)

21. The Committee is concerned that legislation and policies on gender equality are not disability-inclusive and that legislation and policies on disability rights are not gender-

sensitive. It is also concerned that the State party does not have specific policies for women with disabilities and that they are not consulted on matters that affect them directly.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream disability in all legislation and policies on gender equality, and that gender is mainstreamed in all legislation and policies on disability rights. It also recommends that the State party establish specific policies regarding women with disabilities in close consultation with them through their representative organizations.

Thailand (2016)

15. The Committee is concerned at the lack of legislation, policies or programmes designed to protect women and girls with disabilities from multiple and intersectional discrimination and violence; at the limited opportunities for women with disabilities to be systematically involved in decisions that concern them directly; and that there is no strategy to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy for guaranteeing full protection against discrimination, and enjoyment of the rights of women and girls with disabilities, particularly those living in rural areas and belonging to ethnic minorities;

(b) Ensure that women and girls with disabilities can participate effectively in decision-making processes at all levels on matters that concern them directly, including in the Thai Women's Assembly;

(c) Mainstream a perspective on women and girls with disabilities in its gender equality law, strategy, policies and programmes;

(d) In consultation with representative organizations of women with disabilities, implement a strategy to promote the full development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

Uganda (2016)

10. The Committee is concerned about the multiple forms of discrimination faced by women with disabilities and the absence of measures to prevent and combat different forms of discrimination, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation against them. It is also concerned about the lack of measures for the development, advancement, and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a systematic approach to the rights of women and girls with disabilities, mainstream such rights across all laws, policies and programmes and collect data disaggregated by gender and disability;

(b) Take specific measures to tackle multiple and intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities in the State party, particularly women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including through financing, developing and supporting schemes that increase their economic and social independence;

(c) Ensure that gender and disability policies address the situation of women with disabilities and allocate appropriate human, technical and budgetary resources to promote the development, advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities.

Brazil (2015)

14. The Committee is concerned that measures taken by the State party for preventing violence against women and girls, such as the Maria da Penha law (Law No. 11340/2006) and the Women's Assistance Hotline – Dial 180, are not effective in combatting violence against women and girls with disabilities and are not fully accessible to deaf and other women and girls with disabilities.

15. The Committee recommends the State party to take immediate action to adopt a due diligence framework to ensure that its laws, policies and programmes targeting violence against women, including institutionalized women are accessible and effective in preventing

and redressing violence against women and girls with disabilities, and include specific measures, targets and indicators.

16. The Committee is also concerned that the State party does not have a strategy to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

17. The Committee recommends that, in consultation with women with disabilities and their representative organizations, the State party implement a strategy to promote each of the three elements of article 6, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

European Union (2015)

20. The Committee is concerned that the European Union has neither mainstreamed a disability perspective in all its gender policies, programs and strategies, nor adopted a gender perspective in its disability strategies.

21. The Committee recommends that the European Union mainstream women and girls with disabilities' perspective in its forthcoming Gender Equality Strategy, policies and programs, as well as a gender perspective in its disability strategies. It further recommends that the European Union develop affirmative actions to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities, establish a mechanism to monitor progress, and fund data collection and research on women and girls with disabilities. It further recommends that the European Union accede to the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention as a step to combating violence against women and girls with disabilities.

Gabon (2015)

14. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific provisions targeting women and girls with disabilities and the absence of mainstreaming of their rights in legislation, policies and programs concerning women and gender equality such as the Decade on Women (2015-2025), as well as the lack of an explicit definition of discrimination against women. In addition, the Committee is concerned about the lack of implementation of social policies to allocate resources for women and children with disabilities including those living in rural areas and belonging to indigenous populations (pygmy communities) and ethnic minorities, and the lack of participation of women with disabilities in decision-making processes.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a twin track approach to ensure measures targeting women and girls with disabilities, comprising the immediate incorporation of a prohibition of discrimination against women which addresses situations of intersectional discrimination including on the basis of disability; the allocation of specific resources for women and girls with disabilities, specifically in the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Equity; as well as the close consultation and active involvement of women with disabilities in decision making processes, including in the above-mentioned strategy and in the Decade of Women of Gabon.

Kenya (2015)

11. The Committee is concerned about the multiple forms of discrimination faced by women with disabilities and the absence of measures to prevent and combat different forms of discrimination against them. It is also concerned about the lack of information on public policies and programmes on gender equality that include the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Systematically collect data and statistics on the situation of women and girls with disabilities living in rural and urban areas, belonging to ethnic minorities and pastoralist communities;

(b) Strengthen the mandate of the National Gender and Equality Commission with allocation of human, technical and budgetary resources specifically aimed at the advancement of the rights of women with disabilities; and

(c) Adopt a national strategy with a timeframe and indicators, to address intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, including those living in rural and urban areas, and ensure their effective participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of such strategy.

Mauritius (2015)

11. The Committee is concerned that the relations between the 'Forum of Women with Disabilities' and the State party remain unclear. The Committee also regrets that the particular situation of women and girls with disabilities is not adequately taken into account in the State party legislations and policies, as highlighted notably by the absence of any provisions concerning them in the Protection from Domestic Violence Act.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party, in full cooperation with organizations of women and girls with disabilities, include their rights into all laws, policies and programmes and take all necessary measures to protect them from multiple and intersectional discrimination and violence to enable them to fully enjoy all their rights under the Convention. The State party should ensure that laws against gender based discrimination and violence provide for proportionate enforceable sanctions and effective remedies.

Qatar (2015)

13. The Committee is concerned about the multiple forms of discrimination that women and girls with disabilities experience in the State party. It is concerned about the overall lack of information on the social, economic and political situation of women and girls with disabilities, and on the limited participation of women with disabilities in making decisions affecting them in general. It is also concerned that measures to mainstream the rights and needs of women and girls with disabilities in strategies have not been implemented.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party carry out awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes at all levels, particularly targeted at the family level, in order to foster respect for the rights and dignity of women and girls with disabilities, and combat stereotypes, prejudices and misconceptions about women and girls with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party, in consultation with women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, mainstream their rights across the women's rights agenda with a view to developing policies to promote their autonomy and full participation in society.

Ukraine (2015)

11. The Committee is seriously concerned about the reports of trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation of women with disabilities in institutions. It is also concerned that laws and policies of the State party promoting the equality of women do not take into account the situation of women with disabilities. Furthermore, it is concerned about the lack of data on gender-based violence against women with disabilities and the lack of access for women with disabilities to temporary shelters and services aimed at victims of domestic violence.

12. The Committee recommends the State party to take all necessary measures to conduct prompt and effective investigation into all reports of trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation of women and girls with disabilities in institutions and prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators as well as take measures to provide remedies to victims of such crimes. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that all its policies and regulations on gender equality and combatting gender based violence address the situation of women and girls with disabilities. Furthermore, it urges the State party to revise its normative standards in order to provide access for all women and girls with disabilities who are subjected to violence, including physical access to its shelters and services aimed at victims of domestic violence.

Cook Islands (2015)

11. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not adequately address the question of promoting the full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, particularly in health, education and employment.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party improve measures to promote the full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities by:

(a) Establishing a formal consultation mechanism to ensure that women and girls with disabilities across the country and their representative organisations are meaningfully consulted and are enabled to participate in the legislative and political spheres;

(b) Taking concrete steps to mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities across all laws, policies and programmes regarding gender equality, in line with the Convention.

Croatia (2015)

9. The Committee is concerned that a high proportion of women with disabilities have only primary school education or less. Moreover it is concerned about the gap between the number of men with disabilities and women with disabilities in employment. The Committee is worried about reports on violence against women and girls with disabilities in families and in institutions, in particular psychiatric institutions.

10. The Committee recommends that in consultation with organisations representing women with disabilities, measures are taken to advance the development and empowerment of women with disabilities in fields such as education and employment, and that immediate action is taken for the protection of women and girls with disabilities against violence, including sexual violence. The Committee recommends to mainstream women with disabilities into general gender equality policies. It recommends that both these measures and action should be accompanied by sufficient budget and clear time lines. The Committee recommends to systematically collect data and statistics on the situation of women and girls with disabilities with indicators that assess intersectional discrimination as well as to include an analysis of them in their next periodical report.

Czech Republic (2015)

13. The Committee is concerned at the absence of actions to prevent and combat multiple discrimination faced by women and children with disabilities, as well as, the lack of data on women and girls with disabilities relevant to combating inter-sectional discrimination they face.

14. The Committee calls upon the State party to implement programs and actions for women and children with disabilities, including measures for equality and affirmative action both in terms of disability and equality policy, as well as establishing a framework for data collection relevant to combating inter-sectional discrimination of women and girls with disabilities, in line with article 31 of the Convention and taking into account the conceptual and methodological framework for human rights indicators (HR/PUB/12/5), and step up implementation of the adopted policies to combat the above-mentioned discrimination.

Dominican Republic (2015)

10. The Committee is concerned that women and girls with disabilities are not specifically included in any of the seven priority objectives of the 2007–2017 Second National Gender Equality and Equity Plan. It is also concerned that the disability perspective is not applied in the work and policies of the Ministry for Women.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party include objectives for and indicators of the inclusion of women with disabilities in its national gender equity plans and in the work and policies of the Ministry for Women, in close consultation with organizations of the women concerned.

Germany (2015)

15. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient action to prevent and combat multiple discrimination of women and girls with disabilities, particularly migrants and refugees, and the inadequate collection of relevant data.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement programmes for women and girls with disabilities, particularly migrant and refugee women and girls, including affirmative action to eliminate discrimination in all areas of life;

(b) Systematically collect data and statistics on the situation of women and girls with disabilities with indicators to assess intersectional discrimination and include analytical information in this regard in its next periodic report.

Mongolia (2015)

11. The Committee is concerned about the overall lack of information on social, economic and political situations of girls and women with disabilities in Mongolian society, the incidence of violence, sexual abuse, and the limited extent to which women with disabilities participate in making decisions affecting them in general.

12. The Committee urges the State party to undertake consultations with women and girls with disabilities with a view to using these as a basis for implementing law reform and policy changes, with particular attention to their family lives, education, health services, employment and combating domestic and/or sexual violence. The Committee also recommends that the gender policy of the State party include girls and children with disabilities.

Turkmenistan (2015)

15. The Committee is concerned that women and girls with disabilities experience compounded forms of discrimination which affect their rights to education, health, employment and be protected from violence. It is also concerned at the lack of concrete information on the impact of the measures taken by the State party to involve women and girls with disabilities in development programmes and ensure their rights under the Convention.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party design and implement effective programmes, as part of the Law on State Guarantees of Equality of Women, including affirmative action measures, to promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities and eliminate discrimination against them in all aspects of life, and ensure that their views are duly considered in development programmes.

New Zealand (2014)

15. The Committee notes the projects funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs to assist women with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that this work be continued and strengthened to assist women with disabilities in obtaining education and employment and in combating domestic violence. The Committee also recommends that organizations representing women and girls with disabilities be involved in these programmes.

Denmark (2014)

18. The Committee is concerned that the Act on Gender Equality does not specifically address women and girls with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has not undertaken any specific initiatives aimed at women and girls with disabilities in the educational system, nor any specific measures for women with disabilities to find or maintain employment.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the perspective of gender and disability is encompassed in its laws and policies and its sectorial services, and in the implementation and evaluation of these. The Committee also recommends that the State party take measures to increase opportunities for adequate education and employment for women and girls with disabilities.

Republic of Korea (2014)

13. The Committee is concerned that legislation and policies concerning persons with disabilities do not include a gender perspective. It is also concerned about the lack of sufficient measures to prevent domestic violence against women with disabilities and sexual violence against women with disabilities, both inside and outside residential institutions. It is further concerned at the difficulties faced by women and girls with disabilities in participating in lifelong education programmes and at the lack of sufficient support for women with disabilities during pregnancy and childbearing.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream a gender perspective in its disability legislation and policies and develop specialized policies for women with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party take effective measures to address violence against women with disabilities, both inside and outside residential institutions, in particular by introducing a disability-sensitive perspective when formulating educational programmes on preventing sexual and domestic violence. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure that women with disabilities receive appropriate lifelong education according to their choices and needs, regardless of whether they have finished or were excluded from mainstream education. It also recommends that the State party increase its support to women with disabilities during pregnancy and childbearing.

Belgium (2014)

13. The Committee is concerned at the lack of knowledge about whether women with disabilities are discriminated against because of their gender and about the extent to which women and girls with disabilities are discriminated against as compared to men and boys with disabilities, and to women without disabilities.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the integration of gender and disability perspectives in its legislation and policies, surveys, plans, evaluation and monitoring activities and services. It also recommends that the State party adopt effective and specific measures to prevent intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.

Ecuador (2014)

16. The Committee is concerned about the discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, which is aggravated by the convergence of various factors of social exclusion relating to gender and disability. It is also concerned that the National Council for Gender Equality has not taken measures to mainstream the needs of women and girls with disabilities and that such women and girls do not participate directly in the Council.

17. The Committee recommends that: (a) The State party implement the legislation and all programmes and activities targeting women and girls with disabilities, including measures of remediation and affirmative action, in order to eradicate discrimination against them in all spheres of life, in both urban and rural areas, by ensuring their effective participation in the design and implementation of such measures; (b) The National Council for Gender Equality incorporate into its work measures to address intersectional discrimination against women, taking into consideration disability as a factor of exclusion, and ensure the direct participation of women with disabilities in the Council.

Mexico (2014)

13. The Committee is concerned at the lack of specific assistance measures implemented by the State party to prevent and combat intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and the lack of information in this regard.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Put into effect the legislation and all of the programmes and actions targeting women and girls with disabilities, including corrective measures and affirmative action, to eradicate discrimination in all aspects of life, in both urban and rural areas, and to ensure their effective participation in the design and implementation of these measures;

(b) Systematically compile data and statistics on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, together with indicators for the evaluation of intersectional discrimination.

Sweden (2014)

13. The Committee is concerned that there is little knowledge about whether women with disabilities are discriminated against because of their gender, and to which degree women and girls with disabilities are discriminated against as compared to men and boys with disabilities. It is further concerned that studies, policies and plans of action concerning persons with disabilities do not include a gender perspective.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the perspective of gender and disability permeates its legislation and policies, surveys and plans, its implementation, evaluation and monitoring activities and its services. It also recommends that the State party adopt effective and specific measures to prevent intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities

Azerbaijan (2014)

16. The Committee notes that the State party has adopted a Law on Gender Equality N-150-IIIQ of 2006 and another on the Prevention of Domestic Violence in 2010. However, the Committee is concerned that these pieces of legislation do not specifically address women and girls with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt effective and specific measures to guarantee equality and to prohibit multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt a twin track approach to mainstream a disability perspective into its gender legislation and policy, including with respect to addressing violence against women and ensuring effective access to information and services on sexual and reproductive health; and to facilitate advocacy by and on behalf of women and girls with disabilities. In this regard, the Committee encourages the State party to ensure that the National Activity Plan on the "Enhancement of the Efficiency of Human Rights and Freedoms" addresses the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

Costa Rica (2014)

13. The Committee regrets the absence of measures in the State party to achieve de facto equality of women with disabilities and of measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are effectively included in general gender equality policies. It is further concerned about the lack of specific actions by the National Institute for Women in respect of women and girls with disabilities and the lack of information provided by the State party on the progress of measures taken to accelerate their full and effective participation in political and public affairs.

14. The Committee requests the State party to ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in policies for women and gender equality through greater participation in the National Institute for Women. It further requests the State party to take steps to protect women and girls with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability and gender; and to accelerate measures to ensure their full and effective participation in political affairs.

Australia (2013)

16. The Committee is concerned at reports of high incidence of violence and sexual abuse against women with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party includes a more comprehensive consideration of women with disabilities in public programmes and policies on the prevention of gender-based violence, particularly so as to ensure access for women with disabilities to an effective, integrated response system.

Austria (2013)

16. While much has been achieved, the Committee notes that substantive equality between women and men has not yet been achieved. Women with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination because of their gender and disability and may also be at risk of sexual violence and abuse.

17. The Committee is concerned about a lack of advocacy and support structures for women with disabilities. The Committee notes with concern that there is only one organisation representing women and it does not cover all women with disabilities in the State party.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt effective and specific measures to ensure equality and to prevent multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities. The Committee encourages the State party to mainstream a gender perspective in its disability legislation and policy, and to facilitate advocacy by and on behalf of women and girls with disabilities. The Committee also encourages the State party, including the Länder, to offer services which are accessible to and targeted at women with disabilities.

El Salvador (2013)

17. The Committee is concerned that the Special Act on a Violence-Free Life for Women does not recognize the multiple forms of discrimination against women with disabilities. It is also worrying that organizations of women with disabilities are not encouraged to participate in decision-making.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party recognize in the law the multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and that it adopt specific legislation and strategies to fight them. The Committee recommends setting up a mechanism for the collection of disaggregated data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, in consultation with organizations of women with disabilities.

Paraguay (2013)

17. The Committee notes the adoption of the third National Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2008–2017, which includes women with disabilities as a cross-cutting theme. The Committee is nevertheless concerned that the actions set forth in the Plan make no reference to structural factors that prevent women with disabilities from exercising their rights. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the risks of violence to women, including forced sterilization, sexual and economic exploitation, and abuse and trafficking in persons.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party institute as a matter of urgency effective measures to identify, prevent and provide protection from the multiple discrimination suffered by women and girls with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and hearing impairments. The Committee also recommends the establishment of accessible care centres for women and girls who are victims of these forms of violence in urban and rural areas, in consultation with organizations representing women with disabilities.

Argentina (2012)

13. The Committee takes note with concern of the unconvincing measures taken by the State party to address the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, and it regrets the lack of proper protection for their rights (see CEDAW/C/ARG/CO/6, paras. 43 and 44). It is particularly concerned that there is no strategy for mainstreaming gender and disability issues into legislation and programmes focusing on women, including those that deal with violence, access to justice, sexual and reproductive rights, and access to the labour market.

14. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a strategy for guaranteeing full protection and enjoyment of the rights of women and girls with disabilities, while also ensuring their effective participation in decision-making processes. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party incorporate a disability perspective into all gender-equality policies and programmes, thereby guaranteeing the full and effective participation of women with disabilities on the same footing as other women.

China (2012)

57. The Committee is concerned about the discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities and the lack of action of Hong Kong, China, government to reduce the occurrence of discrimination, such as neglecting article 6 in the promotion of the CRPD. The Committee is also troubled by the repeated occurrence of domestic violence against women and girls with disabilities.

58. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China, Women's Commission should integrate the amelioration of the living situation of women and girls with disabilities in their mandate and include a representative of women with disabilities in its Commission. It also asks Hong Kong, China, to raise awareness on article 6 of the CRPD, so as to ensure that women with disabilities enjoy their rights on an equal basis with men. In addition, the Committee calls upon Hong Kong, China, to prevent domestic violence against women with disabilities and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators and all those responsible.

Hungary (2012)

19. The Committee takes note that the State party's Government Decree 1004/2010 (I.21.) on the National Strategy Promoting the Social Equality of Women and Men "treats the implementation of measures promoting the equality of women and specifically the equality of women with disabilities in their full integrity" (CRPD/C/HUN/Q/1/Add.1). However, the Committee regrets the lack of specific actions aimed at promoting the equality of women and girls with disabilities in the Strategy.

20. The Committee calls upon the State party to adopt effective and specific measures to ensure equality and prevent multiple forms of discrimination of women and girls with disabilities in its policies, and to mainstream a gender perspective in its disability-related legislation and policies.

Peru (2012)

14. The Committee is concerned at the lack of measures directed towards women with disabilities in the Law 27050 and in the National Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2009-2018. The Committee wishes to remind the State party that women can be subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, as already noted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its last concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PER/CO/6). The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities further notes with concern that women with disabilities do not benefit from special protection in the National Plan against Violence towards Women 2009-2015.

15. The Committee urges the State party to accelerate its efforts to eradicate and prevent discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, by incorporating gender and disability perspectives in all programmes, as well as by ensuring their full and equal participation in decision-making. The Committee urges the State party to amend its

legislative framework to provide special protection to women and girls with disabilities, as well as to adopt effective measures to prevent and redress violence against women and girls with disabilities.

Spain (2011)

21. The Committee is concerned that public programmes and policies on the prevention of gender-based violence do not sufficiently take into consideration the particular situation of women with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that employment policies do not include a comprehensive gender perspective and that unemployment, inactivity and training rates are significantly worse for women than for men with disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Include a more comprehensive consideration of women with disabilities in public programmes and policies on the prevention of gender-based violence, particularly so as to ensure access for women with disability to an effective, integrated response system;**
- (b) Include a gender perspective in employment policies, and particularly specific measures for women with disabilities;**
- (c) Elaborate and develop strategies, policies and programmes, especially in the fields of education, employment, health and social protection, to promote the autonomy and full participation of women and girls with disability in society, and to combat violence against them.**

Tunisia (2011)

14. While noting the improvements in the condition of women in general, the Committee is concerned by the negative perception of women with disabilities within the family and society, and the reported cultural, traditional and family pressures that favour the concealment of women with disabilities, and prevents them from obtaining a disability card, thereby limiting their opportunities to participate in society, and develop to their full potential.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Design and implement awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes throughout society, including at the family level, on women with disabilities in order to foster respect for their rights and dignity; combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices; and promote awareness of their capabilities and contributions;**
- (b) Ensure the visibility of women with disabilities in the collection of data and statistics (see paragraph 37 below);**
- (c) Undertake studies and research in order to identify the situation and specific requirements of women with disabilities, with a view to elaborating and adopting strategies, policies and programmes, especially in the fields of education, employment, health and social protection, to promote their autonomy and full participation in society, and to combat violence against women.**



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 7 CRPD
(Children with disabilities)*

September 2025

Article 7 - Children with disabilities

- 1. States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.*
- 2. In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.*
- 3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)

Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)

Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)

European Union (2015)

Gabon (2015)

Kenya (2015)

Mauritius (2015)

Qatar (2015)

Ukraine (2015)

Croatia (2015)

Belgium (2014)

Ecuador (2014)

Mexico (2014)

Costa Rica (2014)

Australia (2013)

Austria (2013)

Argentina (2012)

China (2012)

Hong-Kong

Hungary (2012)

Peru (2012)

Spain (2011)

Tunisia (2011)

Please note there are no recommendations on Article 7 in the first Concluding Observations on Republic of Korea.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

11. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Accessible, stigma-free, and community-based paediatric screening services for early identification, diagnosis, and registration of disabilities are lacking, particularly in rural and remote areas, increasing the risk of isolation from society and seclusion at home, particularly for children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The registration system for children with disabilities is inadequately implemented outside Pyongyang, with insufficient legal frameworks to ensure coordinated support, and the State Party has not provided information on measures taken so that children with disabilities who are socially isolated, including those confined to their homes and in rural and remote areas, are registered;
- (c) National data systems do not collect or analyse disaggregated data on children with disabilities, especially those under five, in institutional care, or outside Pyongyang, and do not report on the availability or reach of support services;
- (d) Children with disabilities living with their families in rural and remote areas face limited access to services and support, resulting in social exclusion and unequal opportunities.

12. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Establish accessible, stigma-free, community-based paediatric screening and early diagnosis services nationwide, and adopt measures to prevent the social isolation of children with disabilities by promoting their inclusion in family, education, community, and public life;**
- (b) Implement a transparent, nationwide registration system supported by a legal framework ensuring coordinated services, support, and protections for children with disabilities, particularly outside Pyongyang;**
- (c) Develop and maintain systems to collect, analyse, and publish disaggregated data – covering age, gender, disability type, and location – on children with disabilities, including those under five, in institutions, and in rural and remote areas, to inform policy and programmes;**
- (d) Expand and adequately resource services and support for children with disabilities living with their families in rural and remote areas to ensure equal opportunities and full inclusion.**

Finland (2025)

12. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027 includes children with disabilities only implicitly;
- (b) Services and support for children with disabilities do not always allow them to live with their families in their communities;
- (c) Children with disabilities face barriers in accessing health care services, including mental health services;
- (d) Children with disabilities may face challenges in obtaining support to freely express their requirements and views on all matters affecting them, and for those requirements and views to be given due weight in accordance with a child's age and maturity.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of children with disabilities into all its laws, public policies, action plans and strategies, including in the Open Government Action Plan 2023-2027;**
- (b) Provide adequate and appropriate services and support for children with disabilities, including children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, to live with their families in their communities, and ensure that deaf children with disabilities who have cochlear implants can in fact learn sign language and participate in deaf culture, and provide the adequate support mechanisms to this end;**

- (c) Guarantee access of children with disabilities to health care services, including mental health services, and raise awareness among health care personnel on the rights and requirements of children with disabilities;
- (d) Improve accessible mechanisms for consultation of children with disabilities in all matters affecting them, and provide accessible, age-appropriate information and support to children with disabilities to participate in these mechanisms.

Kiribati (2025)

13. The Committee notes with concern the insufficient inclusion of children with disabilities in the design and implementation of policies and programs focused on children and young people, including the National Youth Policy and Action Plan 2018-2022, and those focused on disability, including the National Disability Policy and Action Plan.

14. Recalling its joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive disability-inclusive child rights policy and strategic plan to consolidate and implement actions to progress the rights of all children throughout the State party, including through mechanisms to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in the design and implementation of policies and programs focused on children and those focused on disability.

Maldives (2025)

13. The Committee is concerned at the limited implementation and enforcement of the existing legal framework for the protection of the rights of children with disabilities, in particular the insufficient early identification and intervention measures, barriers to access education, inadequate family support and risk of removal of children from their families. It is also concerned at the lack of provisions on the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and the lack of mechanisms to consult with children with disabilities and to enable them to express their views in all matters concerning them.

14. Recalling its joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the implementation of the Child Rights Protection Act and other relevant legislation to ensure early screening and intervention mechanisms which should be well documented and monitored, from infancy through the adolescence, involving health, education and social services, including referral pathways;**
- (b) Establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the children's age and maturity;**
- (c) Provide training of health, social services and educational professionals on the rights of children with disabilities and provide support to families of children with disabilities to ensure their adequate protection and respect for their best interest.**

Canada (2025)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The legal and institutional frameworks for children do not mainstream disability, and that significant disparities in policies and across federal, provincial, and territorial levels hinder the effective protection of their rights;
- (b) Programmes of the State Party on daycare and early childhood programs do not sufficiently address the requirements of children with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and of parents with disabilities;
- (c) Policies for children with disabilities do not incorporate the requirements, experiences, and cultural contexts of Indigenous children with disabilities and Black and other racialised

children with disabilities, and that a lack of support for their families frequently forces their children to be placed into residential care or long-term care institutions;

(d) The Children's Rights Impact Assessment does not mainstream disability;

(e) The State Party lacks procedures and supports for children with disabilities to freely express their requirements and views on all matters affecting them, and for them to be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity;

(f) Eligible supports available to First Nations children with disabilities under Jordan's Principle have been restricted, the planned defunding of the Inuit Child First Initiative and lack of an equivalent measure for the provision of supports for Métis children with disabilities.

14. Recalling its past Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, paras. 17 and 18) and its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities:

(a) Mainstream the rights of children with disabilities into all its laws, public policies, action plans and strategies, at all levels and branches of government, including in Bill C-35 on early learning and childcare in Canada, and develop disaggregated data and indicators to measure the effective protection of the rights of children with disabilities guaranteed by the Convention;

(b) Allocate sufficient human, technical and financial support to ensure that children with disabilities have access to daycare and early childhood programs, on an equal basis with other children, and provide support to caregivers and early learning centres to stimulate and teach children with disabilities, including children with disabilities requiring more intensive support, such as children with multiple disabilities or who are deafblind;

(c) Ensure that all policies and programs affecting Indigenous and Black and other racialised children with disabilities are fully responsive to their requirements, experiences, and cultural context;

(d) Amend the Children's Rights Impact Assessment to mainstream disability and render the assessments reached with this tool publicly accessible;

(e) Establish accessible mechanisms for children with disabilities to freely express their requirements and views in all matters affecting them, and ensure that they are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity in all legislative and administrative processes, on the Federal level and in the provinces and territories;

(f) Review decisions to restrict eligible supports under Jordan's Principle, and reconsider defunding the Inuit Child First Initiative, ensure that First Nations and Inuit children with disabilities receive adequate and timely supports and establish an equivalent program for Métis children with disabilities.

Dominican Republic (2025)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The existing support programmes and services for children with disabilities is not sufficiently effective or widely accessible;

(b) The National System for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (SNP) continues to have structural deficiencies in providing care for children with disabilities and ensuring the prevention of violence, abuse and neglect including by its low levels of funding, a shortage of trained and certified personnel, and universally accessible spaces;

(c) The involvement of children with disabilities in decision-making processes that affect their lives is limited, and, while provisions exist to support such involvement, there is insufficient evidence to show that the views of children with disabilities are consistently and effectively considered.

14. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen and expand support programmes for children with disabilities, focusing on education, healthcare and inclusion, and ensure that these programmes are adequately funded, widely accessible and effectively monitored;
- (b) Take urgent measures to strengthen the National System for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (SNP) to ensure adequate care, protection, and inclusion of children with disabilities, including by increasing funding, recruiting and training certified personnel and ensuring that all services, facilities, and complaint mechanisms are universally accessible;
- (c) Develop mechanisms to ensure that children with disabilities can freely express their views on all matters affecting them and that their views are given due weight according to their age and maturity and provide age-, gender- and disability-responsive support to facilitate their participation.

European Union (2025)

22. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Institutionalization, violence and exclusion of children with disabilities across EU Member States, and the insufficient mainstreaming of the rights of children with disabilities in EU legislation and in legislation of Member States transposing EU law;
- (b) The limited availability of disaggregated data about the situation of children with disabilities, including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, autistic children, children in institutions, and in situations of migration;

23. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Consistently mainstream the rights of children with disabilities across all children rights legislation, policies and projects, and introduce effective measures against institutionalization in its internal and external action and in the implementation of the Child Rights Strategy, the European Child Guarantee for vulnerable children, and the 2024 Commission Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child;
- (b) Strengthen the collection of disaggregated data on children with disabilities, including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, living in institutions, and in situations of migration, to inform legislative, policy and funding measures addressing multiple and intersectional discrimination against children with disabilities.

Palau (2025)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Limited access of children with disabilities to social and health-care services and education, particularly children with disabilities in rural communities and on the outer islands;
- (b) The lack of disability- and age-appropriate assistance for children with disabilities to participate and express their views on matters affecting them.

14. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream the principle of the best interests of the child and respect the evolving capacities of children with disabilities in strategies and programmes on the rights of the children, and ensure their access to social and health-care services and inclusive education, on an equal basis with other children;
- (b) Establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity.

Tuvalu (2025)

13. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the insufficient inclusion of the rights of children with disabilities in laws, policies and programs focused on children, including in the National Youth Policy and the National Advisory Committee for Children's Rights;

(b) At the insufficient coordination mechanism to implement laws, policies and programs focused on children and those focused on children with disabilities, including the National Disability Policy 2018 and through the National Disability Coordinating Committee.

14. Recalling its joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a comprehensive disability inclusive children's policy and strategic plan to consolidate and implement actions to progress the rights of all children throughout the State party;

(b) Strengthen coordination, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programs relating to children's rights by ensuring collaboration and partnership arrangements between the National Advisory Committee for Children's Rights and the National Disability Coordinating Committee.

Viet Nam (2025)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Despite the State party's legal framework protecting children with disabilities, significant barriers remain in ensuring their access to inclusive education, early intervention programmes, and individualized support services;

(b) Children with disabilities are at a higher risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, but there is a lack of comprehensive data on the issue, and limited systems to ensure effective intervention and protection;

(c) Many children with disabilities are placed in institutional care, which hinders their inclusion into family and community life, contrary to the principles of the Convention;

(d) The lack of accessible information and communication tools prevents children with disabilities from fully participating in decision-making processes that affect their lives, including at home, in school, and within the community;

(e) Children with disabilities, especially those living in rural and remote areas, often lack access to healthcare services.

14. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take steps to ensure that all children with disabilities have equal access to inclusive education, early intervention programmes, and individualized support services, as well as improve the quality of such services to address their diverse needs;

(b) Enhance data collection on violence, abuse, and neglect of children with disabilities, ensuring that comprehensive and disaggregated data is used to strengthen protective mechanisms and support effective intervention programmes;

(c) Promote family-based care and community inclusion over institutionalization by developing policies that provide adequate support for children with disabilities and their families, ensuring their rights to live and grow within their communities;

(d) Ensure that children with disabilities, including indigenous children with disabilities, have access to accessible information and communication tools that enable them to participate in decision-making at home, school, and community levels, in accordance with their evolving capacities;

(e) Improve access to healthcare services for children with disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas, by enhancing the availability of specialized healthcare, rehabilitation services, and assistive devices, and making them affordable and accessible to all children with disabilities.

Belarus (2024)

13. The Committee is concerned about the insufficiency within the existing system of social services and benefits as required for children with disabilities and their families.

14. Recalling the concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2020 (CRC/C/BLR/CO/5-6), and the Joint Declaration of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party develop a national plan with clear targets and timeframe towards phasing out institutionalization of children, and promote inclusion of children with disabilities enabling their life and inclusion within local community.

Belgium (2024)

14. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Children with disabilities are not included in decisions affecting their lives, on all levels of government;

(b) Support services for children with disabilities living in their homes are exceedingly scarce, leading to their increased institutionalization and placement in other non-inclusive structures.

15. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including organisations of children with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

(a) Amend legislation on the relevant levels of government to ensure the right of children with disabilities to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize this right;

(b) Allocate sufficient resources to develop and provide the necessary support measures for children with disabilities and the persons caring for them to avoid their placement in institutions and in other non-inclusive structures.

Benin (2024)

13. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the national legislation, including the Law N° 2015-08 of 23 January 2015 the Children's Code insufficiently address the rights of children with disabilities, particularly their right to be heard in matters concerning them;

(b) By the absence of strategies in place to support providers of support and caregivers and early learning centres to stimulate and teach children with disabilities.

14. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take legislative and policy measures to provide support to children with disabilities and their families to ensure that they exercise their rights to participation on an equal basis with other children, and ensure inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, including family life and community life, by developing community-based inclusive strategies and programmes at the national and local levels;

(b) Amend the Children's Code to withdraw provisions in article 177 about segregated special education, include clear provisions on children with disabilities in all areas of life, and establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the children's age and maturity;

(c) Develop strategies for providing support required by children with disabilities, including by strengthening family and community networks providing support, allocating human, technical and financial support for children with support needs and supporting caregivers and early learning centres to stimulate and teach children with disabilities.

Burkina Faso (2024)

14. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that children with disabilities are deprived, marginalized and highly vulnerable to poverty, malnutrition, and neglect. In particular, the Committee notes with concern that children with disabilities have lower rates of school attendance at all levels of education and lower rates of support and assistance;
- (b) The insufficient participation of children with disabilities in the Children's Parliament and lack of systematic involvement in decisions that affect their lives as a result, especially in rural areas.

15. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities , as well as targets 16.2 and 16.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities. The strategy should be developed in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of children with disabilities, prioritize community-based inclusive strategies and programmes at the national and local levels and provide for measures to address child poverty and deprivation, prevent abandonment and ensure the accessibility of information and communications, transportation and community settings, such as schools, health-care facilities, libraries and sports centres;**
- (b) Strengthen the implementation of processes that facilitate the effective participation of all children with disabilities and ensure that they are able to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, including through affirmative action to increase their participation in the Childrens' Parliament.**

Denmark (2024)

25. The Committee notes that under the Child Act, children gain party status upon reaching the age of 10; however, it is concerned that children and young persons whose parents receive disability compensatory benefits due to the child's or young person's disability are still not considered parties in their own cases.

26. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities , the Committee recommends that the State party revise the Child Act to ensure that children and young persons with disabilities, whose parents receive disability compensation benefits, are granted party status on.

27. The Committee notes that the Government of the Faroe Islands has recently initiated a preparatory work for drafting a Children's Act aiming at coordinating cross-sectoral welfare services and services for children and young people; however, it is concerned that organizations for persons with disabilities, including those of children and young persons with disabilities, have not yet been included in the process.

28. The Committee recommends that the Government of the Faroe Islands take measures to closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities, in the drafting process of the Children's Act.

29. The Committee notes that almost all newborn children are screened for hearing loss in Denmark, and if a hearing loss of a certain degree is found, parents are offered their child receive a cochlear implant (CI) and a three-year Auditory-Verbal Therapy programme; however, the Committee is concerned that children with CI and their families are not offered Danish Sign Language training, which has negative consequences for children with CI who do not achieve an age-appropriate spoken language level.

30. The Committee recommends that Denmark ensure children with CI and their parents receive Danish Sign Language training in a timely manner. It also recommends the Faroe Islands and Greenland take analogous measures.

Ghana (2024)

14. The Committee is concerned that girls and boys with disabilities lack adequate support and opportunities to express their views and exercise their right to be heard, including in consultations on the drafting of laws and policies.

15. Recalling the CRC-CRPD Joint Declaration on the Rights of Children with Disabilities (2022) and the Guidelines to Deinstitutionalization including in Emergency Situations (2022), The Committee recommends that the State Party establish a national mechanism to enable girls and boys with disabilities to express their views and receive support, so as to fully participate in decision-making concerning their lives.

Mauritius (2024)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) While the Children's Act 2020 prohibits discrimination against a child on the basis of disability, it does not further address the requirements and interests of children with disabilities;

(b) There is insufficient disability-inclusive training for officials of the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority, and there is a lack of effective awareness by parents and guardians of children with disabilities regarding the existence and functions of this Authority;

(c) The National Children's Council lacks active involvement of children with disabilities in their activities;

(d) There is insufficient information about the National Children's Policy Paper and Costed Action Plan that was expected to incorporate targeted measures for children with disabilities, and about the complaints received and specific actions taken by the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children in relation to children with disabilities.

14. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reinforce the Children's Act 2020 to recognize the right to full social inclusion of all children with disabilities and to consider elements of universal design and reasonable accommodation, and take effective measures to ensure the provision of quality inclusive services for children with disabilities in the public and private sectors, with sufficient allocation of necessary resources;

(b) Improve training on children with disabilities for officials of the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority, and raise public awareness on the existence of and services provided by the Authority;

(c) Strengthen the implementation of policies, mechanisms and processes, including by the National Children's Council, to facilitate the close consultation and active involvement of children with disabilities and ensure that they are able to express their views freely on all matters concerning them on an equal basis with other children, in a manner that respects their evolving capacity;

(d) Ensure the inclusion of time-bound targeted measures for children with disabilities in the National Children's Policy Paper and Costed Action Plan informed by the results of the 2022 Housing and Population Census, with benchmarks to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, including family and community life.

Netherlands (2024)

19. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There are no specific laws and policies that explicitly address the requirements of children with disabilities;

- (b) The existing comprehensive support programs and services for children with disabilities may not be sufficiently effective or widely accessible;
- (c) There is a gap in the systematic collection and management of data concerning children with disabilities;
- (d) The involvement of children with disabilities in decision-making processes that affect their lives is limited. While provisions exist, there is insufficient evidence to show that the views of children with disabilities are consistently and effectively considered.

20. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities , the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop and implement specific laws and policies that explicitly address the rights of children with disabilities. Ensure these laws provide tailored support that considers the specific requirements of children with disabilities.**
- (b) Strengthen and expand comprehensive support programs for children with disabilities, focusing on education, healthcare, and inclusion. Ensure that these programs are adequately funded, widely accessible, and effectively monitored.**
- (c) Systematically collect and manage data on children with disabilities, balancing privacy concerns with the need for accurate information. Include data on the number of children receiving services, in detention, in refugee centers, and involved in trafficking.**
- (d) Develop mechanisms to ensure that children with disabilities can freely express their views on all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight according to their age and maturity. Provide age, gender and disability-responsive support to facilitate their participation.**

Ukraine (2024)

14. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The inadequate standard of living of children with disabilities, including the lack of inclusive education and transportation, as well as lack of access to adequate housing, equipment and accommodation for physical and occupational therapy;
- (b) The difficulties that children with disabilities face during the conflict, making it difficult to continue their life in community and forcing families to send them to institutions;
- (c) The lack of consideration of the opinion of children with disabilities in matters that concern them.

15. Recalling the joint Statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), as well as the Committee's Session report on the situation of persons with disabilities in Ukraine and in countries where they have fled after 24 February 2022, as a result of the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of children with disabilities in all its policies and programs and ensure access to all the devices they require;**
- (b) Establish policies that support families of children with disabilities, both with training and funding, so that lack of support does not force them into institutionalization;**
- (c) Establish mechanisms for children with disabilities to express their opinions on issues that interest and concern them.**

Azerbaijan (2024)

15. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The limited access of children with disabilities to support and services in the community, affecting mainly children living in rural areas;
- (b) The lack of information about mechanisms available for children with disabilities to express their views freely on all matters affecting them.

16. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive strategy with budget allocations and time-bound programmes to ensure inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, including equal access to education, health, sports, culture, leisure activities, habilitation and rehabilitation, in-home and community support appropriate to their age, sex, gender and regardless of level of support required;

(b) Adopt guidelines to ensure that children with disabilities can freely express their views on all matters affecting them, that their views are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, as well as age and disability-appropriate measures to support them in this regard.

Bahrain (2024)¹

14. The Committee is deeply concerned at:

(a) The lack of measures in national policies and legislation to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in all aspects of life and their lack of representation and participation in decision-making processes with regard to their rights and issues; (b) The institutionalisation of children with disabilities from the age of 4 years; and

(b) The placement of children with disabilities in residential institutions from the age of 4 years; and

(c) The absence of legislative and practical measures to ensure that children with disabilities are protected from all forms of violence in care institutions and domestic violence, including corporal punishment.

(d) Allowing children with disabilities, especially children with intellectual disabilities, to be sent to other countries to be placed in residential institutions with no follow-up mechanisms to monitor their situation.

(e) The legalisation of child marriage, including children with disabilities, in accordance with Article (20) of the Family Law No. 19 of 2017, which sets the age of marriage for girls at 16 years and permits the marriage of girls under this age with the permission of the Sharia Court.

15. Recalling the recommendation of the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/BHR/CO/1-4 Para. 36), as well as the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2021), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Include measures in the State party's child rights policies and legislation to ensure that they fully encompass the rights and issues of children with disabilities, in close consultation and with the active participation of children with disabilities and their organisations; and

(b) Repeal the provisions of Law No. 74 of 2006 (on the care, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities) that allow for the licensing and provision of residential services; and

(c) Amend policies and legislation governing protection from violence and include measures to ensure that children with disabilities are fully protected from all forms of violence.

(d) Prohibit sending children with disabilities to other countries for the purpose of institutionalisation.

(e) Amend Article (20) of the Family Law No. 19 of 2017 and standardise the marriage age to 18 years for men and women, without granting an exception for the court to authorise the marriage of those under the age of 18 years.

Costa Rica (2024)

13. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) La inexistencia de espacios para que los niños y las niñas con discapacidad manifiesten sus opiniones y necesidades y estas sean tomadas en cuenta;

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

- b) La persistente situación de pobreza entre niños y niñas con discapacidad, en particular entre niños y niñas indígenas y entre los que habitan en las zonas rurales y remotas;
- c) Que el Código de la Niñez y Adolescencia no aborde, ni de manera general ni explícitamente, la niñez con discapacidad y que su artículo 62 promueva la segregación y exclusión de los niños y niñas de la educación inclusiva.

14. El Comité recuerda su declaración conjunta con el Comité de los Derechos del Niño sobre los derechos de los niños con discapacidad (2022), así como las metas 16.2 y 16.7 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, y recomienda que el Estado parte:

- a) **Asegure las condiciones para que los niños y las niñas con discapacidad puedan expresar sus opiniones y necesidades y estas se vean reflejadas en las leyes, políticas públicas y programas gubernamentales;**
- b) **Adopte acciones inmediatas para combatir la situación de pobreza en los niños y niñas con discapacidad, con particular atención a los niños y niñas indígenas y a los que habitan en zonas rurales y remotas;**
- c) **Modifique su Código de la Niñez y Adolescencia con el fin de proporcionar una protección expresa contra las formas múltiples e interseccionales de discriminación, incluida la discriminación basada en la intersección entre la discapacidad y otros motivos, y garantizar la educación inclusiva y de calidad para los niños y niñas con discapacidad.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

15. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of measures to safeguard the rights of children with disabilities in the State party's legislation and the absence of a comprehensive policy framework for the implementation of the rights of children with disabilities in all areas of life;
- (b) That children with disabilities are subject to special social services and rehabilitation in segregated settings, namely: sanatoriums, rest homes (CRPD/C/KAZ/RQ/1, para. 45), stationary social service centres, day care organizations, rehabilitation centres, and small capacity homes;
- (c) The absence of information about practical measures to facilitate participation of children with disabilities in administrative procedures and decision-making.

16. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Review legislation, including the Children's Rights Act, the Education Act, the Social, Medical and Educational Support for Children with Disabilities Act, the Special Social Services Act and the Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, with the aim of mainstreaming the rights of children with disabilities in line with the Convention and the human rights model of disability therein;**
- (b) **Adopt a national comprehensive policy to guarantee inclusion of children with disabilities in society and the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms on an equal basis with others, and proceed to end special and/or segregated services and settings, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations;**
- (c) **Establish mechanisms ensuring that children with disabilities can form and express their views freely on all matters affecting them and that those views are given due weight, in accordance with the child's age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, including in education and in administrative and judicial processes.**

Nicaragua (2024)

12. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La persistencia de la situación de pobreza entre niños y niñas con discapacidad, en particular los niños indígenas y aquellos que habitan en las zonas rurales y remotas;
- b) La persistencia de la violencia intrafamiliar contra los niños y niñas con discapacidad;

- c) Que no existan espacios proporcionados por el Estado parte para que los niños y las niñas con discapacidad manifiesten sus opiniones y necesidades, y que estas sean tomadas en cuenta;
- d) Que no se dispone de información acerca de si la Guía de Cuidado y Apoyo relacionada con la discapacidad en la niñez ha sido aprobada;
- e) La persistencia de la institucionalización de niños y niñas con discapacidad y la falta de apoyos a sus familias para evitarla.

13. Recordando su declaración conjunta de 2022 con el Comité de los Derechos del Niño sobre los derechos de los niños con discapacidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

- a) Establezca acciones inmediatas para combatir la situación de pobreza en la que se encuentran niños y niñas con discapacidad, con particular atención a la situación de los niños indígenas con discapacidad y de los que habitan en zonas rurales y remotas;
- b) Establezca medidas de vigilancia y supervisión para el cumplimiento estricto del Código Penal contra el maltrato de niños y niñas con discapacidad en hogares, escuelas e instituciones tanto en zonas urbanas como rurales, y que establezca mecanismos para denuncias, se informe sobre las mismas y su seguimiento;
- c) Implemente mecanismos y las condiciones necesarias para que los niños y las niñas con discapacidad puedan expresar sus opiniones y necesidades y estas se vean reflejadas en las políticas públicas y programas;
- d) Apruebe e implemente la Guía de Cuidado y Apoyo relacionada con la discapacidad en la niñez y comparta los resultados obtenidos en el siguiente informe a este Comité;
- e) Establezca, en coordinación con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, un programa de desinstitucionalización dirigido a niños y niñas con discapacidad, estableciendo un programa de familias sustitutas.

Sweden (2024)

17. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That children with disabilities are exposed to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including in education, access to social services and personal assistance in the community, institutionalization, ill-treatment, violence and abuse, including sexual violence, in institutions;
- (b) That parents of children with disabilities, in particular children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, neurodivergent children, including autistic children, and children with Down syndrome, are not provided with adequate information and the requisite support by medical personnel;
- (c) Insufficient measures to ensure that the views of children with disabilities are heard in all decisions affecting them, including in criminal and asylum procedures.

18. The Committee, recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities, and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the implementation of national legislation on children's rights by ensuring that it is inclusive of all children with disabilities in all areas of life, foster safe and nurturing children's environments, respectful of the life and dignity of children with disabilities, on an equal basis with other children;
- (b) Ensure the availability, accessibility and quality of inclusive early intervention services, as well as mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and transportation for children with disabilities, and adequate information and necessary support for their parents;
- (c) Guarantee the respect of the evolving capacities of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their own views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, including in criminal and asylum proceedings, and ensure that their views are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity; and ensure that they receive disability- and age-appropriate support to realize their right to be heard.

Zambia (2024)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The Child Policy, the National Disability Policy and other national policy documents do not specifically address the needs and interests of children with disabilities;
- (b) That the Children's Code Act does not include provisions on the evolving capacities of children with disabilities;
- (c) At the lack of strategies in place to support caregivers and early learning centres to stimulate and teach children with disabilities.

14. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take legislative and policy measures to recognise and provide support to children with disabilities and their families to ensure that they exercise their rights to participation on an equal basis with other children, and ensure inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, including family life and community life, by developing community-based inclusive strategies and programmes for children with disabilities both at national and local levels;**
- (b) Establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity;**
- (c) Develop guidelines and support strategies for caregivers of children with disabilities, and put in place measures to adequately address the needs of children with disabilities who require more intensive support such as children with multiple disabilities and the deafblind.**

Andorra (2023)

15. The Committee notes that Act No. 14/2019 on the rights of children and adolescents provides for the participation of children and adolescents with disabilities as a guiding and cross-cutting principle, and Act No. 45/2022 that amends the Criminal Code uses the terminology and concepts in line with the Convention. However, it observes the following with concern:

- (a) The scarce participation of children with disabilities in the National Council for Children and Adolescents (Consell General dels Joves) and the communal councils for children and adolescents;
- (b) That Act No. 14/2019 allows that a judge may adopt residential care as a protection measure for cases in which it has not been possible or advisable to have family foster care or when the children or adolescent's needs so require, including those who require therapeutic care, such as children and adolescents with disabilities;
- (c) The absence of data on the number of children with disabilities in residential institutions.

16. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promote the representation of children with disabilities on the National Council for Children and Adolescents (Consell general dels Joves) and the communal councils for children and adolescents, and ensure that children with disabilities can express freely in all matters affecting them and that those views are given due weight in accordance with the children's age and maturity;**
- (b) Review legislation, including articles 93 and 95 of the Act No. 14/2019, and implement a policy on the inclusion of children with disabilities in line with the Convention, regardless of the type of impairment, in all areas of life, including family life and community life, and measures to the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities;**
- (c) Provide disaggregated data on the number of children with disabilities in residential institutions.**

Austria (2023)

20. The Committee is concerned about the close link of segregated education and institutionalization due to the frequent design of special education schools as residential schools, about a lack of support measures for organizations of children with disabilities to actively participate in public discourse, of prompt provision of early intervention services, and of individualized support services to live with the family.

21. The Committee recommends the State party, including the Länder, take effective measures in accordance with the human rights model of disability to end segregated institutional settings for children with disabilities in all areas of life, including in education, provide financial and technical support to organizations of children with disabilities for their active participation in public discourse, promptly available early intervention services, and individualized support for children with disabilities to live with their families.

Germany (2023)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of training of entities and their employees applying the new Act to Strengthen Children and Youth (KJSG) on the requirements of children with disabilities;

(b) The high cost of assistance services or inpatient treatment of children with disabilities for their parents;

(c) The lack of disaggregated data on refugee children with disabilities and children with disabilities in refugee-like situations, widely varying conditions in reception facilities often not tailored to the requirements of children with disabilities, and seemingly varying access to education, health care and cultural and leisure activities.

16. The Committee, recalling the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities, issued in 2022, recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish training programs for entities and their employees applying the new Act to Strengthen Children and Youth (KJSG) on the requirements of children with disabilities, including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Cover the disability-related costs of assistance services or inpatient treatment of children with disabilities;

(c) Strengthen the collection of comprehensive disaggregated data on refugee children with disabilities and children with disabilities in refugee-like situations, ensure that all reception facilities holding children with disabilities meet their requirements, and guarantee access to education, health care and cultural and leisure activities to all refugee children with disabilities and children with disabilities in refugee-like situations.

Israel (2023)

15. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The absence of specific measures to ensure recognition and inclusion of children with disabilities and insufficient measures to facilitate their participation in decision-making, including in relation to education, support, health and family matters;

(b) Information about situations of marginalization and heightened risks of poverty among Haredi, asylum-seeking and refugee children with disabilities and children in Arab communities and their lack of access to child-support benefits.

16. Recalling the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement a policy on the inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, including family life and community life, by developing community-based inclusive strategies and programmes for children with disabilities in the State party and in the occupied Palestinian territory, in accordance with applicable international law;

- (b) Establish mechanisms that respect the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form and express their views freely in all matters affecting them and that those views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity in education, administrative and legal processes;
- (c) Adopt mechanisms to recognize Haredi, asylum-seeking, refugee children with disabilities and children with disabilities in Arab communities, include them as beneficiaries of policies, including social security entitlements and allowances related to disability and for children in general.

Malawi (2023)

7. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That the review of several pieces of legislation and policies, in particular the Disability Act (Cap 33:06) and repeal of the Handicapped Persons Act of 1971 leading to a new piece of comprehensive legislation is yet to be completed, and that changes introduced to the almost enacted bill have been made without consulting or involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;
- (b) That women and girls with disabilities were not explicitly mentioned in the Disability Act of 2012 and that the almost enacted Persons with Disabilities Bill of 2023 continues this omission;
- (c) The delay and lack of priority of disability-related policies and programmes to implement the Convention;
- (d) Discriminatory language and portrayal of persons with disabilities, including derogatory terminology in laws, among public authorities, and in the media.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Complete as expeditiously as possible its review of the Disability Act enacted in 2012 and repeal of the Handicapped Persons Act of 1971 and ensure that the new piece of legislation, and legislation in all areas of law, including family relations, mental health, property and personal security are brought into line with the Convention and the human rights model of disability;
- (b) Ensure involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities throughout the process of enacting the new disability Bill and ensure that proposals made by persons with disabilities are appropriately considered and addressed at all stages of the process;
- (c) Ensure that the new legislation being developed to replace the Disability Act of 2012 recognizes the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and incorporates measures to address marginalization and discrimination against them. The State party should address proposals submitted by women with disabilities through their representative organizations in their position paper presented to the Ministry of Justice;
- (d) Provide information to organizations of persons with disabilities concerning fund allocation for the Disability Trust fund, ensure appropriate financial resources to it, and set up criteria for distribution of resources encompassing all persons with disabilities regardless of type of impairment. The State party should gather disaggregated information about budget allocations, and ensure periodic and accessible accountability procedures;
- (e) Review and amend legislation and public policies with the aim to withdraw derogatory terminology concerning persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism, and ensure that training for public officials includes modules on women and girls with disabilities, gender equality, and persons with disabilities in marginalized situations.

9. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The lack of periodic consultations with persons with disabilities at the National Advisory and Coordinating Committee on Disability Issues, and the underrepresentation of organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and women with disabilities in consultative processes, particularly in discussion of sectorial strategies and programmes;

(b) That organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities lack financial resources to conduct advocacy and participate in public consultations.

10. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, and in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national legislative framework for close consultations with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensuring mechanisms for the participation of organizations of women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and children with disabilities in the implementation, enforcement and funding of programmes aimed at supporting the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Support organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with psychosocial disabilities, including by providing independent and self-managed funding and encourage their access to foreign funding as part of international cooperation and development aid and cover expenses for participation in consultations.

Mauritania (2023)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of measures to protect the rights of children with disabilities in the Child Care Protection and Justice Act No. 22 of 2010 and the lack of implementation of the programmes to address the situation of children with disabilities;

(b) Deprivation, marginalization and the high vulnerability of children with disabilities to child poverty, malnutrition, abandonment, and institutionalization, as well as the *de facto* inequality and discrimination in education and health. It particularly observes with deep concern that children with disabilities have lower rates of attendance at school at all levels, higher rates of moderate and severe growth stunting, and lower rates of early childhood education, and social transfers compared to other children;

(c) The limited coverage of programmes to provide social support to children with disabilities, including through early intervention or cash transfers.

16. Recalling the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities, of 2022, the Committee calls upon the State party to:

(a) Complete the review process of the Child Care Protection and Justice Act (No. 22 of 2010) and enact provisions to protect and fulfil the rights of children with disabilities on equal basis with other children;

(b) Adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/MWI/CO/3-5, para. 32). The strategy should be developed in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of children with disabilities and prioritize community-based inclusive strategies and programmes at the national and local level, comprise measures to address child poverty and deprivation, prevent abandonment, ensure accessibility to information and communications, transportation and to community settings, such as schools, health care facilities, libraries and sports centres;

(c) Gather statistics and monitor effective allocations to cover disability-related expenses of children with disabilities as part of the Social Cash Transfer Programme (CRPD/C/MWI/RQ/1-2, see para. 84) and develop social protection for children with disabilities, whose families are not covered by the unconditional cash transfer programme.

Mongolia (2023)

15. The Committee observes with concern the absence of mechanisms to consult with children with disabilities and to enable them to express their views in all matters concerning them.

16. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to develop measures to ensure age-appropriate assistance.

Paraguay (2023)

15. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La persistencia de la situación de pobreza entre niños y niñas con discapacidad en particular los indígenas y aquellos que habitan en las zonas rurales y remotas;
- b) La falta de información sobre casos de maltrato y desatención hacia los niños con discapacidad, sobre las medidas, mecanismos y recursos para prevenir y combatir los abusos físicos y sexuales y sobre los servicios existentes para atender a los niños con discapacidad víctimas de malos tratos, en particular en las zonas rurales y remotas;
- c) La falta de información estadística de los niños y niñas con discapacidad que han hecho uso del Fono Ayuda 147 que puede proporcionar orientación y ayuda en casos de violencia;
- d) Que no existan espacios suficientes proporcionados por el Estado parte para que los niños y las niñas con discapacidad manifiesten sus opiniones y necesidades y estas sean tomadas en cuenta;
- e) La persistencia de la institucionalización de niños y niñas con discapacidad y la falta de apoyos a sus familias para evitarla.

16. Recordando a la Declaración conjunta del Comité de los Derechos del Niño y del Comité sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad sobre los derechos de los niños con discapacidad de 2022, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Establecer acciones inmediatas para combatir la situación de pobreza en los niños y niñas con discapacidad, con particular atención a los niños indígenas con discapacidad y a los que habitan en zonas rurales y remotas, reforzando el Programa Abrazo;
- b) Que en coordinación estrecha con las instituciones que integran el Sistema Nacional de Protección y Promoción Integral de la Niñez y Adolescencia establezca medidas de vigilancia y supervisión para el cumplimiento estricto de la Ley N.º 5659/16 de protección a niños, niñas y adolescentes contra el castigo físico, en hogares, escuelas e instituciones tanto en zonas urbanas como rurales, se informe sobre las denuncias y el seguimiento de estas;
- c) Reforzar y recopilar datos estadísticos de los niños y niñas con discapacidad que hacen uso del Fono Ayuda 147;
- d) Mejorar las condiciones para que los niños y las niñas con discapacidad puedan expresar sus opiniones y necesidades y estas se vean reflejadas en las políticas públicas y programas;
- e) Que se establezca un programa de desinstitutionalización dirigido a niños y niñas con discapacidad, reforzando el programa de familias sustitutas.

Angola (2023)

11. The Committee observes with concern the lack of consideration of the principle of the best interest of the child, in accordance with their views, in all matters relating to children with disabilities.

12. Recalling the Joint Statement on the Rights of Children with Disabilities adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, **the Committee recommends that the State party incorporate in law and practice the principle of the best interest of children with disabilities and their right to express their views in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity.**

Argentina (2023)

15.El Comité observa con preocupación:

a)La falta de perspectiva de discapacidad de la Ley 26.061 (2005) sobre la protección integral de los derechos de las niñas, niños y adolescentes, y el limitado alcance de las medidas adoptadas para garantizar los derechos de niñas y niños con discapacidad, en particular en las zonas rurales y remotas;

b)Que persista la institucionalización de niñas y niños con discapacidad y la falta de apoyos a sus familias.

16.Haciendo referencia a la Declaración conjunta del Comité de los Derechos del Niño y del Comité sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad sobre los derechos de los niños con discapacidad, de 2022, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a)Incorporar la perspectiva de discapacidad en la Ley 26.061 y en el sistema de protección integral de los derechos de las niñas, niños y adolescentes, con particular atención a los que se encuentran en zonas rurales y remotas;

b)Implementar un plan para la inclusión de los niños y niñas con discapacidad en la comunidad, incluyendo apoyos para sus familias y fortalecer campañas que promuevan su adopción.

Georgia (2023)

15. The Committee observes with concern:

(a)That current disability assessment is based on the medical model and prevents children with disabilities from access to individualized support and equal access to services in the community;

(b)That public programs for children with disabilities are limited in their coverage, disadvantaging particularly children with disabilities in situations of poverty, children belonging to ethnic minority groups and autistic children;

(c) That programs designed for children in the field of social work are not accessible to children with disabilities, bringing about further barriers for the development of children with disabilities, including children requiring higher levels of support.

16.With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities, of 2022, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Ensure that children with disabilities have access to social programmes aimed at the inclusion of children in the community regardless of impairment, and that programmes recognise their individual requirements and respond to them appropriately in urban as well as in rural areas;

(b)Expand coverage of programmes at the national and municipal level to foster inclusion of children with disabilities, including by: (i) addressing the situation of poverty affecting children with disabilities; (ii) ensuring that all children with disabilities have a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual and moral development; and (iii) prioritizing safe living conditions, and the provision of food and free and accessible medical care and education;

(c)Develop disability-related quality standards and requirements applicable in all programmes designed for children, including in early childhood development programmes, in health care and education. The State party should ensure that such programmes are age-appropriate and address barriers of inclusion for all children with disabilities regardless of

type of impairment, and that information about these programmes is available in accessible formats, such as Easy Read, augmentative means and other forms of communication.

Peru (2023)

14. Preocupa al Comité:

- a) El elevado número de niños, niñas y adolescentes con discapacidad que viven en instituciones administradas por el Programa Integral Nacional para el Bienestar Familiar (INABIF) y en las zonas rurales y remotas;
- b) Que el Programa Nacional Cuna Más que tiene como objetivo mejorar el desarrollo infantil de niñas y niños menores de 36 meses en localidades en situación de pobreza y pobreza extrema, cuente con escasos registros de atención a niñas y niños con discapacidad en sus servicios de cuidados diurnos;
- c) Que existan significativas brechas de desigualdad en la prestación de servicios de salud, diagnóstico temprano, acceso a terapias y rehabilitación, acceso a tecnologías de apoyo y dispositivos de asistencia para mejorar la calidad de vida de niños, niñas y adolescentes con discapacidad;
- d) La escasa participación de los niños, niñas y adolescentes con discapacidad en los Consejos Consultivos de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes (CCONNA) en todo el Estado parte.

15. Recordando la declaración conjunta formulada entre el Comité de los Derechos del Niño y el Comité sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad en relación con los derechos de los niños con discapacidad en 2022, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

- a) **Garantice que los niños, niñas y adolescentes con discapacidad, especialmente los que viven en zonas rurales y remotas, en comunidades indígenas y en poblaciones migrantes y refugiadas, reciban protección, atención y apoyo efectivos y adecuados, y sean incluidos en la comunidad;**
- b) **Designa los recursos financieros y humanos suficientes para ampliar la cobertura del Programa Nacional Cuna Más para mejorar el desarrollo infantil, asegurando la incorporación de una perspectiva de discapacidad, así como la creación e implementación de sistemas permanentes de capacitación para el personal, asegurando la eficiencia y calidad de atención a la niñez con discapacidad;**
- c) **Elabore un plan de acción y destine recursos humanos y financieros para la prestación de servicios oportunos y en edad temprana para garantizar la calidad de vida de la niñez con discapacidad;**
- d) **Asegure que todos los Consejos Consultivos de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes incluyan a niños y niñas con discapacidad y garanticen la accesibilidad en todos sus esfuerzos.**

Togo (2023)

13. The Committee is deeply concerned about the stigma, discrimination and inhumane treatment children with disabilities continue to face, including their abandonment and isolation by their families due to the prejudices and negative stereotypes against them, particularly in rural areas. It is also concerned that children with disabilities are not represented in the National Council on Children and are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives, in particular in rural areas.

14. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Take measures to prevent discrimination and stigmatisation of children with disabilities and develop awareness raising projects and programmes for children with disabilities in all areas of life;**
- (b) **Ensure that children with disabilities are represented in the National Council on Children;**
- (c) **Establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity;**

(d) Implement a policy on inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, including family life and community life, by developing community-based inclusive strategies and programmes for children with disabilities both at national and local levels.

Tunisia (2023)

11. The Committee is concerned that inadequate consideration has been given by the State party to children with disabilities, notably regarding:

- (a) The lack of concrete practical measures to raise awareness of their rights vis-à-vis other children, their parents and other family members, and staff and trained professionals working for and with children;
- (b) The absence of specific mechanisms and channels available to children with disabilities for expressing their views on all matters concerning them and ways to ensure that their views are taken into consideration;
- (c) The absence of measures taken to ensure that they fully participate on an equal basis with other children in any decision affecting them;
- (d) The report of cases of abuse of children with disabilities in various settings, including in families and in learning institutions;
- (e) Outdated data on the household conditions and demographic situation of children with disabilities.

12. **The Committee, recalling the Joint Statement CRC-CRPD on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Develop practical measures to strengthen the awareness and enable the recognition of the rights of children with disabilities in all settings;**
- (b) Take appropriate measures to address, identify and remove all forms of discrimination faced by children with disabilities in their day-to-day life;**
- (c) Avail channels to children with disabilities for expressing their views on all matters concerning them and ensure that their views are taken into consideration and that they participate in all activities of other children;**
- (d) Put in place all necessary measures to prevent violations of rights including corporal punishment, abuse and violence against children with disabilities;**
- (e) Update and make available data on the household conditions and demographic situation of children with disabilities.**

Bangladesh (2022)

15. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Insufficient awareness about the laws and policies in place for the protection of children with disabilities, particularly the National Children Policy of 2011 and the Children Act of 2013 (amended in 2018);
- (b) The stigma, discrimination, negative attitudes, harmful practices and stereotypes that prevail against children with disabilities, including their lack of access to health care, education and other services, including corporal punishment against children, particularly children with disabilities and refugee children with disabilities.

16. **Recalling the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Develop a national strategy for the promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities, with sufficient budgetary allocations, human, technical and financial resources;**
- (b) Adopt and implement necessary policy measures to address stigma, discrimination, negative attitudes, harmful practices and stereotypes against children with disabilities, and ensure their access to health care, education and other services without discrimination on an equal basis with other children, and prohibit all forms of corporal punishment against children, particularly children with disabilities.**

China (2022)

18. The Committee is concerned about the lack of strategies in place to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities, particularly those in rural areas and from ethnic minorities, in all matters affecting their lives.

19. With reference to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Joint Statement on the Rights of Children with Disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party develop strategies to ensure the participation of children with disabilities in consultation processes for the implementation of the Convention that are inclusive, child-friendly, transparent and respectful of their rights to freedom of expression and thought.

Indonesia (2022)

14. The Committee observes with concern the absence of policies, mechanisms and processes to consult with children with disabilities, including in children's forums conducted under Law 35 of 2014, and to enable them to express their views in all matters concerning them.

15. The Committee recalls the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), and recommends that the State party establish policies, mechanisms and processes to facilitate the effective participation of children with disabilities within children's forums and in decision-making processes to ensure they can express their views freely on all matters affecting them on an equal basis with other children.

Japan (2022)

17. The Committee observes with concern the:

(a) Early identification and rehabilitation system, as regulated by the Maternal and Child Health Act, directing children with disabilities, through their medical examination to their social segregation, hindering them from community and inclusive life prospects;

(b) Lack of clear recognition of the right of children with disabilities to be heard, and to express their views freely on all matters affecting them in all relevant laws, including the Child Welfare Act;

(c) Lack of full prohibition of corporal punishment of children, including children with disabilities, in home, alternative care and day care settings, as well as insufficient measures to prevent and protect children with disabilities against abuse and violence.

18. With reference to the Joint Statement of the CRC and CRPD Committees on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the existing legislation with the aim to recognize the right to full social inclusion of all children with disabilities and take all necessary measures, including universal design and reasonable accommodations, inter alia, alternative and augmentative methods of information and communication, to ensure their full enjoyment of the general childcare system from their earliest age on an equal basis with other children;

(b) Recognize the right of children with disabilities to be heard, and to express their views freely on all matters affecting them on an equal basis with other children, including in judicial and administrative proceedings, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance and communication in accessible formats to realize that right;

(c) Fully and explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children, including of those with disabilities, in all settings, and strengthen measures of prevention of and protection against abuse and violence of children with disabilities.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

12. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The multiple and intersectional discrimination against children with disabilities, particularly those affected by unexploded ordnance, children belonging to ethnic groups, children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and autistic children;
- (b) The lack of support of children with disabilities in education and in terms of access to social services in the community, and their institutionalization in medical-social establishments;
- (c) The absence of mechanisms to consult with children with disabilities and to enable them to express their views in all matters concerning them.

13. With reference to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Joint Statement on the Rights of Children with Disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that law and policy on children's rights are inclusive of and protect all children with disabilities from all forms of discrimination, including those affected by unexploded ordnance, children belonging to ethnic groups, children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and autistic children;**
- (b) Ensure that all children with disabilities, including those in rural and remote areas, receive effective and appropriate protection, care and support, and are included in the community;**
- (c) Establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacities of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity.**

New Zealand (2022)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) the lack of measures and standing mechanisms to ensure that children with disabilities, including Māori children with disabilities are able to express their views in legislative and policy development and decision-making processes;
- (b) The lack of disaggregated data collected on children with disabilities, including by the Ministry of Education and Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children) to inform implementation of national frameworks on children, such as the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

12. The Committee recalls the Joint Statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish measures and standing mechanisms to ensure that children with disabilities, including Māori children with disabilities are able to express their views on an equal basis with other children;**
- (b) Strengthen the collection of comprehensive disaggregated data on children with disabilities, including on Māori children with disabilities to inform effective early intervention, particularly in the fields of education, care and protection and youth justice.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

15. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The absence of mechanisms to consult with children with disabilities and to enable them to express their views in all matters concerning them;
- (b) The lack of access to general community-based services for children with disabilities;
- (c) That only 0.03 per cent of playgrounds are inclusive, which results in discrimination of children with disabilities and prevents them from enjoying their right to play on an equal basis with others.

16. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity;**

- (b) Implement a policy on inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, including family life and community life, by developing community-based rehabilitation programmes for children with disabilities;**
- (c) Review the Children's Play Facility Safety Management Act to ensure that playgrounds are inclusive and accessible for all children with disabilities.**

Singapore (2022)

13. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive strategy to protect children with disabilities, in particular autistic children, children with intellectual disabilities and children with psychosocial disabilities, from stigma, discrimination, violence, ill-treatment and institutionalization;
- (b) That corporal punishment of children is legal, in violation of the fundamental right of all children to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment.
- (c) The absence of policies, mechanisms and processes to consult with children with disabilities, in which they can express their views in all matters concerning them.

14. With reference to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Joint Statement on the Rights of Children with Disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to ensure that children with disabilities, including children with intellectual disabilities and children with psychosocial disabilities, are adequately protected from violence, exploitation and abuse, and mainstream a disability perspective in the Children and Young Persons Act and the National Youth Council;**
- (b) Amend the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 and explicitly prohibit corporal punishment for children with disabilities without exception;**
- (c) Ensure enforcement and monitoring of the protection of children with disabilities from violence, exploitation and abuse in all settings, including in schools, and promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing through awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes, in accessible formats;**
- (d) Establish policies, mechanisms and processes to facilitate the effective participation of children with disabilities and ensure that they can express their views freely on all matters affecting them.**

Hungary (2022)

14. The Committee observes with concern that:

- (a) The State party applies the concept of the best interests of the child by giving priority to the opinions of experts and to institutional care;
- (b) The State party's legislation discriminates against children with disabilities through section 7 (2) a) of Act XXXI of 1997 concerning the protection of children and the placement of children under 12 years old in foster families, which exempts children with disabilities requiring higher levels of support, allegedly in their best interests, and thereby perpetuates their institutionalization;
- (c) There is a lack of access to general community-based services for children with disabilities, including as a consequence of the "individual development" measure, which results in discrimination against children with disabilities.

15. With reference to the joint statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the concept of the best interests of the child is applied by taking into consideration the human rights model of disability, including the right of children with disabilities to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, as well as their right to a family life, including foster care;**

- (b) Repeal provisions in the Child Protection Act that still allow for the institutional placement of children with disabilities and ensure the equality of children with disabilities with other children with respect to their right to a family life;**
- (c) Ensure access to the general community-based social and educational services for all children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children by providing the necessary support and assistance to them.**

Jamaica (2022)

14. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The absence of mechanisms to consult with children with disabilities and to enable them to express their views in all matters concerning them;
- (b) That despite the expansion of the Early Stimulation Programme available in 4 parishes out of 14 by creating three mobile units, the lack of access to these programmes island-wide due to lack of resources results in long waiting periods for assessment, early identification and intervention, in particular in rural areas;
- (c) That despite the fact that corporal punishment of children in Jamaica is unlawful in alternative care, in some day-care settings and in the penal system, it is not yet fully prohibited in the home, in day care for children aged 6 and over, and in schools, in violation of the fundamental right of all children to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a mechanism that respects the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity;**
- (b) Expand the services of the Early Stimulation Programme by establishing more centres and mobile units to cover the requirements of children with disabilities island-wide;**
- (c) Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings and ensure that the prohibition of corporal punishment is adequately monitored and enforced in all settings, including in schools and in relation to children with disabilities, and that positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline are promoted through awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes, in accessible formats.**

Mexico (2022)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The institutionalization of children with disabilities, and about the limited scope of specific measures taken to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities are protected, particularly in rural and remote areas, in indigenous communities and in migrant and refugee populations;
- (b) The lack of disaggregated data on children with disabilities, particularly on those living in institutions, on victims of violence and on those not attending school;
- (c) The insufficient measures adopted to ensure that children with disabilities can participate and express their views with respect to matters affecting them, such as legal proceedings, and the limited access to justice for children with disabilities, especially girls with disabilities who are victims of violence and abuse.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that children with disabilities, especially those in rural and remote areas, in indigenous communities and in migrant and refugee populations, receive effective and appropriate protection, care and support, and are included in the community;**
- (b) Compile disaggregated data on children with disabilities, particularly on those living in institutions, on victims of violence and on those not attending school;**
- (c) Adopt measures allowing children with disabilities to express their views in all matters related to their lives, including in administrative and judicial proceedings.**

Switzerland (2022)

15. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the scope and application of the concept in the State party's legislation of "the good of the child" does not adhere to the principle and standard of the best interests of the child contained in the Convention, leading to inadequate decisions in matters concerning children with disabilities;
- (b) That children with disabilities face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;
- (c) The lack of accessible complaints and redress mechanisms for children with disabilities who have experienced discrimination, and that the planned ombudsman's office for children's rights, when established, may not have a mandate to receive and investigate complaints from children;
- (d) The insufficient measures to ensure that the views of children with disabilities are heard in all decisions affecting them, including in criminal and asylum proceedings.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the concept of "the good of the child" to ensure that it adheres to the standard of the best interests of the child under international law, develop guidelines for its application, and ensure that, in matters concerning children with disabilities, its application is in line with the human rights model of disability;**
- (b) Ensure that law and policy on children's rights are inclusive of and protect all children with disabilities, including children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, autistic children, undocumented children with disabilities and migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children with disabilities, from all forms of discrimination;**
- (c) Adopt a strategy to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, and to foster a safe and nurturing environment that is respectful of the life and dignity of children with disabilities, on an equal basis with other children;**
- (d) Establish the planned ombudsman's office for children's rights, and ensure that it is accessible to and inclusive of all children with disabilities and that it has a mandate to regularly monitor and evaluate progress at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels in the fulfilment of the rights of children with disabilities under the Convention and to receive, investigate and address complaints from children with disabilities;**
- (e) Establish mechanisms that respect the evolving capacities of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their own views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, including in criminal and asylum proceedings, and ensure that their views are given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity; and ensure that they receive disability- and age-appropriate support to realize their right to be heard.**

Venezuela (2022)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information on and monitoring and assessment of the situation of children with disabilities who were in institutions that were subsequently closed down;
- (b) The fact that children with disabilities, including those who are deaf, blind, deafblind or of short stature, are not specifically included, in a cross-cutting manner, in domestic legislation and that their opinions are not properly taken into account in matters that concern them, especially in indigenous communities and rural areas.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct a census and gather statistics on children with disabilities who were in institutions that subsequently closed down and on any rights violations they may have suffered in a family setting or while living on the streets; and put in place programmes to ensure their inclusion in family life, either by placing them with their nuclear family, if they have one, or with a foster family, and provide such families with the support they need, both in kind and financial, to participate in community life;**

(b) Carry out any legislative reforms with the participation of organizations representing children with disabilities so that the protection of their rights is mainstreamed in them and establish effective mechanisms to enable them to participate actively in matters that concern them.

Djibouti (2021)

11. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Limited access of children with disabilities to social and health-care services and education, particularly children with disabilities in rural areas and those in refugee camps;
- (b) Absence of safeguards and procedures to ensure that children with disabilities, particularly deaf children, children who are deafblind and children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, have the right to express their views freely on matters affecting them and to provide them with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize this right;
- (c) Lack of information and measures on the protection of children with disabilities from abuse and violence, including corporal punishment at home and in schools;
- (d) Lack of information on the implementation of the annual action plan, signed in December 2020 with UNICEF, to promote and protect the rights of children with disabilities.

12. The Committee recommends that:

- (a) Mainstream the principle of the best interests of the child and respect the evolving capacities of children with disabilities in strategies and programmes on the rights of the children, and ensure their access to social and health-care services and inclusive education, on an equal basis with other children;**
- (b) Adopt measures to allow children with disabilities, particularly deaf children, children who are deafblind and children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to express their views freely on matters affecting them and to provide them with disability and age appropriate assistance to realize this right;**
- (c) Adopt legislation and policy measures to protect children with disabilities from exploitation, abuse and violence, including corporal punishment at home and in school, to provide them with support and redress and to hold perpetrators accountable, and to ensure the effective implementation, in consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities, of the annual action plan of 2020 to promote and protect the rights of children with disabilities.**

France (2021)

15. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That children with disabilities are exposed to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including in education, access to social services in the community, institutionalisation in medico social establishments, ill-treatment, violence and abuse, including sexual violence, particularly in institutions;
- (b) Practices compelling hard of hearing and deaf children with disabilities to be fitted with cochlear implants at the expense of the learning of sign languages and inclusion in deaf culture;
- (c) The absence of mechanisms to consult with children with disabilities and to enable them to express their views in all matters concerning them.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that legislation on the protection of children is inclusive of children with disabilities, and adopt a specific strategy with timelines and benchmarks to facilitate inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, and to foster safe and nurturing children's environments, respectful of the life and dignity of children with disabilities, on an equal basis with other children;**
- (b) Set up mechanisms to ensure that children with disabilities are protected against being compelled to use cochlear implants and have the opportunity to learn sign languages and**

participate in deaf culture, and that information about the impact of cochlear implants is made available to them;

(c) Establish mechanisms that respect the evolving capacity of children with disabilities to ensure that they can form their views and express them freely in all matters affecting them, and that these views are given due weight in accordance with the child's age and maturity.

Estonia (2021)

15. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The higher prevalence of at-risk-of-poverty-rate affecting children with disabilities, and information about barriers for their access to mainstream social and educational services and facilities;

(b) The uneven protection at the local level of children with disabilities who have lost their disability status as a consequence of the reassessments implemented by the Social Insurance Board;

(c) That children with intellectual disabilities, children with autism, children with psychosocial disabilities, and children who are deaf blind face greater exclusion from quality early intervention services, technical aids, social rehabilitation and transportation;

(d) The lack of information about measures to ensure continuous access to inclusive services in the community for children with disabilities, once the support from European Structural Funds ends.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to address poverty among children with disabilities, implement appropriate social protection programmes and support for them, and their families, and provide access to and availability of inclusive social and educational services and facilities on equal basis with other children;

(b) Adopt measures to redress children with disabilities who have been excluded from disability status, provide for reassessments, and ensure adequate social protection for them across municipalities;

(c) Ensure the availability, accessibility and quality of inclusive early intervention services, as well as access to mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and transportation for all children with disabilities;

(d) Adopt measures, including earmarked budgets to ensure continuity and development of mainstream services in the community that are inclusive of children with disabilities in the community.

Albania (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned that the National Agenda for Child Rights (2017-2020), which is currently at the implementation phase, refers to children with disabilities only with regard to health services and education, failing to take into account the respect of the rights of children with disabilities in all aspects of their life. The Committee is concerned about the lack of steps taken to improve available social and health care services, including early intervention-related services for children with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on the health care and educational assessment procedures in place and that individualized support and accommodations are not consistently provided for children with disabilities in mainstream schools based on students' requirements of individualized support.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Include, in the National Agenda for Child Rights 2017-2020, measures to taken into account the specific requirements of children with disabilities and that guarantee the respect of their rights in all spheres of life;

(b) Provide all children with disabilities, regardless of their impairment, with sufficient social and health care services, including early intervention and development services, in cooperation with representative organizations of children with disabilities, including at the local level, and with a transparent roadmap to achieve progress;

- (c) Ensure that health care and educational assessment procedures are in line with the Convention and the human rights-based approach and include the involvement of experts from multiple disciplines;
- (d) Adopt a legally defined procedure for the provision of reasonable accommodation at all levels of education and allocate the resources necessary to guarantee reasonable accommodation according to individual requirements in consultation with the child concerned.

Australia (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of focus on the rights of children with disabilities in the national plan of action for the realization of the rights of the child;
- (b) The lack of access to early intervention mechanisms for children with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of disability- and age-appropriate assistance for children with disabilities to participate and express their views;
- (d) The lack of culturally suitable support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with disabilities and their families;
- (e) The situation of refugee and asylum-seeking children with disabilities kept in detention facilities in the State party and offshore.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Include a focus on the rights of children with disabilities in any national plan of action for the realization of the rights of the child;**
- (b) Ensure access for children with disabilities to quality and human rights-based early intervention mechanisms;**
- (c) Amend all legislation to guarantee that children with disabilities are provided with age-appropriate support and accommodations to express their views in all matters that affect their rights or interests;**
- (d) Fund and resource culturally suitable support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with disabilities and their families, in the local community;**
- (e) Urgently remove all refugee and asylum-seeking children, particularly children with disabilities and their families, from detention facilities, ensure the provision of individualized support and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination.**

Ecuador (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The abandonment and institutionalization of children and adolescents with disabilities persist and that budgetary funds continue to be allocated for referral centres and shelters;
- (b) The lack of access to affordable universal health care for children with disabilities, particularly in the case of children with disabilities in indigenous communities and rural areas.

El Salvador (2019)

14. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are institutionalized on the basis of impairment, and that the State party continues to invest in residential institutions, without taking measures to ensure deinstitutionalization or investing in programmes for independent living in the community. It is also concerned:

- (a) At the lack of information and disaggregated data on the number of children with disabilities living in rural and indigenous communities and on measures taken to combat poverty in rural and urban areas;
- (b) At the lack of measures taken by the State party to ensure that children with disabilities can express their views freely on all matters affecting them, and concerned that their views are given due weight in accordance with their evolving capacities, on an equal basis with other children, and also concerned at the lack of measures to closely consult with and actively involve organizations of persons with disabilities, including of children with disabilities;
- (c) At the lack of transparency in legal proceedings concerning children with disabilities.

15. The Committee recommends that, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of children with disabilities, the State party take immediate measures to deinstitutionalize children with disabilities living in residential centres, by developing and implementing comprehensive plans, with an adequate budget, for support services in the community, as well as social inclusion programmes. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the collection of disaggregated data on the number of children with disabilities living in rural and indigenous communities, with a view to designing adequate public policies to combat marginalization and poverty among children with disabilities and their families;

(b) Ensure that all children with disabilities can express their views freely in all matters affecting them, and that their views are given due weight in accordance with their evolving capacities, on an equal basis with other children, and that it consult and actively involve organizations of children with disabilities;

(c) Take all measures necessary in order to ensure that legal proceedings are transparent and give effect to the principle of the best interests of the child in decisions concerning children with disabilities.

Greece (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The protracted nature of the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities;

(b) The scarcity of available information on accessible mechanisms and concrete measures taken to ensure that children with disabilities enjoy their right to be heard and to have their views taken into account in all matters affecting them.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party give primary consideration to the best interests of the child and:

(a) Ensure the expeditious deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities and take effective measures to guarantee their right to be cared for by their parents, extended family, safe foster or adoptive family; provide children with disabilities with quality early intervention, as well as other health-care and educational services, equally available in all urban and rural areas, endowed with sufficient resources, and designed in close consultation with and the active involvement of children with disabilities and their parents, through their representative organizations;

(b) Develop a comprehensive strategy and accessible services for the full and effective participation of children with disabilities in all decision-making processes affecting their lives, guaranteeing their right to have their views taken into account in all matters affecting them.

India (2019)

16. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The exclusion of and disregard for children with disabilities from basic public services such as health care and education, particularly girls with disabilities, and the lack of early intervention and support programmes for children with disabilities;

(b) The limited coverage of schemes to protect children with disabilities living in rural areas and to prevent abandonment on account of disability and poverty;

(c) The lack of measures to ensure that children with disabilities can participate and express their views with respect to matters affecting them, such as legal proceedings or the provision of care and protection.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Allocate financial resources to ensure the inclusion of all children with disabilities in basic public services and support, including in early childhood, ensuring accessible early development centres for all children;

- (b) Ensure the effective protection of all children with disabilities under the Child Protection Scheme and other programmes, prioritizing children in rural areas and children who face a risk of abandonment and institutionalization and strengthening measures to provide support in the community, including in foster families;**
- (c) Adopt measures to enable children with disabilities to express their views in all matters related to their lives, including in administrative or judicial procedures.**

Iraq (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of information on whether the draft bill on the rights of the child and the national policy for the protection of children's rights reflect all the rights to which children with disabilities are entitled in line with the Convention;
- (b) The fact that a large number of children with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities living in regions of the State party affected by armed conflicts, children with disabilities who are internally displaced, children with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and children with disabilities living in rural areas, face violations of their rights, such as lack of access to services and loss of educational opportunities;
- (c) The lack of information on mechanisms for children with disabilities to express their views regarding all matters affecting them.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream disability rights in national legislation, strategies and action plans for children;**
- (b) Ensure that children with disabilities enjoy all the rights under the Convention and address stigma and discrimination against and stereotypes that are harmful to children with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities facing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination;**
- (c) Promote the full participation of children with disabilities, through representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in consultations, decision-making processes and policy development efforts.**

Kuwait (2019)

14. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of specific protection for children with disabilities in legislation and policies, including Act No. 8/2010 and Act No. 21/2015;
- (b) The absence of a strategy to promote the exercise by girls and boys with disabilities of their freedoms and rights on an equal basis with other children and the lack of systematic information on measures taken and support available to enable children with disabilities reaching adulthood to start an independent life;
- (c) Discrimination in law and practice against children with disabilities, particularly those whose parents are Bidoon;
- (d) The absence of support measures enabling girls and boys with disabilities to express their views on all matters that concern them;
- (e) The absence of data about girls and boys with disabilities, including those whose parents are Bidoon;
- (f) The lack of capacity-building programmes on the rights of children with disabilities, in particular for personnel in the health, education and social services sectors.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party take all steps necessary to promote the realization of the rights of the child for girls and boys with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including those who experience multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, by:

- (a) Introducing specific provisions protecting the rights of children with disabilities in Act No. 8/2010 and Act No. 21/2015;**

- (b) Mainstreaming the rights of children with disabilities, including the principle of the best interests of the child, into legislation, policies, plans and programmes regarding children and young persons and providing adequate support for girls and boys with disabilities to help them start an independent life when they reach adulthood;**
- (c) Eliminating all aspects of discrimination in relation to children with disabilities, including those whose parents are Bidoon;**
- (d) Establishing a mechanism that guarantees the full participation of children with disabilities in decision-making processes and policy development to guarantee that services provided to them meet their requirements and to raise the awareness of children with disabilities about their rights, including the right to express their views freely, recognizing the evolving capabilities of children, on all matters affecting them;**
- (e) Strengthening the collection of disaggregated data on children with disabilities, including Bidoon children with disabilities, with a view to developing appropriate public policies in all areas of the Convention;**
- (f) Building the capacity of personnel in the health, education and social service sectors, in particular on the rights of children with disabilities.**

Myanmar (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of specific policies and programmes to protect and promote the rights of children with disabilities;
- (b) The prevalent stigma, discrimination and harmful stereotypes against children with disabilities, and the barriers that hinder their access to education, health and other services.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement a comprehensive action plan and strategy for the promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities, allocating sufficient human, technical and financial resources for its implementation;**
- (b) Take measures to address stigma, discrimination and harmful stereotypes against children with disabilities, and ensure their access to education, health and other services without discrimination, on equal basis with other children.**

Cuba (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of strategies in the National Action Plan for Children, Adolescents and their Families for the period of 2015 to 2020 to promote the best interests of the child and respect the evolving capacities of children with disabilities;
- (b) Reports of institutionalisation of children with disabilities and the lack of statistical data on the number of children affected by such measures;
- (c) Article 86 of the Family Code (1975) that allow for “moderate correction” of children, resulting in corporal punishment of children with disabilities;
- (d) The absence of measures to ensure that the views of children with disabilities are considered in all matters affecting their lives;
- (e) Allegations that the registration of newborn children with disabilities is delayed.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen measures to uphold the rights of children with disabilities, by adopting a comprehensive strategy and action plan for the promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities, by allocating specific human, technical and financial resources, as well as by establishing monitoring mechanisms for assessing their implementation;**
- (b) Adopt measures for the de-institutionalisation of children with disabilities by providing them with safe alternative care in family settings and inclusive services in the community;**
- (c) Expedite the revision of the Family Code (1975) to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home and in institutions;**

- (d) Take measures to develop and strengthen respect for the rights of children with disabilities in society, particularly children with disabilities living in rural areas, and enhance support for families of girls and boys with disabilities;**
- (e) Set up protocols, guidelines and mechanisms in the judicial and administrative procedures and proceedings to ensure the right of children with disabilities to have their views taken into account on matters pertaining to them and their families;**
- (f) Ensure that all children with disabilities are registered immediately at birth to ensure their right to have a name, to registration of their birth and to a nationality.**

Niger (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Many children with disabilities are engaged in forced child begging and child labour, including as guides to adults with disabilities;**
- (b) Children with disabilities lack access to social and health care services and equal education opportunities, particularly inclusive education, and experience high levels of abuse and violence, including corporal punishment at home, in schools and residential institutions;**
- (c) There is a lack of representation of children with disabilities in national public policy discourse and a lack of opportunities for them to express their views and measures to eliminate discrimination against children with disabilities are limited.**

12. The Committee recommends that the State party adhere to the Convention in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (targets 16.2 and 16.7), and:

- (a) Adopt legislation and measures for children with disabilities to enjoy their rights and adequately protect them from abuse, violence and exploitation, and sanction perpetrators;**
- (b) Effectively implement the Framework Document for the Protection of the child (2013); develop a national plan for the care of children with disabilities; mainstream disability rights in children strategies and action plans; prohibit corporal punishment of children with disabilities in all settings; and implement awareness-raising campaigns and education, especially in schools and at the community level to eliminate discrimination against children with disabilities;**
- (c) Establish a mechanism to consult children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.**

Norway (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient recognition of the principle of the best interests of the child in the Education Act, beyond the Act's chapter on school environment and bullying, and in the Patient's and Users' Act;**
- (b) The institutionalization of children with disabilities;**
- (c) The unequal access to treatment, care and other opportunities for children with disabilities of migrant or refugee parents, children with disabilities with Sami background, children with disabilities belonging to national minorities, including Roma and Tater/Romani;**
- (d) The absence of accessible mechanisms to ensure the rights of children with disabilities to be heard, to have their views taken into account on matters pertaining to them, particularly in education, beyond the issue of school environment and bullying, to participate in decision-making processes affecting their lives, respecting their evolving capacities, as well as the lack of accessible complaints.**

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Incorporate the principle of the best interests of the child in all legislation, and judicial and administrative decision-making procedures affecting children, including the Educational Act, beyond the Act's chapter on school environment and bullying, and the Patients' and Users' Act;**
- (b) Take measures to ensure the right of children with disabilities to be cared for by family, alternative care within the wider family or within the community in a family setting;**

(c) Take account of all children with disabilities in legislation, policies and measures under the principle of equal opportunity and community inclusion, paying particular attention to children with disabilities of migrant or refugee parents, children with disabilities with Sami background, children with disabilities belonging to national minorities, including Roma and Tater/Romani;

(d) Promote comprehensive strategies and accessible mechanisms for the full and effective participation of children with disabilities in decision-making processes affecting their lives, ensuring their right to have their views taken into account on matters pertaining to them, particularly in education, beyond the issue of school environment and bullying, respecting their evolving capacities and ensuring that they have access to accessible and child-friendly complaints mechanisms.

Rwanda (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The fact that legislation, including article 54 of the Law No. 54/2011 relating to the Rights and the Protection of the Child does not protect the rights of all children with disabilities;

(b) Prevailing discrimination and social exclusion of children with disabilities, particularly in remote or rural areas;

(c) Insufficient opportunities for children with disabilities to systematically participate in decision-making on matters that concern them;

(d) Limited support services provided for children with disabilities and their families within the community;

(e) Insufficient measures to promote inclusive alternative care in family settings for children with disabilities without parental care, and increasing separation of children with disabilities to live in segregated residential settings.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to review its laws, in particular Law No. 54/2011 relating to the Rights and the Protection of the Child, to ensure protection for the rights of all children with disabilities in line with the Convention;

(b) Step up its efforts to allocate all necessary resources to eliminate discrimination against and exclusion of children with disabilities, with a particular focus on children at risk of intersectional discrimination;

(c) Establish policies and programmes to ensure the right of children with disabilities to express their views on all matters concerning them;

(d) Take measures, including within the National Commission for Children, to ensure support services and facilities are available in the community for children with disabilities and their families to ensure their right to family life, in line with their best interests;

(e) Adopt measures to support that children with disabilities live in family settings with appropriate support, including alternative care within the wider family or within the community in a family setting.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The lack of specific protections for children with disabilities in legislation, implementing regulations and policies, including in the Child Protection Act and the Protection from Abuse Act;

(b) Corporal punishment, discrimination, stereotypes against and marginalization of children with disabilities;

(c) Lack of capacity building programmes on the rights of children with disabilities in health, educational and social services for providers of such services;

(d) The absence of mechanisms to guarantee that children with disabilities have their views taken into account on matters pertaining to them and their families, including in protection mechanisms;

(e) The absence of information on and the lack of meaningful consultations of families of deaf or hard of hearing children in the decision to undergo medical interventions with regard to cochlear implant procedures.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the Child Protection Act and the Protection from Abuse Act to introduce specific provisions protecting the rights of children with disabilities, and mainstream the rights of children with disabilities, including the principle of the best interests of the child, in national policies, plans and programs regarding children and youth;

(b) Prohibit violence against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment, take sanctions against perpetrators and adopt and implement a strategy to combat stereotypes and discrimination against children with disabilities;

(c) Build the capacities of all providers of services, including health, educational and social services, to children with disabilities, on the rights of children with disabilities;

(d) Develop and implement a mechanism that guarantees the full participation of children with disabilities, their families and representative organizations in decision-making processes and in policy development to guarantee that services provided to them respond to their requirements;

(e) Ensure that families and children with disabilities have given their prior and informed consent before proceeding to invasive health procedures, such as cochlear implants by respecting their evolving capacities, and facilitate the learning of sign language.

Senegal (2019)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Barriers, including stigmatization against children with disabilities, to access social protection, health care services and an inclusive quality education system, on an equal basis with other children;

(b) The absence of information, including statistical data, disaggregated by age and sex, on the situation of children with disabilities, including the number and proportion of those attending mainstream schools with adequate supports;

(c) Reported cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment, in the home, in schools and in institutions and the exploitation of children with disabilities in begging;

(d) The lack of effective representation of children with disabilities in national discourse, particularly in the Children's Parliament, and the opportunity to express their views and the weight attached to such views, regarding matters that concern them.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account the Convention in its implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (targets 16.2 and 16.7) and:

(a) Adopt measures to combat stigmatisation against children with disabilities and ensure they have access to social and health care services and an inclusive quality education system, on an equal basis with others;

(b) Collect information, including statistical data, disaggregated by age and sex, on the situation of children with disabilities, including the number and proportion of children with disabilities attending mainstream schools with supports, with a view to better inform public policies on children;

(c) Repeal all provisions that authorize corporal punishment, including article 285 of the Family Code and adopt legislation and effective measures to ensure that children with disabilities are adequately protected from exploitation, violence, and abuse, including exploitation in begging and that perpetrators are sanctioned;

(d) Adopt a mechanism for conducting meaningful consultations with children with disabilities, through their representative organizations on matters that concern them and ensure their inclusion in the Children's Parliament and that full weight is given to their views, on an equal basis with other children.

Spain (2019)

12. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That children with disabilities are institutionalized in the State party and that measures taken to ensure the comprehensive deinstitutionalization of all children with disabilities are still insufficient;

(b) About the lack of access to universal and accessible health care services for children with disabilities, particularly in rural areas;

(c) About the lack of measures aimed at enabling children with disabilities to freely express their views on all matters affecting them on equal basis with other children.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take immediate measures to end the institutionalization of children with disabilities by, inter alia, developing and implementing a strategy to promote safe and supported family settings in the community, with specific timeframes and adequate allocated budget;

(b) Ensure universal access to primary health care services for all children with disabilities, including early intervention services;

(c) Ensure that all children with disabilities can express their views freely on all matters affecting them by, inter alia, ensuring disability and age-appropriate assistance.

Türkiye (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Insufficient data and information about the implementation of the First Strategy Paper and Action Plan on the Rights of the Children (2013-2017) and the Coordination Strategy Document on the Child Protection Services (2014-2019) and on their impact on the inclusion and participation of children with disabilities in society, and in public decision-making processes;

(b) The lack of effective mechanisms to support children with disabilities in the community, including children living in rural areas and for children with disabilities to lodge complaints about violation of their rights;

(c) The reports indicating that allowances for families of children with disabilities are subject to a degree of impairment assessed over 40 percent.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a transparent mechanism to monitor the impact of relevant policies and strategies on the rights of children with disabilities, in close consultation and with the direct involvement of organizations of children with disabilities, including children with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Improve early childhood development programmes for children with disabilities and develop community-based support for children with disabilities and their families, particularly children living in rural areas;

(c) Introduce a mechanism enabling children with disabilities to lodge complaints in a confidential way before public authorities, in cases of violation of their rights, particularly in the family, school, in institutions;

(d) Extend the coverage and implementation of child care allowances to families of all children with disabilities ensuring that single parents can also access this type of entitlements.

Vanuatu (2019)

14. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The absence of information on the measures taken to improve access to early identification and intervention programs by children with disabilities and the expiration of the National Disabilities Policy and Plan of Action (2008-2015), which has not been renewed;

(b) The lack of participation of children with disabilities in awareness raising events due to discrimination against them.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the necessary measures to renew the National Disabilities Policy and Plan of Action (2008-2015) and ensure its implementation, especially to provide children with disabilities and their families with adequate assistance and support, including early identification and intervention programs, as foreseen in the Policy and Plan of Action;

(b) Adopt measure to combat discrimination against children with disabilities as well as strengthen its efforts to raise awareness among children with disabilities, their parents, families and the community, on the rights of children with disabilities.

Algeria (2018)

16. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Disability is not mainstreamed within national laws, policies and strategies on childhood;
- (b) Children with disabilities reportedly experience high levels of violence and neglect, including in the home, in schools, and in alternative care residential institutions;
- (c) There is an insufficient quantity of trained child care assistants, teachers and other professionals to carry out a policy of inclusive development and empowerment of children with disabilities;
- (d) Children with disabilities do not benefit from the required support to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others, notably their right to access healthcare services, social protection, and inclusive education;
- (e) A large number of children with disabilities, particularly children with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, are still living in residential alternative care institutions.

17. In line with the Convention and target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream disability into national legislation, policies and strategies on childhood;**
- (b) Adopt legislation and implement specific measures to protect children with disabilities from abuse and neglect and to investigate and sanction perpetrators;**
- (c) Provide continuous quality training for all staff working with children on the rights of children with disabilities;**
- (d) Increase resources to ensure that children with disabilities receive the support they require to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others;**
- (e) Encourage alternative care in family settings for children with disabilities and, in the meantime, ensure that residential alternative care facilities have adequately trained staff and sufficient financial resources to ensure the realization of the rights of children with disabilities in those facilities.**

Bulgaria (2018)

19. The Committee is concerned by the fact that girls and boys with disabilities still live in homes for “children with mental retardation”, and homes for medical and social care for children, (CRPD/C/ BGR /1 para. 256). The Committee is further concerned that children with disabilities, in particular children with intellectual disabilities are not involved in matters affecting them.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure full deinstitutionalization of girls and boys with disabilities , and their right to live in a safe family environment, including foster families;**
- (b) Increase further the resources allocated to development of inclusive support service network in local communities, and empowerment of families with children with disabilities in light of the Committee’s General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community;**
- (c) Increase awareness, strengthen the capacity, and accountability mechanisms at the municipal level to implement and finance support for inclusion of children with disabilities in the community;**
- (d) Adopt regulations and programs to ensure that children with disabilities can express their views and opinions on all matters affecting them in family, schools, and in society, and in particular children who remain under institutionalization, in close consultation with representative organizations of children with disabilities.**

Malta (2018)

11. The Committee is concerned about the institutionalisation of some children with disabilities whose families have been identified as being “unable” to take care for their children as per a Care Order issued under the Civil Code (Cap. 16). It is also concerned about the lack of information on the involvement of children with disabilities in measures taken by the Commissioner for Children to hear the views of children on the matters that concern them, such as the Council for Children convened by the Commissioner as per article 12 of the Commissioner for Children Act (Cap. 462).

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reintegrate children with disabilities into communities who are currently institutionalized based on a Care Order under the Civil Code (Cap. 16) as expeditiously as possible, so that they can enjoy living in a family setting and access to education and other services within the community, on an equal basis with others;

(b) Adopt measures to fulfil the right of children with disabilities to be consulted on all matters that affect them, and to guarantee that they have disability- and age-appropriate support to realize that right, including in measures taken by the Commissioner for Children.

Philippines (2018)

16. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information about measures to ensure inclusion of children with disabilities in society although the estimation of about 3.3 million of children with disabilities representing about 8 percent of the population in the State party;

(b) The absence of strategies to promote the best interests of the child in actions concerning children with disabilities;

(c) The institutionalization of children with disabilities and separation of children with disabilities from their families in rural areas while they are taken to schools;

(d) The absence of measures to ensure that children with disabilities views and opinions are considered in all matters affecting their lives.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive strategy and action plan for the promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities, and allocating specific human, technical and financial resources as well as monitoring mechanisms for assessing their implementation;

(b) Take measures to develop and strengthen respect for the rights of children with disabilities at home, and enhance support for families of girls and boys with disabilities, including early childhood programmes, in accordance with the standards set under international human rights law, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The State party should pay particular attention towards children with disabilities living in rural areas and children belonging to ethnic and religious minorities as well as migrant, refugee and asylum seeking children;

(c) Take measures to make mainstream schools accessible, so that children with disabilities in rural areas can attend schools while living with their families;

(d) Strengthen and ensure national coverage of referral systems, including community-based rehabilitation for children with disabilities across the country;

(e) Set up protocols and guidelines aimed at consulting with children with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensuring support according to their age and disability, in relation to issues affecting them.

Poland (2018)

11. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The institutionalization of children with disabilities in social care homes, including together with adults;

(b) Attitudes towards children with disabilities as being reliant on others and their lack of opportunities to express their opinion on matters pertaining to them directly;

(c) Lack of disaggregated data on children with disabilities.

12. The Committee recommends the State Party to:

- (a) Expedite the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities by providing them with safe alternative care in family settings and inclusive services in the community;**
- (b) Take effective measures to support the empowerment of children with disabilities and create platforms for them to express their own views on all matters that concern them;**
- (c) Collect disaggregated data and carry out participatory researches on the social condition of all children with disabilities.**

South Africa (2018)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of legislation to give full effect to the right to inclusive education for all children with disabilities, in line with general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and as outlined in the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/ZAF/CO/2, paras. 43-45).**
- (b) The high number of reported cases of corporal punishment, violence, abuse, neglect and inequality involving children with disabilities, especially autistic children and children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, by teachers and peers. The Committee is further concerned about reported cases of abuse of children with disabilities at schools and school hostels, with teachers allegedly being the perpetrators in most cases.**
- (c) The large number of children with disabilities, nearly 600,000, who are out of school or studying in specialized schools or classes, in particular children with psychosocial disabilities, and children with disabilities placed in child centres or less regulated special service centres, all of which are based on long-term institutionalization, often located far from their families and communities, in isolation, and lack properly trained staff.**

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) In line with target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, develop, adopt and implement legislation and concrete measures to ensure that children with disabilities, including autistic children, those with albinism and children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are adequately protected from violence, abuse, including corporal punishment, and that sanctions are imposed against perpetrators; and that the Children's Act is amended without delay to explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings;**
- (b) Enact legislation giving full effect to the right to inclusive education for all children with disabilities, as outlined in the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/ZAF/CO/2, paras. 43-45), review the Education White Paper 6: Special Needs Education: Building an Inclusive Education and Training System (2001) with a view to further developing a legal and policy framework for inclusive education, and the inclusion of children with disabilities into mainstream schools;**
- (c) Adopt a time-bound plan of action to address the high levels of physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse in special education schools, including special education school hostels. This plan must include a monitoring framework and process with a comprehensive vetting procedure, including for criminal records, for all teachers and officials working with children before recruitment, and ensure that the National Sexual Offenders Register and National Child Protection Register be adequately maintained;**
- (d) Develop and adopt effective implementation plans for prevention and early intervention programmes in communities to enable early identification and support to children and adults with disabilities in family and community settings with adequate budget allocations, including training and continuous professional development of care workers and parents of children with disabilities, increased public awareness raising programmes to understand the importance of family and community based provisions instead of institutionalization.**

North Macedonia (2018)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of specific legislation in regards to the rights of children with disabilities in the State Party;
- (b) The lack of criminalization of violence against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment and sexual violence, in all settings;
- (c) The expiration of the National Strategy for Equality and Non Discrimination 2005-2015 and the non-inclusion the rights of children with disabilities, including the principle of the best interest of the child, in national policies, plans and programs for children;
- (d) The prevalent stigma, discrimination and harmful stereotypes against children with disabilities, and the enduring approach to seclusion and institutionalisation;
- (e) The lack of early assistance and provision of services for independent living;
- (f) The absence of mechanisms to ensure the participation of children with disabilities in decision-making processes affecting their lives, in particular the lack of mechanisms to ensure the right of children with disabilities to have their views taken into account on matters pertaining to them and their families, including participation in all protection mechanisms.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt specific legislation in regards to the rights of children with disabilities;**
- (b) Criminalize violence against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment and sexual violence, in all settings and adopt and implement measures for sanctioning the perpetrators;**
- (c) Adopt a new National Strategy for Equality and Non Discrimination that would provide for specific measures for the protection of rights of children with disabilities, based on sex, age, gender and ethnicity;**
- (d) Mainstream the rights of children with disabilities including the principle of the best interest of the child in national policies, plans, programs, and compliance frameworks that apply to children and young people in general;**
- (e) Adopt measures to address stigma, discrimination and harmful stereotypes against children with disabilities;**
- (f) Provide continuous support for the child from early assistance to independent living;**
- (g) Promote comprehensive strategies and mechanisms for full participation in consultations, decision-making processes and policy development through representative organisation to promote adequate choice of services that best fit the needs of the child taking into consideration the evolving capacities of the child.**

Haiti (2018)

12. The Committee is seriously concerned by the abandonment and neglect of and violence against children with disabilities, including ill treatment and corporal punishment, within the family, at schools and in residential alternative care facilities. It is particularly concerned about:

- (a) The lack of consultation with the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities during the development of the national strategy for the protection of the child;
- (b) Children with disabilities and their families not benefitting from social, health care, education, and economic services and support on an equal basis with others;
- (c) Insufficient resources, including adequately trained personnel and accessible facilities in residential alternative care facilities.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party take concrete legal and other measures to ensure the protection of children with disabilities from abandonment, neglect and abuse, including explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings. It also recommends that the State party collect and analyse disaggregated data on the situation of children with disabilities, including child abandonment and neglect, with a view to designing appropriate policy responses. In particular the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in the national strategy for the protection of the child;**

- (b) Increase resources for parents and families with children with disabilities and ensure they benefit from the same social, education, health care, education, and economic services and support on an equal basis with others;
- (c) Encourage alternative care in family settings for children with disabilities and, in the meantime, ensure residential alternative care facilities have adequately trained staff and sufficient financial resources to ensure the rights of children with disabilities in those facilities.

Nepal (2018)

13. The Committee is concerned about the absence of clear linkages between intended policies and actual implementation of policies such as the Ten-Year Children's National Action Plan or the Thirteenth Plan (2013–2016) aimed at protecting children. More specifically, the Committee is concerned about the absence of specific measures for supporting children with disabilities and their families, and also about the inadequacy of inclusive education for children, particularly those from rural areas, marginalized ethnic minority and indigenous communities. The Committee is also concerned at reports of abandonment of children with disabilities who as a result are exposed to exploitation and abuse.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps, which should include consultations with representative organizations of persons with disabilities and relevant ethnic minorities and indigenous groups to ensure overall improvement in increasing enrolment of children with disabilities for primary school education, implementing inclusive early childhood education, opportunities for vocational training for youth with disabilities, and undertake measures for the prevention of violence, abuse, exploitation and abandonment of children with disabilities. In doing so, the State party should pay particular attention towards marginalized groups of children with disabilities in rural and mountainous areas, in particular children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and those from indigenous groups.

Oman (2018)

15. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Both de jure and de facto discrimination of children with disabilities, especially with respect to access to social and health services and equal education opportunities, continues to be problematic in the State party;
- (b) Boys and girls with disabilities in the State party reportedly experience high levels of abuse and violence, including corporal punishment, in the home, in schools, in institutions and in alternative and day care settings;
- (c) There is a lack of effective representation of children with disabilities in national discourse, in particular in the Child First Association, the Children's Parliament, and the opportunity to express their views, especially regarding matters that concern them.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that all children with disabilities enjoy their rights under the Convention and in line with the best interest of the child principle, both de jure and de facto, including through the amendment of the Child Act of 2014 to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, and that it intensify efforts to ensure the effective elimination of any form of discrimination against children with disabilities, through awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns and education, especially in the schools and at the community level;
- (b) In line with the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 16 (target 16.2), adopt legislation and concrete measures to ensure that children with disabilities are adequately protected from abuse and violence, and that perpetrators are sanctioned;
- (c) Mainstream disability rights in national strategies and action plans for children, including the adoption and implementation of a national plan for the care of children with disabilities, including in cooperation with UNICEF;
- (d) In line with the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 16 (target 16.7), adopt a mechanism for conducting effective consultation with children with disabilities, through

their representative organizations and their full inclusion in the Child First Association and Children's Parliament and that full weight be given to the views of such children on an equal basis with other children.

Russian Federation (2018)

17. The Committee is deeply concerned by the large numbers of boys and girls with disabilities living in some institutions, referred to in paragraph 65 of written replies (CRPD/C/ RUS /Q/1/Add.1) to the list of issues prepared by the Committee.

18. The Committee recommends that the State Party adopt a strategy for deinstitutionalisation of boys and girls with disabilities with a set time frame and resources allocated to development of support service network in local communities and empowerment of families with children with disabilities and their further needs in light of the General Comment No. 5.

Seychelles (2018)

10. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of an explicit and comprehensive prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings in the State party and the absence of specific measures to address violence against children with disabilities;
- (b) The insufficient coordination of the provision of the necessary services for children with disabilities, among all responsible actors;
- (c) The lack of early assistance and placement of children with disabilities in residential treatment institutions;
- (d) The absence of mechanisms to ensure the participation of children with disabilities in decision-making processes affecting their lives, in particular the lack of mechanisms to ensure the right of children with disabilities to have their views taken into account on matters pertaining to them and their families, including their participation in all protection mechanisms.

11. The Committee recalls the concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see CRC/C/SVN/CO/3-4, para. 38), and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Explicitly prohibit any kind of corporal punishment of children in all settings, including alternative care institutions, and adopt a strategy to monitor the situation of children with disabilities in alternative care aimed at identifying all instances of violence against children with disabilities. The State party should ensure non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing that include families with children with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure the effective coordination among different actors involved in child protection;**
- (c) Adopt a national strategy with benchmarks and human technical and financial resources, aimed at ensuring full inclusion of children with disabilities in society, paying attention to the development of inclusive settings in early assistance, education, housing, health and all community services. The State party should ensure quality and independent monitoring of the living conditions of children with disabilities;**
- (d) Adopt measures to fulfil the right of children with disabilities to express their opinion on all matters that affect them, and to guarantee that they have disability- and age-appropriate support to realize such right, including in judicial, administrative and policy-making procedures.**

Slovenia (2018)

10. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of an explicit and comprehensive prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings in the State party and the absence of specific measures to address violence against children with disabilities;
- (b) The insufficient coordination of the provision of the necessary services for children with disabilities, among all responsible actors;

(c) The lack of early assistance and placement of children with disabilities in residential treatment institutions;

(d) The absence of mechanisms to ensure the participation of children with disabilities in decision-making processes affecting their lives, in particular the lack of mechanisms to ensure the right of children with disabilities to have their views taken into account on matters pertaining to them and their families, including their participation in all protection mechanisms.

11. The Committee recalls the concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see CRC/C/SVN/CO/3-4, para. 38), and recommends that the State party:

(a) Explicitly prohibit any kind of corporal punishment of children in all settings, including alternative care institutions, and adopt a strategy to monitor the situation of children with disabilities in alternative care aimed at identifying all instances of violence against children with disabilities. The State party should ensure non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing that include families with children with disabilities;

(b) Ensure the effective coordination among different actors involved in child protection;

(c) Adopt a national strategy with benchmarks and human technical and financial resources, aimed at ensuring full inclusion of children with disabilities in society, paying attention to the development of inclusive settings in early assistance, education, housing, health and all community services. The State party should ensure quality and independent monitoring of the living conditions of children with disabilities;

(d) Adopt measures to fulfil the right of children with disabilities to express their opinion on all matters that affect them, and to guarantee that they have disability- and age-appropriate support to realize such right, including in judicial, administrative and policy-making procedures.

Sudan (2018)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of measures taken to criminalize violence against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment and sexual violence, in all settings and under all circumstances;

(b) The absence of the rights of children with disabilities in national policies, plans and programs for children;

(c) The prevalent stigma, discrimination and harmful stereotypes against children with disabilities, and the enduring approach to seclusion and institutionalisation.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Criminalize violence against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment and sexual violence, under all circumstances and in all settings, including by amending the Children's Act of 2010 and the Criminal Code, and adopt and implement measures for sanctioning perpetrators;

(b) Mainstream the rights of children with disabilities in national policies, plans and programs for children;

(c) Take measures to combat stigma and stereotyping of children with disabilities within families and in society; and implement strategies to prevent abandonment, neglect, seclusion and institutionalization of children with disabilities.

Latvia (2017)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The continued institutionalization of children with disabilities in long-term care owing to the limited provision of family and community-based services for children of all ages and impairments, as well as for their families;

(b) The lack of access to mainstream, inclusive, quality education;

(c) The allegedly high rate of domestic violence perpetrated against children with disabilities;

(d)The charity and “cure” approach to children with disabilities that is perpetuated through television fundraising campaigns.

13.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Reinforce support services for children with disabilities and their families in local communities, foster deinstitutionalization, prevent any new institutionalization and promote social inclusion and access to mainstream, inclusive, quality education;

(b)Investigate allegations of domestic violence against children with disabilities and ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted under criminal law;

(c)Prevent and sanction any public campaigns that promote a charity and “cure” approach to children with disabilities.

Luxembourg (2017)

16.The Committee is concerned that some children with disabilities, particularly those with high support requirements, may not have lived with their families or have the access to education and other services within the community, on an equal basis with others, and may sometimes live in residential institutions abroad. It is also concerned that children with disabilities do not participate systematically in decision-making that affects their lives and that they lack opportunities to express their opinion on matters pertaining to them directly, including administrative and judicial procedures.

17.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures to appropriately respond to the requirements of children with disabilities at the local, regional and national levels and ensure the equal rights of children with disabilities to life with their families, and have access to education and other services within the community;

(b) Adopt measures to fulfil the right of children with disabilities to be consulted on all matters that affect them, and to guarantee that they have disability- and age-appropriate support to realize that right, including in judicial and administrative procedures.

Montenegro (2017)

14.The Committee notes with concern that children with disabilities are not sufficiently included in decisions that affect their lives. It also notes with concern that:

(a)Discrimination and social exclusion of children with disabilities is prevalent;

(b)Data collected on the situation of children with disabilities is insufficient;

(c)Despite the prohibition against placing children with disabilities under 3 years of age in institutions, children with disabilities are frequently institutionalized, including in so-called day-care centres, and furthermore, the institutions are divided based on impairment;

(d)Early identification and intervention services are largely insufficient, particularly at the local level, and mostly follow the medical model;

(e) Support provided to parents of children with disabilities is insufficient.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to allocate all necessary resources to eliminate discrimination against and exclusion of children with disabilities, with a particular focus on children at risk of intersectional discrimination. It also recommends that the State party:

(a)Establish policies and programmes that will ensure the right of children with disabilities to express their views on all matters concerning them;

(b) Take swift measures aiming at the deinstitutionalization of children and allocate all necessary resources to ensure that they have access to all necessary services in the context of community care instead of in the context of day-care centres or any other segregated settings;

(c) Provide all children with disabilities, regardless of their impairment, with sufficient early childhood intervention and development services in cooperation with representative organizations of parents of children with disabilities, including at the local level, in compliance with the Convention;

(d) Develop effective quality community-based support services for parents caring for children with disabilities.

Morocco (2017)

16. The Committee is concerned about reported violence against, abuse of and use of corporal punishment on children with disabilities, including abandoned children with disabilities, in the home, in alternative care and day-care settings and in schools.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt legislation and concrete measures to ensure that children with disabilities, including abandoned children with disabilities, are adequately protected from violence, exploitation and abuse, including corporal punishment, and that perpetrators are sanctioned.

18. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective representation of children with disabilities in national discourse, especially in the national parliament and congresses, and the lack of opportunity to express their views, especially on matters that concern them.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a mechanism for conducting effective consultation with children with disabilities through their representative organizations, and that it ensure the full inclusion of children with disabilities in the national forum of children, the children's parliament and children's governorate and municipal councils, on an equal basis with other children.

Panama (2017)

20. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are exposed to inequalities and subjected to discrimination, violence, abandonment, ill-treatment and institutionalization, and it notes that indigenous and Afrodescendent children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable. It is also concerned at the lack of legislation setting forth measures to protect children with disabilities from ill-treatment, abuse and exploitation and to prevent the abandonment, neglect and institutionalization of children with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Draw up and adopt legislation that sets forth measures to protect children with disabilities from ill-treatment, abuse and exploitation and to prevent the abandonment, neglect and institutionalization of children with disabilities and that it provides adequate resources for the effective implementation thereof;

(b) Adopt measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to community services and programmes in order to strengthen the protection of their rights and to promote equal opportunities for family, community and social inclusion.

22. The Committee is concerned that national legislation does not expressly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in homes, schools, day-care centres and alternative care settings.

23. The Committee urges the State party to repeal the provisions of the Civil Code and the Family Code that empower adults caring for children to "correct" and punish them moderately and recommends that it draw up legislation that completely prohibits corporal punishment in all settings, including in family settings and in indigenous and Afrodescendent communities, and take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of that legislation.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

20. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a policy framework addressing the poverty of many families with children with disabilities;

(b) The failure to incorporate the human rights model of disability in public policies and legislation concerning children and young persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of monitoring mechanisms and reliable indicators, particularly concerning bullying against children with disabilities in school;

(d) The absence of a general statutory duty upon public authorities to ensure adequate childcare for children with disabilities;

(e) The reported increase of incidents of bullying, hate speech and hate crime against children with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations representing children with disabilities, develop and implement policies aimed at:

- (a) Eliminating the higher level of poverty among families with children with disabilities;**
- (b) Incorporating the human rights model of disability into all laws and regulations concerning children with disabilities;**
- (c) Setting up an independent monitoring mechanism to assess the situation of children with disabilities in school, particularly those facing bullying, through reliable indicators;**
- (d) Securing sufficient and disability-sensitive childcare as a statutory duty across the State party;**
- (e) Strengthening measures to prevent bullying, hate speech and hate crime against children with disabilities.**

Armenia (2017)

11. The Committee is concerned by:

- (a) Reports on the institutionalization of a high number of children with disabilities in orphanages and residential special schools, including their transinstitutionalization from one institution to another under the guise of deinstitutionalization, and the continuing investment in such institutions;
- (b) The lack of State support, including early intervention, for children with disabilities and their families, and the high poverty rate among children with disabilities and their families, especially in rural and remote areas;
- (c) The insufficiency of measures to promote and encourage the adoption of children with disabilities;
- (d) Various forms of neglect, violence and abuse against children with disabilities, including in domestic and institutional settings;
- (e) Stigmatizing attitudes towards children with disabilities.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Prioritize the deinstitutionalization of all children with disabilities and their resettlement in family settings, including by promoting foster care and providing appropriate community-based support to parents;**
- (b) Provide children with disabilities and their families with adequate assistance, including early intervention, and implement specific measures to reduce poverty among them;**
- (c) Promote and appropriately support adoption of children with disabilities;**
- (d) Prohibit and criminalize all forms of violence and abuse against children with disabilities in all settings, including in the home and residential institutions;**
- (e) Promote a positive image of children with disabilities;**
- (f) Implement the recommendations contained in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning children with disabilities (see CRC/C/ARM/CO/3-4, para. 36).**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

14. The Committee is concerned that corporal punishment of children, especially children with disabilities, is not explicitly prohibited in the family and in alternative care and day-care settings in the State party. It is also concerned that there is no universal and equal access to early childhood recognition and intervention services for children with disabilities.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Explicitly and universally prohibit corporal punishment of children, with particular attention to children with disabilities living in institutions;**
- (b) Provide children with disabilities with sufficient early childhood intervention and development services in cooperation with organizations of parents with children with disabilities at the local level.**

Canada (2017)

17. The Committee commends the support programme adopted in Quebec aimed at providing independent living for young persons of up to 21 years of age who are not autonomous, i.e., unable to stay at home on their own, as well as the network for “integrating” children with high-level support requirements in childcare services. However, the Committee notes with concern that the Government of Canada has not collected data on children with disabilities since 2006. It also notes that there are now more indigenous children in the care of Canadian services than there ever were in residential schools. It is further concerned about the lack of criteria established for applying the principle of the best interests of the child in actions concerning children with disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Collect disaggregated information on the situation of and discrimination faced by children with disabilities, particularly indigenous children with disabilities, so as to formulate targeted programmes to tackle the exclusion they face;**
- (b) Ensure earmarked budget allocations for children with disabilities in periodic expenditure programmes at all levels of administration and introduce monitoring indicators for such allocations;**
- (c) Provide indigenous children with access to schools so as to limit their overrepresentation in Canadian welfare services. This can be achieved through direct communication with indigenous communities, as such communication will lead to a more issue-specific resolution;**
- (d) Introduce guidelines among all levels of administration on how to implement the principle of the best interests of the child in the design, implementation and monitoring of legislation and policies concerning children with disabilities;**
- (e) Prioritize the human rights of children with disabilities in public policies, in particular the recognition of the identity and evolving capacities of deaf children, deaf-blind children and hard-of-hearing children and their different requirements, autistic children and children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.**

Cyprus (2017)

19. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to early intervention and support provided to children with disabilities and their families, especially within the educational, health and social sector, and about the inadequate financial allowances available for families of children with disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, adopt and implement human rights-based policies, laws and regulations to increase access by children with disabilities and their families to early intervention and other forms of individualized and necessary service and support, including earmarked financial support, in accordance with article 28 of the Convention.

21. The Committee notes with concern that the views of children with disabilities are insufficiently respected in matters concerning children. The Committee also notes with concern that the right of children with disabilities to inclusive education in mainstream schools may be restricted by parental consent, contrary to general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with representative organizations of children with disabilities, adopt regulations and programmes to ensure that children with disabilities can express their views on all matters affecting them and that their views are fully respected. In that regard, the Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the right of children with disabilities to inclusive education in mainstream schools, in accordance with general comment No. 4 (2016).

Honduras (2017)

17. Al Comité le preocupa que en la legislación relativa a las niñas y niños no se contemple explícitamente el principio de no discriminación y que dicha ausencia afecte desproporcionadamente a niñas y niños con discapacidad. Asimismo, le preocupa que no existan medidas suficientes de protección para evitar el abandono de niñas y niños con discapacidad, que muchos aún estén institucionalizados, y la falta de datos sobre estos niños. Además, le preocupa al Comité el escaso alcance de medidas específicas para ellos en zonas rurales y en comunidades indígenas y afrohondureñas.

18. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que incluya en su Decreto núm. 79-36 (Código de la Niñez y Adolescencia) el principio de no discriminación, así como la protección a niñas y niños con discapacidad, con el objeto de reforzar las garantías a sus derechos y la igualdad de oportunidades para su inclusión familiar, comunitaria y social, y la suficiente dotación de recursos para su efectiva implementación. Asimismo, recomienda que adopte todas las medidas necesarias para poner en marcha un sistema eficaz de detección de malos tratos en los niños y niñas con discapacidad, tanto en el ámbito de la familia como en el entorno educativo, sanitario y en las instituciones.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

16. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The absence of mechanisms for children with disabilities to express their views and opinions regarding all matters affecting them;
- (b) The lack of information on measures to prevent abandonment, and mistreatment of children with disabilities;
- (c) The absence of strategies to promote the best interests of the child in actions concerning children with disabilities; and
- (d) The lack of disaggregated data about girls and boys with disabilities' access to health, education, an adequate standard of living including social protection, and enjoyment of sports, leisure and cultural activities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Set-up guidelines aimed at consulting with children with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensuring support according to their age and disability, in relation to issues affecting them;**
- (b) Adopt a strategy to sensitize families and communities about the respect of the evolving capacities of children with disabilities, combat stereotypes against them and prevent isolation and neglect; and**
- (c) Provide community-based services and support for children with disabilities with a view to eliminating institutionalization.**

Jordan (2017)

17. The Committee is deeply concerned at the violence that boys and girls with disabilities reportedly experience in both care homes and the family setting. The Committee notes the absence of a disability perspective in national policies affecting children, including the Early Childhood Development Strategy and the National Strategy for the Family.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt the draft amendments to the Criminal Code which intensify punishments for acts of negligence or harm towards children with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that all cases in which children with disabilities are exposed to violence are reported and fully investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and appropriately punished and that victims are provided with adequate support and redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;**
- (c) Mainstream disability rights in national strategies and action plans for children.**

Republic of Moldova (2017)

16. The Committee is concerned about stigmatizing attitudes towards children with disabilities which are reinforced by a lack of community services. It is also concerned that children with disabilities do not systematically participate in making decisions that affect their lives and lack opportunities to express their opinion on matters pertaining to them directly. It is particularly concerned about the life-long institutionalization, from early childhood, of children with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in inhumane conditions, where they are exposed to neglect and segregated from the community.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party redouble efforts to promote a positive image of children with disabilities and increase the availability of mainstream support services to children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party adopt safeguards to protect the right of children with disabilities to be consulted on all matters that affect them, and to guarantee disability- and age-appropriate support to realize that right. The Committee also recommends that the State party develop a national strategy for the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities, which encompasses alternative care in family settings and inclusive support services and facilities in the community.

Bolivia (2016)

17. The Committee is concerned about the paucity of information on children with disabilities living in institutions, as well as the lack of measures to prevent their abandonment.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to remove children with disabilities from institutions, to protect their right to live in a family environment and to be included in the community, and to prevent their abandonment.

Colombia (2016)

18. The Committee is concerned about the limited information available on the situation of children with disabilities, mainly those who have been institutionalized or who are living in poverty or in rural or remote areas, and about the steps taken to protect their rights and facilitate their remaining with or return to their families or foster families. It is also concerned about the lack of a ban on corporal punishment of children with disabilities.

19. The Committee urges the State party to more systematically gather data on children with disabilities and to take steps to prevent their abandonment, abuse and institutionalization. It encourages the State party to adopt a plan on the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities, including those who are institutionalized on the basis of protection measures ordered by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, and to provide community-based services and support to families, especially households headed by single mothers, in order to ensure the right of children with disabilities to grow up in a family environment and the right to have a family life. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the provision in the Civil Code that authorizes adult childminders to correct and discipline children moderately and that it ban corporal punishment in any environment, including within the family and within indigenous and remote communities.

Ethiopia (2016)

15. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific legislation to address and ensure the protection of the rights of children with disabilities against abandonment, neglect, mistreatment and corporal punishment in all aspects of life.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement specific legislation to address the protection of children with disabilities against abandonment, neglect and mistreatment, including through the support of parents of children with disabilities. It also urges the State party to abolish, in law and in practice, corporal punishment against children with disabilities in all spheres.

Guatemala (2016)

23. The Committee is concerned at the high rate of maltreatment, abuse, corporal punishment, abandonment and institutionalization of children with disabilities; at the prevalence of the welfare and charity-based approach to their care; and at the limited scope of specific measures taken on their behalf in rural areas and indigenous communities.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend article 13 of the Act on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents and article 253 of the Civil Code, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see CRC/C/GTM/CO/3-4, para. 54);

(b) Take all necessary measures to implement an effective system for detecting the maltreatment of children with disabilities in family, educational, health-care and institutional settings, and entrust the Office of the Advocate for Children and Adolescents with addressing the issue of children with disabilities who are subjected to abuse and maltreatment;

(c) Establish the legal basis and financial support necessary to ensure that all children with disabilities are able to live in a family setting and to exercise their right to inclusive local services for children;

(d) Ensure that children with disabilities are taken into account in laws, policies and measures regarding children, on an equal basis with other children and based on the principle of inclusion in the community;

(e) Put in place safeguards to protect the right of children with disabilities to be consulted on all matters of concern to them and ensure that they receive assistance that is accessible and appropriate to their disability and age;

(f) Prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children.

Italy (2016)

15. The Committee is concerned that nationwide data on the number of children with disabilities aged 0-5 years, disaggregated by age, disability and sex, is insufficient in scope and detail to understand the situation of children with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party improve immediately data collection to ensure early detection, intervention and service provision for all children with disabilities, particularly for the 0-5 age group.

17. The Committee is concerned that the policy framework for addressing child poverty for those with disabilities is inadequate and monitoring mechanisms are absent.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that policies aimed at addressing child poverty specifically include children with disabilities through their representative organizations and that the monitoring of the implementation of those policies and on poverty levels among children with disabilities is undertaken in close consultation with children living in poverty and their families.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

15. The Committee is concerned at the absence of:

(a) A strategy to promote the exercise by girls and boys with disabilities of their freedoms and rights on an equal basis with other children;

(b) Data about girls and boys with disabilities and that information on the measures and support available to children with disabilities reaching adulthood for starting an independent life is not collected systematically;

(c) Means for girls and boys with disabilities to express their views on all matters that concern them.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all the steps necessary to promote the realization of the rights of the child for girls and boys with disabilities on an equal basis with other children, and provide adequate

support for girls and boys with disabilities to help them start an independent life when they reach adulthood;

(b) Ensure safeguards to protect the right of girls and boys with disabilities to be consulted in all matters that concern them and to ensure that they receive appropriate assistance in that regard.

Uruguay (2016)

17. Al Comité le preocupa que en la legislación relativa a las niñas y niños no se contemple explícitamente el principio de la no discriminación y que dicha ausencia afecte desproporcionadamente a niñas y niños con discapacidad. Asimismo le preocupa que no existan medidas de protección para evitar el abandono de niñas y niños con discapacidad, que muchos aún estén institucionalizados, y le preocupa la falta de datos sobre estos niños.

18. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que incluya en su Ley número 17823 (Código de la Niñez y Adolescencia), el principio de no discriminación, así como que aumente la protección para niñas y niños con discapacidad con el objeto de garantizar sus derechos y la igualdad de oportunidades para su inclusión familiar, comunitaria y social, y la suficiente dotación de recursos para su efectiva implementación. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 7 de la Convención y las metas 10.2 y 10.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, para la plena inclusión de los niños y niñas con discapacidad, garantizándoles su igualdad de oportunidades y promoviendo legislaciones, políticas y medidas adecuadas contra la discriminación.

Chile (2016)

15. Al Comité le preocupa que en la legislación relativa a las niñas y niños no se contemple explícitamente el principio de la no discriminación; en particular, que dicha ausencia afecte desproporcionadamente a niñas y niños con discapacidad. Asimismo le preocupa que no existan medidas de protección para evitar el abandono de niñas y niños con discapacidad, o su institucionalización, debido a la falta de información y falta de apoyo a las familias, y a las condiciones de pobreza.

16. El Comité recomienda que en el proyecto de ley del sistema de garantías de los derechos de la niñez, actualmente en discusión por el Congreso, se incluya el principio de no discriminación, así como la protección especial a niñas y niños con discapacidad con el objeto de reforzar las garantías a sus derechos y la igualdad de oportunidades para su inclusión familiar, comunitaria y social, y la suficiente dotación de recursos para su efectiva implementación.

Lithuania (2016)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of data and initiatives on protection from and prevention of sexual abuse and trafficking specifically targeting children with disabilities;

(b) The systematic lack of involvement of children with disabilities, especially children with intellectual or cognitive impairments and children with a reduced ability to express themselves vocally, in decision-making concerning their lives.

18. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and implement an appropriate plan of action to eliminate all forms of sexual abuse and violence against children with disabilities within and outside of institutions, and collect disaggregated data in order to evaluate the effectiveness of measures that would be adopted under such a plan of action;

(b) Take legislative and administrative measures to guarantee the right of children with disabilities to express their views on all matters affecting them, particularly in judicial and administrative procedures, recognizing their evolving capacity and giving due weight to their views in accordance with their age and maturity, and to be provided with disability- and age-appropriate assistance to realize this right.

19. The Committee is concerned about the low number of children with disabilities and their families receiving support from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the narrow scope of support provided.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that children with disabilities and their families receive the support that they need and that is appropriate given their individual requirements and develop the statistical tools necessary to measure the progress made in that respect.

Portugal (2016)

19. The Committee notes with concern the negative impact of austerity measures taken by the State party on the range of support services for families who have children with disabilities, and on support measures to ensure a quality inclusive education for children with disabilities. It also notes that the State party's disability strategies and strategies for children do not take into account the requirements of children with disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt necessary measures, including the use of European Structural and Investment Funds and other pertinent funds, in order to minimise the impact of austerity measures on children with disabilities, enhancing support for families and ensuring the measures necessary for children with disabilities to receive a quality inclusive education. It also recommends that the State party ensure consultations with children with disabilities and with the organisations representing them on all issues affecting them, and that they are given disability- and age-appropriate support.

Serbia (2016)

13. The Committee is deeply concerned about the number of children with disabilities living in institutions, especially those with intellectual disabilities; that they constitute nearly 80% of children in institutions; and that information indicates that children with disabilities continue to be placed in institutions. The Committee is equally concerned that despite the legal prohibition on placement in institutions of infants under the age of 3 disabled infants with disabilities continue to be placed in institutions directly from maternity wards. It is further concerned that despite efforts to develop foster care, the level of day care, home assistance services, supporting housing, and counselling and therapy, within the framework of community-based services for families with children with disabilities in the State Party, remains insufficient. The State Party also seems to fail to develop efficient, sustainable and quality community-based care services based on the same standard at local level.

14. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its efforts to deinstitutionalise children, in particular those with intellectual and/or psycho-social disabilities, to prevent any new institutionalisation of infant under the age of 3, and to ensure a more efficient transitions of boys and girls from institutions into families. In the interim period, it recommends the State party to provide children with disabilities with sufficient early childhood intervention and development services, to initiate education programmes for the staff in institutions, and to develop efficient community-based care services for those leaving institutions.

Slovakia (2016)

23. The Committee is deeply concerned about the number of children with disabilities living in institutions, especially those with intellectual disabilities.

24. The Committee urges the State party to prevent any new placement of children with disabilities in institutions, and to introduce an action plan with a clear timetable for its implementation and budget allocations to ensure the full deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities from all residential services and their transition from institutions into the community.

25. The Committee is concerned that there is a significant lack of early intervention and early diagnosis services in the health, social and educational areas and that financial support for families with children with disabilities requiring early intervention is insufficient.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a holistic and comprehensive network of health and social care services for the early diagnosis and intervention for

children with disabilities, in close consultation with their representative organizations, and increase financial support for their families using public resources.

Thailand (2016)

17. The Committee is concerned about discrimination and stigma against children with disabilities, which results in reluctance by some parents of children with disabilities to register with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities; the abandonment of children with disabilities by their families; and the number of children with disabilities living in institutions. The Committee is also concerned that children, their families and professionals working for and with children are unaware of their rights; entities working on their protection and promotion lack coordination; professionals in the field lack training; and reliable statistics and information on the situation of children with disabilities are lacking overall.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with representative organizations of children with disabilities:

(a) Adopt a strategy to combat stereotypes against children with disabilities and prevent their abandonment;

(b) Develop community-based services and assistance with a view to ending institutionalization;

(c) Raise awareness of the rights of children with disabilities and strengthen the provision of assistance appropriate to their age and impairment.

Uganda (2016)

12. The Committee notes with concern that legislation and policies fail to provide protection for the rights of children with disabilities. It is also concerned about the absence of information on the situation of deaf and deaf-blind children, and about measures to ensure their protection and inclusion in society.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Children's Act in line with the Convention in order to mainstream rights of children with disabilities across all programmes and provide necessary budget and resources for their protection;

(b) Adopt measures to include deaf and deaf-blind girls and boys in all public policies and programmes to ensure that their opinions and views are taken into consideration;

(c) Implement measures aimed at promoting the right of children with disabilities to be consulted in all matters concerning their lives and at enabling them to receive assistance appropriate to their age and disability.

Brazil (2015)

18. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives and do not have the opportunity to express their opinion in matters that affect them directly.

19. The Committee recommends the State party to adopt safeguards to ensure consultation of girls and boys with disabilities and their representative organizations in all decisions that affect their lives.

European Union (2015)

22. The Committee is concerned about the number of boys and girls with disabilities living in institutions across the European Union who have no access to mainstream inclusive quality education. It furthermore notes with concern the adverse effect austerity measures have on availability of support services in local communities for families with children with disabilities, that disability strategies do not include children, and that the European Union Agenda for the Rights of the Child has expired.

23. The Committee recommends that the European Union take necessary measures, including through the use of ESI Funds and other relevant European Union funds, develop support services in local communities for boys and girls with disabilities and their families,

foster deinstitutionalisation and prevent any new institutionalisation, and promote social inclusion and access to mainstream inclusive quality education for boys and girls with disabilities. It further recommends that the renewed Agenda on the Rights of the Child include a comprehensive rights-based strategy for boys and girls with disabilities and safeguards to protect their rights. The Committee recommends that all disability strategies address and mainstream the rights of boys and girls with disabilities.

24. The Committee is concerned at the lack of awareness regarding the rights of boys and girls with disabilities, that boys and girls with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives and do not have the opportunity to express their opinion on those matters that affect them directly.

25. The Committee recommends that the European Union ensure that boys and girls with disabilities and their representative organisations be consulted in all matters affecting them – with appropriate assistance provided, according to their disability and age.

Gabon (2015)

16. The Committee is concerned that girls and boys with disabilities lack access to services to ensure their development, protection and participation, such as suitable health care and education services, in particular in rural areas. It is also concerned that there are inadequate resources to strengthen support services and information to families of girls and boys with disabilities to ensure they are included at home and in the community.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party review the situation of girls and boys with disabilities in terms of their access to suitable health care, and education services; allocate adequate resources to strengthen support services for girls and boys with disabilities and their families, to raise awareness among parents and the community; and to train professionals in the field.

18. The Committee is concerned that girls and boys with disabilities are not given adequate support and opportunities to express their views and exercise their right to be heard, including in consultations in the drafting of laws and policies.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party establish national mechanisms to enable girls and boys with disabilities to express their views (and receive support if they request it) to fully participate in decision making concerning their lives.

Kenya (2015)

13. The Committee is deeply concerned at the abandonment of children with disabilities who are rejected by their families and negative stereotypes against them, particularly in rural areas. It is also concerned about the institutionalization of children with disabilities and the prevalence of residential care. It observes with concern the absence of information on the situation of deaf, blind and deaf-blind girls and boys and about measures to ensure their protection and inclusion in society. The Committee takes note of the creation of children assemblies in 47 counties. Nevertheless, it is concerned that children with disabilities in particular in rural areas are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt as a matter of priority a strategy to combat stereotypes against girls and boys with disabilities within families and in society and implement an early warning mechanism to prevent abandonment of children with disabilities in urban and rural areas;

(b) Provide community-based services and assistance for girls and boys with disabilities with a view to eliminate institutionalization, and ensure that grants from the Transfer Programme for Orphans and Vulnerable Children reach children with disabilities in rural areas;

(c) Take measures to assess the situation of girls and boys who are deaf-blind and ensure that public policies and programmes are responsive to their specific needs; and

(d) Implement measures, in partnership with organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations aimed at promoting the right of children with disabilities to

be consulted in all matters of concerning their lives and that they receive assistance appropriate to their age and disability.

Mauritius (2015)

13. The Committee shares the concern expressed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/MUS/CO/3-5 para. 49) that the State party gives precedence to an integrative approach instead of eliminating the physical, socioeconomic and cultural barriers that prevent their full inclusion in schools and in society. The Committee is also concerned about the overreliance of the State party on NGOs to provide specialized services to children with disabilities without the necessary support, monitoring & regulatory guidance for these NGOs; the insufficient measures to prevent the placement of children with disabilities in 'centres de sauvegarde' ("Abris des Enfants en Détresse") and the rejection and stigmatization faced by these children.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to ensure provision of quality inclusive services for boys and girls with disabilities both in public and private sectors in compliance with the Convention and allocate the necessary resources to these services. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that NGO run programmes be regulated and closely supervised and that staff of these NGOs undergo specific monitoring. The Committee also recommends that the State party amend the National Children's policy and the National Child Protection Strategy with the view to incorporating targeted measures for children with disabilities to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with other children.

Qatar (2015)

15. The Committee is concerned by the absence of a strategy to promote that girls and boys with disabilities exercise freedoms and rights on an equal basis with other children. It is also concerned by the absence of data about girls and boys with disabilities and of systematic information on measures and support available for starting independent life available to children with disabilities reaching adulthood. The Committee is also concerned by the absence of means for girls and boys to express their views on all matters that concern them.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party take all the necessary steps to promote the realization of the rights of the child for girls and boys with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and provide adequate support for girls and boys with disabilities to help them start an independent life when they reach adulthood. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure safeguards to protect the right of girls and boys with disabilities to be consulted in all matters that concern them and to ensure that they receive appropriate assistance in this regard.

Ukraine (2015)

13. The Committee is deeply concerned about the reports of abandonment of children with disabilities in conflict areas of eastern Ukraine and widespread institutionalization of children with disabilities throughout the country. It is particularly concerned about the reports of sexual abuse and exploitation of children with disabilities in institutions and their trafficking abroad. It is also concerned about the poor conditions in care institutions for such children, including lack of rehabilitation programmes and lack of privacy, and is particularly alarmed about the reports of deaths of children with disabilities in institutions due to malnutrition related illnesses.

14. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure the safety of all boys and girls with disabilities in its conflict affected areas by all possible means and especially those living in institutions to be among the priority groups to be evacuated in emergencies. The Committee also urges the State party to take prompt measures to investigate the reports of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of boys and girls in institutions and prosecute and punish perpetrators. Furthermore, it recommends to strengthen its efforts for deinstitutionalization

and, in the interim period, provide boys and girls with disabilities in institutions with adequate standards of living including quality nutrition and access to privacy.

Cook Islands (2015)

13. The Committee is concerned at the lack of awareness regarding the rights of children with disabilities and the absence of a specific strategy to address their rights. It is also concerned that children with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives and do not have the opportunity to express their opinion on matters that affect them directly.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness of the rights of children with disabilities through training in schools, family settings and the wider community, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities; and develop a comprehensive rights-based strategy for children with disabilities that adopts safeguards to protect their rights. The Committee further recommends that children with disabilities are consulted in all matters affecting them, with appropriate assistance according to their disability and age, aligned with the Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations (CRC/C/COK/CO/1).

15. The Committee notes an early identification of, and intervention for, children with disabilities project due to commence before 2016, however, the Committee is concerned that this project is of a temporary nature and unsustainable in meeting the long term needs of children with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a permanent early identification and intervention programme for children with disabilities, from birth to school age;

(b) Identify and provide additional paediatric specialist services that are not currently available;

(c) Provide families of children with disabilities financial assistance, training and support mechanisms to ensure children's inclusion and full participation in the family and the community.

Croatia (2015)

11. The Committee is seriously concerned about the high rate of child abandonment and institutionalization of children with disabilities in the State Party; for their lack of attention and care in the areas of education, health and habilitation; for their vulnerability to violence and abuse, as well as the limited scope of specific measures for them in rural areas. The Committee is also concerned that children with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives and do not have the possibility to express their opinion in matters that affect them directly.

12. The Committee recommends the State party to ensure equal protection of children with disabilities in all legislation, policies and measures aimed at children, and strengthen its policy for the de-institutionalisation of children with disabilities. It further recommends to establish and implement a strategy against abandonment of children with disabilities and to adopt safeguards to ensure consultation of children with disabilities in all matters affecting them. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce a clear strategy for a moratorium on new admissions to institutions and strengthen its efforts to provide psychological, financial and social service support measures to families.

Czech Republic (2015)

15. The Committee is deeply concerned by the persistence of the concept of "caring for children with disabilities in institutions" as public policy, and insufficient development of support services to boys and girls with disabilities and their families in local communities. The Committee is also concerned at the fact that children with disabilities are not able to systematically participate in decision-making that affects their lives and that they do not have the opportunity to express their opinion on matters pertaining to them directly.

16. The Committee calls upon the State party to abandon the concept of residential institution care for boys and girls with disabilities and to step up the efforts to develop support services for boys and girls with disabilities and their families in local communities, with a clear timeline and concrete benchmarks for implementation which are effectively monitored at regular intervals. The Committee also requests the State party to adopt safeguard measures, with a view to protecting the rights of boys and girls with disabilities to be consulted on all matters that affect them, guaranteeing effective assistance bearing in mind their disability and age.

Dominican Republic (2015)

12. The Committee is concerned at the lack of mechanisms to protect children with disabilities from neglect and the lack of means whereby children with disabilities can freely express their opinions and preferences on matters that affect them.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party develop policies based on the principle of the best interests of the child, that will ensure that children with disabilities have the possibility of living in a family and of being included in the community and that it implement mechanisms to ensure that they can express their views on issues affecting them.

Germany (2015)

17. The Committee is concerned: a) that children with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions affecting their lives; b) That the parents of children with disabilities cannot decide freely on the type of education and services for their children; c) about the unequal access to treatment and opportunities for children with disabilities of migrant or refugee parents.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt safeguards in order to protect the right of children with disabilities to be consulted in all matters affecting their lives, ensuring assistance that is appropriate to their disability and age;

(b) Ensure consideration of all children with disabilities in legislation, policies and measures under the principle of equal opportunities and community inclusion, paying particular attention to those who are children with disabilities of migrant parents or refugees.

Mongolia (2015)

13. The Committee is concerned that there are inadequate specific measures for providing special protection required by children with disabilities and to their families, aggravated in the case of girls with disabilities and those belonging to nomadic communities, as well as the inadequacy of education given, particularly to those in rural areas. The Committee is also concerned that boys and girls with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives and do not have the possibility to express their opinion in matters that affect them directly.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps, which should include consultations with DPOs, to ensure early intervention, overall improvement in increasing enrolment of boys and girls with disabilities for primary school education, implement inclusive early childhood education, opportunities for vocational training for youth with disabilities, and undertake measures for the prevention of violence, abuse and abandonment of children with disabilities. In doing so, the State party should pay particular attention to the situation of girls with disabilities, as well as boys and girls with disabilities from rural areas and nomadic communities. The Committee also requests the State party to adopt safeguards to protect the right of boys and girls with disabilities to be consulted in all matters affecting them, ensuring appropriate assistance according to their disability and age. All of these measures should also be in accordance with the concluding observations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the State party in its last constructive dialogue with it.

Turkmenistan (2015)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the concrete achievements of the programmes on early childhood development and early identification of developmental delays. It is also concerned that children with disabilities reaching the age of 16 are considered as adults for the purpose of disability benefits, in line with the concern expressed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/TKM/CO/2-4, para. 42). It is further concerned about the lack of information on available measures and support for girls and boys with disabilities reaching adulthood for starting independent life.

18. **The Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Evaluate the results achieved so far through the implementation of the programmes on early childhood development and strengthen those programmes and allocate adequate resources accordingly;**

(b) **Take measures to ensure that children continue receiving disability benefits up to the age of 18, in line with the recommendation made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/TKM/CO/2-4, para. 43);**

(c) **Provide adequate support to adolescents with disabilities to start an independent life when they reach adulthood.**

New Zealand (2014)

17. The Committee is concerned that it is still the case that some children with disabilities, especially Maori children with disabilities, have difficulty in accessing some government services, including health and education services. The Committee notes the recent work undertaken as part of the Disability Action Plan 2014–2018 to make services more accessible.

18. The Committee recommends that this work be increased to ensure that all children with disabilities are able to access government and related services, including to receive support to express their views.

Denmark (2014)

20. The Committee is concerned that, according to the National Council for Children, children who are hospitalized in psychiatric hospitals can be subject to forced treatment.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish forced hospitalization and treatment of children in psychiatric hospitals and provide adequate opportunities for information and counselling to ensure that all children with disabilities have the support they need to express their views.

Belgium (2014)

15. The Committee is concerned that the State party is now among the European countries with the highest rates of children with disabilities placed in institutions, according to a 2013 European Union report on children with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that children with disabilities are not systematically included in decisions which affect their lives and do not have the opportunity to express their opinion about issues that affect them directly.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate the necessary resources to support families of children with disabilities, in order to prevent the abandonment and placement of those children in institutions and to ensure their inclusion and participation in the community on an equal basis with other children. The Committee recommends the adoption of measures to protect the right of children with disabilities to be consulted on all issues affecting them through the provision of age- and disability-appropriate support.

Ecuador (2014)

18. The Committee is concerned that, despite the concerted efforts made by persons with disabilities in Ecuador, there are no dedicated structures for the participation of children with

disabilities and no frameworks or incentives to promote the establishment of organizations of children with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party include a specific component for the participation of children with disabilities in its incentives supporting organizations of persons with disabilities, in order to preserve their identity and promote their involvement in protecting their own rights.

Mexico (2014)

15. The Committee is concerned at the high rate of child abandonment and the institutionalization of children with disabilities, at the prevalence of the welfare approach to their care and at the limited scope of specific measures taken for them in rural areas and indigenous communities. The Committee is also concerned that children with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives and that they do not have the opportunity to express their views regarding matters of direct interest to them.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that children with disabilities, especially those in rural areas and indigenous communities, are taken into account in laws, policies and measures regarding children, on an equal basis with their peers and based on the principle of inclusion in the community;

(b) Put in place safeguards to protect the right of children with disabilities to be consulted in all matters of concern to them and to ensure that they receive assistance appropriate to their disability and age.

Sweden (2014)

15. The Committee is concerned at reports indicating that children with disabilities are exposed to higher rates of violence than other children, and that there is a lack of awareness among staff working with children.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party develop research as well as a collection of data and statistics on violence against children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party reinforce its strategy and initiatives for the sensitization and training of parents and staff working with children as well as for awareness-raising among the general public.

17. The Committee is concerned at reports that reveal that rates of mental health and psychosocial issues and disorders are high among young people; that school health services are underresourced; and that access to school psychologists and the psychosocial support system involves a long wait.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the resources available for school health services to ensure that children have access to and receive appropriate psychosocial and mental-health support and psychiatric health care in a timely manner.

19. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions concerning their lives and that they lack opportunities to express their opinions on matters concerning them.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure existing safeguards and adopt additional ones to protect the right of children with disabilities to be consulted in all matters concerning them.

Azerbaijan (2014)

18. In its 2012 concluding observations on Azerbaijan (CRC/C/AZE/CO/3-4), para. 34, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) expressed deep concern regarding the high rate of infant mortality in the State party, which is allegedly the fifth highest in Europe. Furthermore, the CRC expressed concern that the State party's definition of a live birth is not consistent with the internationally recognized World Health Organization definition. The Committee reiterates the concerns by the CRC and further expresses concern at the lack of data on the

number of children born with disabilities who are affected by the State party's high rate of infant mortality, particularly how this state of affairs are affecting the birth registration of boys and girls with disabilities

19. The Committee reiterates the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and requests the State party to expedite their implementation. The Committee further recommends that the State party compile data indicating the number of children born with disabilities who are affected by the high infant mortality rate in the State party. The Committee urges the State party to, therefore, conduct a study on the mortality of boys and girls with disabilities and to expeditiously step up its efforts to reduce infant mortality, in accordance with the implementation of the definition of a born alive of the World Health Organization.

Costa Rica (2014)

15. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has conducted no survey on the situation of children with disabilities, including indigenous children, who are placed in institutions, abandoned, victims of abuse or living in poverty or in rural settings. Furthermore, the Committee regrets that the National Child Welfare Agency reflects the assistance-based and irregular situation model, disregarding the rights of children with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at the fact that disability is not mainstreamed in Act No. 7739, the Children and Adolescents Code, and that article 62 of the Code, on the right to special education, is not in line with article 24 of the Convention.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party take urgent measures to protect children with disabilities from abuse and abandonment, and to prevent institutionalization. It also urges the State party to guarantee freedom of expression and opinion for children with disabilities. The Committee also urges the State party to amend the Children and Adolescents Code to include disability as a cross-cutting theme, and to amend article 62 of the Code, on the right to special education, to guarantee children with disabilities inclusive education of quality.

Australia (2013)

18. The Committee is concerned that the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children is focused on child protection against violence, abuse and neglect, and that there is no comprehensive national policy framework for children, including children with disabilities, that articulates how the rights of children should be implemented, monitored and promoted.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increases efforts to promote and protect the rights of children with disabilities, by incorporating the Convention into legislation, policies, programs, service standards, operational procedures and compliance frameworks that apply to children and young people in general;

(b) Establishes policies and programmes that will ensure the right of children with disabilities to express their views on all matters concerning them.

Austria (2013)

19. In its 2012 Concluding Observations on Austria (CRC/C/AUT/CO/3-4), the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed its concern about a number of ways in which the rights of children with disabilities were at risk of being abrogated.

20. The Committee endorses the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and requests the State Party to implement those recommendations as speedily as is appropriate.

El Salvador (2013)

19. The Committee is concerned that the Child and Adolescent Protection Act does not include specific actions to ensure the protection of children with disabilities, aside from a few

regarding health care. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities living in poverty are more vulnerable to abandonment or placement in institutional care.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its legislation and set up specific programmes to guarantee the rights of children with disabilities on equal terms, paying particular attention to children with disabilities living in rural areas and indigenous communities and to children with hearing, visual and intellectual impairments, ensuring their social inclusion and preventing abandonment and institutionalization, with priority for actions for underprivileged families.

Paraguay (2013)

19. The Committee notes with concern that the National Programme of Comprehensive Care for Children and Adolescents with Disabilities is limited solely to the prevention and early detection of disability characteristic of the medical model, and does not take account of the full range of rights recognized to children with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that the resources for implementation of a public policy on inclusion of children with disabilities are inadequate. The Committee regrets the lack of information on children with disabilities who are at risk of ill-treatment and abuse, including indigenous children with disabilities.

20. The Committee urges the State party to allocate sufficient resources as required to implement a broad policy on inclusion of children with disabilities in all areas of life, including family life and community life, by developing inclusive community-based rehabilitation programmes for children with disabilities as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its concluding observations on the third periodic report of Paraguay (CRC/C/PRY/CO/3, para. 49). The Committee also asks the State party to investigate and document the situation of children with disabilities in rural areas and indigenous communities, with a view to providing protection from abuse and ill-treatment.

Argentina (2012)

15. The Committee notes with concern that Act No. 26.061 on the comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents contains no provisions specifically on children with disabilities. It is also concerned at the lack of information on the situation of children with disabilities in the State party.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party should, as a priority, incorporate a disability perspective into Act No. 26.061 and the system for the comprehensive protection of children's and adolescents' rights. The Committee urges the State party to invest the greatest possible amount of available resources in ending discrimination against children with disabilities and to ensure that they are covered by health insurance schemes and receive the services and benefits, such as pensions and housing, to which they are entitled.

China (2012)

13. The Committee fears that children with disabilities in the state party are at a high risk of abandonment by their parents and are often placed in isolated institutions. For those children with disabilities living at home in rural areas, the Committee is concerned at the lack of community-based services and assistance.

14. The Committee urges the state party to take measures to fight the widespread stigma in relation to boys and girls with disabilities and revise their strict family planning policy, so as to combat the root causes for the abandonment of boys and girls with disabilities. It asks the state party to provide sufficient community-based services and assistance also in rural areas.

Hong-Kong

59. While commending the assessment and early education service offered by Hong Kong, China, government, the Committee is concerned that the services provided are not sufficient to match the overwhelming demand.

60. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China, allocate more resources to the services provided for children with disabilities in order to ensure that they are able to develop to their full potential.

Hungary (2012)

21. The Committee takes note of the State party's expression of dedication to protect and promote the rights of children with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned about the high number of children living in institutional settings and about the fact that a large part of children with disabilities receives institutional care, instead of home care. It stresses the importance of allocating sufficient resources to enable children with disabilities to continue living with their families in their own communities.

22. The Committee calls upon the State party to undertake greater efforts to make available the necessary professional and financial resources, especially at the local level, to promote and expand community-based rehabilitation and other services in their respective local communities to children with disabilities and their families, in order to enable children with disabilities to live with their families, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/HUN/CO/2).

Peru (2012)

16. While taking note that the Code on Children and Adolescents (Law 27337) recognizes certain rights of children with disabilities, the Committee is concerned at their de facto enjoyment of those rights. The Committee is concerned at the invisibility of children with disabilities, in particular indigenous children, in statistical data of the State party.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party make special care and assistance to children with disabilities, in particular indigenous children, a matter of high priority, and invest to the maximum extent of available resources in the elimination of discrimination against them, as well as gather accurate data to monitor the upholding of their rights. The Committee further recommends that the State party take steps to prevent violence, abuse and extreme abandonment of children with disabilities.

Spain (2011)

23. The Committee is particularly concerned at the reportedly higher rates of abuse of children with disabilities in comparison with other children. The Committee is equally concerned by the lack of early identification, family interventions and informed support of children with disabilities, which puts at risk their full development and ability to express their views; and by the lack of available resources and coordinated public administration in the social, health and education services, among others.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase efforts to promote and protect the rights of children with disabilities, and to undertake research on violence against children with disabilities, adopting measures to eradicate this violation of their rights,

(b) Establish policies and programmes that will ensure the right of children with disabilities to express their own views;

(c) Develop coordinated public policies with sufficient resources to ensure inclusive access to support services that include informed therapeutic, rehabilitation and habilitation services, and care which covers the health, psychosocial and education needs of children with disabilities, in particular during early childhood.

Tunisia (2011)

16. The Committee is particularly concerned at the low rate of reporting (*signalement*) of cases of habitual mistreatment of children, including children with disabilities, which may amount to situations of danger, in view of the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2006) which indicated that 94 per cent of children aged between 2 and 14 years are

disciplined in the home through violent means, whether verbal, physical, or through deprivation.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Evaluate the phenomenon of violence against boys and girls with disabilities, and compile systematic disaggregated data (see paragraph 39 below) with a view to better combating it;**
- (b) Ensure that institutions providing care for children with disabilities are staffed with specially trained personnel, subject to appropriate standards, regularly monitored and evaluated, and establish complaint procedures accessible to children with disabilities;**
- (c) Establish independent follow-up mechanisms; and**
- (d) Take steps to replace institutional care for boys and girls with disabilities with community-based care.**



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 8 CRPD
(Awareness raising)*

September 2025

Article 8 - Awareness-raising

1. States Parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures:

- a) *To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;*
- b) *To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;*
- c) *To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.*

2. Measures to this end include:

- a) *Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed:*

To nurture receptiveness to the rights of persons with disabilities;

To promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities;

To promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities, and of their contributions to the workplace and the labour market;

- b) *Fostering at all levels of the education system, including in all children from an early age, an attitude of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities;*

- c) *Encouraging all organs of the media to portray persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention;*

- d) *Promoting awareness-training programmes regarding persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities.*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

Finland (2025)

Kiribati (2025)

Maldives (2025)

Canada (2025)

Dominican Republic (2025)

European Union (2025)

Palau (2025)

Tuvalu (2025)

Viet Nam (2025)

Belarus (2024)

Belgium (2024)

Benin (2024)

Burkina Faso (2024)

Denmark (2024)

Ghana (2024)

Mauritius (2024)

Netherlands (2024)

Ukraine (2024)

Azerbaijan (2024)

Bahrain (2024)

Costa Rica (2024)

Kazakhstan (2024)

Nicaragua (2024)

Sweden (2024)

Zambia (2024)

Andorra (2023)

Austria (2023)

Germany (2023)

Israel (2023)

Malawi (2023)

Mauritania (2023)

Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)

Türkiye (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)

Serbia (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Belgium (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
China (2012)
Peru (2012)
Spain (2011)
Tunisia (2010)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Awareness-raising efforts remain limited, are not systematically aimed at educating the public, fail to challenge persistent stigma, misconceptions, harmful attitudes, and derogatory language toward persons with disabilities and do not represent the full diversity of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual, psychosocial and non-visible disabilities, persons of short stature, deafblind persons and persons with multiple disabilities;

(b) Awareness materials on disability rights are not widely disseminated through the domestic intranet (Kwangmyong), radio, schools, healthcare centres, community events, or other national communication platforms, especially outside the capital, including in accessible formats.

14. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities:

(a) Develop and launch nationwide, inclusive, disability-sensitive awareness campaigns, accessible through the domestic intranet, media, and community platforms, that challenge stigma, harmful stereotypes, and discriminatory language, and reflect the diversity of persons with disabilities;

(b) Disseminate awareness materials broadly via Kwangmyong, radio, schools, healthcare centres, community events, and other platforms, ensuring outreach beyond the capital, including in accessible formats.

Finland (2025)

14. The Committee is concerned about findings of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman that “one key factor behind the problems faced by people with disabilities is negative attitudes and a lack of knowledge”, and the lack of specific awareness-raising measures on the rights of persons with disabilities in educational settings in the public and private sector.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, design and implement a long-term, comprehensive awareness-raising program on the rights of persons with disabilities, covering all State entities and all parts of society, including educational settings in the public and private sector, with clear goals and monitoring mechanisms.

Kiribati (2025)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The high prevalence of stigma, prejudice, stereotyping, harmful attitudes that have a detrimental impact on the lives of children and adults with disabilities throughout the State Party;

(b) The insufficient inclusion of organisations of persons with disabilities in awareness-raising activities, and incidences of naming organisations of persons with disabilities to obtain grant funding but not including them in the grant activity.

16. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop and resource an awareness-raising action plan with timeframes and measurable outcomes to implement the awareness raising priority area of the National Disability Policy and Action Plan in order to facilitate understanding of the Convention and to counter stigma, prejudice, stereotyping and harmful attitudes at the family, church and community levels across all islands;

(b) Ensure awareness raising on the rights of persons with disabilities is delivered in partnership with, and adequate resourcing of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations.

Maldives (2025)

15. The Committee is concerned about the high prevalence of stigma, prejudice, stereotyping, harmful attitudes and negative beliefs about the causes of disability that have a detrimental impact on the lives of children and adults with disabilities throughout the State party.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop and resource an awareness-raising action plan, with timeframes and measurable outcomes, about the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, combat stigma and prevent, promote positive images in media, investigate and prosecute harassment and discrimination of persons with disabilities, at the family, community and Local Island Council levels and across all islands;

(b) Provide training on the rights of persons with disabilities across all government ministries, the judiciary and law enforcement officers, and the media.

Canada (2025)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Information about ableism and lack of intersectionality in awareness-raising initiatives, and their failure to address all rights covered in the Convention, as well as limited knowledge of the rights of persons with disabilities in many public and private entities;

(b) Negative perceptions and stereotypes in the State Party and society about persons with Down syndrome and other impairments, which results in a lack of accurate information being given to expectant parents in relation to prenatal screening programs, resulting in high rates of pregnancy termination.

16. Recalling its past Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, paras. 19 and 20), the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Review, amend and adapt awareness-raising programmes to address stigma and ableism against persons with disabilities, and ensure that all related materials are accessible to all persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that prospective parents undergoing prenatal screening are provided with comprehensive information and non-directive counselling that does not promote stereotypes about persons with disabilities, including persons with Down syndrome, or values associated with a medical model of disability.

Dominican Republic (2025)

15. The Committee takes note of the organization of campaigns to promote and raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities. However, it notes with concern that prejudices and negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities continue to prevail in the public perception of disability. It is also concerned that the campaigns undertaken may not be enough to reinforce the image of persons with disabilities as rights holders.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national strategy to promote a human rights-based model of disability that is sensitive to gender issues and children's needs. Such a strategy should target public officials, the media, health and justice professionals, the general public and the families of persons with disabilities, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and with their active participation in its formulation, implementation and regular evaluation.

European Union (2025)

24. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of legal protection against disability-based hate speech and disability-based hate crime.

- (b) Stigma, ableist attitudes, harmful stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities, including autistic persons;
- (c) Discriminatory eugenic attitudes towards persons with disabilities in prenatal medical diagnosis of impairments, affecting in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autistic persons.

25. The Committee recommends that the European Union, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Continue existing efforts to combat hate speech against persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities in marginalized groups and in migration situations, and to extend the criminal provisions against hate crimes to disability, and bring them to fruition;
- (b) Adopt a sufficiently endowed strategy to raise awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autistic persons, which highlights the dignity of persons with disabilities and their contributions to society; and closely consults and actively involves organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and organizations of autistic persons;
- (c) Take sustained measures to counter stigma, ableism and discrimination in prenatal diagnosis of impairment, and provide persons with disabilities, and parents of children with disabilities with adequate support to raise children in the community.

Palau (2025)

15. The Committee is concerned at the persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes, prejudices towards persons with disabilities, as well as the absence of long-term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities, including the use of appropriate disability-related terms and language in line with the Convention.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt a national strategy to raise awareness of and combat discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its effectiveness;
- (b) Introduce regular training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the media, the politicians, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, as well as for the general public, both in rural and urban areas, in all accessible formats, including Braille, Easy Read, audio, tactile and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.

Tuvalu (2025)

15. The Committee is concerned about the high prevalence of stigma, prejudice, stereotyping, harmful attitudes and negative beliefs about the causes of disability that have a detrimental impact on the lives of children and adults with disabilities throughout the State party.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Develop and resource an awareness-raising action plan with timeframes and measurable outcomes to implement Priority Area 1 (Awareness-raising and Advocacy) of the National Policy for Disability 2018 at the family, church, community and island council levels and across all islands;
- (b) Provide training on the rights of persons with disabilities across all government ministries, the judiciary and law enforcement officers, and the media.

Viet Nam (2025)

15. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) While public awareness-raising campaigns on disability rights are conducted, there is limited evaluation of their effectiveness in reducing stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities;
- (b) Awareness-raising campaigns are often conducted through traditional media such as television, radio, newspapers, or posters, which may not be accessible to all persons with disabilities, particularly those with sensory or cognitive impairments and indigenous persons with disabilities;
- (c) Disability rights awareness is largely promoted on national disability days, with insufficient integration into mainstream media and educational curricula on a regular basis;
- (d) Despite efforts to promote awareness of the Convention through the National Plan for CRPD implementation, many persons with disabilities, particularly those in rural and remote areas and indigenous persons with disabilities, remain unaware of their rights under the Convention;
- (e) Although the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs organizes awareness-raising events in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, the limited funding and resources available to organizations of persons with disabilities hinder their ability to effectively lead outreach campaigns;
- (f) Although 112 disability-related publications have been produced, it is unclear whether they are accessible to persons with visual, intellectual, or auditory disabilities and to indigenous persons with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities and of women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Establish a clear and systematic mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of public awareness-raising campaigns on disability rights, particularly in terms of their impact on reducing stigma and discrimination, and use the findings to improve future campaigns;
- (b) Ensure that all public awareness-raising materials, including traditional media, are accessible to persons with disabilities by providing sign language interpretation, Braille, easy-to-read formats, indigenous language such as Khmer, and ensuring digital accessibility for all campaigns;
- (c) Integrate disability awareness into mainstream media and educational curricula on a year-round basis, beyond national disability days, to foster an inclusive and informed society;
- (d) Implement comprehensive measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, particularly those in rural and remote areas and indigenous persons with disabilities, are well-informed of their rights under the Convention, including through community-based initiatives, local organizations, and digital platforms;
- (e) Provide financial and logistical support to organizations of persons with disabilities to enhance their capacity to effectively lead public awareness-raising campaigns and outreach efforts, ensuring they can reach all persons with disabilities and their families;
- (f) Ensure that all disability-related publications, including those produced by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, are available in accessible formats for persons with visual, intellectual, and auditory disabilities and indigenous persons with disabilities, and expand the distribution of accessible resources to reach a wider audience.

Belarus (2024)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Widespread stigmatization of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The limited information and awareness regarding the Convention and the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly the availability in Easy Read formats of the Convention and other human rights related publicity materials;

(c) The inadequacy of measures to combat stereotypes, as well as develop and disseminate messages on the rights of persons with disabilities in sectors of education, public service, law enforcement and judiciary, media and the general public;

16. The Committee recommends that in close consultation with, and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, the State party:

(a) Develop a National Action Plan to eliminate the stigma and the stereotypes about persons with disabilities and promote positive values to foster understanding of diversity in the community, through active collaboration with the media and the educational institutions by their curricula as well as other activities;

(b) Undertake measures to ensure the availability and access to full information regarding the Convention and other human rights instruments, particularly the rights of persons with disabilities, in accessible formats including in Braille, sign language, audio and Easy Read;

(c) Develop Guidelines and provide regular trainings to relevant staff in accordance with the human rights model at all levels of education, in public service, law enforcement and judiciary, media, and also the general public, including with the emphasis on eliminating disparities in rural and remote areas.

Belgium (2024)

16. The Committee notes with concern;

(a) The persistence of the medical model of disability and reports that persons with disabilities are widely perceived as recipients of society's generosity; and insufficient awareness-raising measures to promote the recognition of persons with disabilities as rights holders, on an equal basis with others, on all federal levels of government;

(b) That societal perceptions that persons with Down syndrome and other impairments are less valuable than other persons contribute to the high level of selective termination of pregnancies following prenatal diagnoses of Down syndrome or other impairments.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party

(a) Develop and implement, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, awareness-raising strategies and action programmes on all levels of government, based on the human rights model of disability, to increase awareness in state, economy, and society about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that prospective parents undergoing prenatal screening are provided with comprehensive information and non-directive counselling that does not promote stereotypes about persons with disabilities or values associated to the medical model of disability.

Benin (2024)

15. The Committee is concerned:

(a) By the persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities, including against women with disabilities, persons with albinism, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and children with disabilities;

(b) By the limited awareness-raising campaigns about the rights of persons with disabilities that are usually held in urban areas only and during specific contexts such as elections.

16. The Committee recommends that, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, the State party:

(a) Adopt a national strategy to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;

(b) Introduce regular training and develop awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the media, politicians, educators and professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, as well as for the general public, both in rural and urban areas, in all accessible formats, including Braille, Easy Read, audio and tactile, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.

Burkina Faso (2024)

16. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities, including children and in particular women and girls, persons living with albinism and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons, in all aspects of life;

(b) The inadequacy of resources allocated to awareness-raising programmes and the fact that, in general, awareness-raising activities are concentrated in urban centres, thus forgetting the rural areas where the majority of persons with disabilities reside.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children and of women and girls with disabilities:

(a) Adopt measures to combat the stigmatization of all children with disabilities and ensure that they are protected from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and have access to quality social and health services and an inclusive education system on an equal basis with other children;

(b) Increase budgetary allocation to conduct awareness-raising programmes including for policymakers, judges, law enforcement officials, the media and politicians, educators and professionals working in contact with or serving persons with disabilities as well as the general public, and widen their geographic coverage to include rural areas, in all accessible form and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to promote respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities, combat stereotypes, prejudices and prejudicial practices, with a special focus on women and girls with disabilities, persons living with albinism, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons.

Denmark (2024)

31. The Committee is concerned about ableism and prevailing stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities in society, and the low level of awareness in the population of the Kingdom of Denmark about the rights of persons with disabilities preventing inclusion of persons with disabilities in work, education and other areas of life. It is also concerned at the often-scarce respective knowledge of officials in many state, regional and municipal authorities, and the absence of periodic, regular and continuous awareness-raising measures aimed at general public, public officials and private actors on the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention, including in the mass media and on the Internet.

32. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark devise and adopt a long-term national strategy, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, to raise awareness among the general public, the government, including legislative bodies, the administration and the judiciary, private sectors and persons with disabilities themselves and to combat stereotypes, and monitor its impact.

Ghana (2024)

16. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Public awareness on the Convention remains low and most individuals and communities continue to rely on the medical model in dealing with persons with disabilities and as such, discrimination and stigmatization persists;

(b) The incarceration of persons with disabilities in rural communities based on negative attitudes, myths and superstitions about disability..

17. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Take measures to carry out awareness raising campaigns on the rights of all persons with disabilities to promote their positive image through the media, schools, workplaces, cultural centres, religious institutions and through official government websites, in urban and rural areas;
- (b) Establish a comprehensive programme with mechanisms for evaluating results, targeting remote and rural areas, to eradicate myths and beliefs about persons with disabilities and in particular persons with albinism, in order to avoid practices that threaten their integrity and lives.

Mauritius (2024)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient awareness about the dignity, abilities and rights of persons with disabilities in society, including by public officials and the private sector;
- (b) The absence of a long-term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of awareness-raising initiatives.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt a strategy to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities; combat prejudice against them; and monitor the effectiveness of awareness-raising programmes, including periodic trainings for public officials in all areas of government, the private sector and the media to sensitize them on these concepts and on the use of appropriate language to combat the stigmatization of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Reinforce the capacity and resources of the Disability Empowerment Unit and National Empowerment Authority to carry out these functions, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission and other bodies.

Netherlands (2024)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The widespread use of prenatal screening/testing (NIPT) to detect impairment in fetuses that may lead to the termination of pregnancies, reflecting underlying discriminatory attitudes towards persons with disabilities;
- (b) Reports of pressure by health personnel on parents to terminate pregnancies following a diagnosis of Down syndrome or other impairments, and the increase in selective terminations of pregnancies, promoting the medical model of and reinforcing societal perceptions that persons with Down syndrome and other impairments are less valuable.
- (c) The insufficient inclusion of disability awareness in educational curricula and training programs for civil servants and the insufficient involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in awareness-raising initiatives and the inadequate reach of communication campaigns in media and society, and about public awareness-raising campaigns not being sufficiently comprehensive in combating stigmatization, stereotypes, prejudice, harmful practices, negative attitudes, bullying, and hate crimes, particularly in relation to various types of impairment.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Implement measures to protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, including awareness-raising campaigns to combat discriminatory attitudes and promote the inherent value of all persons with disabilities;
- (b) Ensure that persons using NIPT are provided with comprehensive information and non-directive counselling that do not promote stereotypes about persons with disabilities and

values associated to the medical model of disability, and help parents make fully informed decisions;

(c) Adopt and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes and measures such as targeted public awareness campaigns to combat stigma and discrimination, specialized training programs on the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, the media, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the general public and families of children with disabilities, and establish a robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Ukraine (2024)

16. The Committee notes with concern that the State party:

(a) Still lacks comprehensive policies for awareness raising on the rights of persons with disabilities at national level, including in rural and remote areas and, consequently, the low level of knowledge on their rights, including the right to free legal aid, as well as information related to the conflict in accessible formats;

(b) The lack of active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of awareness and sensitization campaigns.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that all its policies and public programs, including the National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine up to 2030, comprise awareness raising campaigns addressing comprehensively the rights of persons with disabilities, including in conflict-affected areas. Such policies must include monitoring mechanisms and indicators aligned with the Convention;

(b) Guarantee the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development and supervising of all awareness-raising campaigns and policies.

Azerbaijan (2024)

17. The Committee is concerned about prevailing negative stereotypes and attitudes towards persons with disabilities in society and insufficient awareness raising amongst members of the public including journalists who rarely address issues experienced by persons with disabilities in media.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national plan to raise awareness about the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, combat disability stigma and prevent investigate and prosecute harassment and hate crimes against persons with disabilities, ensuring close consultations and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;

(b) Ensure that initiatives of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs aimed at enforcing inclusion of persons with disabilities and equality, address disadvantage and avoid charity and rehabilitation approaches;

(c) Conduct periodic training for the medical staff, the police, media, and courts, in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities in the Convention.

Bahrain (2024)¹

6. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The lack of a specific strategy to raise awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and to combat stereotypes and prejudices about disability, especially in the areas of education, employment and the health sector.

(b) The launch of media and awareness-raising campaigns that convey erroneous and misleading messages about the rights of persons with disabilities by adopting stereotypical

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

images that portray them as "superheroes" and advocate the use of terms that contradict the human rights paradigm and the Convention, in particular the terms "people with determination and people of determination".

17. The Committee recommends that the State party should:

(a) Develop a national awareness-raising strategy and programme of action based on the principles of the Convention and the human rights-based model to promote a culture of diversity and combat disability stereotypes, in close consultation and with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations.

(b) Adopt and use terminology and language that reflects the concepts and principles underlying the Convention, away from stereotypes.

Costa Rica (2024)

15.El Comité toma nota de las campañas de sensibilización y promoción de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad. Sin embargo, nota con preocupación que en la percepción pública de la discapacidad siga prevaleciendo prejuicios y estereotipos negativos de las personas con discapacidad. Le preocupa la insuficiencia de las campañas emprendidas para reforzar la imagen de las personas con discapacidad como titulares de derechos.

16.El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte una estrategia nacional para promover un modelo de discapacidad sensible al género y a la infancia y basado en los derechos humanos. Entre los medios de comunicación, los funcionarios públicos, los profesionales del sector de la salud y de la justicia, el público en general y las familias de las personas con discapacidad, en estrecha consulta y con la participación activa de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en su formulación, aplicación, y evaluación periódica.

Kazakhstan (2024)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Stigmatization and negative stereotypes about persons with disabilities encouraging isolation, segregation and neglect of children and older persons with disabilities, in particular children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autistic children;

(b) The negative labelling and portrayal of persons with disabilities in schools and among public officers and that some awareness-raising activities reinforce the charity approach to persons with disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities:

(a) Develop a national strategy led by persons with disabilities addressing negative stereotypes about persons with disabilities, raising awareness about their intrinsic dignity as human beings and impairment as an equally valued aspect of human diversity, and about their human rights;

(b) Strengthen its awareness-raising programmes, including public campaigns about the rights of persons with disabilities, directing them to public employees, schools, universities, private enterprises, staff of the judiciary, health workers and service providers.

Nicaragua (2024)

14.El Comité toma nota de las campañas de sensibilización y promoción de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, así como de la capacitación proporcionada a funcionarios públicos. Sin embargo, le preocupa que en la percepción pública de la discapacidad siga prevaleciendo un modelo asistencialista y médico, y que mujeres, niñas y niños con discapacidad sigan enfrentando violencia.

15.El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte una estrategia nacional permanente a fin de promover un modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos, con enfoque de género y edad entre los medios de comunicación, los funcionarios públicos, profesionales del

sector de la salud y de la justicia, la policía, el público en general y las familias de las personas con discapacidad, con la participación efectiva de las personas con discapacidad en su formulación, aplicación, y evaluación periódica.

Sweden (2024)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Negative attitudes against persons with disabilities, particularly against persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, permeating processes and decisions on pre-natal testing and abortion, geared toward the extinction of certain types of intellectual impairments;
- (b) The persistence of stereotypes, negative attitudes and hate speech in the State party towards persons with disabilities and particularly persons with disabilities who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;
- (c) The lack of awareness among the general public, public officials, and decision makers of the rights of persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities' requirements especially in the areas of work, education and housing.

20. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Ensure that medical and social advice on pre-natal testing and abortion rendered by professional staff does not convey negative attitudes against persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and is not aimed at extinguishing certain types of impairments;**
- (b) **Carry out media campaigns aimed at eliminating prejudices, negative stereotypes, harmful practices, and hate speech in all aspects of life and advancing sustained and systemic attitudinal change, particularly focusing on women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and children with disabilities;**
- (c) **Reinforce and increase intensive training courses on the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability for students, judges, law enforcement officers, police, teachers, health-care professionals and members of the community at large.**

Zambia (2024)

15. The Committee notes that Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) with support from the International Labour Organisation developed a communication strategy aligned to its new strategic plan in 2023. However, it is concerned at the persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes, prejudices towards persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, women and children with disabilities, as well as at the lack of awareness-raising campaigns about the dignity, capabilities and rights of persons with disabilities in society and in the media and the absence of long term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities with the effective participation of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that the existing awareness raising activities, such as workshops, seminars and meetings including commemoration of international days are usually conducted or held in urban areas only.

16. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;**
- (b) **Introduce regular training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the media, the politicians, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, as well as for the general public, both in rural and urban areas, in all accessible formats, including Braille, Easy Read, audio, tactile and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) **Undertake specific public education on the rights of persons with albinism to address myths around albinism which have made them a target for ritual attacks.**

Andorra (2023)

17. The Committee appreciates the establishment of 27 April as the national day of the Convention. Nevertheless, it expresses its concern about the following:

(a) Reports of negative attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and women and children with disabilities;

(b) That persons with disabilities have not been meaningfully involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of the awareness-raising programmes implemented by the State party, and the lack of evaluation of the impact of these activities;

(c) The limited involvement of persons with disabilities to raise awareness and promote a positive image of them in the media.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities:

(a) Adopt a national strategy to raise awareness throughout society, particularly among persons with disabilities, their families, professional groups and government officials, aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities, in particular, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and women and children with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities are effectively and meaningfully involved in the design, implementation and periodic monitoring of training and awareness-raising programmes in accordance with the Convention, as well as in the evaluation of its impact;

(c) Adopt appropriate measures to ensure that the media is used to promote a positive image of them and foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.

Austria (2023)

22. The Committee notes with concern that awareness of the principles and rights enshrined in the Convention and of the obligations the States parties incur with its ratification seems to be insufficiently developed, particularly in the governments of the Länder.

23. The Committee recommends the State party, on the Federal level and particularly on the level of the Länder, institute, in close consultation with and the active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, awareness-raising programs on the principles and rights enshrined in the Convention, the obligations incurred by the State party, including the Länder, and on the specific import of the present recommendations, directed to all persons holding political and judicial office, for government employees, and for medical personnel.

24. While the Committee recognizes women's rights to reproductive autonomy, it expresses concern that § 97 (1) 2. of the Criminal Code accepts the "serious risk that the child will be mentally or physically seriously damaged" as a specific ground for abortion.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party define the permissible grounds for an abortion without reference to the child's impairments.

Germany (2023)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive national strategy for awareness-raising activities and campaigns to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and to advance sustained and systemic attitudinal change;

(b) The inaccuracies in the official German translation of the Convention conducive to substantive misinterpretations.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and fund a comprehensive national strategy to raise awareness throughout society, particularly among persons with disabilities, their parents and families, professional groups, the media and government officials at all levels, regarding the rights and dignity of persons

with disabilities, in order to combat stereotypes, prejudice and harmful practices in all aspects of life and to advance sustained and systemic attitudinal change;

(b)Revise the official German translation of the Convention, in close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in order to accurately reflect its meaning in all aspects.

Israel (2023)

17.The Committee is concerned about negative stereotypes and devaluing of persons with disabilities. It is particularly concerned about the prevalence of negative stereotypes about women and girls with disabilities in society, portraying them as asexual, limiting their access to information about sexual and reproductive health and rights, curtailing their possibilities to build relationships and start a family.

18.The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including organizations of children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities:

(a)Strengthen its awareness-raising programmes, including public campaigns with the aim to combat negative disability stereotypes in society;

(b)Ensure periodic training among public officials in all sectors of Government, the judiciary, the Police, and legal profession about the Convention and the rights of persons with disabilities;

(c)Adopt a strategy aimed at combating negative stereotypes about the rights of women and girls with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health and services, including training for health personnel.

Malawi (2023)

17.The Committee is concerned about information of disability stereotypes and prejudices relating to persons with disabilities portraying them as in need of protection, mystical or abnormal and particularly affecting persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with albinism, as these underpin harmful practices, such as confinement, abductions, forced sterilization and killings. It is also concerned that awareness initiatives have been unsystematic, overlook specific groups of persons with disabilities and lack specific goals and assessments of progress.

18.The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations develop strategies to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, including campaigns, human rights education, training and media measures. The State party should in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities prepare and provide persons with disabilities and society with information about the rights of persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as Easy Read, Braille and augmentative and alternative forms of communication, focus on changing negative attitudes, ensure direct involvement of persons with disabilities in their diversity, target community leaders, religious leaders, school communities, families, and the media, and establish mechanisms of periodic assessment.

Mauritania (2023)

15.The Committee is concerned about:

(a)The persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, in all aspects of life;

(b)The lack of awareness-raising campaigns about the dignity, abilities and rights of persons with disabilities in society and the absence of a long-term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability, with the effective

participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, particularly in rural and remote areas.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and children with disabilities, to raise awareness of and combat prejudice against persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, and monitor its effectiveness;

(b) Strengthen training and awareness-raising programmes about the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability at all levels of education, in public service, in the media and for the general public, in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Mongolia (2023)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives on the human rights model of disability and other disability issues, targeted at the general public, public officials and media with reference to the persistence of discriminatory attitudes, stigma, negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned at the absence of long-term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities with the effective participation of persons with disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive national strategy, in close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;

(b) Introduce regular training and awareness-raising modules about the human rights model of disability and the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the media, the politicians, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities. The Committee further encourages the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, to develop and carry out training initiatives aimed at all public sector officials as well as the general public, for understanding and implementing the human rights model of disability.

Paraguay (2023)

17. El Comité toma nota de las campañas de sensibilización y promoción de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, así como de la capacitación a funcionarios públicos. Sin embargo, le preocupa que:

a) En la percepción pública de la discapacidad, siga prevaleciendo un modelo asistencialista y médico, y que mujeres, niñas y niños con discapacidad sigan siendo dejados atrás;

b) El Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación no fomente que los medios difundan un mensaje sobre personas con discapacidad acorde a los estándares de la Convención.

18. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

a) Adopte una estrategia nacional a fin de promover un modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos, con enfoque de género y edad, entre los medios de comunicación, los funcionarios públicos, profesionales del sector de la salud y de la justicia, la policía, el público en general y las familias de las personas con discapacidad, con la participación efectiva de las personas con discapacidad en su formulación, aplicación, y evaluación periódica;

b)Asegure que el Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación aliente a los medios de comunicación a difundir un mensaje sobre la discapacidad acorde con la Convención.

Angola (2023)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Awareness-raising activities and campaigns related to persons with disabilities are rather sporadic and often respond to specific issues and events;
- (b) Traditional and online media as well as social networks rarely involve persons with disabilities to raise awareness and promote a positive image of them;
- (c) Persons with disabilities are not actively consulted and included in the planning and implementation of public awareness raising campaigns about them.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation and involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in urban and rural areas, to raise awareness and combat prejudices against them, including persons affected by leprosy and persons with albinism, and to monitor the impact of such a national strategy;**
- (b) Take appropriate steps, in consultation with persons with disabilities, to ensure that traditional and online media as well as social networks are used to raise awareness and to promote a positive image of them;**
- (c) With their active involvement, introduce training and awareness-raising about their rights at all levels of education, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats such as Braille, sign language or Easy read and, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions to society of all persons with disabilities.**

Argentina (2023)

17.El Comité toma nota de las campañas de sensibilización y la creación de la semana por la promoción de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad. Sin embargo, le preocupa que en la percepción pública de la discapacidad siga prevaleciendo un modelo asistencialista y médico.

18.El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte una estrategia nacional a fin de promover un modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos entre los medios de comunicación, funcionarios públicos, profesionales del sector de la salud y de la justicia, el público en general y las familias de las personas con discapacidad, con la participación activa y efectiva de las personas con discapacidad en su formulación y aplicación, y con una evaluación periódica.

Georgia (2023)

17.The Committee expresses its concern about reports of widely held negative attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices targeted at persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, in all aspects of life. Such attitudes prevail among the general population, including parents and families of children with disabilities, and contribute to isolation from the community a lack of participation in support programmes available to persons with disabilities.

18.The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen awareness-raising activities like public campaigns, with different target audience groups, aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and children with disabilities;**
- (b)Ensure the active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, including organisations of persons with intellectual disabilities and organizations of women with disabilities, in the design, implementation and periodic monitoring of such programmes. prioritizing safe living conditions, and the provision of food and free and accessible medical care and education;**

Peru (2023)

16.El Comité toma nota de medidas adoptadas por el Estado parte para concienciar acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad. Sin embargo, le preocupa la persistencia de estereotipos y prejuicios sobre las personas con discapacidad, en particular los que apoyan la opinión de que las personas con discapacidad psicosocial son peligrosas. Asimismo, preocupa al Comité la incapacidad de las actuales campañas de comunicación para combatir la estigmatización facilitada por los medios de comunicación sobre las personas con discapacidad, incluso como resultado de las iniciativas privadas como el “Teletón”, las cuales refuerzan una visión de las personas con discapacidad como beneficiarios de caridad.

17.El Comité insta al Estado parte a que adopte medidas proactivas para promover el conocimiento de la Convención y su Protocolo Facultativo, incluyendo mediante el lanzamiento de campañas de comunicación para combatir la estigmatización y los estereotipos negativos relacionados con la discapacidad y promuevan el reconocimiento y el respeto del derecho a la igualdad de las personas con discapacidad en consonancia con el enfoque de derechos humanos, y a que cree e implemente programas permanentes de capacitación, en cuyo diseño e impartición participen las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, para todo el aparato estatal, incluidas las nuevas autoridades electas. Asimismo, recomienda que el Estado parte se abstenga de otorgar recursos a iniciativas privadas como el “Teletón”.

Togo (2023)

15.The Committee is concerned at the persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes, prejudices towards persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, women and children with disabilities, as well as at the lack of awareness-raising campaigns about the dignity, capabilities and rights of persons with disabilities in society and in the media and the absence of long term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities with the effective participation of persons with disabilities.

16.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;

(b)Introduce regular training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the media, the politicians, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.

Tunisia (2023)

13.The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities through their representative organisations have not been meaningfully involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of the awareness-raising programmes run by the State party, as they have not been involved in the development of related national policies and action plans. It is further concerned that whereas the State party has indicated that the Convention has been produced in simplified format for different levels of education and different age groups for persons with disabilities, these materials are as yet to reach most of the intended target groups.

14.The Committee, in accordance with the Convention and its General Comment No. 7 (2018) on participation of persons with disabilities recommends that:

(a)Take the necessary steps, without further delay, to ensure that persons with disabilities including women and children through their representative organisations are effectively and meaningfully involved in the development of policies, design, implementation and monitoring

of the awareness-raising, programmes and action plans in accordance with the convention and as elaborated in General Comment No. 7 (2018) on participation of persons with disabilities;

(b) Take immediate measures to enhance the dissemination of the Convention and production of awareness raising materials and meaningfully involve persons with disabilities through their organisations in the development and distribution process, and to ensure that the simplified format of the Convention do reach the intended target groups within a reasonable timeframe and issue public report and data about it.

Bangladesh (2022)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited awareness raising campaigns and initiatives on disability issues, among the general public and public officials, with reference to the persistence of prejudices, stigma, stereotypes, derogatory language and discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and the lack of information of awareness-raising initiatives in appropriate formats for all persons with disabilities, especially in rural and remote areas;

(b) The lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in awareness raising programmes and campaigns as well as the lack of effectiveness of legislation and policies aimed at dissuading the negative and comical portrayal of persons with disabilities in the media, particularly persons affected by leprosy.

18. The Committee recommends that, in consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, the State party shall endeavour to:

(a) Intensify awareness raising campaigns and initiatives and adopt a national strategy on awareness-raising to educate the general public and public officials in order to combat prejudices, stigma, stereotypes, use of derogatory language and discrimination that prevail against persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas;

(b) Develop and implement awareness-raising programmes that will address prejudices, stereotypes, stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities, including those based on superstitious and mythical beliefs and customs and intensify the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including the use of human rights language, involving the media, and all necessary public officials.

China (2022)

20. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of the medical model of disability and insufficient awareness-raising measures to promote the recognition of persons with disabilities as independent and autonomous rights holders, leading to harmful attitudes and behaviours, including stigma, discriminatory language and domestic violence against persons with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities:

(a) Adopt a national strategy in order to raise awareness among all persons with disabilities, including in rural areas, about their rights under the Convention and to provide them with information about measures taken to protect their rights;

(b) Implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes, including training, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, the media, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the general public and families of children with disabilities.

Indonesia (2022)

16. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a national strategy for awareness-raising activities and campaigns to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The limited participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including persons affected by leprosy and children with disabilities in awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national strategy, to raise awareness throughout society, particularly among persons with disabilities, their parents and families, professional groups and government officials at all levels, regarding the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities to combat stereotypes, prejudice and harmful practices in all aspects of life;**
- (b) Strengthen measures for close consultation and active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organisations of persons affected by leprosy and children with disabilities in the design, development and delivery of awareness-raising programmes about the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.**

Japan (2022)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Insufficient efforts and budgetary allocation to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities in society and in the media;
- (b) Discriminatory eugenic attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities or persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) Insufficient participation of persons with disabilities in the preparation of awareness-raising initiatives, such as the “Barrier-Free Mindset” textbook, and insufficient evaluation of these measures.

20. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Adopt a national strategy to eliminate negative stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices against persons with disabilities, including close participation of persons with disabilities in its formulation and implementation, and periodic evaluation;**
- (b) Strengthen measures to develop and adequately fund awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities for the media, the general public and families of persons with disabilities.**

Lao People’s Democratic Republic (2022)

14. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Discriminatory attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, and negative media portrayal of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Insufficient measures aimed at increasing awareness among the population about the rights of persons with disabilities and at increasing the ability of such persons to advocate for their own rights, and lack of evaluation of these efforts;
- (c) The lack of information made available on the Convention, particularly in rural areas;
- (d) The lack of awareness among policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, about the rights recognized in the Convention.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in urban and rural areas, to raise awareness, combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and ensure that the media portray persons with disabilities in a positive manner in line with the Convention;**
- (b) Reinforce actions aimed to empower persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, and periodically evaluate the impact of awareness-raising initiatives;**
- (c) Make the Convention in Lao available in accessible formats, including Easy-read, Braille and Lao sign language;**

(d) With the close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, reinforce capacity-building programmes on the Convention for public policymakers, judges, teachers, social workers, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities.

New Zealand (2022)

13. The committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive national strategy for awareness-raising activities and campaigns to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and to create sustained and systemic attitudinal change;

(b) The limited participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, particularly underrepresented groups, such as persons of small stature in awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt and fund a comprehensive national strategy to raise awareness throughout society, particularly among persons with disabilities, their parents and families, professional groups, the media and government officials at all levels, regarding the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, in order to combat stereotypes, prejudice and harmful practices in all aspects of life and to create sustained and systemic attitudinal change;**

(b) **Strengthen measures for close consultation and active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities in the design, development and delivery of awareness-raising programmes about the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of awareness-raising campaigns about the dignity, abilities and rights of persons with disabilities in society and in the media and the absence of long term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities with the effective participation of persons with disabilities;

(b) The persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes, prejudices, widespread hate and demeaning expressions towards persons with disabilities, including autistic persons, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities in political discourse and on social media.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;**

(b) **Introduce regular training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the media, the politicians, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.**

Singapore (2022)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The persistence of discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities, in particular autistic persons, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons affected by leprosy, in all aspects of life;

(b) The lack of awareness-raising campaigns about the dignity, abilities and rights of persons with disabilities in society and the absence of a long-term strategy for raising awareness about

the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability, with the effective participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, to raise awareness of and combat prejudice against persons with disabilities, in particular autistic persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons affected by leprosy, and monitor its effectiveness;

(b) Introduce training and awareness-raising programmes about the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability at all levels of education, in public service as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Hungary (2022)

16. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the awareness-raising activities are rather sporadic and respond to issues and events;

(b) That electronic media and social networks rarely involve persons with disabilities to raise awareness and promote a positive image of persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in urban and rural areas, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;

(b) Introduce training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.

Jamaica (2022)

16. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the awareness-raising activities are rather sporadic and respond to issues and events;

(b) That electronic media and social networks rarely involve persons with disabilities to raise awareness and promote a positive image of persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation with and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in urban and rural areas, to raise awareness of and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;

(b) Introduce training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, as well as for the general public, in all accessible formats and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of all persons with disabilities.

Mexico (2022)

25. The Committee is concerned that a welfare and medical model of disability is still prevalent in the public perception of disability; that the rights of children, adolescents and women with disabilities and sexual and reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities are subject to public prejudice, stereotyping and harmful practices; and that the Teletón campaigns still reinforce a view of persons with disabilities as recipients of society's charity.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party develop and implement, with the involvement of persons with disabilities, comprehensive awareness-raising programmes with the goal of promoting a human rights model of disability and awareness of the rights of children, adolescents and women with disabilities and of sexual and reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities. It further recommends that the State party bring Teletón campaigns fully into line with these goals.

Switzerland (2022)

17. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities in society and in the media, and the widespread negative media portrayal of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The overreliance on civil society organizations to conduct awareness-raising activities on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Discriminatory attitudes, negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, including autistic persons and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt a national strategy, applicable at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels, to eliminate negative stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices against persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes, including training, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights model of disability for policymakers, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, the media, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the general public and families of children with disabilities;**
- (c) Introduce training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities at all levels of education and in all accessible formats in order to foster respect for the dignity and rights of all persons with disabilities.**

Venezuela (2022)

14. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The Ministry of People's Power for Public Health is responsible for awareness-raising campaigns, thus reinforcing the medical approach to disability, and that organizations representing persons with disabilities are not involved in designing such campaigns;
- (b) Stereotypes and harmful attitudes towards persons with disabilities persist in the State party and that the approach taken towards them continues to be welfare- and not human rights-based, in accordance with the Convention.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Reinforce and increase intensive training on the rights of persons with disabilities from a human rights perspective for public officials, health-care professionals, professionals working in the justice system and others, as well as members of the community at large;**
- (b) Carry out media campaigns, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, aimed at eliminating prejudices, stereotypes and harmful practices in respect of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in both urban and rural areas.**

Djibouti (2021)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Stigmatization, negative stereotypes, harmful practices, deep-rooted cultural beliefs against persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, women and girls with disabilities, and persons affected by leprosy, in the society, the families and among persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) Lack of long-term strategy for raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities with the effective participation of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Absence of raising-awareness campaigns and programmes on disability among refugees.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop and implement a strategy, in partnership with community and religious leaders and the media aimed at the public and the families, particularly in rural areas and in refugee camps, to raise awareness about the Convention and to combat stigmatization, prejudice, stereotyping of persons with disabilities, including against persons with intellectual or**

psychosocial disabilities, persons with albinism, women and girls with disabilities and persons affected by leprosy;

(b) Conduct awareness-raising programmes, including training, for policymakers, administrative staff, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, health professionals and the media, to promote the human rights model of disability and to eliminate prejudices and the use of derogatory language against persons with disabilities;

(c) Adopt measures to ensure the effective participation of persons with disabilities, through their organizations, in the design and implementation of public awareness-raising campaigns and programmes.

France (2021)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Negative stereotypes against persons with disabilities, especially affecting autistic persons, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and with Down syndrome;

(b) The devaluing of persons with disabilities through ableist policies and practices that underpin prenatal genetic screening on foetal impairment, particularly concerning trisomy 21, autism, and neonatal detection of deafness;

(c) The lack of visibility of persons with disabilities in public life, public media, including in TV;

(d) Measures to combat terrorism that perpetuate negative and harmful stereotypes of persons with psychosocial disabilities as dangerous and at a high risk for radicalisation and terrorism.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Adopt and implement a strategy based on the human rights model of disability in order to eliminate negative stereotypes that devalue persons with disabilities, including in respect of the use of prenatal genetic testing, and ensure the implementation of measures issued by the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights from its independent periodic assessments of national programmes to eliminate stereotypes;

(b) Adopt measures to increase participation and visibility of persons with disabilities in public life and public media;

(c) Eliminate negative and harmful stereotypes of persons with psychosocial disabilities with regard to radicalisation and terrorism.

Estonia (2021)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of awareness about the dignity, abilities and the rights of persons with disabilities, in the media and in society;

(b) Negative stereotypes about disability, including in connection with prenatal genetic testing as a measure to primarily prevent future disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national strategy, in close consultation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, and monitor its impact;

(b) Introduce training and awareness raising about the rights of persons with disabilities in all levels of education, in all accessible formats and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, in order to foster the respect for dignity, abilities, and contributions of all persons with disabilities;

(c) Develop targeted programmes to identify and combat disability stigma and stereotypes in all areas of life, including prenatal genetic testing as a means of preventing disability which is not in line with the Convention.

Albania (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in local and nationwide campaigns, as well as the lack of regular awareness-

raising programmes, including training, for personnel of the public and private media on the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention. The Committee is also concerned that the text of the Convention has not been made available in sign language Braille and Easy Read.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Adopt measures to develop local and national awareness-raising campaigns targeting, among others, public authorities, private sector service providers, and the general public, to systematically raise public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and the Convention;

(b) Train public and private media professionals about the importance of portraying the positive contributions made by persons with disabilities;

(c) Translate and disseminate the Convention in accessible formats, including sign language, Braille and Easy Read.

Australia (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned about the lack of concerted efforts at all levels and about the low level of participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, persons with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, to promote awareness-raising efforts about disability, including campaigns promoting a positive image and awareness of the contribution of persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a national government strategy to promote a positive image and awareness of the rights of all persons with disabilities and that it ensure the consultation and participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, persons with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities, in the development and delivery of all awareness-raising activities.

Ecuador (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned at the persistence of stereotypes and harmful attitudes in the State party towards persons with disabilities and particularly towards those persons who are faced with multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. It is also concerned at the media campaigns being run by private organizations that use a charity-based approach.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reinforce and increase intensive training courses on the rights of persons with disabilities from a human rights perspective for students, judges and personnel in the judicial branch, health-care professionals and members of the community at large;

(b) Carry out media campaigns aimed at eliminating prejudices, stereotypes and harmful practices, especially those focusing on persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;

(c) Take steps to ensure that autonomous decentralized municipal governments discourage charity-based campaigns.

El Salvador (2019)

16. The Committee is concerned that the State party's awareness-raising efforts remain limited to isolated and sporadic campaigns and training programmes, which lack a focused plan for raising awareness in all spheres about respect of the rights of persons with disabilities, including among education personnel, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, staff in the health sector, and at the family and community levels.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party launch an intensive awareness-raising strategy, that includes training programmes and media campaigns, based on the human rights model of disability, for judges, lawmakers, law enforcement officials and health and education personnel, in order to eliminate prejudices, stereotypes and harmful practices against persons

with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and to promote recognition of their rights in society.

India (2019)

18. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The prevalence of prejudices and stigmas underpinning the isolation and segregation of persons with disabilities, and the limited impact of and lack of information provided by awareness-raising campaigns undertaken in rural areas, where disability is seen as an “outcome of fate”;
- (b) The regressive negative portrayal of persons with disabilities in the media, and a recent spate of unaddressed discriminatory and derogatory narratives by political leaders and actors;
- (c) The lack of information made available on the Convention and other disability-rights related laws and policies, particularly in states in the north-east region.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt a national strategy to raise awareness and combat prejudices and stigmas against persons with disabilities, including in rural areas and targeting schools, and monitor its impact;**
- (b) Implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes, including training, for policymakers, administrative staff at all levels of authority, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, the media, professionals and staff working with and for persons with disabilities and their families. The State party should promote the human rights model of disability, and address prejudices and the use of derogatory language against persons with disabilities in society and multiple and intersecting discrimination against intersex persons and on the grounds, inter alia, of sexual orientation and gender identity;**
- (c) Translate the Convention and its Optional Protocol and the Committee’s general comments into the local languages and disseminate them widely in accessible formats.**

Iraq (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national strategy and about insufficient measures to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, adopt a national strategy and undertake public awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce a positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention.

Myanmar (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comprehensive awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities across the State party. It notes with concern the persistence of negative stereotypes, prejudices and stigma against persons with disabilities, including that they “might be fated by something bad” based on traditional superstition.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes that address negative stereotypes, prejudices and stigma against persons with disabilities, including those based on ritual beliefs, customs and superstitions, often targeting children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party promote the human rights of persons with disabilities across the State party, targeting the media, public officials, judges, lawyers, the police, social workers and the general public, including ethnic and religious minorities.

Cuba (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned about the absence of measures to promote awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities in the framework of the human rights model of disability.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, strengthen its efforts to carry out regular awareness-raising

campaigns on the content of the Convention among public and private actors, in view of eliminating negative perceptions of persons with disabilities in society, and introduce awareness and capacity-building programs on the human rights model of disability for public officials.

Niger (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Stigmatization, abandonment, exploitation, neglect, harmful practices, prejudices and stereotypes against persons with disabilities in society and families;
- (b) The absence of awareness raising campaigns and programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and the lack of adequate funding for such campaigns and programmes;
- (c) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities in awareness-raising campaigns and programmes and in the work of the National Technical Committee for the Advancement of Persons with Disabilities.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Undertake public awareness campaigns and programmes, involving community and religious leaders, and media, aimed at government officials, the public and families, to raise awareness about the Convention and combat stigmatization, abandonment, exploitation, neglect, prejudices, stereotypes and harmful practices against persons with disabilities, particularly children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Provide sufficient budgetary allocations for awareness raising campaigns and programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, and involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations.**

Norway (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of negative stereotypes, prejudices and language against persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of comprehensive and innovative awareness-raising programs on the rights of persons with disabilities.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement innovative public awareness-raising and education programs for the media, public officials, judges and lawyers, the police, social workers and the general public with the aim of raising awareness and promoting the human rights-based concept of disability, addressing negative stereotypes, prejudices and language against persons with disabilities in society including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Rwanda (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of negative stereotypes, stigma and prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society and the lack of programmes to raise awareness about their rights.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a national awareness-raising programme, with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, and develop media campaigns, portraying positive images of persons with disabilities respectful of their rights and dignity and highlighting their contributions to society.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Measures aiming to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities, including in the mass media, are based on a misconception that the promotion of the prevention of disability is a measure to implement the Convention, rather than the human-rights based approach to disabilities, and that awareness raising activities do not reach rural environments and places of employment;

(b) The Convention has not been disseminated in accessible formats such as Easy Read and Braille.

14. The Committee reminds the State party that the promotion of the prevention of disability is not a measure to implement the Convention and recommends that the State party, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders:

(a) Undertake public awareness campaigns, focusing on employers and rural areas, to portray persons with disabilities as rights holders, demonstrate their abilities and combat discrimination and negative stereotypes in the media;

(b) Disseminate the Convention in accessible formats, such as Easy Read and Braille.

Senegal (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned by the limited awareness in society, in the media, and among persons with disabilities themselves of the rights of persons with disabilities.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct public awareness-raising campaigns, including human rights education programmes, in partnership with community, traditional and religious leaders, as well as media professionals, to combat stereotypes, stigmatization and prejudices against persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism. It also recommends that the State party promote a positive perception of persons with disabilities, particularly children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

Spain (2019)

14. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited change in social perceptions about persons with disabilities achieved by awareness raising programmes and their lack of focus on the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) The continuing stigmatization of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the media as well as by pharmaceutical industries as dangerous to society;

(c) Persisting negative stereotypes and degrading portrayal of persons with disabilities, such as persons with dwarfism in bullfighting comic shows in mainstream media channels.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, in partnership with self-advocacy organisations of persons with disabilities, to design, launch and maintain public awareness and media campaigns aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes towards persons with disabilities, promoting the recognition and respect of their rights and encouraging positive perceptions and enhanced social awareness about them in society.

Türkiye (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about reports of predominant negative stereotypes and stigmatization of persons with disabilities in society, particularly:

(a) The absence of an overall awareness raising campaign to tackle stigma and prejudices against persons with disabilities, and the lack of information on the planned communication strategy of the Ombudsman Institution (KDK) Strategy Paper (2017-2021);

(b) The lack of available translations of the Convention in Turkish Sign Language and Braille;

(c) Discriminatory attitudes against life with a disability and biased information to expectant parents by counselling services, leading to termination of pregnancy, particularly in cases of a diagnostic of Down syndrome and spina bifida;

(d) Contents of primary school textbooks describing persons with disabilities as, among others, 'needy' and 'incompetent' and not considered as 'normal individuals'.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party address discriminatory stereotypes against persons with disabilities, and that it:

(a) Develop and implement an awareness-raising strategy, including campaigns in line with the Convention, with the meaningful involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities;

(b) Translate the Convention into Turkish Sign Language, Easy Read and other formats, and disseminate Braille transcriptions of the Convention;

- (c) Raise awareness among all, particularly medical professionals and services providers on the contributions of persons with disabilities and the need to eliminate negative attitudes, including by providing information on support for parents;**
- (d) Promote positive perceptions and messages of persons with disabilities focusing on their dignity, capabilities and contributions to society through campaigns targeting the general population, schools, public officials, the private sector and educational institutions.**

Vanuatu (2019)

16. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The high prevalence of stigma and negative stereotypes and attitudes against persons with disabilities;**
- (b) The absence of continuous awareness raising programs on the rights of persons with disabilities with adequate involvement of persons with disabilities through their organizations in the design and implementation of programs.**

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement the necessary measures grounded on the human rights-based approach to disability in order to combat stigma, prejudice and stereotypes against persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt a national awareness raising strategy and implement continuous awareness campaigns, including in rural areas, with the involvement of all stakeholders, such as the media and persons with disabilities through their representative organisations.**

Algeria (2018)

18. The Committee is concerned about stigmatization, prejudice against, and stereotypes of persons with disabilities among the public and in the media. It is also concerned that the State party misunderstands programmes for the prevention of disability, including those in Executive Decree No. 17- 187 of 3 June 2017, as being a measure of implementation of the Convention, which results in discrimination against persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the absence of a national policy to raise awareness about the human rights-based approach to disability.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take the necessary legal and other measures to transform prejudices and address stigmatization and stereotypes of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Eliminate all policies that aim to legitimize the prevention of disability as a measure of implementation of the Convention;**
- (c) In close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and adopt a national strategy to raise awareness and promote a positive image of persons with disabilities and knowledge about their rights as set out under the Convention.**

Bulgaria (2018)

21. The Committee is concerned about the low level of awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, and existing prejudice against persons with disabilities in the general public and in schools causing, among other, rejection of children with disabilities in schools.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party takes continuous and effective awareness raising strategies, including campaigns aimed at promoting the dignity, and rights of persons with disabilities in society, in the private and public sector, and in close and meaningful consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Malta (2018)

13. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities continue to be portrayed in the media from the perspective of the charity model of disability. It further notes with concern the insufficient, itemized budgetary allocation for measures aimed at increasing awareness among the population about the rights of persons with disabilities and at increasing the ability of persons with disability to advocate for their rights.

14. The Committee recommends that, in close collaboration with persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to develop and adequately fund national awareness-raising campaigns, including through the adoption of the National Disability Strategy;**
- (b) Train media professionals, civil servants and the public about the importance of reflecting and explaining the human rights model of disability;**
- (c) Periodically review and evaluate the impact of its awareness-raising efforts.**

Philippines (2018)

18. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The emphasis of the State party on prevention of impairment rather than inclusion and exercise of rights, and that public resources are allocated to once a year events that reinforce the medical approach to disability;
- (b) The lack of awareness regarding attitudinal barriers and other hardships confronting women and girls with intellectual disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information on the outcomes of 'sensitive trainings' and proclamations of the State party in addressing public apathy and negative attitudes against persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to foster a positive image of persons with disabilities as human rights-holders;**
- (b) Ensure that awareness-raising activities recognize the cross-cutting nature of the Convention, and adopt the human rights model of disability as a key strategy to strengthen public awareness regarding disability;**
- (c) Strengthen training and capacity building activities among public authorities, in particular civil servants responsible for implementing the Convention;**
- (d) Operationalize monitoring instruments to ascertain awareness-raising campaigns and their outcomes in eliminating negative perceptions of persons with disabilities in society.**

Poland (2018)

13. The Committee is concerned about :

- (a) The negative perceptions of disability as being "undesirable condition" and of persons with disabilities as being "of less value" than others;
- (b) Persons with disabilities not being recognised as rights holders in society;
- (c) The lack of measures taken to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities as contained in the Convention.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take specific measures to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities among the general public and parents, including the public and private media, medical personnel, education personnel, employers, and promote a positive image of persons with disabilities as human rights-holders;**
- (b) Involve the organizations of persons with disabilities when developing and delivering nationwide campaigns, awareness-raising programmes or training on the human rights model of disability and ensure systematic State-funded awareness-raising programmes.**

South Africa (2018)

14. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a coherent and comprehensive national strategy to raise awareness among the public and private media about the on-going stigmatisation and marginalization of, and prejudices and stereotypes about persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism, even within family settings;

(b) The non-inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, in awareness-raising campaigns and programmes, including in the planning and implementation of such campaigns and programmes.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a coherent and comprehensive national strategy to raise awareness among the society and media about the negative effects of stigmatisation of, prejudices and stereotypes about persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism;

(b) Undertake public awareness-raising campaigns, including human rights education programmes, in partnership with community, traditional and religious leaders, as well as media professionals, to combat stigmatization of and prejudices against persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism, aimed at reaffirming the value and dignity of such persons, in particular children with disabilities, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(c) Adopt effective mechanisms for the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, especially in rural communities, in the design and implementation and evaluation of awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes in conformity with the principles of the Convention.

North Macedonia (2018)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of national policy and strategy on disability awareness and the lack of efforts to prevent and combat disability stereotypes and discrimination on the basis of impairment;

(b) Ad hoc activities on awareness-raising campaigns focusing on impairments rather than rights and reinforcing the charity-based approach to disability.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national policy and strategy on disability awareness to prevent and combat discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, with the participation of persons with disabilities, aimed at combating stigma and stereotypes;

(b) Develop continuous campaigns about the Convention in the public and private sector and among the persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

Haiti (2018)

14. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The high prevalence of taboos and negative stereotypes of disability, including discriminatory beliefs that disabilities are supernatural in origin or contagious;

(b) That negative attitudes resulting in stigmatization on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, albinism, and the combination of these factors with disability, are highly prevalent in society and a major obstacle to the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities;

(c) The absence of a coherent national strategy and policy for raising awareness on the human rights based approach to disability with adequate representation of organizations of persons with disabilities, which continues to perpetuate and reproduce negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement the human rights based approach to disability to combat fear, prejudice and stereotypes against persons with disabilities;

(b) Formulate a national awareness raising strategy and implementation plan to effectively address stereotypes related to disability and stigmatization based on negative beliefs to prevent and address discrimination, including multiple and intersectional discrimination, against persons with disabilities;

(c) Implement continuous awareness campaigns, involving all stakeholders such as religious leaders and community opinion leaders and representative organizations of persons with disabilities;

(d) Increase the visibility of persons with disabilities in society including more media coverage against the abuse of persons with disabilities.

Nepal (2018)

15. The Committee is concerned at negative attitudes as manifested in everyday language and the lack of awareness regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from ethnic, Dalit, Madhesi and Muslim communities. The Committee also notes that awareness-raising measures are inadequate to the extent that even persons with disabilities and their families, let alone public and relevant professionals in general, are not exposed to the issues concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement public awareness-raising and education programmes on the rights as well as the situation of persons with disabilities, including through sensitization of the media, public officials, judges and lawyers, the police, social workers and the general public, in order to foster a positive image of persons with disabilities as autonomous holders of human rights. In doing so, the State party should ensure that such awareness-raising recognizes the cross-cutting nature of the Convention, particularly with regards to articles 2, 3, 5, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 21 and adopt a human rights model of disability as a key strategy to strengthen positive public awareness regarding the diversity of disabilities.

Oman (2018)

17. While noting the various initiatives to combat stereotypes, including through use of the media, the Committee is, however, concerned about:

- (a) The continued stigmatization of persons with disabilities, in particular children, by families and the society at large;
- (b) The absence of awareness raising campaigns and programmes focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (c) The lack of involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in awareness-raising campaigns and programmes, including their participation in the planning and implementation of such campaigns and programmes.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Continue to undertake sustained public awareness campaigns, involving community and religious leaders, and media professionals, aimed at government officials, the public and families to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against persons with disabilities aimed at reaffirming the value and dignity of such persons, in particular children with disabilities, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that all persons with disabilities and their families are aware of the benefits and services that they are entitled to through the disabled identification card;**
- (c) Ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations in awareness raising campaigns and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and based on the human rights model of disability.**

Seychelles (2018)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Negative societal attitudes towards persons with disabilities, including the lack of awareness about their capabilities and rights, especially stigmatizing persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (b) The absence of strategies, including awareness-raising campaigns, for combating stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt measures to raise public awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities in families, schools, and society;**
- (b) Adopt an awareness-raising strategy, including engagement of mass media for promoting the respect and dignity of all persons with disability, regardless of impairment, and highlight their capabilities and contributions to society.**

Slovenia (2018)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Negative societal attitudes towards persons with disabilities, including the lack of awareness about their capabilities and rights, especially stigmatizing persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) The absence of strategies, including awareness-raising campaigns, for combating stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities.**

13. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt measures to raise public awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities in families, schools, and society;**
- (b) Adopt an awareness-raising strategy, including engagement of mass media for promoting the respect and dignity of all persons with disability, regardless of impairment, and highlight their capabilities and contributions to society.**

Sudan (2018)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited knowledge and awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities within society in general and public officials in particular; and the absence of a comprehensive national disability awareness policy or strategy to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat disability stereotypes, as well as discrimination on the basis of impairment;**
- (b) Awareness-raising campaigns focusing on impairments rather than rights and reinforcing the charity-based approach to disability.**

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national disability awareness policy or strategy to prevent and combat discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, with the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, aimed at combating stigma and stereotypes and reaffirming the value and dignity of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Conduct training activities to communication and media professionals consistent with the human-rights based approach to disability.**

Latvia (2017)

14. The Committee is concerned about the negative prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society, especially with regard to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities and with the participation and promotion of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, adopt a comprehensive public awareness-raising campaign about the Convention, with the aim of building a culture of diversity based on the participation and involvement in community life of all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

Luxembourg (2017)

18. The Committee is concerned about the lack of awareness about the Convention and the rights of persons with disabilities among the general public. It is also concerned about the lack of systematic public awareness efforts, including campaigns, to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities, and that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are rarely involved. It is also concerned that negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities persist in the media.

19. The Committee recommends that, in close collaboration with persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, through their representative organizations, the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to develop, national awareness-raising campaigns targeting, among others, public authorities, private sector service providers, and the general public, to systematically raise public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, the Convention and its Optional Protocol;
- (b) Train media professionals about the importance of portraying the positive contributions made by persons with disabilities;
- (c) Periodically review and evaluate the impact of any awareness-raising efforts.

Montenegro (2017)

16. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient training programmes for public and private media personnel on the human rights-based approach to disability, as well as training for students of architecture and engineering on accessibility and universal design.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate all necessary human, technical and financial resources to:

- (a) Providing training for public and private media on the Convention, with particular emphasis on the human rights-based approach to disability, and encouraging the portrayal of a positive image of persons with disabilities, their rights and their contributions to society, with a view to eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities;
- (b) Taking effective steps to include in the curricula for students of architecture and engineering mandatory elements on the rights of persons with disabilities, with a special focus on accessibility and universal design.

Morocco (2017)

20. The Committee is concerned about negative perceptions of persons with disabilities in society. It is also concerned about attitudes that stigmatize on the basis of gender and sex identity and its association with disability, and the confusion that can arise from having a different sexual orientation and being a person with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen, with the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and the involvement of the media, public awareness-raising campaigns aimed at reaffirming the value and dignity of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Raise awareness among politicians, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, with regard to the Convention and its Optional Protocol and secure their support in implementing the recommendations contained in the Committee's concluding observations;
- (c) Conduct dialogue in society, involving community and religious leaders, aimed at preventing the stigmatization of all categories of persons with disabilities;
- (d) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and conduct a revision of educational materials to prevent the confusion that can arise from having a different sexual orientation and being a person with disability.

Panama (2017)

24. The Committee is concerned that the State party's efforts to combat biased views and negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities remain insufficient, given the existence of public campaigns such as Teletón, which reinforce the charity-based model of disability.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party combat discrimination and negative stereotypes in the media, such as those present in public campaigns like Teletón, and promote public campaigns that portray persons with disabilities as rights holders and focus on their abilities, ensuring that organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted during the design of these campaigns.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

22. The Committee is concerned at the persistence of negative attitudes, stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with neurological and cognitive conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's, and about their social protection entitlements

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, strengthen its awareness-raising campaigns aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with neurological and cognitive conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's. To that end, the State party should include mass media strategies and campaigns, with different target audience groups, based on the human rights model of disability.

Armenia (2017)

13. The Committee is concerned about the overall negative image of persons with disabilities and the lack of programmes to raise awareness about their rights, as well as about media coverage of disability that is based on stereotypes and perpetuates discriminatory attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party implement, with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, systematic awareness-raising programmes, including media campaigns, aimed at portraying positive images of persons with disabilities as human rights holders.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

16. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the local and the nationwide campaigns, awareness-raising programmes and training programmes for personnel of the public and private media, as well as on whether the text of the Convention has been made available in sign languages.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party translate the Convention into sign languages and organize training programmes for the public and private media on how persons with disabilities should be portrayed, in order to eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudices towards them. The Committee also recommends that the State party take effective and regular steps to raise awareness among members of parliament and government officials at the national and local levels on these matters, and update the training curricula of architects on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Canada (2017)

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about indigenous persons with disabilities, given that they represent one of the most marginalized populations. It is also concerned about stereotypes and harmful messages in public campaigns about autistic persons. It is further concerned about the absence of information on awareness campaigns to promote the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and to combat attitudinal barriers and prejudices against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure appropriate dissemination of the Convention and the Committee's general comments, concluding observations and recommendations in sign languages and in accessible formats, modes and means of communication, such as easy-read formats and Braille;

(b) Recognize and proclaim November each year as Indigenous Disability Awareness Month, which is already being done by British Columbia and Saskatchewan;

(c) Adopt a human rights model of disability that recognizes autistic persons and reinforce their human dignity and value in all public campaigns and programmes to support their inclusion in society;

(d) Adopt a strategy aimed at recognizing and fostering the participation of persons with intellectual disabilities in society, including measures to combat stigmatization against such

persons and to promote their leadership, the work of their representative organizations and self-advocacy;

(e) Undertake, in collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, research aimed at enhancing understanding of diverse gender identities and monitoring attitudinal barriers faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities;

(f) Set up strategies at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to increase awareness among society about the rights of persons with disabilities, through targeted capacity-building and public information programmes and human rights education.

Cyprus (2017)

23. The Committee notes with concern that awareness about the Convention is low. It is also concerned about the lack of adequate awareness-raising campaigns targeted at public and private actors on the Convention in general, in particular on the elimination of disability-based discrimination.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, regularly and in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention:

(a) Develop and implement adequately funded awareness-raising initiatives to eliminate sociocultural discrimination and to foster knowledge of the Convention among the general public of all ages, and in both the public and private sectors;

(b) Initiate and evaluate cross-sectoral campaigns and trainings reinforcing a positive image of persons with disabilities as independent, dignified and capable holders of human rights.

Honduras (2017)

19. Al Comité le preocupa que persisten en el Estado parte prejuicios y estereotipos negativos de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente niños y niñas, mujeres, afrohondureños e indígenas. Le preocupa también la falta de estrategias que promuevan específicamente el contenido de la Convención y el modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos y la existencia de campañas, como Teletón, receptora de fondos públicos, que refuerzan el modelo asistencialista hacia las personas con discapacidad. También le preocupa que el Estado parte, mediante Decreto Legislativo núm. 56 de 1984, proclamó el último viernes del mes de abril como el Día Hondureño de la Solidaridad con el Limitado, manteniendo un enfoque asistencialista y no de derechos como es el Día Internacional de las Personas con Discapacidad.

20. El Comité alienta al Estado parte a que, en cooperación con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, combata la discriminación y los estereotipos de las personas con discapacidad a través de campañas de sensibilización pública y de promoción de las personas con discapacidad como sujetos de derechos humanos ante la sociedad en general, los funcionarios públicos y los actores privados, incluyendo a los medios de comunicación, y que conmemore el día de la discapacidad con un enfoque de derechos. Asimismo, el Comité le recomienda que difunda ampliamente la Convención y los recursos disponibles para su implementación entre las personas con discapacidad y sus familias, especialmente en las zonas rurales, los pueblos indígenas y afrohondureños.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

18. The Committee is concerned about the absence of public campaigns, including in the media with the aim of raising awareness about the dignity and value of persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a targeted strategy to raise awareness among society about the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for diversity of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention;

- (b) Ensure appropriate dissemination of the Convention and the Committee's General Comments and its Concluding Observations and recommendations in Persian language and in accessible formats, modes and means of communication;
- (c) Initiate dialogue among society and prevent the confusion between having different sexual orientation and being a person with disabilities.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

18. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society and the lack of comprehensive awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement public awareness- raising and education programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, including through sensitization of the media, public officials, judges and lawyers, the police, social workers and the general public.

Bolivia (2016)

19. The Committee is concerned at the fact that the State party considers the primary prevention of impairments to be a measure contributing to implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned at the scant efforts made to disseminate the rights of persons with disabilities, and finds it regrettable that civil servants speak in an insulting and disrespectful manner about persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party launch awareness programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, targeting policymakers and other officials and public servants, security and justice personnel and Bolivian society in general, and that it promote proper respect for the dignity of persons with disabilities.

Colombia (2016)

20. The Committee notes with concern that the public and private initiatives carried out to raise awareness about persons with disabilities, such as the Teletón and the Día Blanco celebration, reflect a charity approach to disability.

21. The Committee urges the State party to promote images that are respectful of the rights of persons with disabilities in all public education campaigns and to combat negative stereotypes, including through private initiatives. The Committee recommends that the State party support ongoing awareness-raising and training initiatives promoting the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and aimed at public officials at all levels, justice officials, police and civil defence personnel, the media and Colombian society more generally, and, in doing so, work closely with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Ethiopia (2016)

17. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not adopted a national disability awareness policy or strategy to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat disability stereotypes and discrimination on the basis of impairment, including albinism.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national disability awareness strategy to effectively prevent and combat disability stereotypes and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism.

Guatemala (2016)

25. The Committee is deeply concerned by the fact that persons with disabilities, especially women, children and indigenous peoples, are victims of customs, superstitions and practices that seriously violate their dignity, safety and other fundamental rights. It also notes that the State party's efforts to combat biased views and negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities are insufficient and that campaigns such as the Telethon, which is a recipient of public funding, reinforce a charity-based approach that runs counter to the Convention.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party combat stereotyping of and discrimination against persons with disabilities, launch public media campaigns to promote their human rights in which they are directly involved, and ensure that public funding is not used for purposes that violate the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide training for public officials at all levels and for professionals who work with persons with disabilities on the rights recognized in the Convention and that it distribute the Convention and the resources available for its implementation widely among persons with disabilities and their families, especially in rural areas and indigenous communities.

Italy (2016)

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective and appropriate measures to promote the capabilities of persons with disabilities and lack of measures to combat stereotypes and prejudices through public awareness campaigns and the use of mass media.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to raise public awareness using mass media campaigns and by training people who work in the mass media about the negative effects of stereotypes and the importance of portraying the positive contributions made by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

17. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the State party considers the primary prevention of impairment as a measure that promotes the rights of persons with disabilities, thereby contributing to perpetuating a negative image of persons with disabilities, which is contrary to the Convention;

(b) That persons with disabilities are perceived within the family and society in general as lacking the ability to live independently and to participate and be included in the community on an equal basis with others;

(c) About the lack of awareness of persons with disabilities about their rights under the Convention and about the services available to them.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to promote an image of persons with disabilities compatible with the human rights model of disability, to ensure that any policy aiming at the rehabilitation, treatment or prevention of disability does not undermine the dignity of persons with disabilities and to establish, together with organizations of persons with disabilities, awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and based on the human rights model of disability in order to overcome entrenched gender and disability stereotypes in society.

Uruguay (2016)

19. Al Comité le preocupa que persisten en el Estado parte prejuicios y estereotipos negativos de las personas con discapacidad. Preocupa también la falta de estrategias que promuevan específicamente el contenido de la Convención y el modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos y la existencia de campañas privadas, como Teletón, que refuerzan el modelo caritativo hacia las personas con discapacidad.

20. El Comité alienta al Estado parte a que, en cooperación con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, combata la discriminación y los estereotipos de las personas con discapacidad a través de campañas de toma de conciencia pública y de promoción de las personas con discapacidad como sujetos de derechos humanos ante la sociedad en general, los funcionarios públicos y los actores privados, incluyendo a los medios de comunicación.

Chile (2016)

17. Al Comité le preocupa que los esfuerzos del Estado parte para combatir los prejuicios y estereotipos negativos de las personas con discapacidad continúan siendo insuficientes, dada la existencia de campañas públicas como Teletón, receptora de fondos públicos, que refuerzan el modelo asistencialista hacia las personas con discapacidad.

18. El Comité alienta al Estado parte a combatir los estereotipos y la discriminación en medios de comunicación e impulsar campañas públicas de promoción de las personas con

discapacidad como sujetos de derechos humanos y no como objetos de caridad y asegurar que los fondos públicos no se utilizan para propósitos contrarios.

Serbia (2016)

15. The Committee is concerned that there is no established practice to raise awareness of persons with disabilities, particularly in mainstream schools, and that there is no mechanism to combat compounded harmful stereotypes and widespread discrimination,

16. The Committee encourages the State Party to implement awareness-raising campaigns, with the involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations and to actively promote a positive image of persons with disabilities by focusing on their skills and talents. Those campaigns should target the general population, public officials and the private sector, as well as educational institutions in accessible formats.

Slovakia (2016)

27. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not taken sufficient action to combat disability and gender stereotypes.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party develop all measures available, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, in order to foster respect for them and combat disability and gender stereotypes in all areas of life.

Thailand (2016)

19. The Committee is concerned about persisting negative attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial impairments, in society. It is also concerned about the State party's understanding of primary prevention of impairment as an implementation measure of the Convention.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party bolster specific awareness- raising campaigns, including a mass-media strategy, with different target audience groups based on the human rights-based model of disability aimed at eliminating in society negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial impairments. It also recommends that primary prevention programmes relating to impairment and their respective budgets be removed from action plans and policies aimed at implementing the Convention. The Committee further encourages the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, to develop and carry out training initiatives aimed at all public sector officials as well as the general public, for understanding and implementing the human rights model of disability.

Uganda (2016)

14. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information to make the general public aware of cultural practices that stigmatize and hinder the development of persons with disabilities to enjoy rights like all other persons in society. It is also concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities as well as persons with albinism and deaf-blind persons are disproportionately affected by stigma, which limits their access to education, health and employment.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase awareness on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities with the aim of combating disability and gender stereotypes, which can lead to discrimination against persons with disabilities among the public in general, and in particular in rural and urban areas, in all aspects covered by the Convention, through the mass media, jingles, workshops and public information campaigns;

(b) Ensure that human rights-based training programmes, including those organized through international cooperation are provided for all officials, the judiciary, the police, health professionals, teachers and social workers in all communities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities;

(c) Strengthen efforts to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and deaf-blind persons and ensure the involvement of their representative organizations in any campaign aimed at eliminating stigmatization and myths that underpin violence against them;

(d) Raise awareness among members of the Parliament, the executive and the judiciary with regard to the Convention and ensure their support in implementing the present concluding observations, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Brazil (2015)

20. The Committee is concerned at the lack of strategies to specifically promote the contents of the Convention and the human rights model of disability to the general public, public officials and private actors.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, undertake public awareness campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all of the human rights enshrined in the Convention. The Committee also recommends the State party to provide training on the rights recognized in the Convention to all public authorities, and public and private professionals working with persons with disabilities. It also recommends to provide information on the Convention to persons with disabilities in special, indigenous persons with disabilities and their families.

European Union (2015)

26. The Committee is concerned that awareness-raising strategies on the rights of persons with disabilities are not continuous and do not include all institutions and staff members, and leave aside certain groups of persons with disabilities. The Committee is concerned that capacity building and training materials, public campaigns, statements and other documents released by the European Union institutions are not in accessible formats.

27. The Committee recommends that the European Union develop a comprehensive campaign to raise awareness of the Convention and combat prejudice against persons with disabilities, including women and girls, and especially persons with psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and older persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends that all materials related to capacity building and training, awareness raising, public statements and other, be made accessible.

Gabon (2015)

20. The Committee is concerned that awareness raising campaigns for persons with disabilities focus on the prevention of disability and that negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities persist.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, target the general public, persons with disabilities, organizations of persons with disabilities, the media, employers, health and educational professionals to foster the human rights model of disability and overcome entrenched gender and disability stereotypes by promoting the positive image of persons with disabilities, their rights, and their contributions to society.

Kenya (2015)

15. The Committee welcomes the information on awareness raising activities to public officials. However, it is concerned about stigmatization of persons with disabilities in society that hinder the exercise of their rights. It is also concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities are disproportionately affected by stigma which limits their access to education, health and employment.

16. The Committee calls upon the State party to set up a long-term strategy aimed at raise awareness and combating discrimination against persons with disabilities among the public

in general, in rural and urban areas, including all aspects covered by the Convention. It also recommends that the State party carry out mass-media awareness-raising campaigns and workshops in order to foster positive image of persons with disabilities and their contributions to society. It further recommends that human rights-based training programmes are provided in both private and public sectors for all officials, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and in collaboration with human rights institutes and organizations.

Mauritius (2015)

15. The Committee is concerned that awareness-raising campaigns for the public, including persons with disabilities, the Convention and the Optional Protocol, remain limited.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party design, develop and conduct together with persons with disabilities, and their representative organisations:

(a) Campaigns targeting specific discrimination issues in the aim of cultural transformation, for the general public and with the support of the mass media.

(b) Training for persons with disabilities, their families and their representative organisations as well as all relevant civil servants and key areas of the private sector in order for them to apply a human rights based approach to disability.

Qatar (2015)

17. The Committee is concerned that the State party's policy of "primary prevention of impairment" in place is contrary to the Convention and the rights of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that the high investment in the prevention of impairment contributes to perpetuating a negative image of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities are perceived within the family and society in general, as lacking the ability to live independently and to participate and be included in the community on an equal basis with others.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that any rehabilitation, treatment, or prevention of disability policy does not undermine the dignity of persons with disabilities and to establish awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and based on the human rights model of disability in order to overcome entrenched gender and disability stereotypes in society.

Ukraine (2015)

15. The Committee notes with concern the lack of measures taken to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities as contained in the Convention. The Committee is particularly concerned that public officials, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, the public in general and the persons with disabilities themselves remain unaware of their rights.

16. The Committee urges the State party to step up its efforts to raise the awareness of its public on the rights of persons with disabilities, by conducting public campaigns, including the Convention in the curricula of schools and professional training of public officials and all relevant professionals.

Cook Islands (2015)

13. The Committee is concerned at the lack of awareness regarding the rights of children with disabilities and the absence of a specific strategy to address their rights. It is also concerned that children with disabilities are not systematically involved in decisions that affect their lives and do not have the opportunity to express their opinion on matters that affect them directly.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness of the rights of children with disabilities through training in schools, family settings and the wider community, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities; and develop a comprehensive rights-based strategy for children with disabilities that adopts safeguards to protect their rights. The Committee further recommends that children with disabilities are consulted in all matters affecting them, with appropriate assistance according to their disability and age,

aligned with the Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding Observations (CRC/C/COK/CO/1).

15. The Committee notes an early identification of, and intervention for, children with disabilities project due to commence before 2016, however, the Committee is concerned that this project is of a temporary nature and unsustainable in meeting the long term needs of children with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a permanent early identification and intervention programme for children with disabilities, from birth to school age;

(b) Identify and provide additional paediatric specialist services that are not currently available;

(c) Provide families of children with disabilities financial assistance, training and support mechanisms to ensure children's inclusion and full participation in the family and the community.

Croatia (2015)

13. The Committee is concerned at the insufficiency of awareness-raising measures on the rights of persons with disabilities and the fact that the medical and charity model of disability still prevail in mass media.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders undertakes public awareness campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention. It recommends the State party to provide training to all public authorities and public or private professionals working with persons with disabilities on the rights enshrined in the Convention.

Dominican Republic (2015)

14. The Committee notes with concern that there have been few campaigns to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, that they are not consistent with the human rights-based model and that they have not been given wide publicity.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a strategy to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, using all the mass media and all alternative and accessible modes and formats, and covering government institutions.

Germany (2015)

19. The Committee is concerned that the measures put in place by the State party to reduce stigma faced by persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, have been ineffective.

20. The Committee recommends that, in consultation with DPOs, the State party:

(a) Develop a strategy to raise awareness and eliminate discrimination, ensuring that its preparation and implementation are evidence-based, that its impact can be measured, and that the public and private media are involved;

(b) Ensure that awareness-raising and human rights-based training programmes are provided for all officials involved in the promotion, protection and/or implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Mongolia (2015)

15. The Committee is concerned about negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities, as manifested in everyday language and also through the media, as manifested by the "Disability Prevention Day" of the State party which represents a concept contrary to the Convention. The Committee also notes that measures for awareness-raising are inadequate to the extent that even persons with disabilities and their families, let alone public and relevant professionals in general, are not exposed to the issues concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that the disability issue in general appears to be confined to physical disabilities with inadequate attention accorded to intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen awareness-raising campaigns for fostering a positive image of persons with disabilities as autonomous holders of human rights. In doing so, the State party should ensure that such awareness-raising recognizes the cross-cutting nature of the Convention, particularly with regards to articles 5, 12, 13 and 27, and adopt human rights models of disability as a key strategy to strengthen positive public awareness of the diversity of disabilities. The Committee recommends that the State party take further efforts to promote the United Nations Day for Persons with Disabilities.

Turkmenistan (2015)

19. The Committee is concerned at the shortage of programmes and initiatives to eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudices of persons with disabilities in society including through the mass media. The Committee also regrets the lack of measures taken to make available the national sign language version of the Convention. It further regrets the lack of detailed data on the number of seminars and conferences organised to raise awareness on the Convention and the number of participants therein.

20. The Committee encourages the State party to implement awareness-raising campaigns with assistance from UN agencies and the involvement of DPOs, to actively disseminate positive images of persons with disabilities focusing on their abilities and related good practices as well as on the right to legal capacity in particular. These campaigns should target the general population, public officials and the private sector in accessible formats.

Denmark (2014)

22. The Committee is concerned about the reports of prevailing prejudice among the general population regarding various forms of disabilities, which negatively affects the ability of persons with disabilities to enjoy rights on an equal basis, including in the area of employment.

23. The Committee encourages the State party to devise and adopt a strategy with concrete and measurable targets, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to raise awareness throughout society – among the general public, the government and private sectors, and persons with disabilities themselves – to promote a positive image of persons with disabilities and knowledge about their rights.

24. The Committee notes with concern the limited information about the level of awareness of the contents of the Convention among public officials and private actors, including the concepts of reasonable accommodation and disability-based discrimination.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake and regularly evaluate campaigns and other forms of training, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, for public officials and private actors to further develop their knowledge of the rights and obligations stemming from the Convention, in particular in regard to reasonable accommodation.

Republic of Korea (2014)

15. The Committee notes that the State party fails to systematically and continuously publicize, and educate government officials, members of Parliament, the media and the general public on, the contents and purpose of the Convention.

16. The Committee encourages the State party to strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of human rights. In particular, it recommends that the State party systematically and continuously publicize, and educate government officials, members of Parliament, the media and the general public on, the contents and purpose of the Convention.

Belgium (2014)

17. The Committee is concerned that there is no sign that a paradigm shift has occurred following ratification of the Convention, whereby persons with disabilities are recognized as

basic rights holders taking part in decisions affecting them and asserting their rights in society. The stigmatization and exclusion of persons with disabilities is evident in several policies because of, among other things, the continued existence of a strong medical model, reliance on residential care as the main form of care and the maintenance of the segregated education system.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce a national strategy to raise awareness of the content of the Convention. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party carry out accessible information and awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of persons with disabilities and foster among the general public a positive image of persons with disabilities and their contributions to society, through close consultation with, and the active involvement of, representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of those information and awareness-raising campaigns.

19. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities are portrayed in the media mainly as persons with a disability rather than as citizens who participate fully in society.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party encourage print and broadcast media professionals to take account of diversity in their code of ethical conduct and provide them, and all relevant professionals, with appropriate training and awareness-raising to ensure better representation of persons with disabilities in the media.

Ecuador (2014)

20. The Committee is concerned that the prevention of disabilities is considered a State policy relating to the rights of persons with disabilities. The prevention of disabilities is not a policy that should be included in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, because it tends to create a negative image of them.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party amend public policy so that the prevention of disabilities is not considered a policy that promotes the rights of persons with disabilities.

Mexico (2014)

17. The Committee is concerned that a substantial part of the resources for rehabilitating persons with disabilities are administered by a private entity such as Teletón. It also observes that the relevant campaign promotes the stereotype that persons with disabilities are the object of charity.

18. The Committee urges the State party to establish a clear distinction between the private nature of Teletón campaigns and the State's obligation to rehabilitate persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party develop campaigns to raise awareness of persons with disabilities as rights holders.

Sweden (2014)

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of knowledge among the general population about different disabilities, relevant factors and reasonable accommodation needs related to disabilities, in particular in the education system and among decision makers.

22. The Committee encourages the State party to create a strategy that increases public knowledge about different disabilities and to reinforce not only a positive but also an informative image of men and women with disabilities as dignified, independent and capable individuals who are holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention, with the aim to remove sociocultural discrimination barriers in public life. The Committee further recommends that specific programmes be established, in consultation with disabled persons' organizations, to raise awareness among public sector employees.

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of promotion of the contents of the Convention among public officials and private actors, and in particular the new concepts that have been incorporated into human rights law, such as reasonable accommodation and disability-based discrimination.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party launch periodic, regular and continuous national campaigns and other training courses targeted to public officials and private actors

to enable them to become acquainted with the general and specific contents of the Convention that have recently been incorporated into human rights law.

Azerbaijan (2014)

20. The Committee is concerned at reports of persisting negative stereotypes and prejudices against persons with disabilities in the society, which negatively affect their ability to enjoy rights on an equal basis with others.

21. The State party should introduce specific programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society. The Committee calls upon the State party to take initiatives in relation to awareness-raising and training for government officials, health, legal, educational and social work professionals, the judiciary, police, elections officers, media practitioners/journalists and other staff to effectively modify society's perception of persons with disabilities as being in need of protection by portraying a positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of human rights. The Committee further recommends that the State party supports and includes Disabled Peoples' Organisations and their representatives as well as other civil society representatives, in its programmes so that they fully participate in awareness raising initiatives.

Costa Rica (2014)

17. The Committee notes with concern the lack of programmes and rights-based public campaigns to promote the human rights model of disability.

18. The Committee urges the State party to encourage extensive awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of human rights. In particular, it recommends that the State party fully inform persons with disabilities – and society at large – about their human rights, using various formats, media and modes of communication such as Braille and sign language and other accessible formats, and to encourage a culture of respect for those rights.

Austria (2013)

21. The Committee notes with concern that there appears to be very few awareness raising campaigns being conducted in Austria to counter negative and out-dated stereotypes about persons with disabilities which foment discrimination. The Committee is concerned that throughout Austrian society there does not appear to have been a complete understanding of the paradigm shift created by the human rights-centred approach in the Convention. The Committee is also concerned at reports that persons with disabilities face practical impediments in matters of adoption, and that those stereotypes are partly attributable to the persisting prejudices and stereotypes against persons with disabilities.

22. The Committee encourages the State party to take initiatives in relation to awareness-raising to effectively transform the perception of persons with disabilities based on the charity model and the "old-fashioned" understanding that all persons with disabilities need to be protected. Instead, the State party should make efforts to reinforce a positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention. Furthermore, the State party should, in consultation with disabled persons' organisations, take specific measures, including awareness-raising campaigns, aimed at eliminating prejudices. The Committee recommends that further specific programs be established, in consultation with disabled persons' organisations, to address negative stereotypes and all practical impediments faced by persons with disabilities in relation to adoption.

El Salvador (2013)

21. The Committee is concerned at the lack of national awareness-raising campaigns designed to combat negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the fact that organizations of persons with disabilities do not benefit from training programmes on the Convention.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party launch public information campaigns on the Convention and its application in the various spheres of life, in conjunction with organizations of persons with disabilities. In addition, it recommends promoting disability

education as a cross-cutting theme in university courses. The Committee recommends that the State promote training programmes on the Convention for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in accessible formats and media.

Paraguay (2013)

21. The Committee notes with concern that awareness-raising campaigns on persons with disabilities have been designed using the medical model and favour prevention activities over recognition of persons with disabilities as the holders of rights. It is also concerned at the fact that the State party has not run any campaigns to eliminate negative attitudes to persons with disabilities, notably in the world of work.

22. The Committee urges the State party to encourage extensive awareness-raising campaigns to reinforce the positive image of persons with disabilities as holders of all the human rights recognized in the Convention. It particularly urges the State to fully inform persons with disabilities – and society at large – about their human rights, using various formats, media and modes of communication such as Braille and sign language and other accessible formats, and to encourage a culture of respect for those rights by means of information, communication and education.

China (2012)

15. The Committee is concerned that in the awareness-raising attempts of the state party, the medical model of disability prevails, which is not in accordance with the spirit of the CRPD. It is especially concerned with awareness-raising events such as the “All-China Occupational Skills Contest for Persons with Disabilities” and “Million Young Volunteers to Help Persons with Disabilities” program that depict persons with disabilities as helpless and dependent human beings segregated from the rest of society.

16. The Committee wishes to again remind the state party of the Convention’s human rights model of disability and asks the state party to promote this concept of persons with disabilities as independent and autonomous rights holders in its awareness-raising programs. It urges the state party to inform all persons with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas, of their rights, specifically the right to receive minimum welfare subsidies and the right to attend school. The committee recommends the state party to introduce awareness raising programme that shows the society positive perceptions of persons with disabilities.

Peru (2012)

18. While taking note of some steps taken by the State party to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities, such as the national radio broadcasts, the Committee remains concerned at the insufficiency of these measures and at the existence of private fundraising initiatives using negative stereotypes and charity based approach (such as the Peruvian Telethon). The Committee draws the attention of the State party to the fact that far from promoting rights and empowering persons with disabilities, these campaigns perpetuate and reproduce stigma and, thus hinder the possibility of constructing a culture in which persons with disabilities are recognized as part of human diversity and society.

19. The Committee calls upon the State party to take proactive measures to enhance awareness of the Convention and its Optional Protocol at all levels, to develop policies and programmes implemented to ensure elimination of stereotypes and to focus on the dignity, capabilities and contributions to society of persons with disabilities.

Spain (2011)

25. The Committee commends the many initiatives taken by the State party to implement the Convention. However, it notes that more needs to be done to increase awareness in society, in the media and among persons with disabilities themselves of the rights of persons with disabilities,

26. The Committee calls upon the State party to take proactive measures to enhance awareness of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto at all levels, in particular among the judiciary and the legal profession, political parties, Parliament and Government officials, civil society, media, and persons with disabilities, as well as among the general public.

Tunisia (2010)

18. The Committee notes the strategy of information, education and communication to raise awareness on persons with disabilities, including training for judicial and education personnel. The Committee, however, regrets the lack of information about training provided to other public officials on the Convention.

19. The Committee encourages the State party to establish awareness-raising and training programmes that are in conformity with the principles of the Convention for all officials involved in the promotion, protection or implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities, including officials at the local level dealing with persons with disabilities.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 9 CRPD
(Accessibility)*

September 2025

Article 9 - Accessibility

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures 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 communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, *inter alia*:

- a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:

- a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
- d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;
- e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;
- f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;
- g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
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Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
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Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Hungary (2012)
Peru (2012)
Spain (2011)

Tunisia (2010)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

15. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Comprehensive accessibility legislation is lacking and national accessibility standards for public and private infrastructure, transportation, schools, hospitals and other constructions have not been fully adopted or implemented, particularly in rural and remote areas, nor aligned with international standards. The State Party has not provided information to ensure the systematic use of universal design approaches in all products, environments, programmes and services.
- (b) No national authority has been designated with powers to consider complaints about lack of or insufficient accessibility;
- (c) Accessible information and communication formats are lacking, as well as sign language interpretation, tactile or auditory systems, mobility aids, and other assistive devices in public service settings.

16. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to Sustainable Development Goals 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Adopt, implement, and enforce national accessibility legislation and standards that are developed in accordance with international standards and universal design principles in all new construction and upgrades, and develop time-bound plans to make hospitals, schools, housing, and transport systems accessible, including in rural and remote areas;**
- (b) Establish a designated national authority mandated to consider complaints about lack of or insufficient accessibility;**
- (c) Guarantee access to information and communications in accessible formats, as well as sign language interpretation, tactile and auditory systems, mobility aids, assistive technologies, and accessible digital platforms.**

Finland (2025)

16. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Section 35 of the Building Act (751/2023) on Accessibility is not applicable to outdoor areas that are not adjacent to buildings; the rules on accessibility in the Government Decree on the Accessibility of Buildings of 2017 apply only to new buildings and to renovations and alterations of existing buildings requiring a building permit; the decree does not contain requirements for tactile, visual, auditive, language and other sensory measures; and that the State Party has not opted in to Annex 3 of the European Accessibility Act "Accessibility requirements for the purpose of article 4(4) concerning the built environment";
- (b) The State Party lacks a strategy to remedy the deficiencies in the accessibility of public transport as revealed in the Report on Accessibility of Public Transport Travel Chains of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of 2022;
- (c) Persons with intellectual disabilities face barriers in accessing essential online services, that public information provided by government, particularly municipalities, rarely uses Easy Read, and that universal design is seldom applied by public and private actors.

17. The Committee recommends the State party in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Enact legislation on accessibility of all built environment, extend accessibility requirements to existing buildings not subject to renovations or alterations, and develop and explicitly require tactile, visual, auditive, language and other sensory accessibility measures and opt in to Annex 3 of the European Accessibility Act "Accessibility requirements for the purpose of article 4(4) concerning the built environment";**
- (b) Develop a comprehensive plan on accessible public transport with targets, time frames and budget allocations, and ensure that it incorporates the findings of the Report on Accessibility of Public Transport Travel Chains of the Ministry of Transport and Communications;**

(c) Guarantee easy access of persons with intellectual disabilities to strong online identification tools and ensure that public and private actors regularly provide information to the public in Easy Read and apply universal design principles in the development of online tools.

Kiribati (2025)

17. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That despite the adoption of the Building Act 2024 and the completion of a national accessibility audit, most existing public buildings, including courthouses, healthcare facilities, schools and housing remain inaccessible, and there is no clear plan, budget or timeframe for their renovation;

(b) About the absence of accessibility standards and measures for public transport, information and communication technologies, and the lack of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with accessibility requirements.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and Sustainable Development Goals 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Promote the principle of universal design in the revised National Disability Policy and Action Plan;

(b) Expedite the renovation of existing public buildings, as identified in the national accessibility audit, to bring them into compliance with accessibility standards;

(c) Collaborate with the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility and donor and development partners for technical assistance to develop transport accessibility legislation and standards to address the inaccessibility of transport and associated infrastructure across sea, land and air;

(d) Develop accessibility legislation, standards and compliance mechanisms for information and communication technology, including for emergency phone lines;

(e) Develop and implement procurement policies that ensure that contracts and donor partnership agreements include disability-inclusive provisions for compliance with accessibility requirements and the principle of universal design.

Maldives (2025)

17. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That persons with disabilities face barriers to access physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, particularly in outer islands, and the adverse impact on children and adults with disabilities to participation and inclusion in all aspects of community life;

(b) At the absence of an institutionalized mechanism for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of accessibility legislation and standards and the lack of complaint procedures for violations for such legislation available to persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and Sustainable Development Goals 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Adopt and implement an action plan and strategy to identify existing barriers to access on equal basis with others in the private and public sectors and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove those barriers to ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technologies, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in the capital and on the islands and include monitoring and reporting of the progress of its implementation;

(b) Develop comprehensive legislation enforcing accessibility standards and codes with clear obligations and checks for the public and private sector, with strong enforcement mechanism that

include penalties and remedial actions covering the built environment, all modes of transport, including maritime, and digital technologies;

(c) Establish formal mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the processes for the development of accessibility legislation and standards and complaint mechanisms to lodge complaints of violations of accessibility and their right to equal access;

(d) Develop and implement procurement policies and ensure that funding contracts and donor partnerships are disability inclusive and contain provisions for compliance with accessibility requirements following the principle of universal design.

Canada (2025)

17. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the Accessible Canada Act does not provide for the duty to accommodate as a legal obligation, its accountability mechanisms for non-compliance are ineffective and persistent delays in its implementation;

(b) The lack of implementation of the accessibility obligations and rights enshrined by the Convention in many provinces and territories;

(c) The lack of close consultation and active involvement of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons with disabilities, off-reserve and non-status Indigenous persons with disabilities in the implementation of accessibility requirements;

(d) The insufficient availability of experts in universal design, reasonable accommodation and accessibility in public administration and the private sector;

(e) The scarce information on the implementation of the Accessible Procurement Resource Centre and how it has served to ensure accessibility across the State party;

(f) The lack of involvement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development, implementation and monitoring of accessibility.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Amend the Accessible Canada Act and other domestic laws to explicitly incorporate the duty to accommodate as a legal obligation, with accountability mechanisms for non-compliance, and set a timeline for the issuance of regulations and their implementation, with clear indicators of progress;

(b) Ensure that all provinces and territories enact and implement accessibility legislation in conformity with the Convention;

(c) Ensure the Accessible Canada Act is applicable to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis territories, and provide the necessary support to implement the Act in their territories;

(d) Develop educational and training programmes on universal design, reasonable accommodation, and accessibility to ensure the further development of expertise in government and in the private sector on these matters;

(e) Ensure information on the performance and results of the Accessible Procurement Resource Centre publicly available and how it has served to ensure accessibility;

(f) Ensure that persons with disabilities and children with disabilities, are involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of universal design, reasonable accommodation, and accessibility policies, as well as in the evaluation of its effectiveness.

Dominican Republic (2025)

17. The Committee is concerned about the remaining gaps in ensuring the accessibility of the physical environment, transport, information and communication, including in digital formats, to persons with disabilities, despite existing legislation, such as Decree no. 363-16, and the limited possibilities for the legal enforcement of accessibility standards, in particular for existing buildings, goods and services. The Committee is particularly concerned about:

- (a) The majority of public buildings do not meet national accessibility standards;
- (b) Access to information for deaf and blind persons, as well as persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities is deficient as websites of the majority of public and private institutions are not accessible and do not meet digital accessibility standards;
- (c) The “Road for the Development of Inclusive Municipalities” project is inoperative, as the construction of public works, particularly streets and avenues, is the responsibility of the central government.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations develop and implement comprehensive accessibility measures to ensure access to physical environment, transport, information and communications, including in digital formats, to persons with disabilities on equal basis with others in both urban and rural areas.

European Union (2025)

26. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited Scope of the European Accessibility Act, which includes the built environment only as a voluntary clause for Member States, does not cover essential products such as household appliances, and does not sufficiently address accessibility of information;
- (b) The delays in the transposition of the European Accessibility Act by Member States, including derogations for application deadlines, allowing the emergency number ‘112’ to remain inaccessible until 2027 and some self-service terminals until 2045;
- (c) Regulation 2024/1670 on the Trans-European Networks (TEN-T) lacks clarity on implementation, lacks references to the European Accessibility Act, and does not mandate expert consultation and integrate accessibility into its monitoring;
- (d) The limited compliance by Member States with the Web Accessibility Directive, the exclusion of extranets and intranets from its purview, and its opt out provision for websites and mobile applications of schools, kindergartens or nurseries;
- (e) The gaps of accessibility requirements in digital legislation, such as in the Digital Services Act, that considers accessibility as voluntary good practice, or in the general objectives for the Digital Decade policy programme 2030, that does not take accessibility sufficiently into account;

27. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the European Union, within its competences and in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Adopt legislation to guarantee accessibility of the built environment, products and information;**
- (b) Accelerate the implementation of accessibility standards in the Member States;**
- (c) Amend Regulation 2024/1670 to provide for measures for implementation, and integrate accessibility into monitoring;**
- (d) Ensure compliance by all Member States with the Web Accessibility Directive, extend the scope to intranet and extranet and delete its Article 1 (5);**
- (e) Incorporate accessibility requirements into all digital legislation;**
- (f) Provide staff training on accessibility and disability-inclusive methodologies and adopt transparent physical and digital accessibility policies with implementation roadmaps for all buildings, services, appliances and digital platforms.**

Palau (2025)

17. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That persons with disabilities face barriers to access the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public.

(b) The lack of sufficient budgetary allocations and the lack of mandatory accessibility criteria in public procurement at all levels.

18. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to Sustainable Development Goals 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Adopt and implement an action plan to identify existing barriers to accessibility in the private and public sectors and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove those barriers to ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public;

(b) Take the necessary legislative and policy measures in the public and private sectors, such as the development of public procurement criteria, to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including regarding information and communications technologies and systems, and ensure effective sanctions measures for non-compliance.

Tuvalu (2025)

17. The Committee is concerned about the impact of the lack of accessibility throughout the State party across all mainstream essential services, housing, transport, information and telecommunications systems and facilities and the adverse impact on children and adults with disabilities to participation and inclusion in all aspects of community life.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and Sustainable Development Goals 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop and resource an accessibility action plan with timeframes and measurable outcomes to implement Priority Area 4 (Information, Infrastructure and Transportation) of the National Policy for Disability 2018;

(b) Review and amend all laws and policies in relation to accessibility, including the Telecommunications Act 1993, the National ICT Policy 2017 and the draft National Building Code to ensure they are disability inclusive;

(c) Collaborate with the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) to ensure that its technical advice and coordination of partner investments are disability inclusive and accessible, based on the principle of universal design;

(d) Develop and implement procurement policies to ensure that funding contracts and donor partnerships include disability inclusive provisions for compliance with accessibility requirements and the principle of universal design.

Viet Nam (2025)

17. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) A significant percentage of public buildings, including healthcare facilities, educational establishments, justice service locations and supermarkets, do not meet accessibility standards, hindering full participation of persons with disabilities in these areas;

(b) The availability of accessible public transport is minimal, with only a few of buses nationwide being accessible and some cities having regulations on the ratio of accessible vehicles;

(c) Only one accessible train carriage exists in Vietnam, and only certain major train stations have ramps to waiting rooms, limiting access to rail travel for persons with disabilities;

(d) Although airports have improved accessibility, smaller local airports still lack the necessary accessible facilities, affecting air travel for persons with disabilities;

(e) As Vietnam is a country with a lot of shipping, there is no consideration of accessibility to both transport and tourist boats

- (f) While the Law on Persons with Disabilities and the Law on Information Technology recognize ICT accessibility, implementation remains inconsistent, and many government websites and digital services do not fully comply with accessibility standards;
- (g) Vietnam Television provides limited programming with sign language interpretation and subtitles, and other media channels provide no accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- (h) Many libraries provide limited accessibility services, with some offering Braille and alternative text materials but lacking full accessibility to reading materials, including for indigenous persons with disabilities;
- (i) The enforcement of accessibility standards remains unclear, with few penalties issued for non-compliance with regulations, and there is no transparency in the allocation of funds collected from penalties for accessibility violations.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Take immediate steps to increase the percentage of public buildings, including healthcare facilities, educational establishments, justice service locations, and supermarkets, that meet accessibility standards, with clear timelines and mechanisms for implementation;**
- (b) Accelerate the introduction of accessible public transport across all provinces by increasing the number of accessible buses, trains, and accessible vehicles in line with a nationwide strategy;**
- (c) Expand accessibility features across the entire railway system, ensuring all stations and train carriages are fully accessible to persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Establish a clear timeline for ensuring full accessibility in all Vietnamese airports, particularly focusing on smaller local airports to ensure equal access to air travel for persons with disabilities;**
- (e) Expand physical accessibility and support for boarding and disembarking from both transport and tourist boats**
- (f) Implement mechanisms to enforce accessibility requirements and strengthen monitoring systems to ensure all government and public sector websites, digital services, and online platforms comply with accessibility standards, including by conducting regular audits and establishing enforcement protocols;**
- (g) Increase the number of television programmes with sign language interpretation and closed captions on national and regional media channels, ensuring equal access to information for all persons with disabilities;**
- (h) Implement a strategy to increase the availability of accessible books and digital reading materials in libraries, including expanding Braille and alternative formats for persons with disabilities, including indigenous persons with disabilities;**
- (i) Improve the enforcement of accessibility legislation by issuing penalties for non-compliance, tracking the number of violations, and publishing annual reports on how the funds from penalties are used to support social assistance activities for persons with disabilities.**

Belarus (2024)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The need to implement measures on accessibility more broadly than the physical accessibility, given the limitations in providing access to information in various formats such as Easy Read, audio description and sign language, as required for different disabilities;
- (b) The lack of monitoring and review mechanism and system to ensure implementation of the provisions for accessibility for persons with disabilities.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on Article 9: Accessibility, the Committee recommends that in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, the State party:

- (a) Adopt a specific law on a barrier-free environment and accessibility, and include therein inclusive legally binding accessibility standards based on the principles of universal design with the aim of eliminating accessibility barriers in all areas, including in information and communications technologies, and within reasonable time frames;**
- (b) Establish monitoring mechanisms and measures to evaluate the development of and monitoring of the application of accessibility in all sectors.**

Belgium (2024)

18. The Committee notes that the State party's regions have regulatory accessibility standards. However, it remains concerned that:

- (a) Accessibility standards are limited to new buildings or to substantial renovations of existing buildings requiring a building permit, but do not extend to existing buildings, and regularly exclude measures guaranteeing access for persons with visual, hearing, intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) Accessibility standards for infrastructure such as roads, parks, and other public infrastructure appear to be selective and scarce;
- (c) The implementation of accessibility requirements is not being systematically inspected upon completion of construction;
- (d) The lack of authoritative plans, containing clear time frames, competencies, budgets and monitoring mechanisms to render public transport accessible to persons with disabilities and, as a consequence, highly uneven accessibility depending on the transport provider, and a generally slow pace of rendering public transport accessible;
- (e) The lack of a guarantee of autonomous accessibility of rail and bus service and travel at sea.

19. Recalling its General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (para.21) and recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Complement existing accessibility standards for buildings with standards guaranteeing access for persons with visual, hearing, intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, extend the applicability of accessibility standards for buildings to existing buildings, public and private, irrespective of applications for building permits, and devise a plan to implement them with a clear time frame and monitoring;**
- (b) Review accessibility standards for infrastructure such as roads, parks, and other public infrastructure, ensure that they guarantee accessibility to persons with all forms of impairments, and devise plans to implement them, with clear time frames, competencies, budgets and monitoring;**
- (c) Ensure that the implementation of accessibility standards is systematically inspected upon completion of construction, and that remedial measures are taken expeditiously in case of non-compliance;**
- (d) Devise authoritative plans, containing clear time frames, competencies, budgets and monitoring mechanisms, to render public transport accessible to persons with disabilities, including persons with high support requirements, and extend such plans to all modes of transportation, including transport by rail, bus, air and at sea;**
- (e) Enact by law a guarantee of autonomous accessibility of rail and bus service and travel at sea, applicable in the areas covered by:**
 - (i) Regulation (EU) 2021/782 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 on rail passengers' rights and obligations (recast);**

- (ii) Regulation (EU) No 181/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004;
- (iii) Regulation (EU) No 1177/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004.

Benin (2024)

17. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That persons with disabilities face barriers in accessing the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) the lack of measures taken to implement the relevant national legislation on accessibility standards, of adequate budgetary allocations and of mandatory accessibility criteria in public procurement at all levels.

18. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Adopt and implement an action plan to identify existing barriers to accessibility in the private and public sectors and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove those barriers and to ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technologies, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas;**
- (b) Develop and implement accessibility standards and regulations, strengthen the implementation of the existing national legislation on accessibility and carry out an accessibility needs assessment of existing infrastructure with a time-bound plan to make it accessible;**
- (c) Take the legislative and policy measures in the public and private sectors, necessary to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, such as the development of public procurement criteria, including for information and communications technologies and systems, and ensure effective sanctions for non-compliance.**

Burkina Faso (2024)

18. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities to the environment, public and private buildings, clean water and sanitation, public transport, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, particularly in rural areas, due to the limited scope and implementation of accessibility laws;
- (b) The inadequacy of the resources allocated to the implementation of the Operational Action Plan 2021-2023 of SN-3PH 2021-2025, particularly on accessibility;
- (c) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities to the digital work environment restricting their access to information and communication technologies, including on government websites, and in relation to software;
- (d) The insufficient awareness-raising and training for architects, designers and engineers concerning accessibility standards and universal design under the Convention.

19. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Conduct regular national accessibility studies and surveys to assess the current state of accessibility, identify gaps, and provide actionable recommendations;
- (b) Ensure rigorous evaluation and enforcement of accessibility laws, such as Law No. 012-2010/AN on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and Law No. 017-2006/AN on Urban Planning and Construction. Public procurement for transport facilities should also be reviewed to ensure compliance with accessibility criteria, with sanctions imposed for any violations;
- (c) Review Law No. 051-2015/CNT of 30 August 2015 on the right of access to information and administrative documents and establish accessibility standards for media and information and communication technologies, as well as for websites, in line with universal standards, and include digital accessibility in the various accessibility and digital transformation action plans;
- (d) Strengthen the promotion of awareness and training of professionals in the construction sectors on accessibility barriers faced by persons with disabilities and on adequate measures to remove them.

Denmark (2024)

33. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The recent and ongoing repeal of legal accessibility obligations, including the amendment to the Danish Building Regulations on single-family houses, and the draft amendment to the Greenland's Inatsisartut Act on accessibility requirement for public buildings and facilities;
- (b) The lack of a comprehensive strategy and plans to ensure accessibility in all areas of the Convention;
- (c) The insufficient implementation of accessibility and universal design in public transportation and services, hindering mobility and participation of persons with disabilities;
- (d) The barriers in the digital environment preventing access for persons with disabilities to information and communication.

34. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Review legislation in all parts of the Kingdom of Denmark which provides for exemptions from compliance with accessibility standards in buildings, including single-family houses and services and extend legal accessibility standards to all public spaces, buildings and services open to the public;
- (b) Adopt and implement a national strategy, with a duty for municipal authorities to set up plans and monitor compliance, to identify existing barriers to accessibility and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove these barriers and ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, including new buildings and buildings being renovated, historic buildings and roads with cobblestones, transportation, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, for all persons with disabilities;
- (c) Conduct awareness-raising training, spread information and promote understanding about the concept of universal design among public officials, including architects, engineers, personnel who are "working on the ground" with pavements, slopes, train stations, new technology;
- (d) Take measures to apply the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and remove barriers preventing universal and equal access for persons with disabilities to websites and digital communications;
- (e) Provide live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers, and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public.

35. The Committee is concerned that the existing remote interpreting service for persons with hearing impairments in the area of social affairs and housing is only available between 8am

and 3pm on weekdays, and only for a limited number of authorities, restricting their right to contact public authorities, particularly in case of emergencies, and to be included in society.

36. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark take measures to ensure that persons with hearing impairments have access to remote interpreting 24 hours a day and to all relevant authorities.

Ghana (2024)

18. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The lack of implementation of laws, regulations and directives on accessibility to the built environment, the lack of compliance with the National Accessibility Standards and the National Building Code and that the concept of universal design is not enforced in domestic law;

(b) Article 60 of Law 715 of 2006 which establishes a ten-year moratorium for all public buildings to become accessible, 18 years after the expiration of the moratorium, inaccessible buildings are still being constructed and organizations of persons with disabilities are not involved in the evaluation of the implementation of the standards;

(c) Lack of consideration of housing for persons with disabilities in Act 715 or in the ongoing Affordable Housing Project and other ongoing housing plans;

(d) Physical, communication and information accessibility difficulties in public transport persists;

(e) Public information that reaches persons with disabilities is limited as it is not in accessible format such as Braille, Easy Read and in sign language.

19. Recalling its General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) **Implement and enforce the National Accessibility Standards and the National Building Code with the active involvement and in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**

(b) **Enforce compliance with the Article 60 of Law 715 to ensure that inaccessible buildings do not continue to be constructed, ensure the active involvement and in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and establish regulations to require construction professionals to comply with Act 715;**

(c) **Ensure the reform of Law 715, the Project Housing and plans ongoing housing to address the needs of persons with disabilities to accessible housing;**

(d) **Ensure compliant with existing laws on physical accessibility, communication and information accessibility in public transportation;**

(e) **Ensure that information on services provided to the public is also presented in accessible formats such as sign language, Braille and Easy Read, as well as other modes and means of communication.**

Mauritius (2024)

17. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The buildings in the State party largely remain inaccessible, despite the 2022 amendment of the Building Control (Accessibility and Gender Compliance in Buildings) Regulations 2017 meant to facilitate access to buildings for persons with disabilities;

(b) There is a lack of information about the level of accessibility available across all islands of the State party and the level of public-private partnerships to ensure accessibility.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) **Enforce the relevant laws, regulations and policies to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities based on the principles of universal design and with the aim of eliminating**

accessibility barriers in all areas, and take measures to raise awareness in the construction industry;

(b) Take measures to ensure accessibility across all islands of the State party, with clear indicators to track progress, and promote public–private partnerships to expedite improvements in accessibility.

Netherlands (2024)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The gaps still existing in ensuring accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information, and communication for persons with disabilities, despite existing legislation, and the limited possibilities of legal enforcement of accessibility standards, particularly for existing buildings and goods and services;

(b) The slow integration of a 'universal design' approach in the State party's policies, including in municipal planning laws, and about insufficient accessibility requirements in public procurement laws and agreements;

(c) The delays in the full transposition of the European Accessibility Act (EAA) into national law, the lack of ambition to fully implement accessibility requirements for the built environment as well as the absence of mandatory monitoring of the accessibility progress and implementation both in the Residential Construction Decree and the Environment and Planning Act;

(d) The high number of inaccessible websites and apps of public sector bodies, despite the compulsory accessibility requirements, and the delays in the full implementation of the Web Accessibility Directive, as well as the reports on wrongful claims of full accessibility in accessibility declarations on government websites;

(e) The lack of digital accessibility and knowledge among private providers, particularly affecting persons with visual impairments.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and Goal 9 as well as targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop and implement comprehensive measures to ensure full accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information, and communication for persons with disabilities in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Expedite the integration of a 'universal design' standard in all accessibility policies, ensuring that environments, products and services are designed to be accessible and usable by everyone to the greatest extent possible without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

(c) Fully transpose the European Accessibility Act into national law swiftly, exceeding its minimum requirements; render the accessibility requirements for the built environment mandatory and incorporate these standards in national public procurement; establish an overarching enforcement and monitoring mechanism for accessibility of public spaces and the built environment through the Environment and Planning Act and the Residential Construction Decree;

(d) Take immediate steps to ensure that all websites and apps of public sector bodies are fully accessible and in compliance with national legislation and the European Standard EN 301 549; establish a stringent verification for accessibility declarations on government websites and process and regular monitoring to prevent wrongful claims of full accessibility;

(e) Enhance digital accessibility and knowledge among private providers, namely health care providers, by implementing targeted training programs, providing technical support, and offering incentives to adopt inclusive design practices.

Ukraine (2024)

18. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Insufficient enforcement and monitoring of laws and regulations on disability, particularly on physical access, accessible information, and communication technology and transportation, including in remote and rural areas;

(b) The fact that persons with disabilities are not systematically and meaningfully consulted in the review, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies, and regulations related to accessibility;

(c) The lack of a comprehensive strategy with specific goals, timelines, and indicators for the implementation of the “National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine up to 2030”.

19. Recalling the General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and its General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility the Committee recommends that the State party in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate its accessibility policies, imposing effective sanctions on those who fail to apply accessibility and inclusivity standards;

(b) Set forth mechanisms to ensure that persons with disabilities participate, including through public hearings and consultations, in the review, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies, and regulations related to accessibility;

(c) Ensure that the “National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine up to 2030” mainstreams disability;

Azerbaijan (2024)

19. The Committee remains concerned about:

(a) The fact that many existing buildings and structures do not comply with construction and accessibility standards, although accessibility of social infrastructure facilities and vehicles is clearly enshrined in the law;

(b) The limited information about accessibility of public transportation at the municipal level and in rural areas and that to date, only in the central districts of Baku, low-floor buses equipped with special equipment for the transportation of persons with disabilities have been launched;

(c) The number of employees of bodies and organizations that provide services to persons with disabilities who have received instructions or training;

(d) The non-implementation of the decree issued by the Baku Transport Agency allocating 5 per cent of parking spaces for vehicles of persons with disabilities, and the absence of special signs, either on the ground and along the road;

(e) The limited information about progress in developing information in accessible formats, including in Braille, Easy Read and Sign Language.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility the Committee reiterates its previous Concluding Observations and recommendations (CRPD/C/CO/AZE/1, para. 23) and recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop a comprehensive accessibility plan in accordance with article 9 of the Convention, which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers, and promote universal design for all buildings;

(b) Enforce legislation concerning accessibility, including in the Urban Planning Construction Code, through sanctions for lack of compliance and expedite the adoption of the 'Rules for creating necessary living and working conditions for people with disabilities in designing of buildings and facilities' ensuring that it address all areas of accessibility;

(c) Ensure public and private budgetary allocations with the goal of purchasing low floor buses with accessibility equipment and of improving the necessary adaptation of taxis, metro and trains, servicing municipalities and rural areas across the country;

- (d) Provide stakeholders in the public and private sectors at the national, regional and municipal level, with periodic training on accessibility and universal design, and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and provision of that training;
- (e) Raise awareness about accessibility measures among the public and ensure implementation of the allocation of parking spaces for vehicles of persons with disabilities, including by developing specific signs, both on the ground and along the road;
- (f) Ensure that printed and electronic information and communication, as well as information and communication technologies and services that are provided or are open to the public, are fully accessible to persons with disabilities and provide Braille, Easy Read and professional sign language interpreters.

Bahrain (2024)¹

18. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of comprehensive accessibility standards and the inadequacy of the standards contained in the Guidance Manual for Construction in Urban Heritage Areas.
- (b) The absence of legal mechanisms and weak oversight mechanisms to ensure the application of the inclusive design standards contained in the guideline; (c) The lack of standards to ensure accessibility.
- (c) Lack of standards to ensure the accessibility of information, especially in websites and digital platforms.

19. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party should:

- (a) Include provisions in national legislation to ensure mandatory accessibility in public and private facilities.**
- (b) Develop comprehensive accessibility standards in close consultation and with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations.**
- (c) Provide accessibility in websites and digital platforms.**

Costa Rica (2024)

17. El Comité toma nota de las aclaraciones por escrito proporcionadas por el Estado parte al concluir el diálogo constructivo. Sin embargo, le preocupa:

- a) El mal estado de aceras, la inaccesibilidad en espacios públicos, particularmente en las sedes judiciales, la falta de adecuación de las unidades de transporte, en particular en las regiones Chorotega, Norte, Brunca, Atlántica, Pacífico Central y región Sur del país, y de los autobuses para estudiantes con discapacidad sin los estándares de accesibilidad;
- b) La falta de información sobre los avances en la elaboración de normas y la implementación de planes de accesibilidad al entorno físico, del transporte, la información y comunicación en todos los formatos accesibles, en consonancia con la Convención;
- c) La inexistencia de comisiones de accesibilidad en todos los municipios del Estado parte;
- d) Los retrasos en la implementación de la Ley N. 7600 con respecto a la garantía de accesibilidad plena en el transporte público;

18. Recordando su observación general núm. 2 (2014) y las metas 11.2 y 11.7 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

- a) Colocar los recursos financieros necesarios para la reparación inmediata de las aceras en mal estado, la incorporación de unidades de transporte accesibles, así como para asegurar la accesibilidad en todos los espacios públicos, en particular en las regiones Chorotega, Norte, Brunca, Atlántica, Pacífico Central y región Sur del país;**
- b) Asegurar la implementación de normas sobre accesibilidad al entorno físico y del transporte, así como de los planes de accesibilidad, con metas y plazos medibles, e imponer sanciones por incumplimiento;**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

- c) **Crear comisiones de accesibilidad en los municipios en los que aún no exista y garantizar que todas las comisiones incluyan personas con discapacidad;**
- d) **Establecer metas y plazos concretos para lograr la plena accesibilidad de los transportes públicos, incluso en áreas remotas y zonas rurales;**

Kazakhstan (2024)

19. The Committee appreciates the State party's information about requirements for universal design, accessibility standards in public transport, and the development of accessible housing. The Committee notes, however, with concern:

- (a) The narrow scope of accessibility requirements, emphasizing physical measures such as ramps, and the limited information about accessibility of schools, housing, medical facilities, shops, cultural and religious places, and other facilities open to the public, particularly at the community level and in rural areas;
- (b) The lack of a legally binding mechanisms to implement accessibility standards in buildings and on premises in the public and private sector;
- (c) The lack of unified standards on access to information for persons with disabilities, including information and communications technologies, and of standards rendering media and websites accessible.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Develop and implement legally binding standards on accessibility of the built environment, including commercial buildings and housing, of public transportation, and of information and communication, including electronic technologies, and establish processes grounded in law to implement them expeditiously and reliably, including on the community level and in rural areas. Include in the standards of information and communication electronic technologies, measures to provide live assistance and intermediaries, guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, Easy Read, Braille, captioning, augmentative means and modes of communication, and tactile communication;**
- (b) Provide training on accessibility requirements to all organizations and personnel tasked with implementing them, in the public and in the private sector;**
- (c) Provide effective remedies in case of noncompliance with accessibility requirements, including with regard to public and private actors, and ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of accessibility requirements.**

Nicaragua (2024)

16. El Comité nota con preocupación:

- a) La falta de una legislación específica sobre accesibilidad, los pocos avances en la "Norma Técnica Obligatoria Nicaragüense de Accesibilidad" y que esta no contenga acciones específicas para el acceso a la información y comunicación, así como la falta de asignación de recursos suficientes y la falta de supervisión y sanciones por incumplimiento;
- b) Que, al hablar de accesibilidad, el Estado parte menciona en su reporte solamente modificaciones arquitectónicas principalmente en instituciones de salud, reforzando con esto el enfoque médico hacia la discapacidad;
- c) La limitada accesibilidad física, a la información y la comunicación en el transporte, tanto urbano como rural;
- d) Que las personas sordas sigan contando con poco acceso a la información y a la comunicación.

17. Recordando su observación general núm. 2 (2014), relativa a la accesibilidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Promulgar, en estrecha consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, una ley nacional sobre accesibilidad al medio físico, a la información y comunicación, que**

cuenta con metas a corto, y mediano plazo, un presupuesto específico y mecanismos de seguimiento de su aplicación y sanciones efectivas ante su incumplimiento;

b) Asegurar el cumplimiento efectivo de la norma técnica de accesibilidad actualizada, NTON 12011-13, agregándole los aspectos de acceso a la comunicación e información, incluso a través del uso de herramientas tecnológicas, en todos los ámbitos, desde la educación hasta el acceso a servicios públicos y culturales;

c) Implementar de inmediato acciones para resolver la accesibilidad al transporte, tanto en el aspecto físico, como en la información y comunicación, en coordinación estrecha con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad;

d) Atender de manera urgente la accesibilidad a la comunicación y a la información de las personas sordas, incluso mediante el uso de contenido multimedia accesible, la inclusión de subtítulos y la interpretación en lengua de señas.

Sweden (2024)

21. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the legal provisions and rules on accessibility in all areas of life, including in public procurement, are not evenly enforced across the State party's territory, and about the lack of measures to mainstream universal design in all domains of life, including in public transport, buildings, facilities, public spaces, services, as well as physical, informational, communicative and digital access, in research and in new technology such as artificial intelligence;

(b) The lack of institutionalized mechanism for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of accessibility standards and the lack of complaint procedures against violations of such standards available for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

(c) About barriers faced by persons with disabilities with regard to digital accessibility and electronic identification.

22. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) and referring to the pledges in the coalition agreement of 2021, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that national, regional and municipal legislation provide for accessibility in all areas of life, including in public procurement, in accordance with article 9 of the Convention, that they are effectively and evenly enforced, and promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines;

(b) Establish institutionalized mechanisms for close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their organizations in the processes for the development of accessibility standards, as well as complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to lodge complaints in cases of violation of their right to accessibility;

(c) Ensure digital accessibility and electronic identification for persons with disabilities.

Zambia (2024)

17. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities face barriers to access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in particular in rural areas. It is also concerned at the lack of measures taken to implement the relevant national legislation on accessibility standards, as well as the lack of sufficient budgetary allocations and the lack of mandatory accessibility criteria in public procurement at all levels.

18. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to Sustainable Development Goals 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

(a) Adopt and implement an action plan and strategy to identify existing barriers to accessibility in the private and public sectors and provide the human, technical and financial

resources necessary to remove those barriers to ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Ensure full participation, consultation and involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the development and implementation of accessibility standards and regulations, strengthen the implementation of the existing national legislation on accessibility, and the standards adopted by the Bureau of Standards and consider carrying out accessibility needs assessment of existing infrastructure with a time-bound plan to make them accessible;

(c) Take the necessary legislative and policy measures in the public and private sectors, such as the development of public procurement criteria, to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including regarding information and communications technologies and systems, and ensure effective sanctions measures for non-compliance.

Andorra (2023)

19. The Committee notes the amendments of the Accessibility Act of 1995 to improve standards. However, it is concerned about:

(a) The delay in updating the current Accessibility Act and the absence of a comprehensive national strategy covering physical accessibility, information, transportation and communication accessibility, and facilities and services open or provided to the public;

(b) The limited capacity of the Commission for the Promotion of Accessibility and the insufficient monitoring of accessibility regulations, in particular, concerning transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Expedite the preparation and approval of the new Accessibility Act in conformity with the Convention, and adopt a national strategy and accessibility plan to facilitate access for all persons with disabilities to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology and systems and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, with time frames and benchmarks, and sufficient resources for their implementation;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of the Commission for the Promotion of Accessibility and establish a monitoring, reporting and evaluation system that evaluates the implementation of the national accessibility standards and universal design, ensuring redress and sanctions in cases of non-compliance.

Austria (2023)

26. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The State party's narrow implementation of the European Accessibility Act, omitting important areas such as health services, educational goods and services, household appliances, the built environment, and the corresponding widespread inaccessibility of services by public and private entities, including services listed in article 2 European Accessibility Act;

(b) The regression in the standards for accessible construction of housing, compounding the already substantial obstacles for guaranteeing independent living;

(c) The lack of binding timeframes for rendering public transport by coach and bus accessible.

27. Recalling its General Comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact legislation and set standards for the accessibility of services, goods and infrastructure not covered by the European Accessibility Act, and implement them, including by allocating sufficient budgets;**
- (b) Substantially improve accessibility requirements for housing, as set by ÖNORM B 1600, and refrain from following guidelines issued by the “Österreichisches Institut für Bautechnik (OIB)” lowering the standards of ÖNORM B 1600;**
- (c) Set standards, binding time frames for rendering public transport not covered by European standards accessible and allocate sufficient budgets.**

Germany (2023)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The narrow implementation of the European Accessibility Act, confined to the mandatory obligations, omitting important areas such as health services, educational goods and services, household appliances, the built environment, and the corresponding widespread inaccessibility of services rendered by public and private entities, including services listed in article 2 of the Act;**
- (b) The insufficient quantity of affordable accessible housing in the State party and often inadequate building standards set by the Länder;**
- (c) The widespread lack of accessibility of public transport;**
- (d) The lack of institutionalized mechanisms for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of accessibility standards.**

20. Recalling general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and referring to the pledges in the Coalition Agreement of 2021, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend its legislation, at the Federal and Länder levels, to render all services by public and private entities provided to the public accessible, and intensify the implementation of existing provisions on accessibility;**
- (b) Expand and strengthen legal requirements of accessible housing for public and private use, for new and existing buildings, permitting the building of new inaccessible housing only in narrowly defined exceptional circumstances, setting legally binding time-bound goals to be achieved for buildings owned or used by public entities, and incorporate existing accessibility standards such as DIN 18040-3 into law.**
- (c) Enact and implement legal requirements guaranteeing the autonomous use of public transport by persons with disabilities, particularly with the following measures:**
 - (i) Implement the forthcoming revised Regulation (EU) No. 1300/2014 (TSI-PRM) expeditiously and with a clear plan and timeframe, and, should the forthcoming revised regulation not guarantee autonomous access to stations and rail services, enact and implement national requirements to this end;**
 - (ii) Enact and implement specific indicators, targets and monitoring mechanisms for the forthcoming revised Regulation (EU) 1315/2013 (TEN-T), ensuring autonomous accessibility of the respective new infrastructure;**
 - (iii) Implement the existing requirements for accessibility of commuter rail services, bus, coach and trolley bus services, cable car services, and passenger navigation services expeditiously and with a clear plan; enact and implement requirements for the autonomous use of public transport in these areas;**
 - (iv) Should the forthcoming revised Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2006 (PRM-Regulation) on air travel not cover the following guarantees, enact and implement provisions prohibiting the denial of boarding because of a disability and the requirement of an accompanying person, and guarantee full compensation for damaged or lost mobility equipment or assistance animals;**
- (d) Establish institutionalized mechanisms for close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their organizations in the processes for the development of accessibility standards.**

Israel (2023)

19. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The delayed process of adopting accessibility provisions and the impact on access to transportation, public housing, university campuses, schools, broadcast services;
- (b) The legal exceptions to accessibility on the basis of undue burden, financial capacity, historical or ecological considerations, and the number of persons served by services open to the public as described in the State party report (CRPD/C/ISR/1, para. 19);
- (c) The limited measures to ensure accessibility of information, including information and communication technologies;
- (d) The lack of resources and support provided to local authorities in Arab communities to be able to comply with accessibility requirements.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt a national accessibility plan based on the principle of universal design with the aim of eliminating accessibility barriers in all areas, including in transportation, roads, sidewalks, public housing, university campuses, schools, broadcast services and information and communication technologies and within reasonable time frames;**
- (b) Review and update regulations and standards that pre-date the Convention and consider the withdrawal of Section 19M of the Equal Rights Law concerning exceptions for compliance with accessibility standards in buildings and services open to the public;**
- (c) Require public and private service providers to provide accessible printed and electronic information and communication, in line with international standards and adopt measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have affordable access to accessible information and communication technologies;**
- (d) Prepare an assessment of accessibility requirements across local municipalities, including Arab communities and allocate human, technical and financial resources necessary to ensure accessibility across all municipalities.**

Malawi (2023)

7. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That the review of several pieces of legislation and policies, in particular the Disability Act (Cap 33:06) and repeal of the Handicapped Persons Act of 1971 leading to a new piece of comprehensive legislation is yet to be completed, and that changes introduced to the almost enacted bill have been made without consulting or involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;
- (b) That women and girls with disabilities were not explicitly mentioned in the Disability Act of 2012 and that the almost enacted Persons with Disabilities Bill of 2023 continues this omission;
- (c) The delay and lack of priority of disability-related policies and programmes to implement the Convention;
- (d) Discriminatory language and portrayal of persons with disabilities, including derogatory terminology in laws, among public authorities, and in the media.

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Complete as expeditiously as possible its review of the Disability Act enacted in 2012 and repeal of the Handicapped Persons Act of 1971 and ensure that the new piece of legislation, and legislation in all areas of law, including family relations, mental health, property and personal security are brought into line with the Convention and the human rights model of disability;**
- (b) Ensure involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities throughout the process of enacting the new disability Bill and ensure that proposals made by persons with disabilities are appropriately considered and addressed at all stages of the process;**

(c)Ensure that the new legislation being developed to replace the Disability Act of 2012 recognizes the rights of women and girls with disabilities, and incorporates measures to address marginalization and discrimination against them. The State party should address proposals submitted by women with disabilities through their representative organizations in their position paper presented to the Ministry of Justice;

(d)Provide information to organizations of persons with disabilities concerning fund allocation for the Disability Trust fund, ensure appropriate financial resources to it, and set up criteria for distribution of resources encompassing all persons with disabilities regardless of type of impairment. The State party should gather disaggregated information about budget allocations, and ensure periodic and accessible accountability procedures;

(e)Review and amend legislation and public policies with the aim to withdraw derogatory terminology concerning persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism, and ensure that training for public officials includes modules on women and girls with disabilities, gender equality, and persons with disabilities in marginalized situations.

9.The Committee observes with concern:

(a)The lack of periodic consultations with persons with disabilities at the National Advisory and Coordinating Committee on Disability Issues, and the underrepresentation of organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and women with disabilities in consultative processes, particularly in discussion of sectorial strategies and programmes;

(b)That organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities lack financial resources to conduct advocacy and participate in public consultations.

10.Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, and in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Adopt a national legislative framework for close consultations with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensuring mechanisms for the participation of organizations of women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and children with disabilities in the implementation, enforcement and funding of programmes aimed at supporting the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b)Support organizations of persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with psychosocial disabilities, including by providing independent and self-managed funding and encourage their access to foreign funding as part of international cooperation and development aid and cover expenses for participation in consultations.

Mauritania (2023)

17.The Committee notes with concern:

(a)That persons with disabilities face barriers to access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in particular in rural areas;

(b)The insufficient services provided by the sign language interpreter system, and the limited availability of speech-to-text technologies.

18.Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and target 11.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, as well as target 11.7 to provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promote active participation and close consultation and dialogue with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in assessing and enforcing the implementation of accessibility laws, such as Decree No. 1467 (2006) and Decree No. 169 (2017), and the technical standards adopted, and impose sanctions for non-compliance;**
- (b) Promote awareness-raising and training for professionals in the construction sectors about the accessibility barriers faced by persons with disabilities and the adequate measures to remove them;**
- (c) Establish accessibility standards for information and communication media and technologies, as well as websites, in line with universal standards and include digital accessibility in the various accessibility and digital transformation action plans;**
- (d) Review the public procurement of transport facilities and ensure that the specifications include accessibility criteria;**
- (e) Carry out regular national accessibility studies and surveys, in close consultation with and with the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, to assess the situation of accessibility, including by identifying gaps and making recommendations to overcome them.**

Mongolia (2023)

5. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) The Constitution of Mongolia does not contain a provision of discrimination on the ground of disability, and that disability-related legislation and policies have not yet been fully brought in line with the Convention;**
- (b) The medical model of disability is still prevalent in the State party, in its legislation, regulations and practices, which has a negative impact by preventing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and limiting their access to appropriate services and support;**
- (c) The lack of awareness among policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, about the rights recognized in the Convention.**

6. The Committee recommend the State Party:

- (a) Amend its Constitution in order to include a provision of discrimination on the ground of disability in line with Convention, and harmonize all national legislation and policies with the Convention, recognizing persons with disabilities as rights holders on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in particular women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities;**
- (b) Review all national legislation and policies and harmonize them with the Convention, including by transposing into domestic law the human rights model of disability and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities and the provision of the necessary support and assistance to promote the independent living of persons with disabilities and their full social inclusion;**
- (c) With the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, provide capacity-building programmes for public policymakers, judges, prosecutors, teachers, and medical, health and other professionals working with persons with disabilities, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the obligations of the State party under the Convention.**

7. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About a lack of appropriate measures to ensure an effective coordination and operation of the National Council for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at all levels, and the General Authority for Development of Persons with Disabilities;**
- (b) The lack of budget allocation and the insufficient cross sectoral collaboration and measures taken to implement the National program on Rights, Participation and Development for Persons with Disabilities (2018-2022).**

8. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Take necessary mechanisms to ensure an effective function, coordination and operation of the National Council for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at all levels, including the national and local branch councils, and the General Authority for Development of Persons with Disabilities, in harmonizing the national legislations with the Convention and to ensure inter-sectoral synergy, promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities and increase the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in particular women with disabilities, in the decision-making;
(b)Adopt the necessary measures to increase budget allocation and ensure an effective cross sectoral collaboration to implement the National program on Rights, participation and development for Persons with Disabilities (2018-2022) and ensure monitoring of its implementation, and extend the National Programme beyond 2022.

9.The Committee is concerned about the insufficient participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, in decision-making processes concerning disability-related laws, policies and programmes.

10.The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party strengthen and implement mechanisms for the effective involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in public decision-making processes, and ensure close consultation participation and that meaningful participation consultations are held with the whole range of organizations of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, intersex persons with disabilities, women with disabilities, refugees and migrants with disabilities, autistic persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities requiring higher levels of support.

Paraguay (2023)

19.El Comité nota con preocupación:

a)Los pocos avances en la Ley No. 4934/13 sobre accesibilidad, incluyendo a la información y comunicación, en la implementación del Plan Estratégico 2016-2018 creado por el Consejo Consultivo y de las Normas Paraguayas de Accesibilidad al medio físico, así como la falta de asignación de recursos suficientes, la falta de supervisión y sanciones por incumplimiento;
b)Que los municipios no hayan integrado las normativas de accesibilidad a su cuerpo de legislación municipal, incumpliendo la Ley No. 4934/13 y la falta de información sobre las visitas de los evaluadores y certificadores;
c)El incumplimiento de la Resolución N.º 62/14 que obliga a la incorporación de al menos 15% de autobuses accesibles en la flotilla y que dicha resolución es sólo válida para las empresas que operan en la capital y el área metropolitana; además preocupa que los choferes no cumplen con la obligación de asistir a los usuarios con discapacidad y no son sancionados por incumplimiento.

20.Recordando sus anteriores observaciones finales (CRPD/C/PRY/CO/1, párrafo 24), y su observación general núm. 2 (2014), relativa a la accesibilidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a)Actualizar el Plan Estratégico 2016-2018 para extenderlo a la fecha actual y para que abarque todas las jurisdicciones, con indicadores, recursos, mecanismos de evaluación, seguimiento y sanción, en consulta estrecha y con la participación activa de las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan;
b)Garantizar que los municipios armonicen su legislación con la Ley N.º 4934/13 llevando la capacitación y la Guía de Accesibilidad Física a través de un Decreto del Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas que limite los recursos a aquellos municipios que no pidan el certificado de normalización antes y después de una construcción;

c)Asegurar que se cumpla y se expanda la Resolución N.º 62/14 para la incorporación de más buses accesibles en todo el territorio y facilitar programas de capacitación a los choferes y supervisión para que apoyen a los usuarios con discapacidad y establecer supervisiones frecuentes para sancionar el incumplimiento.

Angola (2023)

15.The Committee notes with concern:

- (a)The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy covering physical accessibility, information and communication accessibility, and digital access;
- (b)That despite the enactment of the Accessibility Law in 2016, its level of implementation remains low;
- (c)The lack of access, at an affordable cost, to information and communication technologies for persons with disabilities;
- (d)The barriers in the digital work environment preventing access for persons with disabilities to information and communication, including on government websites, in particular for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

16.The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

- (a)Adopt a national accessibility strategy that is in line with the Convention and strengthen its mechanisms for monitoring accessibility at the municipal and rural areas;**
- (b)Ensure the effective implementation of the Accessibility Law and ensure that educational, health and paramedical institutions, as well as other buildings in urban and rural areas comply with accessibility standards;**
- (c)Ensure universal access to digital technology for all persons with disabilities, in particular for persons who are blind or visually impaired, both in educational facilities and at home;**
- (d)Ensure greater access to information and communication for persons with disabilities in both the public and private sectors, including greater access to information on government websites.**

Argentina (2023)

19.El Comité toma nota de las medidas adoptadas para mejorar la accesibilidad a la información y a las comunicaciones, los entornos y las páginas web. No obstante, le preocupa:

- a)Los pocos avances para garantizar la accesibilidad en áreas fundamentales como la educación, la salud, el acceso a la justicia y el transporte público, así como las brechas en materia normativa y de implementación de medidas de accesibilidad entre la Ciudad de Buenos Aires y las demás jurisdicciones, incluyendo las áreas rurales;
- b)La falta de accesibilidad del sistema de gestión de documentación electrónica y de la plataforma de trámites a distancia para personas con discapacidad visual, así como de la aplicación móvil Mi Argentina para personas con discapacidad visual y personas con discapacidad intelectual;
- c)El Código de Edificación de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (2021) habilita la construcción de viviendas de menores dimensiones sin considerar los requerimientos de las personas con discapacidad;
- d)El limitado alcance de la formación de arquitectos, diseñadores e ingenieros en relación con las normas de accesibilidad y el diseño universal.

20.Recordando su observación general núm. 2 (2014), relativa a la accesibilidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a)Poner en marcha un plan nacional de accesibilidad, que abarque todas las jurisdicciones, con indicadores, recursos y mecanismos de evaluación, seguimiento y sanción, en estrecha consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, para armonizar las normas de diseño universal y garantizar la accesibilidad, entre otros, de los edificios, el transporte,**

la información y la comunicación, así como otras instalaciones y servicios abiertos al público o de uso público;

b)Garantizar la plena accesibilidad del sistema de gestión de documentación electrónica, de la plataforma de trámites a distancia, y de la aplicación móvil Mi Argentina, y sancionar el incumplimiento de la Ley 26.653 de accesibilidad de la información de las páginas web;

c)Asegurar que el Código de Edificación de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires establezca dimensiones adecuadas para las viviendas, considerando los requerimientos de las personas con discapacidad;

d)Facilitar programas de capacitación sobre el diseño universal y las normas de accesibilidad para profesionales en arquitectura, diseño e ingeniería.

Georgia (2023)

19.The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The absence of comprehensive national legislation about accessibility and of a national accessibility plan encompassing all areas of life;

(b) Accessibility barriers to the physical environment including to kindergartens, health care premises, court buildings, bank offices, notary bureaus and public transport, including inter-municipality transport;

(c) A lack of monitoring of accessibility regulations, particularly concerning the Technical Regulations –National Accessibility Standards;

(d) An absence of strategies and public investments to address accessibility barriers concerning information and communication, including communication technologies and systems.

20. **With reference to the Committee’s general comment on article 9 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:**

(a) **Draft and enact legislation on accessibility, including the draft Law on Web and Mobile Application Accessibility, and a national strategy and accessibility plan to implement accessibility requirements in all areas of life, with timeframes and benchmarks based on best international practices, and provide for sufficient funding for their implementation;**

(b) **Increase annual funding for accessibility projects to improve accessibility of public spaces, including outdoor areas, and new and existing buildings, especially those used for educational, health, administrative, and cultural purposes;**

(c) **Conduct a national assessment about all areas of accessibility encompassed by the Convention, providing for short and long-term measures to be taken by public and private stakeholders;**

(d) **Establish a monitoring, reporting and evaluation system that comprehensively evaluates the implementation of the National Accessibility Standards and its related projects, ensuring redress and sanctions for non-compliance;**

(e) **Ensure human, technical and financial resources, to provide for sign language interpretation, subtitles, captioning, audio description, Braille, Easy Read in all spheres of life.**

Peru (2023)

18.El Comité nota con preocupación que:

a)El actual marco jurídico del Estado parte sobre la accesibilidad para las personas con discapacidad no contiene normas jurídicas vinculantes que aborden todos los ámbitos contemplados en la Convención, como el transporte, incluidos los respectivos procesos, procedimientos de denuncia y mecanismos de evaluación, en consulta con las personas con discapacidad, incluidas las de baja prevalencia como las personas de talla baja, y sus organizaciones;

b)El transporte público no sea totalmente accesible, incluidas las estaciones de abordaje para las personas con discapacidad, situación que se agrava fuera de la ciudad de Lima, y que los

objetivos para hacer accesible el transporte público no garantizan el acceso de las personas con discapacidad en igualdad de condiciones con las demás;

c) Los gobiernos regionales y locales no utilizan el 0,5% de su presupuesto asignado a la accesibilidad.

19. Recordando su observación general núm. 2 (2014) relativa a la accesibilidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

a) Promulgue legislación vinculante para garantizar la accesibilidad en todos los ámbitos contemplados en el artículo 9 de la Convención y garantice la aplicación directa de dichas leyes en todos los niveles de gobierno. Además, que establezca competencias y procedimientos para aplicar las leyes de accesibilidad, instituir mecanismos de denuncia y supervisión, y definir recursos eficaces en caso de incumplimiento, así como mecanismos de consulta permanente con organizaciones y personas con discapacidad, incluidas las de baja prevalencia, como las personas de talla baja, para garantizar el Diseño Universal;

b) Adopte medidas concretas para garantizar que todos los proyectos de infraestructura de transporte y las licitaciones para la asignación de rutas de transporte público incluyan requisitos de accesibilidad, y para aumentar el número de flotas de transporte público y estaciones de embarque accesibles para las personas con discapacidad. Así mismo, que garantice que toda nueva infraestructura, incluyendo la nueva línea del metro de Lima, sea diseñada bajo el principio de Diseño Universal;

c) Cree mecanismos, incluyendo de apoyo técnico, para garantizar que los gobiernos regionales y municipales utilicen el presupuesto asignado a la mejora de la accesibilidad.

Togo (2023)

17. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That persons with disabilities face barriers to access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in particular in rural areas;

(b) The lack of measures taken to implement the relevant national legislation on accessibility standards;

(c) The ineffectiveness of policies regarding accessibility in public administration, the lack of sufficient budgetary allocations and the lack of mandatory accessibility criteria in public procurement at all levels.

18. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to Sustainable Development Goals 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

(a) Adopt and implement an action plan and strategy to identify existing barriers to accessibility in the private and public sectors and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove those barriers to ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Implement the existing national legislation on accessibility, in particular the Interministerial Order No. 1728/MUHCV/MSPC/MATDCL of 21 December 2017 on accessibility standards for buildings for persons with reduced mobility;

(c) Take the necessary legislative and policy measures in the public and private sectors, such as the development of public procurement criteria, to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including regarding information and communications technologies and systems, and ensure effective sanctions measures for non-compliance.

Tunisia (2023)

15. The Committee is concerned that the majority of public buildings do not meet the national accessibility standards of the State party, as set out in the normative specifications of the annex to Decree 2006 - No. 1467. It is also concerned that access to information for persons with hearing and visual disabilities as well as intellectual disabilities has been described as inadequate by these groups. websites of the majority of public and private institutions are not accessible and do not meet digital accessibility standards. Although public transport is free or at reduced rates for people with disabilities, it is not accessible for all types of disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that no statistics or studies on accessibility to assess and monitor the situation of accessibility have been carried out.

16. The Committee, recalling its General Comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and SDG's Goal 11.2 on providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all as well as 11.7 on provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities recommends that the State party:

- (a) Put in place strong measures to ensure the enforcement of the provisions of accessibility laws, in particular the Decree 2006 - No. 1467, and impose sanctions for non-compliance;**
- (b) Promote awareness-raising and training for the professional in the construction sectors about the accessibility barriers faced by persons with disabilities and the adequate measures to remove them;**
- (c) Promote active participation and close consultation and dialogue with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in assessing the implementation of accessibility laws such as Decree 2006 - No. 1467 and the technical standards adopted;**
- (d) Establish accessibility standards for information and communication media and technologies as well as websites in line with universal standards and include digital accessibility in the various accessibility and digital transformation action plans;**
- (e) Review public procurement of transport facilities and ensure that the specifications include accessibility criteria;**
- (f) Carry out regular national accessibility studies and surveys in close consultation and active participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations to assess the situation of accessibility, including by identifying gaps and making recommendations to overcome them.**

Bangladesh (2022)

19. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a concrete implementation strategy to further the guidelines adopted on accessibility to public buildings, the physical environment and information and communication technologies and systems, public and private websites and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, including lack of guidelines in the transportation sector, particularly in the rural areas, and especially for refugees;
- (b) The lack of inclusion of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of accessibility standards in relation to the built environment, transportation, information and communications technologies and systems, and other facilities and services open to the public.

20. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and Goals 9 and 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop and implement a national strategy for accessibility, to facilitate access for persons with disabilities to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology and systems, and other facilities and services, open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas, including for refugees;**
- (b) Ensure effective implementation of existing policies and rules, particularly the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2013, and develop a monitoring mechanism to measure**

progress, with the full and effective participation and consultation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities.

China (2022)

22. The Committee notes that the State is preparing the adoption of a Law on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments. It is concerned that organizations of persons with disabilities have not been sufficiently involved in developing a comprehensive accessibility strategy to embed universal design standards across all domains including public transport, buildings and facilities, new and existing housing, public spaces, services, construction, information, communication, and digital access, as well as to the natural environment, including green spaces open to the public, in all rural and urban areas.

23. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Seek to consult persons with various impairments and their representative organizations before adopting the Law on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments, with a view to establish inclusive legally binding accessibility standards;**
- (b) Ensure that the Law on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments incorporates and is based on the principle of universal design, as required by the Convention (art. 4, para. 1 (f));**
- (c) Seek to involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the evaluating of accessibility of roads, public buildings, public transport facilities, residential buildings and residential areas throughout the country, in accordance with the Regulations on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments (2012).**

Indonesia (2022)

18. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of comprehensive national accessibility legislation and strategy across all levels of government, includes accessibility standards, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms and that covers all areas, including the physical and built environment, housing, transportation, information and communications technology;**
- (b) The lack of implementation of Regulation 42/2020 concerning Accessibility to Settlements, Public Services, and Protection from Disasters for Persons with Disabilities;**
- (c) The use for public information of the SIBI sign language, which is not well understood by the Deaf community, many of whom prefer and use BISINDO.**

19. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt comprehensive national accessibility legislation and strategy across all levels of government that includes accessibility standards, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in all areas, including the physical and built environment, housing, transportation, information and communications technology, and facilities and services open to the public, with necessary budget allocations;**
- (b) Ensure the effective implementation of regulation 42/2020 on Accessibility to Settlements, Public Services, and Protection from Disasters for Persons with Disabilities.**
- (c) Closely consult and actively involve the Indonesian Deaf community to strengthen the accessibility of public information through the use of preferred sign languages, including BISINDO.**

Japan (2022)

21. The Committee notes with concern the:

- (a) Limited strategies to harmonize accessibility obligations at all levels to embed universal design standards and to encompass all domains;**
- (b) Little progress in ensuring the accessibility to information and the accessibility of schools, public transportation, apartments, and small-scale shops, in particular, outside major cities;**

(c) Insufficient awareness-raising and training for architects, designers, and engineers concerning accessibility standards and the universal design under the Convention.

22. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement an action plan and accessibility strategy, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to harmonize accessibility across all levels of government, to embed universal design standards, and ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communication, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, including those outside major cities;

(b) Enhance continuous capacity-building programmes on universal design and accessibility standards for architects, designers, engineers, and programmers.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

16. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Persons with disabilities face barriers to access to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in particular, in rural areas;

(b) The relevant legislation does not include clear accessibility standards, the reference to the universal design and sanctions for non-compliance;

(c) The Lao sign language is yet to be officially recognized, which limits social interactions for persons who are deaf.

17. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and the Sustainable Development Goal 11, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement an action plan and strategy to identify existing barriers to accessibility and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove those barriers to ensure the accessibility of, inter alia, buildings, transportation, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Revise relevant legislation, particularly the Law No.05 on Construction, the Law No.24 on Land Transportation, and the Law No.01 on Media to establish and mainstream accessibility standards and the universal design, a system of sanctions for non-compliance, and complaints mechanisms for persons with disabilities;

(c) Officially recognize Lao sign language and develop training programmes and employment incentives to strengthen interpreter and trainer capacity.

New Zealand (2022)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The slow progress in implementing the Building Act 2004, which prolongs inaccessibility to public buildings and the progressive upgrade of existing buildings;

(b) Continued barriers experienced by persons with disabilities in accessing the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems;

(c) The lack of affordable and accessible housing and the modest target of 15% accessibility for new build public housing;

(d) Reports from organisations of persons with disabilities that the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill, currently before Parliament does not contain enforcement mechanisms, may not cover private entities or local government, lacks standard-setting and decision-making bodies, and lacks obligations to make tangible changes within fixed time frames.

16. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite implementation of the Building Act 2004 and commit to targets and timeframes for implementation measures;

- (b) Adopt and implement an accessibility strategy underpinned by the principle of universal design to eliminate existing access barriers, in close consultation with and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups, such as persons of small stature;**
- (c) Adopt the principle of universal design and commit to a target of 100% accessibility for new build public housing and introduce mandatory accessibility requirements for new housing constructed by the private sector;**
- (d) Establish a co-design and co-production process with organisations of persons with disabilities to address concerns about the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill, following release of the Select Committee's report.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

19. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That despite the recent amendment to the Act on the Guarantee of Convenience Promotion of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, Pregnant Women and Nursing Mothers, there are still some exemptions related to the size of buildings and year of construction, which continues to prevent full accessibility of public buildings;**
- (b) The lack of comprehensive and effective measures to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including the lack of information and communication technologies and systems;**
- (c) That the amendment of the Act on Promotion of the Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons to improve special needs of transportation in January 2022 excludes inter-city buses, express buses and wide-area buses and the insufficient provision of information, including bus number and route as well as on-board guidance, impeding the use of buses by persons with visual and hearing disabilities;**
- (d) The barriers in the digital work environment that prevent access for persons with disabilities to information and communication, as the obligation to guarantee accessibility is limited to national and public institutions.**

20. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to Sustainable Development Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the national legislation to include mandatory rules in ensuring accessibility of all buildings and structures, regardless of their size, capacity and date of construction;**
- (b) Adopt a national accessibility strategy that includes all areas described in the Convention, and strengthen its mechanisms for monitoring accessibility at the municipal level, including by establishing a system of sanctions for non-compliance;**
- (c) Increase the number of wheelchair-accessible buses in the public transportation system, in particular with regard to inter-city buses, express buses and wide-area buses, and ensure information including bus numbers and routes as well as on-board guidance are in accessible formats; improve the environment and public space to make them safe and accessible for persons with different disabilities;**
- (d) Ensure universal access to digital technology for all persons with disabilities, in particular for persons with visual impairments, both in educational facilities and at home, in public and private websites and mobile applications.**

Singapore (2022)

17. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of comprehensive and effective measures, including legislation, to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including the lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy covering all areas, in particular physical access, access to public transportation, accessible information and communications technologies, and other access to information technologies;**
- (b) The insufficient services provided by the Sign Language Interpreter system, and the limited availability of speech to text technologies.**

18. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national accessibility strategy, with concrete timeframes, that includes all areas covered by the Convention, including public transportation, and among others, the use of guide dogs and other service animals, and ensure the allocation of sufficient resources, and mechanisms for monitoring and redress;

(b) Adopt legislation, regulations, policies and programmes to ensure accessibility and affordability of Sign Language Interpreting services, speech to text technologies and other information technologies.

Hungary (2022)

18. The Committee notes with concern the lack of:

(a) A comprehensive strategy at the national level for developing accessible built environments, public services, public transportation, information and communication in the State party, particularly in rural areas and small towns;

(b) Progress in implementing the accessibility of built environments, public services, including automated teller machines (ATMs) for persons with visual impairment, public transportation, information and communication for persons with disabilities and the removal of accessibility deadlines by amending the Act on Passenger Transport services in 2013.

19. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive national strategy and implementation plan with clear time frames and adequate budget allocations for developing accessibility for built environments, public services, public transportation, information and communication in the State party to ensure the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities across the State party;

(b) Review its regulation in the areas of built environments, public services, public transportation, information and communication, including the regulations on public procurement, and establish mandatory requirements and timelines for ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities, enforcement of such regulations, penalties for non-compliance and mechanisms for independent monitoring of the implementation of accessibility;

(c) Ensure that accessibility standards take into consideration Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 standard for all public websites;

(d) Complete the process of transposing Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services and the European Electronic Communications Code (Directive (EU) 2018/1972) into national legislation and regulations.

Jamaica (2022)

18. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy covering all areas, in particular physical access, accessible information and communications technology, and other digital access;

(b) That despite the enactment of the Building Act, 2018, in January 2019, the level of its implementation is low, and that many educational, health and paramedical institutions constructed prior to 2019 are not compliant with the Building Code;

(c) That persons with disabilities in rural areas face greater obstacles in gaining access to public transportation and built environments, as there are only a few operational wheelchair-accessible buses, which operate only in the capital and in the immediate environment within specified hours, and that there are open manholes, broken bridges and excavations left unprotected, which result in individual accidents to persons with physical and visual disabilities;

(d) The barriers in the digital work environment that prevent access for persons with disabilities to information and communication, including on government websites, in particular for persons with vision impairments.

19. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national accessibility strategy that includes all areas described in the Convention, and strengthen its mechanisms for monitoring accessibility at the municipal level, including by establishing a system of sanctions for non-compliance;

(b) Ensure the effective implementation of the Building Act, 2018, and bring educational, health and paramedical institutions, as well as other buildings in urban and rural areas, into line with accessibility standards;

(c) Increase the number of wheelchair-accessible buses in the public transportation system and extend these services to long-distance and rural areas' transportation needs, and improve the environment and public space in urban and rural areas to make them safe and accessible for persons with different disabilities;

(d) Ensure universal access to digital technology for all persons with disabilities, in particular for persons with visual impairments, both in educational facilities and at home.

Mexico (2022)

27. The Committee notes with concern that the State party's current legal framework on accessibility for persons with disabilities does not contain binding legal rules addressing all areas covered by article 9 of the Convention, including the respective processes, complaints procedures and evaluation mechanisms.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the existing General Law for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities on its compatibility with the Convention and on its application in practice;

(b) Enact binding laws guaranteeing accessibility in all areas covered by article 9 of the Convention, in keeping with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, ensuring direct application of such laws at all levels of government;

(c) Establish competences and procedures to implement accessibility laws, institute complaints and monitoring mechanisms, and define effective remedies in situations of non-compliance;

(d) Revise the existing national accessibility plan in light of the new laws on accessibility, and render it applicable to the physical environment, transport, information and communications, including information and communications systems and technologies, and other services and facilities open or provided to the public, in particular for persons with disabilities living in remote, rural and indigenous communities.

Switzerland (2022)

19. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy to harmonize accessibility obligations at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels, to embed universal design standards and to encompass all domains, including public transport, buildings, facilities, public spaces, services, and physical, information, communications and digital access, and including at the design and construction phases;

(b) The narrow scope of the Disability Discrimination Act, which sets a lower standard than that required under Convention obligations and which does not cover facilities and services provided to the public by private entities;

(c) That the increased application of European Union standards has established less stringent requirements for accessibility than those under the Convention, reducing the capacity of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities to advocate the higher standard required under Convention obligations.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt an accessibility strategy, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to harmonize accessibility across all levels of government, to embed universal design standards and to ensure access to all domains;**
- (b) Amend the Disability Discrimination Act to extend its scope to cover all buildings irrespective of the need for renovation, all residential buildings regardless of the number of residential units, and all facilities and services that are open or provided to the public by private entities;**
- (c) Address the inconsistency between European Union accessibility standards, Swiss legislation on the equality of persons with disabilities and the State party's obligations under the Convention.**

Venezuela (2022)

16. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive plan to ensure the accessibility of the physical environment, information, communications and transport;
- (b) The lack of information on compliance with the regulations for the protection of the rights of users of telecommunications services, which imposes a duty on telecommunications service operators to make available terminal equipment suited to the needs of persons with different types of disabilities;
- (c) The lack of data on the interpretation services provided by the National Accessible Communication Service to persons who are hard of hearing and deaf persons in public and private institutions;
- (d) The lack of physical accessibility and accessible communications and information, and the lack of trained staff at hospitals to provide care during the pandemic.

17. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and bearing in mind Sustainable Development Goal 11, the Committee recommends that the State party, in coordination with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Develop a policy and comprehensive, broad-based plan for ensuring the accessibility of the physical environment, including public transport services in cities and provinces;**
- (b) Ensure the accessibility of the physical environment, information and communications in facilities open to the public, with pamphlets being provided in accessible modes and means of communication such as Braille and other alternative modes and means;**
- (c) Monitor compliance with the regulations for the protection of the rights of users of telecommunications services and gather statistics on persons with disabilities who use those services;**
- (d) Monitor public services, such as health-care and judicial services, where interpretation in Venezuelan sign language is provided and introduce a registration system with disaggregated data on the number of sign language interpreters available, with the aim of ensuring the accessibility of information and public services;**
- (e) Collect and publish data on how persons with disabilities coped with the pandemic in terms of accessibility of the physical environment, information and communications.**

Djibouti (2021)

15. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of regulations on accessibility standards and compliance mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions on accessibility under Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018), including complaint mechanisms available for persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy covering all areas, such as information and communications technology, to the physical environment, and public transport, including in rural areas, particularly for deaf persons, persons who are deafblind, persons with visual

impairment, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and persons with other sensory impairments.

16. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 2 (2014) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legislative measures to set up accessibility standards, to establish a system of sanctions for non-compliance, and complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt a national accessibility strategy that includes all areas described in the Convention, while paying particular attention to accessibility in rural areas and for deaf persons, persons who are deafblind, persons with visual impairment, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with other sensory impairments.**

France (2021)

19. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Legislation reducing thresholds concerning accessibility requirements of apartments in new housing facilities, and disparities in implementing accessibility requirements across regions in the State party;
- (b) The limited implementation of accessibility and universal design in public services hindering participation in the community of persons with disabilities, with particular impacts on autistic persons, persons with sensory impairments, with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) The delay in implementing plans on accessibility standards including the Programmed Accessibility Agenda, accessibility in public transportation, information and communications, and in facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- (d) Limited measures to facilitate movement and orientation in all facilities open to the public;
- (e) Barriers in the digital work environment preventing access for persons with disabilities to information and communication, including on government websites, and in relation to software.

20. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal provisions of the Law 2008-1021 of 23 November 2018 reducing the threshold of accessibility requirements for new housing and adopt a strategy, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to ensure that accessibility standards for housing and accommodation are progressively enhanced with the aim of full accessibility;**
- (b) Adopt accessibility strategies, and raise awareness about the concept of universal design for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Reinforce mechanisms to make public transportation accessible to persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Ensure that accessibility plans include measures to provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in Easy Read as well as forms of live assistance and intermediaries, silent hours in public spaces, and others;**
- (e) Ensure universal access to digital technology for all persons with disabilities, including to business software and revise Decree No. 2019-768 of 2019 on accessibility to information for blind persons at government, public and private websites;**
- (f) Apply the Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, and the WCAG 2.0 standard at all public websites;**
- (g) Harmonise national legislation and regulations with the Directive 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services, and the European Electronic Communications Code (Directive (EU) 2018/1972).**

Estonia (2021)

19. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive accessibility strategy encompassing physical, information and communication, and digital access, and that mechanisms for monitoring accessibility have yet to be reinforced at the municipal level;
- (b) That persons with disabilities in rural areas face greater obstacles to access public transportation and physical environments;
- (c) The absence of accessibility standards within the e-Estonia system, and the underdeveloped accessibility to information communication and other services for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and persons with vision impairments.

20. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national accessibility strategy that includes all areas described in the Convention, and strengthen its monitoring mechanisms of accessibility at the municipal level, establishing a system of sanctions for non-compliance;**
- (b) Review the Public Transport Act 2015, and the Building Code of 2015, and bring them into line with the Convention, recognising accessibility standards in urban and rural areas;**
- (c) Ensure the accessibility standards within the e-Estonia system taking into consideration the Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, and the WCAG 2.1 standard at all public websites;**
- (d) Take measures to transpose the Directive 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services, and the European Electronic Communications Code (Directive (EU) 2018/1972) into national legislation and regulations.**

Albania (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive national action plan for the implementation of the Law on Inclusion and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and of the Council of Ministers' Decision No. 1074 (2015) on removing environmental and infrastructure barriers in providing public services;
- (b) The lack of data on the application of administrative and financial sanctions in place for non-compliance with accessibility standards, including for older buildings open to the public and information and communications services in rural areas;
- (c) The lack of information on the accessibility of electronic media, including social media.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9 (c), 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive action plan for the implementation of the Law on Inclusion and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities with sufficient budget, an efficient monitoring mechanism and benchmarks for the removal of barriers, with enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance;**
- (b) Put in place a mechanism to monitor compliance with accessibility standards in all areas covered by the Convention and impose sanctions in the event of non-compliance;**
- (c) Provide comprehensive information on the accessibility of electronic media, with special attention to social media.**

Australia (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a national framework for reporting compliance with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002, the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 and the National Standards for Disability Services;
- (b) The significant proportion of the existing built environment that is inaccessible and the lack of mandated national access requirements for housing in the National Construction Code;

(c) The lack of comprehensive and effective measures to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including the lack of information and communications technologies and systems.

18. In the light of article 9 of the Convention and its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party, taking into account goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Establish and enact a national framework for reporting compliance with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002, the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 and the National Standards for Disability Services;

(b) Amend the federal law by including mandatory rules on access for all new and extensively modified housing;

(c) Take the necessary legislative and policy measures, such as the development of public procurement criteria, to implement the full range of accessibility obligations under the Convention, including regarding information and communications technologies and systems, and ensure effective sanctions measures for non-compliance.

Ecuador (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a comprehensive plan for ensuring the accessibility of the physical environment and of information and communications and at the shortage of sign language interpreters for deaf persons.

22. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to Sustainable Development Goal 11, the Committee recommends that, in coordination with organizations of persons with disabilities, the State party:

(a) Establish a comprehensive policy and plan for ensuring the accessibility of the physical environment and transportation services, including interprovincial, intercantonal and inter-parish public transportation services;

(b) Ensure the accessibility of information and communications in facilities open to the public, with pamphlets being provided in accessible modes and means of communication such as Braille and other alternative modes and means;

(c) Introduce a registration system that will provide disaggregated data on the number of available sign language interpreters in order to ensure the accessibility of public information and services.

El Salvador (2019)

18. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The insufficient measures taken to improve physical accessibility and communication accessibility, including transport, resulting in a lack of accessible public transport in remote and rural areas, including the lack of training for transport operators and the limited sanctions for violations;

(b) The fact that the Salvadoran Technical Standard on Accessibility to the Physical Environment, Urbanism and Architecture is not aligned with the principles of the Convention.

19. With reference to its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and taking into account Sustainable Development Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7, the Committee recommends that the State party establish a comprehensive monitoring mechanism to ensure strict implementation of accessibility standards and recommends that sanctions for non-compliance be increased and enforced. The Committee also recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase the number of transport routes that are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, and allocate adequate budget for equipping public transport with accessibility features;

(b) Develop, promulgate, and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines regarding the accessibility of facilities and services that are open to or provided to the public.

Greece (2019)

13. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The slow progress being made in the implementation of the existing legal framework on accessibility, including the delay in the adoption of the relevant secondary legislation, in particular the secondary legislation provided for under Laws No. 4030/2011 and No. 4067/2012 in relation to the accessibility study for the issuance of building permits and the adaptation of existing buildings. It is also concerned about the delay in the establishment of the necessary implementing mechanisms, in particular the accessibility committees provided for in Law No. 4495/2017;

(b) The absence of a national strategy on the implementation of accessibility standards governing the built environment, goods and services, including transport, media and information and communication services, in both the public and the private sectors.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party, in light of its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and taking into account Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11, particularly targets 11.2 and 11.7:

(a) Adopt the necessary legal and other measures, including the adoption of regulations and a comprehensive national action plan and long-term strategy on accessibility with sufficient budget allocations, concrete deadlines and an effective monitoring mechanism, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;

(b) Take the necessary measures to guarantee the accessibility of the built environment, goods and services, particularly the transport system in urban and rural areas, public and social media, and provide training to service providers, engineers, architects and urban planners on accessibility issues faced by persons with disabilities.

India (2019)

20. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of coordinated and cross-sectoral work and ownership of the Accessible India Campaign under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's flagship scheme;

(b) The lack of accessibility requirements for goods and services in the Bureau of Indian Standards Act and under the "broader obligations principle" in the *Manual for Procurement of Goods 2017* of the Ministry of Finance;

(c) The slow progress in improving the accessibility of transportation, the physical environment and information and communications technology, including government websites.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and taking account of Sustainable Development Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Goals:

(a) Implement sections 40–46 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, on accessibility, by taking a cross-sectoral approach, requiring all ministries engaged in public infrastructure to address accessibility in all planning and implementation processes with an appropriate time frame, budget, monitoring and evaluation, in order to improve accessibility, especially in rural areas, and involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations at every stage;

(b) Ensure that accessibility requirements are included in public procurement legislation and policies for goods and services, especially in the Bureau of Indian Standards Act at the national and state levels;

(c) Enforce the accessibility of transportation services, including transport concessions and licences, and accessibility of information, and accelerate the implementation of the barrier-free buildings.

Iraq (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities face challenges in accessing public buildings, facilities, transportation and information and communications services owing to the lack of sign language interpretation, augmentative and alternative communication devices, and Easy

Read, Braille, sign language and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms;

(b) There is limited information on the measures taken by the State party to ensure that reconstruction programmes are developed in line with the concept of universal design, such as the national reconstruction and development framework for 2018–2027, which addresses the recovery and reconstruction of governorates affected by terrorist and military operations (Baghdad, Nineveh, Saladin, Al-Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala, Babil), as well as the reconstruction and development of governorates indirectly affected by such operations.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) Develop a strategy for the provision of live assistance, mobile applications, professional and certified sign language interpreters and other means to facilitate access to public buildings, facilities, transportation and information and communications services, and take measures to implement relevant national legislation and standards, including article 15 (7) and (8) of Law No. 38 (2013) and the accessibility requirements identified by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers (CRPD/C/IRQ/1, para. 49), including by establishing complaints procedures and monitoring mechanisms;

(b) Ensure, in cooperation with persons with disabilities, that accessibility requirements and the universal design concept are incorporated in all legislation, policies and programmes related to post-conflict reconstruction.

Myanmar (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned about accessibility barriers faced by persons with disabilities to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communication technology and systems, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public. It is also concerned about the lack of:

(a) Provisions on accessibility in the legislation, including in the Procurement Law and that the National Building Code has not been adopted yet;

(b) Accessibility standards and guidelines, and effective measures to enforce them, including policy measures and sanction for non-compliance.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Take the necessary measures, including amending the Procurement Law and expediting the adoption of the National Building Code, to facilitate access for persons with disabilities to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technology and systems, and other facilities and services, open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas;

(b) Adopt accessibility standards and a comprehensive national action plan on their implementation, with sufficient technical and financial resources, indicators to assess improvements in accessibility and sanctions for non-compliance.

Cuba (2019)

21. The Committee takes note of the initiatives to improve accessibility to public buildings and spaces as per resolution No. 81/2016 of the Ministry of Construction and Decree No. 327/2014. It is concerned, however, about the limited nature of the initiatives to ensure accessibility of the physical environment and to improve access to information and communication. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of information on measures taken to ensure that the State party's public procurement procedures incorporate accessibility standards and that public procurement processes are accessible.

22. In line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement an action plan and strategy to identify existing barriers to accessibility and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to remove

the barriers to make transportation, public buildings and facilities, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, accessible in both urban and rural areas. The plan should provide for audits, specific time frames, penalties for non-compliance, the allocation of sufficient resources and the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in all stages of its implementation, in particular the monitoring of compliance;

(b) Ensure that their public procurement procedures are accessible;

(c) Take into consideration article 9 of the Convention and general comment No. 2 in its efforts to meet Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Niger (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of legislation that sets out accessibility standards, including mechanisms to ensure compliance, and the absence of financial resources to support the provision of accessible standards;

(b) The absence of a national action plan on accessibility and the lack of consultation and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in developing and monitoring an accessibility plan;

(c) The absence of information about accessibility to public transport particularly in rural areas, and the lack of accessibility to information and communication technologies, for persons with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) Develop a national action plan and policies for accessibility and services for persons with disabilities, and a road map for removing existing barriers with a concrete time frame and a monitoring mechanism, paying particular attention to communication and technology-related requirements of persons with disabilities, and persons with sensory impairments and psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; and ensure the allocation of sufficient resources, sanctions for non-compliance, and obligatory accessibility standards for public procurement;

(b) Ensure consultation and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development of any accessibility plan;

(c) Adhere to article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7 to provide access to safe, affordable, inclusive, accessible and sustainable transport systems, and public spaces for persons with disabilities.

Norway (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Planning and Building Act does not set deadlines and budget for implementing the universal design principle for existing buildings and modes of transport, and that the action plan for universal design 2015-2019 also lacks clear deadlines for implementation;

(b) The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act does not contain any specific provisions on access to goods, services and information and does not cover workplaces that are not accessed by the general public;

(c) There is no law governing universal access to goods, services, information and communication services to persons with disabilities who cannot use self-service options and that the regulations on the universal design of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) are limited to enterprises aimed at the general public;

(d) There are no specific and effective measures and sanctions for the implementation of all legislation that provides for the access to the built environment and information, communications, including information and communication technology and systems.

16. In the light of article 9 of the Convention and its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in its efforts to meet goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.17 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Remove all existing barriers of access to buildings and services open or provided to public, such as transportation and information and communication services, including by promoting universal design of goods and services, Braille, captioning, sign language interpretation, Easy Read and other alternative formats and modes of communication to foster full accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- (b) Introduce regulations that set deadlines and concrete measures with earmarked funding for universal design of the existing buildings, prioritizing primary and secondary schools, and modes of transport in the Action Plan for Universal Design 2015-2019;
- (c) Take legislative and practical measures to guarantee access to goods, services, information and communication services to persons with disabilities who cannot use self-service options and ensure that the obligation of the universal design principle applies also to workplaces that are not accessed by the general public;
- (d) Revise the regulation on the universal design of ICT by requiring all enterprises that serve the general public to provide individualized services to persons with disabilities when required so as to ensure accessibility of information and communications, including ICTs;
- (e) Take specific and effective measures and sanctions for the implementation of all legislation that provides for the access to the built environment and information and communications, including information and communication technology and systems.

Rwanda (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, services, information and communications is limited, especially in rural areas;
- (b) The provisions of the Building Code of 2015 on ensuring accessibility standards are not being fully implemented.

18. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and in view of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement a comprehensive plan of action and standards on accessibility, including accessibility of the physical environment, transportation, services, information and communications;
- (b) Strengthen the implementation of the Building Code of 2015 and its accessibility standards, and the monitoring thereof by, inter alia, training civil servants in charge of monitoring, and introducing sanctions for non-compliance, in relation to accessibility, including through universal design and public procurement.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a mechanism in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Universal Access Programme, and of provisions regarding accessibility in the Disability Care Act, as well as at the lack of consultation of persons with disabilities in their implementation. It also expresses concern at the lack of sanctions imposed for non-compliance with accessibility provisions.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, establish a mechanism in charge of monitoring the implementation of its Universal Access Programme and grant this mechanism:

- (a) The responsibility to inspect the accessibility of public buildings, facilities, transportation as well as information and communication services, in close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations;
- (b) The capacity to refer cases of non-compliance to the judiciary.
- (c) The ability to ensure meaningful consultation of persons with disabilities, including in the implementation of legislation and policies regarding accessibility.

Senegal (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of information, including statistical data on the accessibility of public and private buildings since the adoption of legislative measures, including on construction projects rejected due to non-compliance with accessibility standards, complaints received for non-compliance, sanctions imposed, and the complaint mechanisms available to persons with disabilities;

(b) The absence of a national action plan on accessibility for persons with disabilities, covering all areas including information and communication technologies, including online bank platforms, public transport, especially in rural areas and particularly for persons with sensory impairments and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) Adopt measures to increase the availability of information and statistical data on the accessibility of public and private buildings open to the public, including the number of projects rejected due to non-compliance with accessibility standards, the number of complaints received for non-compliance, sanctions imposed as well as the means of recourse available to persons with disabilities to file complaints against about non-compliance with building standards;

(b) Develop, adopt and implement legislation and policies on accessibility of facilities and services for persons with disabilities, including introducing accessibility standards in public procurement, paying particular attention to persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, allocating sufficient resources, and providing effective sanctions for non-compliance;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are involved and meaningfully consulted and can monitor the development of any accessibility plan;

(d) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9.c, 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable information and communication technology, transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, and universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Spain (2019)

16. The Committee is concerned that currently only the 0.6% of buildings in the State party are accessible, despite Spain's commitment to fulfil universal accessibility by the end of 2017. The Committee is concerned that measures taken to ensure universal accessibility, particularly for private buildings, have been insufficient or not effective. In particular the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The ineffectiveness of policies regarding accessibility in public administration, the absence of sufficient budget allocations and lack of mandatory accessibility criteria in public procurement at all levels;

(b) The lack of progress made in implementing accessibility measures for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, blind, deaf, persons with autism or with dwarfism.

17. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative and budgetary measures to ensure accessibility in all areas, including private open to the public and public buildings and services, such as transportation, information and communication across the country. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure that places open to the public have signage and information in Braille and in Easy Read, and that live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign-language interpreters are provided to facilitate accessibility of buildings and public services, particularly for all persons with sensory or intellectual impairments. In particular, the Committee recommends that State party:

- (a) Ensure that all laws and measures related to public administration and procurement include the requirement for accessibility for persons with disabilities, including through universal design;
- (b) Establish monitoring mechanisms with the involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities to ensure that accessibility standards are met, as well as relevant sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards are enforced.

Türkiye (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited standards and legislation on accessibility and the reported lack of progress to meet the deadlines set by the law of the National Plan of Action on Accessibility;
- (b) The lack of publicly available, comparable, reliable and comprehensible data on financial sanctions and fines for non-compliance of accessibility standards, in electronic mass media, e-government services and banking services;
- (c) The reports that the Accessibility Monitoring and Audit Commissions are not fulfilling their legal obligations and the sanctions imposed by these commissions are not applied.

20. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive accessibility roadmap based on detailed data, which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers, and promotes universal design for built environment, public services, such as transportation, information, and communication. It also recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources for the monitoring of the implementation of accessibility standards with an updated national database throughout all provinces and local governments, including establishing enforceable and effective dissuasive sanctions for non-compliance.

Vanuatu (2019)

18. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Buildings are still not accessible for persons with disabilities despite the adoption of the National Building Code (2013);
- (b) There is the lack of accessible transportation;
- (c) The access to information and technology for persons with disabilities is still limited;
- (d) Persons with disabilities do not have adequate access to remedy;
- (e) There is no legal sanction for non-compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines, including infrastructural projects by foreign investment.

19. With reference to its general comment No.2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party take into account links between article 9 of the Convention and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it:

- (a) Allocate sufficient human and financial resources for the implementation of the National Building Code (2013);
- (b) Ensure that accessible public transport is available for persons with disabilities throughout the State party;
- (c) Enforce the Information and Communication Technology Policy (2012) to provide access to information and technology for persons with disabilities;
- (d) Develop and promote the use of all accessible formats such as sign language, captioning, Braille and Easy Read, and adopt capacity-building programmes for translators and/or interpreters of such formats of communication;
- (e) Establish a mechanism to monitor compliance with article 9 of the Convention, provide remedy for persons with disabilities and introduce sanction in case of the non-compliance, including infrastructural projects by foreign investment.

Algeria (2018)

20. The Committee is concerned that existing legislation on physical accessibility is not monitored and implemented due to a lack of resources. It is also concerned about the absence of legislation to facilitate access to persons with disabilities other than persons with reduced mobility, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications,

including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas.

21. Recalling its General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Introduce legislation and an accessibility policy to promote access to all persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas;

(b) Allocate the necessary resources to monitor its implementation;

(c) Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, paying special attention to persons with disabilities, and to provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Bulgaria (2018)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) State party's legislation that is not fully in compliance with the provisions of article 9 of the Convention;

(b) Physical barriers that persons with disabilities face, particularly in remote and rural areas;

(c) Public transport and services opened to the public that are still not fully accessible for persons with disabilities;

(d) Information and communication including ICT services are still not accessible to persons with disabilities, and specially persons with sensory and persons with intellectual disabilities.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's General comment No. 2 (2014) Accessibility:

(a) Fully harmonize its' legislation with provisions of article 9 of the Convention;

(b) Intensify its efforts to work towards the creation of barrier- free environment across the State Party, including in remote and rural areas;

(c) Expedite the process to provide fully accessible public transport and services opened to the public, including through application of monitoring mechanisms in the private and public sector, sanctions and public procurement procedures;

(d) Intensify the efforts to ensure full accessibility of information and communication, including ICT to all persons with all types of impairments.

Malta (2018)

15. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Numerous public buildings and infrastructures remain inaccessible to persons with disabilities and are not in line with enforceable regulations, including the Development Control Design Policy Guidance and Standards of 2015; the "Access for All" Standards for the Built Environment issued by the Malta Consumer and Competition Affairs Authority (SM 3800) and Circular 2/14 of the Planning Authority;

(b) Public transport services are not always accessible to persons with disabilities and that there are no regulations prohibiting private transport services to discriminatorily charge clients with disabilities at a higher fare than clients without disabilities;

(c) There is a lack of accessible information and communications, and information and communications technology, for persons with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9 (c), 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) Review the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in place through the Planning Authority and the Test of Reasonableness Board of the Commission on the Rights of Persons

with Disability to ensure that they have the means necessary to review construction plans and enforce national accessibility standards;

(b) Strengthen the enforcement mechanisms through Transport Malta to ensure that public and private service providers adhere to the 'concession agreements' between Transport Malta and local public bus transport operators, to the Taxi Services Regulations (SL 499.59) and to the "Access for All" Standards for the Built Environment issued by the Malta Consumer and Competition Affairs Authority (SM 3800);

(c) Ensure that information and communications, including information and communication technologies, are accessible to persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, and ensure that the law is strengthened, monitored and implemented;

(d) Empower persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to take part in the monitoring of the implementation of accessibility standards.

Philippines (2018)

20. The Committee is concerned that measures, such as the Batas Pambansa No. 344 also known as the Accessibility Law and the Republic Act No. 7277 do not include principles of accessibility through universal design as set forth in articles 2 and 9 of the Convention. It is also concerned about the absence of a national action plan for accessibility, that only city buses are required to comply with accessibility, and the fact that the current accessibility law does not include accessibility for all persons with disabilities. It is further concerned about the limited accessibility to modern jeepney.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by its General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and involving the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Conduct review of its legislation and adopt a plan of action to develop accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications of all persons with disabilities. The State party should adhere to principle of universal design as laid down in article 2 of the Convention ensuring that the infrastructure, transportation, services, and technologies are designed for and usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for further adaptation or specialized design;

(b) Expand accessibility laws and guidelines to protect the accessibility of all persons with disabilities;

(c) Establish complaint procedures and monitoring of accessibility requirements concerning public and private services, facilities, and procurement procedures, ensuring the right of and resources for organizations of persons with disabilities to support complaint procedures and monitoring of accessibility;

(d) Strengthen technical and financial resources to ensure accessibility transportation beyond the available accessible seats in public buses;

(e) Increase the use of jeepney for all persons with disabilities;

(f) Put into consideration its obligations under article 9 of the Convention relevant to the Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7 to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems to persons with disabilities by adapting public transport, with special attention to the requirements of persons with disabilities;

(g) Adopt monitoring indicators to assess the improvement in accessibility.

Poland (2018)

15. The Committee is concerned about insufficient:

(a) Accessibility to buildings and public services such as transportation, information and communication for all persons with disabilities, especially in smaller urban or rural municipalities;

(b) Regulations providing for standards and obligations to implement the principles of universal design to buildings and public services, including regulations covering municipal housing construction, accessibility of ATM's and other self-service devices; it is also

concerned that the Construction Law of 1995 contains few obligations to ensure accessibility for all persons with disabilities;

(c) Mechanisms to monitor the implementation of accessibility regulations and standards, and sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility requirements;

(d) Trainings on accessibility and universal design in the curricula of architectural, design and computer studies, including for the staff of responsible institutions.

16. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all measures to ensure accessibility in all areas, including buildings and public services such as transportation, information and communication services across the State Party;

(b) Update and enact regulations providing for standards and obligations to implement standards of universal design to products, environment, transportation, information and communication services, ATM's and other self-service devices, municipal housing to be used by all persons with disabilities across all State Party, including buildings built before 1995;

(c) Include the requirement for accessibility through universal design in the Public Procurement Law;

(d) Establish monitoring mechanisms that involve organisations of persons with disabilities to ensure that accessibility standards are respected in all determined areas, including in public investment projects, as well as relevant sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards;

(e) Foster mandatory training courses on accessibility and universal design in the curricula of architectural, design and computer studies, including for the staff of responsible institutions, including capacity-building of the local authorities responsible for monitoring implementation of accessibility standards.

South Africa (2018)

16. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The absence of laws enabling accessibility of persons with disabilities, and their inclusion, participation and meaningful consultation, through their representative organisations, in developing and monitoring an accessibility plan;

(b) The absence of a clear unified national strategy on accessibility for persons with disabilities, providing for such accessible facilities at banks, including online bank platforms for persons with disabilities, particularly those with sensory impairments and psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and including public transport in rural areas.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) Adopt and implement legislation, a national strategy and policies on accessibility and services for persons with disabilities, paying particular attention to persons with sensory impairments and psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, allocate sufficient resources, provide effective sanctions for non-compliance, and introduce accessibility criteria in public procurement;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are fully involved and meaningfully consulted on the development of any accessibility plan;

(c) Step up measures to enforce the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act, monitor progress, and reinforce sanctions for lack of compliance with accessibility standards in public and private sector buildings.

North Macedonia (2018)

19. The Committee notes with concern that the State party's legislation provides for systematised and comprehensive approach to the right to physical access. However, it is concerned that:

- (a) There are no specific and effective measures and sanctions for the implementation of legislation that provides for the access to the built environment and the information, communication and technology systems;
- (b) The access to buildings, transport and public institutions and services remains insufficient outside of the capital, including lack of application of all international standards for accessibility at the international Airport;
- (c) The level of cooperation between the Government departments and agencies with organisations of persons with disabilities in regards to implementation and evaluation of accessibility standards is minimal;
- (d) The State party legislation does not provide systematic nor complete approach to accessibility of information and communication, including information and communication technologies and systems.

20. In the light of article 9 of the Convention and its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in its efforts to meet goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.17 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Review its legislation to provide for the mandatory application of accessibility standards in all areas, particularly regarding buildings, transport, other facilities and services open to the public, and information and communication technologies and systems, and for the strict application of sanctions to those who fail to apply them;**
- (b) Include the accessibility standards as a requirement in all public procurement of services and construction and monitor the implementation;**
- (c) Ensure that access to buildings, transport, information and communication technologies and systems and other facilities and services open to the public and public institutions and services is available on all the territory of the State party;**
- (d) Speed up the adoption of the comprehensive national action plan on implementing the accessibility standards in close consultation with the organisations of people with disabilities, with clearly defined timeframes, monitoring and evaluation benchmarks.**

Haiti (2018)

16. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of a legislative framework to regulate accessibility of the built and physical environment and information and communications technologies;
- (b) The absence of a mechanism monitoring compliance of accessibility;
- (c) The absence of policies relating to accessibility targeting all persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Expedite the adoption of legislative measures to comply with article 9 of the Convention, including accessibility of the built environment, transport, buildings and facilities as well as information and communications technologies and provide for penalties in case of non-compliance;**
- (b) Establish an appropriate entity to evaluate and monitor compliance with article 9;**
- (c) Adopt and implement a comprehensive action plan on accessibility, including training on all the different dimensions of accessibility through universal design;**
- (d) Take into account links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all and improving road safety and to provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.**

Nepal (2018)

17. The Committee is concerned that the State party's measures on accessibility are limited, as noted in the National Policy and the Plan of Action on Disability (2006), to persons with disabilities in urban and city environment thereby excluding all groups of persons with disabilities living in rural and remote rugged mountainous areas.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party in line with the Committee's General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) Broaden its policy for accessibility to include all groups of persons with disabilities, including those living in rural and remote rugged mountainous areas;

(b) Strengthen measures, including public procurement to grant access by persons with disabilities to information and communications technologies, including by the provision of low-cost software and assistive devices for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;

(c) Strengthen its monitoring and enforcement mechanisms on accessibility to ensure that the National Policy and the Plan of Action on Disability (2006), the Right to Information Act, 2007, the new comprehensive Accessibility Guidelines (2013); the Thirteenth Plan (2013–2016) and the current Fourteenth Implementation Plan, are duly implemented.

Oman (2018)

19. The Committee notes the numerous initiatives in creating a barrier-free society. The Committee is, however, concerned about:

(a) The lack of information on the legislation setting out accessibility standards, and a complaint mechanism to enforce accessibility standards;

(b) The lack of information on monitoring and inspections of facilities to ensure accessibility, as well as information regarding compliance and sanctions;

(c) The absence of laws that ensure the accessibility of persons with disabilities, and their inclusion, participation and consultation, through their representative organisations, in developing and monitoring an accessibility plan of the State party;

(d) The composition and mandate of the Specialised Subcommittee to Address the Creation of a Barrier-Free Environment.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with General Comment No. 2 on Accessibility (2014):

(a) Adopt and implement legislation and policies for barrier-free facilities and services, including the Social Action Strategy, paying particular attention to communication-related requirements of persons with disabilities, with particular reference to persons with sensory impairments and psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, the allocation of sufficient resources, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance, obligatory accessibility criteria for public procurement, and a road map for removing existing barriers based on detailed data with indicators, and a concrete time frame and a monitoring and enforcement mechanism;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are fully involved and consulted on the development of any accessibility plan of the State party, including the Specialised Subcommittee for the Creation of a Barrier-Free Environment;

(c) Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7 to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to persons with disabilities; and provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Russian Federation (2018)

19. The Committee notes with concern that in spite of the adoption of the State Accessible Environment Programme for 2011–2020, the creation of a barrier-free environment across the State Party, including in remote and rural areas, is "limited by the need to strike a balance between such conditions and the economic possibilities of society, in accordance with the

principle of reasonable accommodation”, according to paragraph 25 of the State party’s written replies (CRPD/C/ RUS /Q/1/Add.1). The Committee is also concerned that the Programme does not provide accessibility for all types of impairments.

20. The Committee recommends that the State Party intensify its efforts to fully implement the State Accessible Environment Programme for 2011–2020, and work towards the creation of a barrier-free environment across the country, including in remote and rural areas, in line with the Committee’s General comment No. 2. It also recommends that the State party ensure that the Programme is implemented effectively and ensures accessibility to all types of impairments.

21. The Committee notes with concern that deaf persons face challenges in accessing emergency hotline 112 across the State Party, including in remote and rural areas.

22. The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure access to emergency hotline 112 across the State Party, including in remote and rural areas, especially for deaf persons.

23. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities in some major cities face challenges in accessing parking spaces free of charge.

24. The Committee recommends that the State Party take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can access to parking spaces free of charge.

25. The Committee also recommends the State party to be guided by article 9 of the Convention and the Committee’s General Comment No2 (2014) on accessibility in implementing targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Seychelles (2018)

14. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) Delays in the implementation of legislation about accessibility, such as the ‘Accessible Slovenia Strategy’ and the Act on equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities, as well as delays in implementing the minimum standards of accessibility of all goods and services available to the public and private services;

(b) The fact that numerous public buildings as well as services, including public transport remain inaccessible, especially in non-capital areas;

(c) The lack of implementation of digital accessibility and the lack of accessibility to information and communication technology products and services, as well as broadcasting services;

(d) The insufficient measures for ensuring accessibility of information and communication for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, despite the obligations contained in inter alia the European Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications.

15. With reference to the Committee’s general comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that the ‘Accessible Slovenia Strategy’ and the Act on equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities are fully operational and effective; it further recommends adopting clear accessibility standards and measures to ensure sanctions for lack of compliance with accessibility standards;

(b) Develop the operational measures to implement accessibility of transport services, and accessibility to all buildings open to the public, increase budget allocations for such measures, especially in non-capital areas;

(c) Adopt a strategy to ensure accessibility in the public procurement policy and require private actors to adhere to accessibility policies;

(d) Ensure the full implementation of the European Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications, especially in the education system;

(e) Ensure the promotion and availability of alternative and augmentative modes of communication and Easy Read information.

Slovenia (2018)

14. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) Delays in the implementation of legislation about accessibility, such as the 'Accessible Slovenia Strategy' and the Act on equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities, as well as delays in implementing the minimum standards of accessibility of all goods and services available to the public and private services;
- (b) The fact that numerous public buildings as well as services, including public transport remain inaccessible, especially in non-capital areas;
- (c) The lack of implementation of digital accessibility and the lack of accessibility to information and communication technology products and services, as well as broadcasting services;
- (d) The insufficient measures for ensuring accessibility of information and communication for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, despite the obligations contained in inter alia the European Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications.

15. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the 'Accessible Slovenia Strategy' and the Act on equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities are fully operational and effective; it further recommends adopting clear accessibility standards and measures to ensure sanctions for lack of compliance with accessibility standards;**
- (b) Develop the operational measures to implement accessibility of transport services, and accessibility to all buildings open to the public, increase budget allocations for such measures, especially in non-capital areas;**
- (c) Adopt a strategy to ensure accessibility in the public procurement policy and require private actors to adhere to accessibility policies;**
- (d) Ensure the full implementation of the European Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications, especially in the education system;**
- (e) Ensure the promotion and availability of alternative and augmentative modes of communication and Easy Read information.**

Sudan (2018)

19. The Committee notes that the State party introduced accessibility standards, through the Construction Code for newly constructed buildings and transport system, but is concerned that the Code is not legally binding. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of a plan and timeframe to extend accessibility standards to all areas with legally enforceable sanctions, monitoring mechanisms and removing existing barriers, both regarding infrastructure and access to information and technology.

20. In the light of article 9 of the Convention and its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in its efforts to meet goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.17 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Review its legislation to provide for the mandatory application of accessibility standards in all areas, monitoring mechanisms and for sanctions to those who fail to apply them;**
- (b) Develop in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities a comprehensive national accessibility action plan with timeframes, monitoring and evaluation benchmarks;**
- (c) Expedite the availability of materials produced in Braille, Easy Read, audio and other accessible formats.**

Latvia (2017)

16. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a comprehensive national legal, policy and strategic framework accompanied by the necessary monitoring mechanisms in the State party to ensure compliance with accessibility standards based on universal design that

guarantee persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to all facilities and services open or provided to the public throughout the State party, including access to information, means of communication and transport.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, a comprehensive national accessibility action plan with time frames, indicators, and monitoring and evaluation benchmarks to effectively implement universal design standards in accessing the physical environment, transportation, information and means of communication, while imposing sanctions for noncompliance;

(b) Pay attention to the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and to the link between article 9 of the Convention, and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Luxembourg (2017)

20. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The legal framework on accessibility is not in conformity with the obligations under the Convention and that accessibility guidelines and standards are not mandatory;

(b) Public transport services, including accessible transport services catering to persons with disabilities, are insufficient;

(c) There is a lack of accessible information and communications for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9 (c), 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals and, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

(a) Introduce legislation and policy measures on accessibility in line with the Convention, with appropriate enforcement mechanisms, including public and private buildings, access to emergency services, public transport and infrastructure;

(b) Ensure that information and communications, including information and communication technologies, are accessible to persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others;

(c) Invest in the promotion of Easy Read and plain language, augmentative and other alternative formats, including sign language and Braille.

Montenegro (2017)

18. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a comprehensive accessibility strategy or harmonized legislation. It notes with concern that most public services and buildings, electronic banking and automated teller machine services, the 112 hotline for emergency situations and public transport are reportedly not accessible or are insufficiently accessible for persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that, in line with article 9 of the Convention, its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

(a) Adopt an adequately resourced comprehensive accessibility strategy and an action plan with an efficient monitoring mechanism, benchmarks and reasonable timelines for the removal of barriers, with enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance;

(b) Take particularly swift measures to ensure the accessibility of the 112 hotline;

(c) Promote universal design for all buildings, public services and public transport with particular focus on applicable information and communications technology solutions, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including at the local level.

Morocco (2017)

22. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of information on the binding requirements for compliance with the accessibility standards contained in the laws that regulate urban planning and architecture, and the lack of monitoring mechanisms to ensure enforcement of the law;
- (b) The lack of information on the accessibility of information and communications technologies, including government and private websites, for all persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information about the accessibility of public transport, particularly in rural areas.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Develop a strategic plan for the provision of accessible information and communication technologies, in which it sets out guidelines for the procurement of goods and services, and ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the process;
- (b) Put in place a mechanism to monitor compliance with accessibility standards in all areas covered by the Convention, ensure the enforcement of law 10-03 on accessibility and impose sanctions in the event of non-compliance with the law;
- (c) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to persons with disabilities, and universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Panama (2017)

26. The Committee notes the recent improvements made to public buildings and spaces but is concerned at the lack of accessibility in many public spaces, in particular in public transportation, airports, land terminals, tourist sites and government buildings, especially for persons with reduced mobility, deaf persons, persons with visual impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities. The Committee is further concerned at the limited progress in implementing Act No. 15 of 2016 on accessibility for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned by the failure to observe international standards on the accessibility of information and communications.

27. In line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement a plan containing measurable indicators to make transportation, public buildings and facilities, information and communication, including information and communications technologies, accessible in both urban and rural areas. The plan should provide for audits, specific time frames, penalties for non-compliance, the allocation of sufficient resources and the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in all stages of its implementation, in particular the monitoring of compliance;
- (b) Adopt the international standards on the accessibility of information and communications;
- (c) Take into consideration article 9 of the Convention and general comment No. 2 in its efforts to meet Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

24. The Committee is concerned by the insufficient scope, content and number of obligatory and implemented accessible standards relating to, among others, the physical environment, affordable housing, information and communications technology (ICT), transport and information in urban and rural areas. It is also concerned that austerity measures have hindered the advancement of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Identify outstanding gaps across the State party in terms of obligatory accessibility standards in all areas of the Convention, among others, the design of affordable and accessible physical environments, housing, ICT, information formats and transport

infrastructure, including emergency services and green and public spaces in both urban and rural areas, and ensure that the standards are met;

(b) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and targets 9, 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Monitor the development towards full inclusion through accessibility and sanction violations of accessibility regulations.

Armenia (2017)

15. The Committee is concerned about the overall lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities in the State party. It is also concerned about the lack of implementation of the existing accessibility norms and standards set out in the national legislation to eliminate obstacles and barriers relating to facilities, urbanism, construction and public services such as transport, information and communication services. It is also concerned that the Code on Administrative Offences does not stipulate sanctions for breaches of accessibility norms and standards, and that there are no monitoring mechanisms in place at the State level to ensure the effective implementation of such norms and standards.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all measures to ensure the implementation of legal guarantees to accessibility in all areas, including urbanism, construction and public services such as transportation, information and communication services;

(b) Remove all barriers to access to buildings and public services, such as transportation, information and communication services, including by promoting universal design, Braille, subtitling, sign language interpretation, and easy-read formats and other alternative modes of communication;

(c) Review the Code on Administrative Offences to include appropriate sanctions for breaches of accessibility norms and standards, and set up a monitoring mechanism based on reporting at the State level to ensure the effective implementation of such norms and standards;

(d) Adopt a time-bound accessibility strategy and plan of action and ensure their implementation and monitoring in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

18. The Committee is concerned that there is no comprehensive accessibility strategy nor harmonized legislation at all levels with effective sanctions, and that most public buildings and institutions, with special regard to those providing public legal assistance and/or services for persons with disabilities in particular, as well as public transport, are reported as inaccessible. It is also concerned that electronic mass media services are not provided in a format accessible to persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive accessibility strategy and an action plan with sufficient budget, an efficient monitoring mechanism and benchmarks for the removal of barriers, with enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance;

(b) Promote universal design for all buildings, public services and public transport;

(c) Provide accessible information and social communication media, with special attention to electronic media, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility (art. 9 of the Convention);

(d) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9, 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Canada (2017)

21. The Committee notes the process undertaken to consult with Canadians on the development of new federal legislation expected to address various areas of the Convention. However, it is concerned about barriers to accessibility, in particular persisting barriers to access to transport, in particular in rural areas and to aircraft, and the lack of accessibility of information and communication for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

22. The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party:

(a) Review current accessibility legislation and plans at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to ensure that they address all features of accessibility, in particular the physical environment, transportation (including civil aviation) and information and communication, including information and communications technologies and systems, and that they comprise mechanisms to monitor and regularly evaluate compliance with accessibility standards;

(b) Ensure the availability of alternative modes of communication, in particular easy-read versions of public documents and fundamental legislation, such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

(c) Adopt sectoral plans to enhance information and communication services in public transport for hard-of-hearing, deaf, blind and deaf-blind persons with disabilities;

(d) Set up a time frame and targets for implementing access to caption services in French and descriptive video content for websites and social media;

(e) Bear in mind its obligations under article 9 of the Convention while implementing Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11 (targets 11.2 and 11.7).

Cyprus (2017)

25. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient comprehensive and mandatory measures ensuring that persons with disabilities have access on an equal basis with others to indoor and outdoor environment, information and communication and other goods, products and services in both urban and rural areas. It further notes with concern that information on public websites is not provided systematically in accessible formats and in compliance with the most recent Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to improve accessibility, including by increasing the allocation of human, technical and financial resources and applying internationally recognized standardization with a view to ensure accessibility to public and private indoor and outdoor environments, information, communication and emergency services, as well as professional sign language interpretation, and augmentative and alternative communication in both rural and urban areas. The Committee also recommends that the State party significantly strengthen the monitoring of compliance with those regulations and systematically enforce sanctioning for non-compliance. In so doing, the State party should be guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, especially target 11.7, and by general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

27. The Committee notes with concern that public transport is insufficiently accessible in all its forms, including that only one third of buses are accessible and that persons with disabilities who have wheelchairs are charged more for the use of taxis – often double the charge – compared with the rest of the population.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by general comment No. 2 (2014) and target 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensure access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport for all, including persons with disabilities regardless of their type of impairment. In particular, it recommends that the State party ensure that all new means of public transport brought into the public transport system offer full accessibility and that no additional charges are made for the use of taxis and other means of public transportation by those who have wheelchairs or other necessary devices.

Honduras (2017)

21. El Comité observa con preocupación que las infraestructuras de transportes, edificios y los servicios de información y comunicaciones abiertos al público no son plenamente accesibles para las personas con discapacidad del Estado parte. Le preocupa también que la Secretaría de Obras Públicas, Transporte y Vivienda, siendo la entidad gubernamental que regula lo concerniente al sistema vial, urbanístico y del transporte, reconoce que no se han adoptado suficientes medidas para supervisar y sancionar el incumplimiento de las normas de accesibilidad en línea con los estándares internacionales.

22. De conformidad con su observación general núm. 2 (2014) sobre accesibilidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente un plan de acción con metas, plazos y recursos necesarios, para aplicar la accesibilidad en el transporte, los servicios, el entorno físico, la información y la comunicación, tanto en las ciudades como en las zonas rurales, con auditorías, plazos concretos y sanciones por incumplimiento, en donde se involucre a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en todas las etapas de su desarrollo, especialmente en el monitoreo del cumplimiento. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que tome en cuenta el artículo 9 de la Convención y la observación general núm. 2 en el cumplimiento de las metas 9, 11.2 y 11.7 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

20. The Committee observes that the State party adopted accessibility standards, and has carried out plans to improve accessibility of housing. However, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information about plans to ensure accessibility in rural areas;
- (b) The absence of measures to achieve accessibility to information and communication, including information and communication technologies;
- (c) The absence of measures to monitor and sanction non-compliance with accessibility standards both in the public and private sector; and
- (d) The lack of information about plans to ensure accessibility to services and buildings including schools, medical facilities and workplaces and on how representative organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted in the development of measures to accomplish accessibility.

21. The Committee, in line with its General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national action plan on accessibility with time-bound benchmarks and budget allocations, that comprises rural and urban areas and all dimensions of accessibility;**
- (b) Include in its legislation, the principle of universal design and promote its application by relevant stakeholders;**
- (c) Make public investments, through public procurements measures aimed at providing accessible and subsidised information and communication technologies and systems for persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Introduce mechanisms to monitor and evaluate compliance with accessibility standards in public and private spheres;**
- (e) Consult on permanent basis with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, about accessibility measures required to access facilities and services; and**
- (f) Bear in mind the linkages between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7.**

Jordan (2017)

19. The Committee is concerned that the National Building Code, issued pursuant to the National Building Law (No. 7 of 1993), which sets out accessibility standards for facilities, buildings and roads, is not effectively implemented. It notes the overlapping roles of entities responsible for granting licences and monitoring the implementation of the Code, which lead to patchwork adherence to accessibility standards and insufficient application of sanctions for non-compliance.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the implementation of accessibility standards and the monitoring thereof by, inter alia, clarifying which entities are mandated to monitor implementation, building the capacity of and providing ongoing training to civil servants and experts in charge of monitoring, involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the monitoring and sanctioning of those who fail to apply accessibility standards.

21. The Committee notes with concern that blind and deaf persons and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities face challenges in accessing public buildings, facilities, transportation as well as information and communication services owing to the lack of sign language interpretation, augmentative and alternative communication devices, and easy-to-read and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the provision of public signs in Braille and easy-to-read formats, ensure the provision of live assistance, intermediaries, guides, readers, accessible information kiosks, ticket vending machines, websites, mobile applications and professional and certified sign language interpreters to facilitate access to public buildings, facilities, transportation and information and communication services, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

20. The Committee is concerned by the overall lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities in the State party. It is concerned about the insufficient implementation of the guarantees relating to accessibility stipulated in laws No. 121 and No. 60, and government decision No. 599, and to eliminate obstacles and barriers relating to access to facilities and public services such as transport, information and communications. It is also concerned that the Contravention Code does not stipulate sanctions for failure to ensure accessibility in all areas and that existing sanctions are rarely enforced.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all measures to ensure the implementation of legal guarantees to accessibility in all areas including urbanism, construction and public services;

(b) Ensure that the sanctions for non-compliance are developed and enforced for all areas of accessibility;

(c) Adopt a time-bound accessibility plan of action and ensure its implementation and monitoring, in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;

(d) Pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and Goal 9 and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bolivia (2016)

21. The Committee is concerned at the lack of accessibility plans with specific targets and time frames. It is also concerned that no account is taken of the views of persons with disabilities in the design of such plans and the definition of indicators and sanctions for non-compliance.

22. The Committee urges the State party to implement accessibility plans with measurable goals and time frames, as well as sanctions for non-compliance. It also recommends that it allocate adequate budgetary funds to implement accessibility plans and ensure that they can be monitored and evaluated by organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party be guided by its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and by article 9 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

48. The Committee is concerned that the transition of persons with disabilities from institutions to living in the community has not begun, and that there is a lack of support services for independent living.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement a plan for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, with specific timelines and sufficient resources for its implementation;**
- (b) Ensure that community services are available to persons with disabilities and are inclusive of persons with disabilities, and develop and make available at all levels, including municipalities and communities, the support services required by persons with disabilities, including personal assistance, to enable them to choose their place of residence and to live independently.**

22. The Committee notes with concern the absence of a national plan for implementing accessibility standards and the little progress made to ensure accessibility in rural areas, public transport, public service facilities, information and communication means, and accessibility for deaf persons, deaf-blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities. It is concerned, moreover, that accessibility is not a prerequisite for the purchase and sale of public goods and services.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and that it:

- (a) Develop and carry out an accessibility plan for the physical environment of public facilities, transport, and information and communication means, including related technology that complies with internationally recognized standards, throughout Colombia, with specific deadlines and non-compliance penalties and, in doing so, work closely with organizations of persons with disabilities, and seek to involve them in particular in monitoring the plan's implementation;**
- (b) Take into consideration the accessibility requirements of persons with disabilities who need more extensive support;**
- (c) Include accessibility as a prerequisite when issuing licences for provision of public goods or services;**
- (d) Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in pursuing targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Ethiopia (2016)

19. The Committee is concerned at the lack of implementation of laws, regulations and directives on infrastructure accessibility, the lack of compliance with the existing Building Code and that the concept of universal design is not enforced in domestic law. It is also concerned that policies on accessibility are limited to physical impairment and do not target all persons with disabilities, and that no criteria on accessibility have been adopted and applied within public procurement policies.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party fully implement laws, regulations and directives on infrastructure accessibility, including the Building Code. It also recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive plan of action and standards on accessibility, including accessibility of the environment, transportation, buildings and facilities, information and communications. It further recommends that the State party introduce training and sanctions for non-compliance in relation to accessibility, universal design, procurement and construction, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and to implement targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guatemala (2016)

27. The Committee notes that the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities Act (Decree No. 135-96) covers the regulation of issues regarding access to the physical environment, to transportation and to information and communications. However, it notes with concern that the Act does not stipulate penalties for non-compliance and that implementation of the Act is very limited, especially in rural areas and remote communities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, amend the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities Act (Decree No. 135-96) and all relevant legislation and adopt standards and regulations on accessibility, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, ensuring that they stipulate penalties for non-compliance. It also recommends implementing accessibility plans in rural areas and remote communities, with targets, time frames and the necessary resources, in the framework of the State party's policy on comprehensive rural development and infrastructure for development. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 9 of the Convention in its implementation of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy (2016)

21. The Committee is concerned about insufficient information on complaints and the monitoring of accessibility standards, including within the use of public procurement, and the lack of enforcement and sanctions for non-compliance.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen data collection, monitoring and sanctions mechanisms, including within public procurement laws and policies, to ensure compliance with accessibility standards. This must include website accessibility and access to emergency services, public transport, buildings and infrastructure. It also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of persons with disabilities; and provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee is concerned about insufficient data concerning the limited availability of accessible communications across the public sector, including the education sector.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party carry out an audit and action plan to ensure the provision of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, and augmentative and alternative communication across all public sectors. In particular, augmentative and alternative communication must be provided free of charge in the education sector.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

19. The Committee is concerned that almost all initiatives to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities address physical disabilities, are not systematic, are often associated with charitable initiatives and are limited in scope. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of:

(a) Specific binding legal and policy frameworks to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to all facilities and services open or provided to the public throughout the State party, including access to information, means of communications and transport;

(b) Cases involving the handing down of legal sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines.

20. In the light of its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legislation for barrier-free facilities and services open to the public and a comprehensive accessibility plan, paying particular attention to communication-related needs, the allocation of sufficient resources, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance, obligatory accessibility criteria for public procurement, and a road map for removing existing barriers based on detailed data with a concrete time frame and a monitoring and enforcement mechanism;

(b) Promote a universal design for all buildings and public services, information and social media, transport and services open to the public, and incorporate accessibility standards into public procurement criteria;

(c) Be guided by article 9 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uruguay (2016)

21. El Comité observa con preocupación que el transporte, el entorno físico, la información y la comunicación, abiertos al público no son plenamente accesibles para las personas con discapacidad, especialmente en el interior del Estado parte. Preocupa también la inexistencia de un órgano nacional que se ocupe de supervisar y sancionar el incumplimiento de los estándares de accesibilidad.

22. De conformidad con la observación general número 2 del Comité (2014) sobre accesibilidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente un plan de acción para aplicar la accesibilidad en el transporte, el entorno físico, la información y la comunicación, conforme al concepto de diseño universal, tanto en zonas rurales como urbanas del Estado parte, con auditorías, plazos concretos y sanciones por incumplimiento, en donde se involucre a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en todas las etapas de su desarrollo, implementación, y especialmente en el monitoreo del cumplimiento. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 9 de la Convención y las metas 11.2, 11.3 y 11.7 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, para proporcionar transporte accesible, urbanización inclusiva con planificación y gestión participativa, y acceso universal a zonas verdes y espacios públicos seguros, inclusivos y accesibles.

Chile (2016)

19. Al Comité le preocupan los pocos avances en el cumplimiento de la Ley núm. 20422 en materia de accesibilidad, así como la inexistencia de mecanismos de queja por la violación a los derechos de las personas con discapacidad relativas a la falta de accesibilidad.

20. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte adopte un plan de accesibilidad general teniendo en cuenta la observación general núm. 2 (2014) del Comité sobre accesibilidad (artículo 9 de la Convención), que incluya la accesibilidad en el transporte, las edificaciones e instalaciones públicas, la información y la comunicación, tanto en las ciudades como en las áreas rurales, con plazos concretos y sanciones por incumplimiento, en donde se involucre a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en todas las etapas de su desarrollo, especialmente en el monitoreo del cumplimiento. Además, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 9 de la Convención y el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 11, en particular las metas 11.2 y 11.7.

Lithuania (2016)

21. The Committee is concerned at the limited scope of measures taken and the reportedly insufficient progress made to promote the application of universal design principles in the physical environment and in transport, especially to improve accessibility within and around private and public buildings and throughout the chain of transport, including in parking spaces, in train stations, on platforms and in intercity buses, taxis and ferries. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of an effective mechanism for monitoring the accessibility of buildings.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and in close collaboration with organizations representing persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop and implement a plan of action with a clear time frame, measurable baselines and indicators, and regulations and standards to guarantee the progressive application of universal design principles to the physical environment, including in accessible housing and transport, in both urban and rural areas, with a view to ensuring accessibility for all persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that such a plan of action, regulations and standards encompass the physical, environmental, informational and communications aspects of accessibility for all persons with disabilities, provide for corresponding dissuasive sanctions and enforcement mechanisms and halt the use of European Union funds for the development of inaccessible constructions, websites and other infrastructure;

(c) Allocate the human and financial resources necessary for the effective implementation of such a plan of action, regulations and standards and establish mechanisms to monitor their implementation;

(d) Pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Portugal (2016)

21. The Committee notes that the Accessibility Act has been under review since 2012, the second phase of the National Plan for the Promotion of Accessibility for the period 2011-2015 has yet to be started, and that recent legislation concerning urban regeneration provides for exemption from accessibility requirements. It also notes that legislation fails to distinguish between the licensing body and the monitoring body, and that sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility regulations are rare.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7 to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, paying special attention to the needs of vulnerable people, women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly; and provide universal access to green and public spaces that are safe, inclusive and accessible, particularly for women and children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures, in close consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, in order to adopt swiftly an amended accessibility act which is in compliance with the Convention, as set forth in the Committee's General Comment No 2 (2014) on accessibility, including effective and accessible complaints and implementation mechanisms.

Serbia (2016)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national accessibility strategy and legislation with effective sanctions for non-compliance, the low degree of accessibility of public buildings, institutions and services, and electronic mass media services in the State Party.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive accessibility plan with efficient monitoring, and a roadmap which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers; and promote universal design for all buildings and public services, public transport, and accessible information and social communication media with special regards to electronic media, in line with General Comment no.2 on Accessibility. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources to monitor the implementation of accessibility standards with the support of an updated national database throughout its territory; establish enforceable and effective, dissuasive sanctions for non-compliance; increase subtitling and sign language interpretation in the media; and involve organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) in the process. The Committee also recommends the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7.

Slovakia (2016)

29. The Committee is concerned that national legislation does not provide for the monitoring of compliance to guarantee accessibility to buildings or transport.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party implement policies, guidelines and training, along with sanctions for non-compliance, in relation to accessibility, universal design, procurement and construction, especially with regard to the proposed new building act, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessibility to public information and communication, including in relation to transport.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party make provision for public signs in Braille and easy-to-read formats, and live assistance, intermediaries, guides, readers, accessible information kiosks, ticket vending machines, websites, mobile applications and

professional sign language interpreters to facilitate accessibility to buildings, transport and other facilities open to the public.

33. The Committee further recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thailand (2016)

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of implementation of legislation on accessibility, especially in remote and rural areas. It is also concerned about the lack of coherent standards on accessibility, effective enforceability and sanctions for non-compliance.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective cooperation of cross-cutting ministries and the adoption of a comprehensive accessibility plan covering all facets in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, with sufficient resource allocation, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance and a defined time frame for its implementation, by setting up a national database for its monitoring. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of persons with disabilities and to provide universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, green public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Uganda (2016)

16. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The challenges faced by persons with disabilities, both in rural and urban areas, in gaining access to transportation and information in accessible formats such as sign language, Braille and easy-to-read formats for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;
- (b) Insufficient resources to implement government policies and programmes in relation to accessibility, including in the transport sector;
- (c) The lack of low-cost information and communications technologies for persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, the lack of regulation for the implementation of the Public Control Act and about the fact that public procurement requirements do not include accessible standards.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility:

- (a) Adopt an action plan to ensure accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications technologies and systems, with adequate resources and a time-bound framework;**
- (b) Introduce a monitoring mechanism and effective sanctions for non-compliance with accessibility standards in all areas covered by the Convention, including in the transport sector;**
- (c) Strengthen measures, including public procurement to grant access by persons with disabilities to information and communications technologies, including by the provision of low-cost software and assistive devices for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;**
- (d) Encourage the banking sector to recruit professional sign language interpreters to assist deaf persons in their banking transactions;**
- (e) Pay attention to the links between article 9 of the Convention and targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Brazil (2015)

22. The Committee notes with concern that accessibility of built environment, transport, information and communication and services open to the public is not fully achieved, especially in remote and rural areas.

23. The Committee recommends to the State Party to take efficient measures to ensure accessibility of built environment, transport, information and communication and services open to the public, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014), on accessibility, in rural and remote areas, including by full implementation of the existing legislation, including public procurement, and policies, efficient monitoring and sanctioning all that fail to comply fully with accessibility standards.

European Union (2015)

28. The Committee is concerned that a European Accessibility Act has not yet been adopted by the European Union, and that existing European policies, legislation, regulations and programmes have not been sufficiently assessed.

29. The Committee recommends that the European Union take efficient measures for prompt adoption of an amended European Accessibility Act that is aligned to the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee's General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, including effective and accessible enforcement and complaint mechanisms. It further recommends that the European Union ensure participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the process of adoption of the Act.

Gabon (2015)

22. The Committee is concerned about the lack of implementation of legislation on the accessibility of built environment, in particular new buildings and constructions, as well as transportation. Furthermore the Committee is concerned by the absence of legislation on accessibility of information and communications technology and other services.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party: implement legally enforceable accessibility standards, including effective sanctions for non-compliance; allocate financial resources; and, in close consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, develop a comprehensive national accessibility action plan complete with timeframes, indicators, monitoring and evaluation, and which binds all public procurement processes in line with General Comment No. 2.

Kenya (2015)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The barriers for persons with disabilities to access public transportation in urban and rural areas and the lack of measures to enforce the guarantees concerning accessibility in all areas of life; and

(b) The lack of measures to sanction non-compliance with existing accessibility standards;

18. In line with General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Finalize and adopt the draft Consolidated National Action Plan on Accessibility and Disability Rights for the implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 14 of 2003 and related provisions of the Constitution 2010; and

(b) Effectively implement the regulations of non-compliance as provided in Persons with Disabilities Act and ensure adjustment orders are issued to non-compliant stakeholders.

Mauritius (2015)

17. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities encountered various obstacles to access the physical environment and information communication services, transport and services opened to the public and therefore cannot exercise their rights on equal basis with others due to the lack of effective measures taken by the State party to eliminate existing barriers to accessibility.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party proceed to the announced revision of the Building Act, the Roads Act, the Morcellement Act and the Town and Country Planning Act and to adopt a legally binding accessibility action plan, with benchmarks, indicators and timelines, to cover all aspects of the built environment, public service provision, information and communications, including sign language interpretation as well as assistive listening systems and air and sea transport, as referred to in the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility. A regular monitoring and evaluation of the plan with the

participation of organizations of persons with disabilities should be conducted within specified periods of time and sanctions provided in case of non-compliance.

Qatar (2015)

19. The Committee is concerned about the absence of specific legal and policy frameworks to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to all facilities and services open or provided to the public, including access to information, communications and transport.

20. In light of its general comment No. 2 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party adopt legislation for barrier-free public facilities and services. It also recommends a comprehensive accessibility plan with the allocation of sufficient resources, enforceable and effective sanctions for non-compliance, and a road map based on detailed data with a concrete timeframe. The Committee also recommends that the State party promote universal design for all buildings and public services, information and social communication media, transport and services open to the public, and that it incorporate accessibility standards into public procurement criteria.

Ukraine (2015)

17. The Committee is concerned that implementation of the 2009 action plan “Ukraine without Barriers” by public and private entities is not monitored. It is also concerned that under the Regulation of the Urban Planning Act of 2011 constructors are no longer required to obtain experts examination of buildings in terms of their accessibility. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that most public facilities, including health and education facilities and communication services remain inaccessible for persons with disabilities, including children.

18. The Committee recommends the State party to efficiently implement its plan “Ukraine without Borders” and monitor implementation of accessibility standards by:

- (a) clearly defining the organs with the mandate to monitor the implementation at all levels;**
- (b) capacity-building and continuous training in charge of monitoring;**
- (c) involving organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring;**
- and**
- (d) imposing effective sanctions on those who fail to apply accessibility standards.**

19. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure access to premises open to the public for persons with disabilities, including children and especially deaf persons, blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities, by providing sign language interpretation, Braille print signage, and augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms. In doing so, the Committee recommends to consult its General comment no. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Cook Islands (2015)

19. The Committee is concerned that the review of compliance of the Building Code in relation to the Convention has not been conducted, and progress on accessibility to existing public buildings and services, footpaths and street signage, information and communication, public service provision, air and sea transport has been limited.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Review the Building Code in consultation with disabled persons organisations;

Adopt a legally bound accessibility action plan with benchmarks, indicators and timeline, to cover all aspects of the built environment, public service provision, information and communications, air and sea transport, as referred to in the Committee’s General Recommendation 2, and regular monitoring and evaluation of the plan with the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities to eliminate all existing barriers within specified periods of time.

Croatia (2015)

15. The Committee is concerned that accessibility to buildings, places, transportation and information and communication is still rather low, especially outside of the capital-city area. The Committee is concerned that accessibility is narrowly construed to pertain to the physical

environment and transportation, whereas information and communication services are neglected.

16. The Committee recommends that the State Party assess accessibility with respect to buildings, places and transportation as well as accessibility to information and communication services, as referred to in the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014), and adopts action plans to improve accessibility with clearly defined and realistic deadlines and indicators. Organizations of persons with disabilities should be involved in planning and implementation of these accessibility plans. It further recommends allocating sufficient resources to make public and private transportation accessible.

Czech Republic (2015)

17. The Committee notes with concern that provisions of the Building Act on ensuring accessibility are still not fully implemented. Furthermore, the Committee notes that deaf persons, blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities still face challenges in accessing premises open to the public due to lack of sign language interpretation, Braille print signage, and augmentative and alternative communication and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms.

18. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen the monitoring of implementation of accessibility standards by:

- (a) clearly defining the organs with the mandate to monitor the implementation;**
- (b) capacity-building and continuous training in charge of monitoring;**
- (c) involving organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring; and**
- (d) sanctioning those who fail to apply accessibility standards.**

19. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure access to premises open to the public for persons with disabilities, especially deaf persons, blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities, by providing sign language interpretation, Braille print signage, and augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, such as pictograms.

Dominican Republic (2015)

16. The Committee notes with concern that action on accessibility on the metro and the renovation of public facilities is very limited. It is also concerned about the lack of technical standards, manuals and protocols on accessibility, of effective monitoring mechanisms and of any national plan covering all public buildings and spaces. It also notes the lack of mechanisms to involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of accessibility plans covering all the points contained in the Convention.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt standards and regulations on accessibility to the physical environment, transport, information and communication, in line with the Convention and in keeping with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on article 9: Accessibility, and that it implement accessibility plans with measurable goals and time frames in the short and medium term, as well as sanctions for non-compliance. It also recommends that adequate budgetary funds be allocated to implement municipal accessibility plans and to ensure monitoring and evaluation of those plans by organizations of persons with disabilities.

Germany (2015)

21. The Committee is concerned about: a) the lack of binding obligations for private entities, particularly private media and websites, to avoid creating new barriers and eliminate existing barriers relating to accessibility; b) the inadequate implementation of regulations governing accessibility and universal design.

22. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its General Comment No. 2 (2014) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Introduce targeted and effective measures, such as compulsory obligations, monitoring mechanisms, and effective penalties for infringement, to extend accessibility for persons with disabilities in all sectors and areas of life, including the private sector;**

(b) Encourage public and private broadcasting bodies to evaluate their work comprehensively regarding the implementation of the right to accessibility, especially on the use of sign language.

Mongolia (2015)

17. The Committee is concerned that the State party's measures on accessibility have tended to be limited to the physical aspects of accessibility and overlooks other barriers posed by information and communication technologies (ICT). In particular, the Committee is concerned that Braille and sign language have not been legally recognised in the State party and that there is currently only one television channel with severely limited broadcasts of accessible content. Furthermore, while noting the positive steps taken by the State party to enact legislation for accessibility, the Committee is concerned that resource allocation and enforcement measures for the effective implementation of accessibility legislation remains inadequate.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party broaden its policy for accessibility to include removing barriers to accessing Information and Communication Technologies in order to enhance possibilities for participation of persons with disabilities in society. It recommends to the State party to provide legal recognition for sign language and Braille, and take measures to improve the quantity and diversity of accessible content in its media. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party increase its resource allocation for the implementation of measures to ensure accessibility of public transport, buildings and public spaces. The Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen its monitoring and enforcement mechanisms on accessibility. This should include ensuring commensurate sanctions for the non-fulfilment of accessibility standards stipulated by legislation, in line with the Convention and the Committee's General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Turkmenistan (2015)

21. The Committee is concerned at the insufficient implementation of the accessibility related procedures of the Social Protection Code, in particular in rural areas, and at the lack of information on the existence of accessibility standards, any monitoring mechanism and system of sanctions.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive accessibility plan with sufficient resources, including establishing enforceable and deterrent sanctions for non-compliance as well as a roadmap based on detailed data in accordance with article 9 of the Convention as elaborated in the Committee's General Comment N.2, which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers, and promote universal design for all buildings and public services, information and social communication media, transports and services open to the public, in urban and rural areas included.

New Zealand (2014)

19. The Committee notes the review into access to building for people with disabilities which the Government commissioned in late 2013. This review is now being evaluated by a reference group.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party enact measures to ensure that all public buildings, as well as public web pages providing services for all, are made accessible to persons with disabilities, and recommends that consideration be given to ensuring that new future private houses are made fully accessible. The Committee also recommends that the exemption of factories and industrial premises where fewer than 10 people are employed, from the accessibility requirements of the Building Act 2004 and the Building Code, be discontinued.

Denmark (2014)

26. The Committee is concerned at the absence of comprehensive measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, and to other facilities and services open to or provided to the public, both in urban and rural areas. The Committee also notes

with concern the lack of systematic compliance with the Building Regulations and the limited access to transport. The Committee further notes with concern that information on public websites is not systematically published in accessible formats.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive plan to ensure to all persons with disabilities access to facilities, information and services, which would include concrete objectives, time frames, budgets, sanctions and evaluation, as elaborated in the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) conduct continuous training on universal design and accessibility standards, including the Building Regulations, for relevant professionals, and systematically enforce sanctions for those who fail to implement accessibility standards; (b) ensure that private entities that offer public transport and other services observe accessibility requirements; and (c) adopt regulations on digital accessibility and access to information technology and communication, and promote the responsibility of public institutions to present information and communications on its websites in accessible formats, in accordance with international standards.

28. The Committee is concerned that television programmes on the KVF public service channel in the Faroe Islands are only subtitled and/or interpreted into sign language if they are considered to be of "major interest and significance in society".

29. The Committee requests that the Government of the Faroe Islands ensure access, both for people who are deaf and for those who are hard of hearing, to all the programmes broadcast by KVF.

Republic of Korea (2014)

17. The Committee is concerned about the low number of accessible buses and taxis in rural and urban areas. It is also concerned that accessibility standards for buildings are restricted by minimum size, capacity and date of construction and have not yet been applied to all public buildings. The Committee is further concerned that many websites remain inaccessible for persons with visual impairment, and that web accessibility catering for each disability type, such as hearing impairment and intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, remains weak.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party review current public transportation policies, with a view to ensuring that persons with disabilities can use all types of public transportation safely and conveniently. It encourages the State party to apply accessibility standards to all public facilities and workplaces, regardless of their size, capacity or date of construction, in accordance with article 9 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility. The Committee further recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws to ensure that all persons with disabilities can gain access to information via Internet websites on an equal basis with others, and facilitate access to smart phones for persons with visual and other impairments.

Belgium (2014)

21. The Committee is concerned about poor accessibility for persons with disabilities, the absence of a national plan with clear targets and the fact that accessibility is not a priority. It notes that government action has focused primarily on accessibility for persons with physical disabilities and that few measures have been taken to promote accessibility for persons with hearing, visual, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a legal framework with specific, binding benchmarks for accessibility, including in respect of buildings, roads and transport, services, and e-accessibility. This legal framework should also provide for the monitoring of accessibility and set out a detailed time frame for monitoring and evaluating the incremental changes made to infrastructure. Dissuasive penalties for non-compliance with these provisions must be incorporated into the legal framework. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that public authorities issuing building permits receive training on accessibility and universal design. In that regard, the Committee recommends that the State party develop a coherent accessibility strategy, including a national plan with clear short-, medium- and long-term objectives. It recommends that all aspects of accessibility should

be promoted, in accordance with the Convention, and in the light of the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014), with specific regard to sign-language accessibility. Sign language should be made available across the country in order to ensure access to public services for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with other citizens, in the various official languages and in different formats, regardless of place of residence, and particularly for procedures relating to law and order.

Ecuador (2014)

22. The Committee is concerned that: (a) The concept of accessibility contained in the Ecuadorian Technical Regulation does not cover matters relating to information and communication, including information and communication technology (ICT) and simplified language tools, as set out in the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility; (b) Contrary to the provision contained in the Committee's general comment No. 2, public transport networks in Ecuador are not yet accessible to persons with disabilities, who have to use more challenging transport options to carry out their daily activities; (c) Although guidelines on the accessibility of web content were adopted in January 2014, their implementation has been delayed, particularly in the case of websites providing government information.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Amend the Ecuadorian Technical Regulation so that it includes specific accessibility requirements relating to information, communication and technology and to simplified language tools; (b) Launch a comprehensive programme to adapt public transport in Ecuador, including in rural areas, so that all transport becomes accessible within a pre-agreed time frame; (c) Step up efforts to implement regulation NTE INEN-ISO/IEC 40500:2012 "Information technology – World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0", so that persons with disabilities can have access to the Internet and ensure that the Guidelines are binding, particularly on the websites of public institutions offering various services to persons with disabilities.

Mexico (2014)

19. The Committee notes with concern that the State party's current legal framework on accessibility for persons with disabilities does not address all the aspects covered by article 9 of the Convention. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has no specific mechanisms for evaluating compliance with accessibility legislation in all the areas covered by the Convention.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Accelerate the regulation process in connection with the laws on accessibility, in keeping with the Committee's general comment No. 2 on accessibility (2014);
- (b) Establish monitoring and complaints mechanisms and define effective penalties for non-compliance with accessibility laws;
- (c) Take measures to ensure that accessibility plans encompass existing buildings, in addition to new constructions;
- (d) Design and implement a national accessibility plan applicable to the physical environment, transport, information and communications, including information and communications systems and technologies, and other services and facilities open or provided to the public; and
- (e) Ensure that private entities duly consider all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities and those that are subject to penalties for non-compliance.

Sweden (2014)

25. The Committee is concerned that rules pertaining to accessibility in buildings are not adhered to, and notes that public procurement procedures are not used to fully foster accessibility.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that municipalities and local authorities are sensitized about the accessibility principle, with a view to aligning relevant local and regional laws, such as building and planning codes, in accordance with article 9 of

the Convention; that they have the necessary funding and guidance to monitor, evaluate and secure full accessibility to buildings; and that the reasonable accommodation needs of persons with disabilities are integrated in municipal planning as appropriate. The Committee further recommends that accessibility requirements be systematically included in all public procurement agreements.

27. The Committee is concerned that public material published by the State, regions, county councils and municipalities, including new laws, statutes and regulations, are rarely published in accessible formats.

28. The Committee encourages the State party to supplement the regulatory framework concerning the public sector's responsibility to present its information and communications in accessible formats.

Azerbaijan (2014)

22. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the existence of an accessibility plan and at reports that public transport and other public buildings remain inaccessible by persons with disabilities due to existing barriers.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive accessibility plan in accordance with article 9 of the Convention, which sets benchmarks for the removal of existing barriers and promotes universal design for all buildings. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources for the monitoring of the implementation of accessibility standards throughout the State party, including establishing enforceable and deterrent sanctions for non-compliance. The State party should also intensify its efforts aimed at adapting information into accessible formats and the use of modern accessible information communication technology systems.

Costa Rica (2014)

19. The Committee is concerned that measures to implement the Act on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (Act No. 7600) in the area of accessibility have focused on physical and public transport accessibility, while disregarding information and communication accessibility. The Committee is further concerned that only 18 out of 81 municipalities have Municipal Commissions on Accessibility and Disability and that the impact of these commissions is not known.

20. The Committee urges the State party to adopt regulations on accessibility to the physical environment, transport, information and communication, in line with the Convention, and to implement accessibility plans with measurable goals and timetables, as well as sanctions for non-compliance. The Committee urges the State party to comply with the statutory deadline of 2014 for ensuring full accessibility to public transport. It also recommends that adequate budgetary funds be allocated to implement municipal accessibility plans and to ensure monitoring and evaluation of those plans by organizations of persons with disabilities.

Australia (2013)

20. The Committee notes that the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 and the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010, introduce regulations to address accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities. However, it remains concerned at the level of compliance with accessibility standards and regulations.

21. The Committee recommends that sufficient resources be allocated to ensure monitoring and implementation of the Disability Standards and requirements.

Austria (2013)

23. The Committee commends the State party for its achievements in the area of accessibility to buildings, to transport and to information. The Committee notes that various cities and Länder have developed plans for improving accessibility to facilities. However, it is concerned that accessibility is poor in some areas, particularly outside Austria's larger cities. It is particularly concerned that, in at least one Länd, there is a minimum number of people set for requiring a barrier-free environment for public facilities. In addition, accessibility shall also

consist of barrier-free info-communication accessibility in Austria's media, at ORF in particular.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party develop an overarching inclusive approach to accessibility in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention. The building standards should not be limited to buildings of a minimum size or capacity, but should apply to all public facilities in accordance with article 9. The Committee also recommends decreasing the timelines of staged plans that currently operate in some cities and Länder and also the plan for subtitling ORF programs.

El Salvador (2013)

23. The Committee is concerned at the absence of a mechanism monitoring compliance with accessibility standards and the lack of technical aids provided to low-income persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of efforts to ensure access in rural areas and community services.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a mechanism to monitor laws on accessibility, involving organizations of persons with disabilities, and impose penalties for non-compliance;

(b) Urgently adopt an action plan on accessibility that includes all aspects covered in article 9 of the Convention, allocates a larger budget and focuses on rural areas.

Paraguay (2013)

23. The Committee notes the approval of the Act on Accessibility of the Physical Environment for Persons with Disabilities; it is, however, concerned at the complete absence of any standards for the accessibility of information and communication and of information and communication technologies (ICTs), the gaps in implementation, the narrow definition of accessibility and in particular the lack of mechanisms to monitor the adoption of accessibility standards. It also regrets the absence of specific action to ensure the accessibility of public facilities, and of guarantees of implementation in the private sector, and the complete lack of information or provisions on accessibility in the departments and municipalities of Paraguay.

24. The Committee urges the State party to implement the Act on Accessibility of the Physical Environment by allocating financial resources, setting time frames for modification of infrastructure and buildings, and establishing oversight mechanisms and means of penalizing non-compliance, in consultation with disabled persons' organizations, which should be authorized to assist in monitoring implementation.

25. The Committee recognizes the State party's efforts to train the staff of public transport systems. It regrets, however, the absence of a legal framework instituting a requirement of accessibility in public transport.

26. The Committee urges the State party to adopt provisions and instruments regulating and implementing, in accordance with articles 1 and 9 of the Convention, the accessibility of public transport at the national level that covers infrastructure and conveyances, signage and map design in accessible and easy-to-understand formats.

Argentina (2012)

17. The Committee takes note of the State party's current legislation on accessibility for persons with disabilities. However, it notes with concern that, despite the establishment of the Advisory and Monitoring Committee, the State party does not have effective mechanisms for overseeing and evaluating compliance with accessibility legislation in all the areas covered by the Convention or for regulating and monitoring the imposition of sanctions for non-compliance. The Committee is also concerned about the challenge posed by the State party's federal structure in terms of the achievement of full accessibility for all persons with disabilities in every province and municipality in its territory.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party establish effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating compliance with accessibility laws in the State party and that it take the necessary measures to facilitate the alignment of the relevant federal and provincial legislation with the Convention and the development and implementation of accessibility

plans. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure that private entities take due account of all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

China (2012)

17. While appreciating the state party's advancements concerning accessibility in urban areas, the Committee takes note of the lack of information concerning both the accessibility in rural areas as well as the effects of non-compliance with accessibility measures and monitoring and evaluating accessibility

18. The Committee asks the state party to provide such information in its next report. Considering the large proportion of persons with disabilities who live in rural areas (75 %), it specifically urges the state party to ensure that accessibility is guaranteed not only in urban, but also in rural areas. It also asks the state party not to restrict the barrier-free infrastructure to environments often frequented by persons with disabilities.

Hong-Kong (2012)

61. While noting that Hong Kong, China, has improved the barrier-free access of government buildings, leisure and cultural facilities and public housings in recent years, the Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities still face difficulties in terms of accessibility. The Committee especially regrets that the building standards set out in the "Design Manual – Barrier Free Access" do not apply retroactively and that they are not applicable to premises under the management of the government or the housing authority. The Committee is concerned that the monitoring mechanism to evaluate the accessibility of buildings is insufficient, thus restricting the persons with disabilities' ability to live independently in the community.

62. The Committee encourages Hong Kong, China, to continue reviewing the "Design Manual-Barrier Free Access" and apply these standards retroactively as well as to premises under the management of the government or the housing authority. It recommends that Hong Kong, China, strengthen the monitoring process of accessibility.

Hungary (2012)

23. The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party has set deadlines for fulfilling the provisions of the law for accessibility of public services rendered by the state (31 December 2010), the accessibility of educational, health and social services as well as that of municipality client services (31 December 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively) and has allocated considerable funds for the removal of barriers by 2011, 2012 and 2013. However, the Committee is concerned that the above-mentioned deadlines have not been fully met and that there are initiatives to postpone them further. The Committee is also concerned about the financial challenges faced by the authorities charged with monitoring the implementation of the accessibility legislation.

24. The Committee calls upon the State party to undertake efforts to meet the deadlines for removal of accessibility barriers set in its own legislation and policies, without any postponement of the set deadlines. The Committee calls upon the State party to strengthen the monitoring mechanisms additionally in order to ensure accessibility and to continue providing sufficient funds for the removal of accessibility barriers and the continued training of relevant monitoring staff.

Peru (2012)

20. The Committee regrets the lack of information on the level of implementation of the State's requirement to have, by 2010, 60 per cent of public facilities accessible for persons with disabilities, as well as the absence of information on compliance with accessibility standards by private companies.

21. The Committee urges the State party to speed up the plans and programmes directed to make public facilities, communications and public transportation, in the urban and rural areas, accessible for persons with disabilities and to ensure that private entities duly take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Spain (2011)

27. The Committee takes note that Act 26/2011 introduces regulatory amendments that will shorten the timelines for meeting accessibility requirements in public facilities and with respect to goods and services available to the public. However, it remains concerned at the low level of compliance with these requirements, in particular at the regional and local levels, in the private sector, and in relation to existing facilities. The Committee is aware of situations of discrimination faced by air passengers with disabilities, including situations of denial of boarding. The Committee reminds the State party that article 9 of the Convention also requires States to ensure access to information and communication.

28. The Committee recommends that sufficient financial and human resources be allocated as soon as possible to implement, promote and monitor compliance with accessibility legislation through national measures as well as through international cooperation.

Tunisia (2010)

20. The Committee takes note of the National Strategy on environmental management and the implementation of the first Action Plan in this area, covering the period 2008-2010. However, it remains concerned that gaps continue to impede full accessibility for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to all facilities and services open or provided to the public, including access to information, communications and transport.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of laws on accessibility in order to identify, monitor and address those gaps. It recommends that awareness-raising programmes be conducted for the relevant professional groups and all stakeholders. It further recommends that sufficient financial and human resources be allocated as soon as possible to implement the national plan on accessibility for existing and future infrastructure.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 10 CRPD
(Right to life)*

September 2025

Article 10 - Right to life

States Parties reaffirm that every human being has the inherent right to life and shall take all necessary measures to ensure its effective enjoyment by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

Finland (2025)

Maldives (2025)

Canada (2025)

European Union (2025)

Viet Nam (2025)

Belarus (2024)

Belgium (2024)

Benin (2024)

Burkina Faso (2024)

Ghana (2024)

Netherlands (2024)

Ukraine (2024)

Azerbaijan (2024)

Bahrain (2024)

Kazakhstan (2024)

Nicaragua (2024)

Sweden (2024)

Zambia (2024)

Andorra (2023)

Germany (2023)

Israel (2023)

Malawi (2023)

Argentina (2023)

Georgia (2023)

Peru (2023)

Togo (2023)

Bangladesh (2022)

China (2022)

Indonesia (2022)

Japan (2022)

New Zealand (2022)

Republic of Korea (2022)

Singapore (2022)

Hungary (2022)

Mexico (2022)

Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
France (2021)
Australia (2019)
India (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
South Africa (2018)
Oman (2018)
Montenegro (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Sweden (2014)
China (2012)

Please note there are no recommendations on Article 10 CRPD on the Concluding Observations on Kiribati (2025), Dominican Republic (2025), Palau (2025), Tuvalu (2025), Denmark (2024), Mauritius (2024), Costa Rica (2024), Austria, Mauritania, Mongolia, Paraguay, Angola, Lao Democratic People's Republic, Djibouti, Cuba, Niger, Norway, Vanuatu, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Philippines, Algeria, Malta, Nepal, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Slovenia, Sudan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Morocco, Panama, Armenia, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Guatemala, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Chile, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Thailand, Brazil, European Union, Mauritius, Qatar, Cook Islands, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Germany, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador,

Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica (2014), Australia, Austria, El Salvador, Paraguay, Argentina, Hungary, Peru and Tunisia.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

17. The Committee is deeply concerned about:

- (a) Credible reports of infanticide of children with disabilities, including accounts of killings carried out in medical facilities with official consent, and the State Party's failure to provide any data or information about preventive measures;
- (b) Domestic legislation does not explicitly guarantee the right to life for persons with disabilities, including in detention and healthcare settings, where they face heightened risks of systematic denial of medical care, starvation, and abuse, without independent oversight;
- (c) Credible reports that eugenic and discriminatory medical policies and practices persist, based on the notion of "disability prevention";
- (d) The legality and practice of the death penalty in the State Party, disregarding the limits recognized under international law, and the lack of information provided on the question of its application to persons with disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Take effective measures to end infanticide of children with disabilities, investigate all allegations and investigate and punish perpetrators with proportionate penalties;**
- (b) Amend domestic laws to explicitly guarantee the right to life of persons with disabilities in all contexts, including detention and healthcare, and establish independent monitoring bodies with unrestricted access to places of detention;**
- (c) Prohibit eugenic and discriminatory medical policies and practices, particularly those framed as "disability prevention";**
- (d) Abolish the death penalty and immediately cease imposing and carrying out the death penalty in regard to persons with disabilities, in accordance with the limits established under international law, in line with relevant recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review process.**

Finland (2025)

17. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The restrictions on the right to care and intensive care for children with disabilities;
- (b) The practice to advise families of children with disabilities to limit resuscitation, treatment in intensive care or life-supporting treatment for them;
- (c) The authority of doctors, in some circumstances, to limit treatment without the patient's consent, creating the risk of disproportionately limiting treatment for persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends the State party, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, have access to care and intensive care on an equal basis with others, without any restriction based on disability;**
- (b) Ensure that advice on resuscitation, treatment in intensive care or life supporting treatment to families of children with disabilities is provided on an equal basis with others, not proposing any limitations of such treatment based on disability;**
- (c) Eliminate all forms of substitute decision making on medical interventions and guarantee personal and free informed consent of persons with disabilities for all medical treatment.**

Maldives (2025)

19. The Committee is gravely concerned:

- (a) About the legality of the death penalty in the State party, which continues to on persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as women that are victims of domestic and sexual violence. It is particularly concerned at the information provided by the State party's delegation on the State party's intention to lift the moratorium on the application of death penalty;

(b) Persons with disabilities who are on death row face harsh and degrading conditions, isolation, lack of access to sanitation, services, reasonable and gender-specific accommodation, rehabilitation and intellectual activity;

(c) About the increasing rate of suicide among the population, and the criminalization of attempt of suicide, which prevents persons with disabilities to seek mental health support.

20. Recalling the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/MDV/CO/2, para. 28), the Committee recommends the State party:

(a) Maintain the moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to abolish the death penalty, and encourages it to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;

(b) Immediately release all the persons with disabilities currently on death row and guarantee adequate support services including psychosocial support and reasonable accommodation;

(c) Provide training to the judiciary to avoid imposing the death penalty on persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and train police and prison staff to respect the rights of persons with disabilities who are on death row and ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation and gender specific accommodation;

(d) Make the information on the situation of persons sentenced to death penalty publicly available, including with disaggregated data on disability and reporting on the accommodation provided.

Canada (2025)

19. The Committee is extremely concerned about the 2021 amendments to the State Party's Criminal Code through Bill C-7 that expanded the eligibility criteria for obtaining Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), known as "Track 2" MAiD by removing the 'foreseeable death' criteria. The Committee recalls that similar concerns about Track 2 MAiD have been addressed directly to the State Party by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and during the Universal Periodic Review. The Committee further notes that the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons have stated that disability is not a reason to endorse medical assistance in dying. The Committee also notes with concern that:

(a) The federal government did not challenge the Quebec Truchon decision which fundamentally changes the whole premise of medical assistance in dying when natural death is reasonably foreseeable to a new program that establishes medically assisted dying for persons with disabilities based on negative, ableist perceptions of the quality and value of the life of persons with disabilities, including that 'suffering' is intrinsic to disability rather than the fact that inequality and discrimination cause and compound 'suffering' for persons with disabilities;

(b) The concept of 'choice' creates a false dichotomy by setting up the premise that if persons with disabilities are suffering, it is valid for the State Party to enable their death, with safeguards not guaranteeing the provision of support, and ableist assumptions deemphasising the myriad of support options for persons with disabilities to live dignified lives, and the systemic failures of the State Party to address the social determinants of health and well-being, such as poverty alleviation, access to healthcare, accessible housing, prevention of homelessness, prevention of gender-based violence, the provision of community-based mental health supports and employment supports;

(c) Evidence from the Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner and federal government data indicating that Track 2 MAiD is disproportionately accessed by women with disabilities and

persons with disabilities in marginalised situations, and there is an upward trajectory of persons with disabilities killed through Track 2 MAiD;

(d) The expansion of Track 2 MAiD in 2027 to persons whose “sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness” and the proposed expansion of MAiD to include “mature minors” and advance requests for MAiD;

(e) The inadequate consultation process with Indigenous Peoples including non-status and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities in relation to MAiD;

(f) The absence of a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAiD.

20. To ensure the right to life for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Repeal Track 2 Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), including the 2027 commencement of Track 2 MAiD for persons whose “sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness”;

(b) Not support proposals for the expansion of MAiD to include “mature minors” and advance requests;

(c) Significantly invest and implement comprehensive measures, at federal, provincial, and territorial levels to ensure the systemic failures in relation to the social determinants of health and well-being are addressed, such as poverty alleviation, access to healthcare, accessible housing, prevention of homelessness, prevention of gender-based violence, the provision of community-based mental health supports, care services at home and personal assistance, and employment supports;

(d) Strengthen distinctions-based, community-led consultation processes with Indigenous Peoples, including non-status and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities, respecting the principle of self-determination;

(e) Establish and resource a federal independent oversight mechanism to monitor, regulate and handle complaints in relation to MAiD.

European Union (2025)

28. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Deaths of persons with disabilities in institutional settings that received financial support from EU funds, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, without sufficient preventive measures and redress mechanism;

(b) Discriminatory medical protocols and higher mortality rates of persons with disabilities in institutions, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and in situations of armed conflict in neighbouring countries.

29. The Committee recommends the European Union:

(a) Adopt, within its competences, concrete initiatives and actions in the second half of the Disability Rights Strategy, to prevent deaths of persons with disabilities in institutions, including by:

(i) Developing standards for Member States on the prevention and investigation of deaths in institutions that received EU funding, providing funds to increase Member States’ capacity in this area, and by aligning other strategies on health and long-term care with this objective;

(ii) Requiring to thoroughly investigate violence against and deaths of persons with disabilities in institutions that receive funding from the EU, and by including data collection on cases of deaths in of persons with disabilities in institutions in Eurostat’s responsibilities;

(iii) Applying its accountability framework, including the suspension of funding and the recovery of funds, to institutions in which deaths could have been prevented;

(b) Develop non-discriminatory medical guidelines and standards ensuring equal access to life-saving treatments, particularly during health emergencies, and align EU policy and standards among Member States.

Viet Nam (2025)

19. The Committee expresses profound concern about the continued existence of the death penalty.

20. The Committee urges the State party to abolish the death penalty. It also recommends that the State party ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Belarus (2024)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The legality and practice of the death penalty in the State party, as applicable also to persons with disabilities in disregard of the limits recognized under international law;

(b) The reported deaths of persons with disabilities during the course of their detention or the serious health conditions faced by persons with disabilities that may pose a threat to their lives as a result of deprivation of health-care services and lack of reasonable accommodation.

20. Recalling the concluding observations as adopted by the Human rights Committee in 2018 (CCPR/C/BLR/CO/5), the Committee recommends that the State party to enforce an immediate moratorium on executions of persons with disabilities, and ensure access to effective health care services for persons with disabilities in detention or prison facilities, day and residential care centers, as well as allow independent inspection and fact-finding committees to visit them, monitor and assess their situation.

Belgium (2024)

20. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports that persons with disabilities in institutions, including residential care institutions and psychiatric institutions, have a substantially lower life expectancy than the general population;

(b) Reports that persons with psychosocial disabilities have died as a result of police interventions due to the use of restraints and due to a lack of training of police officers;

(c) The absence of information on the prevalence of suicide among young persons with disabilities between the age of 15 to 29, despite suicide being the most frequently cited cause of death for young people of this age bracket.

21. The Committee recommends that State party:

(a) **Systematically collect data on the life expectancy and death rates of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, in institutions, and establish comprehensive mechanisms to ensure that persons with disabilities in institutions receive quality healthcare, medical and other healthy living supports, and closely monitor their implementation until the deinstitutionalization process for persons with disabilities is finalized;**

(b) **Strengthen efforts to prevent deaths of people with disabilities through the use of force by police, prison officers and other law enforcement personnel through the development of a comprehensive action plan that included measures for mandatory training, the elimination of force and the implementation of multidisciplinary non-coercive supports;**

(c) **Collect statistical data on the causes of death of young persons with disabilities and provide the requisite accessible services, including psychosocial services, to remedy these causes.**

Benin (2024)

19. The Committee is concerned by information received on children born with disabilities and so-called "sorcerer's" children who are allegedly killed or abandoned by their parents. It is further concerned at the lack of information on legal action taken against the perpetrators of such infanticides.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a legislative framework to protect persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism from abduction and murder, and to ensure that all perpetrators are brought to justice;
- (b) Conduct awareness-raising campaigns to change perceptions and attitudes towards persons with disabilities and combat stereotypes, myths and beliefs associated with albinism, which can incite ritual killings and attacks of persons with albinism and adopt the Plan of Action to End Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa (2021–2031);
- (c) Recalling the recommendation issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the State party (CRC/C/BEN/CO/3-5, paragraph 29), prevent and eradicate infanticide, and to take prompt and active measures to protect infants' right to life and to ensure that all perpetrators of infanticide are brought to justice.

Burkina Faso (2024)

20. The Committee is concerned about reports of attacks on the life and physical integrity of persons with disabilities, notably on persons with hearing impairment in Ziniaré, and the lack of specific mechanisms to prevent, record, investigate and prosecute attacks on the lives of persons with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish specific mechanisms to prevent attacks on the life and physical integrity of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Record, investigate and prosecute violations of the lives of persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism.

Ghana (2024)

20. The Committee notes with concern that

- (a) Reports of harmful cultural practices like infanticide and ritual killings of children with disabilities, so called "spirit children";
- (b) The enforcement of existing constitutional provisions prohibiting such practices is lacking, leaving individuals, particularly those with disabilities, at risk of practices that violate their rights.

21. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Amend national laws to include specific protections for the right to life of persons with disabilities, and take measures that strengthen sanctions, to ensure an effective protection of the right to life of persons with disabilities, notably persons with albinism and children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) Launch public education campaigns to dispel myths about disabilities, targeting communities, schools, and traditional leaders, and implement State interventions, including safe shelters, psychosocial support, and community-based monitoring systems to protect persons with disability at risk.

Netherlands (2024)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The significant number of persons with disabilities who have died under the responsibility of law enforcement officers, compared to persons without disabilities.
- (b) The recent changes in the euthanasia law and the lack of specific protection measures to ensure adequate decision-making for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the existing stigma around 'confused behaviour' does not have a negative impact on the work of law enforcement;

(b) Ensure that persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities can freely express their informed consent under the new euthanasia law by, inter alia, establishing mechanisms ensuring full, unbiased and disability-responsive information and protecting from undue influence and pressure.

Ukraine (2024)

20. The Committee is concerned about reports that persons with disabilities have been extrajudicially executed in the context of the conflict and occupation.

21. The Committee recalls that the right to life is non-derogable and enjoys a status of peremptory norm (CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.6), which entails the obligation of the State party and the occupying power to protect the right to life of all persons with disabilities. The Committee calls upon the State party to increase efforts to investigate the extrajudicial executions of persons with disabilities during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and to establish criminal responsibility, adopt measures to restore the dignity of victims, and provide comprehensive reparations to survivors, including family members and communities.

Azerbaijan (2024)

21. The Committee is concerned about the impact of non-communicable diseases on the mortality rate of persons with disabilities and the lack of information about the deaths of persons with disabilities residing in institutions.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that health programmes to address non-communicable diseases include persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and that early identification and information about prevention and treatment are available for persons with disabilities in accessible formats;

(b) Prevent arbitrary deprivation of life of persons with disabilities living in institutions, including by periodically monitoring registries of deaths in institutions, setting up early warning mechanisms in institutions and ensuring investigations of deaths, prosecutions and where appropriate convictions of perpetrators.

Bahrain (2024)¹

20. The Committee is seriously concerned that the State party's Constitution does not explicitly recognise the right to life as a fundamental right that is inviolable and must be respected. In particular, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of fair trial guarantees for persons with disabilities for offences punishable by the death penalty in the Penal Code No. 15 of 1976, as amended, Law No. 58 of 2006 on the protection of society from terrorist acts and Law No. 15 of 2007 on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

(b) The health conditions faced by convicted persons with disabilities that may pose a threat to their lives as a result of poor health care services and lack of accommodations.

21. Recalling the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR/C/BHR/CO/1 Para. 32), the Committee recommends that the State party should:

(a) Immediately suspend the execution of existing death sentences and refrain from issuing new ones, especially against persons with disabilities.

(b) Provide accommodations for convicted and detained persons with disabilities and allow independent inspection and fact-finding committees to visit them and explore their physical and mental health conditions.

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

Kazakhstan (2024)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reports about deaths of persons with disabilities in residential institutions, including in psychiatric settings and detention facilities, in special social service centres for children particularly in the eastern and southern regions, and about the limited number and scope of investigations into and insufficient accountability for actions leading to death or threatening life;
- (b) Reports of suicides among persons with disabilities between 2018 and 2020, and scarce information about measures to prevent them;
- (c) Reports of interruptions of health treatment and medication for persons with disabilities with chronic diseases due to low income and the high cost of the required treatment.

22. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Adopt measures to safeguard the life of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with disabilities in residential institutions and psychiatric settings, and conduct expeditious and independent investigations of any deaths in such institutions;**
- (b) Conduct independent investigations of suicides among persons with disabilities and adopt measures to provide psychosocial support to prevent suicides among persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Protect the right to life of persons with disabilities in critical health situations by, inter alia, ensuring affordable access to the required medical treatment and medication.**

Nicaragua (2024)

18. Al Comité le preocupa que:

- a) En el periodo de 2012 a 2019 se registraron un total de 526 feminicidios, un promedio de 75 feminicidios por año, y que se desconoce cuántos de esos se perpetraron en mujeres o niñas con discapacidad;
- b) Se cuente con información sobre desaparición forzada de mujeres y adolescentes migrantes, y no se conozca cuantas de ellas tienen alguna discapacidad.

19. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:**

- a) Tipificar el delito de feminicidio y establecer sanciones severas para este tipo de crímenes;**
- b) Investigue, con base en la Ley General de Migración y Extranjería (Ley núm. 761), las desapariciones forzadas de mujeres y niñas migrantes, especialmente aquellas con discapacidad, se establezca justicia restaurativa para ellas y se investigue y, en su caso, sancione a los perpetradores.**

Sweden (2024)

23. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party's delegation on the training provided to the police force, and the development of a handbook on interacting with persons with psychosocial disabilities, as well as a planned strategy for mental health and suicide prevention, which is going to include a disability perspective. However, it notes with concern:

- (a) A disproportionately high use of firearms by the police force against persons with psychosocial disabilities, and a substantial rise in the use of firearms by the police force in recent years, as evidenced in the report "Polismyndighetens användning av särskilda hjälpmedel för våldsanvändning, Redovisning av data fram till 31 december 2022";
- (b) The lack of measures taken to prevent avoidable deaths among persons with disabilities in institutions.

24. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Strengthen the training for law enforcement officers in order to avoid the excessive use of force and firearms, in particular with regard to persons with psychosocial disabilities, and persons with disabilities from intersecting backgrounds of marginalization;**

(b) Develop a comprehensive approach to prevent avoidable deaths among persons with disabilities in institutions, including by providing training to all professionals working with persons with disabilities, such as health, social, education and community workers, and ensure that criminal acts are effectively prosecuted.

Zambia (2024)

19.The Committee is deeply concerned at reports of attacks, mutilation, abduction and murder of persons with albinism.

20.The Committee, recalling its jurisprudence recommends that the State party:

(a)Take immediate and urgent legal and policy measures to safeguard and protect persons with disabilities and persons with albinism from abduction and murder, and to ensure that all perpetrators are brought to justice;

(b) Conduct awareness raising campaigns to change perceptions and attitudes towards persons with disabilities and combat stereotypes, myths and beliefs associated with albinism which motivate ritual killings and attacks on persons with albinism.

Andorra (2023)

21.The Committee is concerned about insufficient safeguards concerning the consideration of the will and preference of persons with disabilities as regards their health care and treatment, including in palliative care.

22.The Committee recommends that the State party reinforces safeguards, including adopting protocols to ensure that all decisions about medical treatment in life-threatening situations and palliative care are made on the basis of the will and preference of the person concerned and that the latter is provided with appropriate support.

Germany (2023)

21.The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party enacted a federal law governing triage decisions in situations of insufficient medical capacities, and that these rules prohibit any direct and indirect discrimination based on disability. However, the Committee is concerned that the triage criterion of “actual or short-term probability of survival”, as laid down in the law, may discriminate persons with disabilities indirectly, despite the legal prohibition of such discrimination.

22.The Committee recommends that the State party review the new federal law on triage decisions in situations of insufficient medical capacities and enact a triage criterion that effectively prevents any direct or indirect discrimination of persons with disabilities.

Israel (2023)

21.The Committee is concerned about:

(a)Reports of deaths of persons with disabilities at border controls by security forces, during public demonstrations and as a consequence of law enforcement operations and hostilities, including air strikes and risks of persons with disabilities in the context of public demonstrations against Government initiatives of judicial reform;

(b)Application of section 5C of the Civil Wrongs (Liability of the State) Law, 5712 – 1952 excluding liability for damages, and decisions to close investigations;

(c)The impact of triage measures for critical health care for persons with disabilities, in particular ventilators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

22.The Committee recalls the recommendations issued by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/ISR/CO/5, see para. 27) and recommends that the State party:

(a)Prevent the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force, including unwarranted lethal force by security forces against civilians, including persons with disabilities, ensure investigations to identify and bring perpetrators to account and ensure that victims are provided with full reparations;

- (b)Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to effective remedies in cases of unwarranted use of force and review legislation to allow complaints by persons with disabilities affected by acts or omissions by the occupying power;
- (c)Expedite the inception of multidisciplinary crisis teams to intervene in cases relating to law enforcement operations in relation to persons with psychosocial disabilities and ensure close consultations and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Law Enforcement and Security Forces' Interactions with persons with disabilities (CRPD/C/ISR/RQ/1, paras. 50 and 51);
- (d)Take measures to prevent injuries and violence against persons with disabilities in the context of public demonstrations, and ensure that use of force complies with applicable international human rights law;
- (e)Ensure that access to critical health care for persons with disabilities is based on human rights based ethical decision-making principles and procedures in emergencies, including related to COVID-19.

Malawi (2023)

21.The Committee is concerned about:

- (a)The absence of the right to life as an explicit right to be protected under the Disability Act of 2012 (Cap 33:06);
- (b)The expiry of the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism in Malawi (2022) and that persons with albinism continue to experience violent and fatal attacks, and disappearances due to misconceptions and beliefs hindering their right to life and enjoyment of life;
- (c)Lack of financial resources and implementation of the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism In Malawi, which limits its effectiveness in protecting the right to life of persons with albinism.

22.The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations :

- (a)Include the right to life as an explicit right to be protected in the new Persons with Disabilities Bill;**
- (b)Renew, review and implement the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism in Malawi promptly so it exists beyond 2022, ensuring close consultation with and active involvement of persons with albinism, including, women and girls with albinism and children with albinism, through their representative organizations;**
- (c)Allocate financial resources that are sufficient to implement the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism in Malawi so that it can be more effective in protecting the right to life of persons with albinism**

Argentina (2023)

21.Preocupan al Comité los informes relativos a las muertes de personas con discapacidad en centros de salud mental, así como la falta de información y la ausencia de investigaciones y sanciones en estos casos.

22.El Comité recomienda al Estado parte adoptar medidas efectivas para prevenir las muertes en centros de salud mental y llevar a cabo investigaciones exhaustivas e independientes sobre las causas y circunstancias de las muertes acaecidas en estos establecimientos, sancione a los responsables y otorgue reparaciones integrales en estos casos.

Georgia (2023)

21.The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) According to paragraph 2 of Article 148 of the Law of Georgia on Healthcare, if a person with a terminal illness is unconscious, a relative or a legitimate representative has the right to decline the services of resuscitation, end-of-life-care and palliative care and/or palliative

treatment for the patient, referred to by the State party in its replies to the list of issues and questions (CPRD/C/GEO/RQ/1 para, 54);

(b) Substitute decision-making curtails the right of persons with disabilities under guardianship to take decisions concerning their healthcare and treatment, particularly life - ending measures, and that decisions made by legal representatives and healthcare practitioners prevail (CPRD/C/GEO/RQ/1 para, 56).

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and the Public Defender of Georgia:

(a) Repeal provisions that allow for denial of end-of-life care and palliative care on the basis of third parties' assessments and reaffirm the value of lives of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including by taking legislative measures and adopting protocols to ensure that all decisions about medical treatment in life-threatening situations are made on the basis of the will and preference of the person concerned, and that the latter is provided with appropriate support;

(b) Review its legislation and amend provisions that restrict the autonomy of persons with disabilities in healthcare.

Peru (2023)

20. Al Comité le preocupa la falta de datos sobre las personas con discapacidad que murieron como consecuencia de la pandemia del COVID-19, incluso en instituciones públicas y privadas, dado que el Estado parte tuvo una de las tasas de mortalidad más altas del mundo.

21. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que investigue el impacto de la pandemia del COVID-19 en la vida de las personas con discapacidad, incluidas las personas mayores, y tome las medidas necesarias para que se dé prioridad a la vida de las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo durante las emergencias.

Togo (2023)

19. The Committee is deeply concerned that persons with disabilities are subject to inhumane treatment and harmful practices, in particular children are likely to be killed or abandoned by their parents. It is also concerned at reports on abduction and murder of persons with albinism.

20. The Committee, recalling its jurisprudence² recommends that the State party take appropriate legal and policy measures to safeguard and protect persons with disabilities, especially children and persons with albinism from abandonment, murder and abduction, and to ensure that all perpetrators are brought to justice.

Bangladesh (2022)

21. The Committee is concerned about reported cases of infanticide on the basis of impairment.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate legal and policy measures to safeguard and protect children with disabilities from infanticide based on impairment.

China (2022)

24. The Committee is concerned about the lack of action taken to prevent the neglect, abandonment and starvation threatening the life of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, and reported cases of the termination or withdrawal of medical treatment without the consent of the person concerned.

²X. v. The United Republic of Tanzania, Communication No. 22/2014 of 5 October 2017

Y. v. The United Republic of Tanzania, Communication No. 23/2014 of 30 October 2018

Z. v. The United Republic of Tanzania, Communication No. 24/2014 of 15 October 2019

25. The Committee recommends that the State party expeditiously assess and provide remedies for persons with disabilities whose right to life is threatened. It further recommends the training of healthcare professionals on procedures to ensure that the consent of persons is sought as a requirement to terminate or withdraw medical treatment.

Indonesia (2022)

20. The Committee notes with concern reports of deaths in social care institutions, the lack of investigations, standards of care and safeguards, monitoring, reporting and accountability frameworks, including sanctions.

21. The Committee recommends that the State Party establish a comprehensive quality and safeguards framework for social care institutions that includes investigations, monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms, including sanctions, until deinstitutionalisation is achieved.

Japan (2022)

23. The Committee is concerned about the reports on the cases of deaths of persons with disabilities resulted from the:

- (a) Lack of safeguards of the right to life of persons with disabilities, including lack of consideration of their will and preferences as regards the non-start and/or continuation of their medical treatment, including in palliative care;
- (b) Physical and chemical restrains in the condition of involuntary hospitalisation on the bases of impairment;
- (c) It is also concerned by the lack of statistics on the causes and circumstances of and independent investigation on the deaths in psychiatric hospitals.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities and independent monitoring mechanisms:

- (a) Explicitly recognize the right to life of persons with disabilities and ensure the respective safeguards, including the expression of their will and preferences and the required support for it, as regards their treatment, including in palliative care;
- (b) Prevent any form of involuntary hospitalisation and treatment on the bases of impairment of a person and ensure necessary support to persons with disabilities in community-based services;
- (c) Conduct thorough and independent investigation on causes and circumstances of the cases of deaths in psychiatric hospitals.

New Zealand (2022)

17. The Committee is concerned about the negative perceptions and the devaluing of persons with disabilities that were expressed during the passage of the End of Life Choice Act 2019, and the potential negative impact of this on the implementation, monitoring and review of the Act.

18. The Committee recommends that monitoring and review mechanisms for the End of Life Choice Act 2019 provide publicly available information on the impact on persons with disabilities, including the effectiveness of safeguards to counteract negative perceptions held by medical professionals and to prevent coercion in decision-making.

Republic of Korea (2022)

21. The Committee is deeply concerned about:

- (a) The high rate of suicide and disappearances among autistic persons, persons with psychosocial disabilities, as well as cases of parents with disabilities killing their children before committing suicide;
- (b) The deaths of persons with disabilities in institutional settings, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement a national suicide and disappearances prevention strategy for persons with disabilities, with specific measures to target autistic persons, persons with psychosocial disabilities and families, and to ensure close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;
- (b) Develop measures in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and independent monitoring mechanisms, to initiate emergency deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities to ensure safe and independent living in the community and to protect the right to life in critical health situations.

Singapore (2022)

19. The Committee is gravely concerned about the legality, the imposition and the execution of the death penalty in the State party on persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and autistic persons, as well as for crimes not involving intentional killing. It is equally concerned about the execution of a person with intellectual disabilities despite the prior intervention of the Committee's Chair.

20. The Committee urgently recommends the State party abolish the death penalty for persons with psychosocial disabilities, for persons with intellectual disabilities, and for autistic persons, as well as for crimes not involving intentional killing, and immediately halt all impositions and executions of the death penalty in such cases, in accordance with the limits established under international law. It encourages the State party to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Hungary (2022)

20. The Committee notes with concern the lack of investigation and prosecutions concerning the deaths of persons with disabilities, including of children with disabilities, in residential institutions.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party expeditiously start investigations into the deaths of persons with disabilities in institutions, recognize such deaths as "extraordinary events", which may be due to the abuse endured in institutions, and prosecute and punish perpetrators. It also recommends that the State party provide remedies and redress to the families of victims in cases of deaths of persons with disabilities and expedite deinstitutionalization for all persons with disabilities who remain in institutions.

Mexico (2022)

29. The Committee is concerned about multiple reports indicating a high risk of death of children and adults with disabilities in institutions, resulting from various forms of restraints and improper medical treatment in psychiatric hospitals, and from insufficient professional assistance and support.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) In close consultation with, and including the active involvement of, persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, conduct a thorough inquiry into all deaths of children and adult persons with disabilities in all institutions since the Committee's previous concluding observations;
- (b) Provide protection to the victims of these crimes and bring perpetrators to justice.

Switzerland (2022)

21. The Committee notes with concern that the guidelines issued by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences on decisions regarding resuscitation do not sufficiently protect the right to life of persons with disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party develop human rights-based decision-making guidelines, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to ensure that decisions regarding resuscitation do not discriminate on the basis of disability.

Venezuela (2022)

18. The Committee is concerned about the rates of social violence, including a homicide rate of 23.1 per cent, and reports of crackdowns during demonstrations resulting in death or disability.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct formal investigations into the causes of the homicide rate and, in particular, into how many persons with disabilities are included in this rate;**
- (b) Investigate how many persons with disabilities have been assaulted or imprisoned during the demonstrations, how many people have been left with a disability during these events and what measures have been taken to compensate them.**

France (2021)

21. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The high suicide rate among autistic persons and persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The deaths of persons with disabilities in institutional settings, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen measures to implement a national suicide prevention strategy for persons with disabilities, with specific measures to target autistic persons and persons with psychosocial disabilities and to ensure close consultation and active involvement of people with disability through their representative organisations;**
- (b) Develop measures in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities and independent monitoring mechanisms, to initiate emergency deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities to ensure safe and independent living in the community and to protect the right to life in critical health situations.**

Australia (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The significantly lower life expectancy of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, than that of the general population;
- (b) A significant number of persons with disabilities expressing suicidal ideation, particularly within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, due to, inter alia, lack of support, poverty and isolation;
- (c) The high rate of premature and unexpected but avoidable deaths among persons with disabilities in care settings.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Address the low life expectancy of persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;**
- (b) Ensure that its national mental health and suicide prevention plans include targeted measures for persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, and develop, in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities, culturally appropriate measures to prevent, identify and address the high rate of suicide among those populations;**
- (c) Ensure a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention among persons with disabilities in the training of all professionals working with and for persons with disabilities, including health, social, education and community workers.**

El Salvador (2019)

20. The Committee is deeply concerned at the killings of persons with disabilities, often perpetrated by criminal gangs, at the alarming rise in femicides, which also affect women and girls with disabilities, and at the low rate of prosecution and conviction of the perpetrators.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately adopt measures to effectively address killings of persons with disabilities perpetrated by criminal gangs, and in particular femicides of women and girls with disabilities, and ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted and convicted.

India (2019)

22. The Committee is concerned about the deaths of children with disabilities in institutions, and information about “mercy killings” of intersex children with disabilities. It is also concerned about information about alleged extrajudicial executions of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in conflict areas.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure respect for the right to life of all persons with disabilities, enforce investigations aimed at identifying the cause of death of children with disabilities in institutions and sanction the perpetrators. It also recommends that the State party protect intersex children from attacks against their lives and any related harmful practices, and adopt measures to prevent the execution of persons with disabilities in relation to violence and armed conflict.

Kuwait (2019)

20. The Committee is concerned about the legality and practice of the death penalty and about the execution of persons with disabilities in the State party in disregard of the limits recognized under international law.

21. The Committee urges the State party to abolish the death penalty and immediately halt all executions of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in accordance with the limits established under international law. It also recommends that the State party ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Rwanda (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned that, whereas no specific killing in the State party itself has been reported, the right to life of persons with albinism in the State party and in the East African region, in general is under threat due to myths and false beliefs and practices.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to protect persons with albinism against threats of abduction and killings, and conduct awareness-raising efforts, including a public information campaign on the rights of persons with albinism in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism and their organizations.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned at the legality of capital punishment in the State party. It is moreover concerned at the application of this sentence to persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish the death penalty for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and suspend all current death sentences, in order to comply with its obligation under Article 10 of the Convention.

Senegal (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about the absence of measures to prevent crimes against persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

18. The Committee recommends that the State Party take necessary measures to prevent criminal behaviour, sometimes resulting in death towards persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, and provide protection to victims of such crimes and bring perpetrators to justice.

Spain (2019)

18. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reported cases of violence against women with psychosocial disabilities perpetrated by their intimate partners, which in some cases resulted in their death;
- (b) Reported deaths of persons with psychosocial disabilities as a result of involuntary restraint and improper medical treatment in psychiatric hospitals;
- (c) Reported cases of deaths of persons with disabilities resulting from insufficient professional assistance and support.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to address gender-based violence against women with psychosocial disabilities and to prevent, investigate and provide redress for violations of their human rights, and prosecute those responsible. It also recommends that the State party ensure that services and facilities for persons experiencing violence in the public or private sphere, are accessible to persons with disabilities, including shelters, victim support services, reporting and complaint mechanisms, include a gender and a child rights perspective and are confidential. Finally, it recommends that State party ensure that members of the law-enforcement officials, judiciary, health and social services receive mandatory and regular training on the prevention and detection of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities.

Türkiye (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information and monitoring on the situation of persons with disabilities in institutions, particularly women, and the reported deaths of persons with disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party establish an effective and transparent mechanism to investigate situations of neglect and destitution of persons with disabilities, particularly women, and deaths of persons with disabilities in institutional settings, and release periodic public records on this matter.

Bulgaria (2018)

25. The Committee is concerned about information of reported cases of neglect, overmedication, and refusal of access to health care affecting persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities, which have allegedly caused the death of persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party takes effective measures to prosecute and convict perpetrators and ensure the respect of the right to life of children and persons with disabilities, in particularly those still institutionalized.

South Africa (2018)

18. The Committee is concerned about extreme forms of violence against persons with disabilities, especially persons with albinism and children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including kidnappings, killings and attacks for witchcraft practices, and the absence of measures to prevent these crimes, protect victims and to prosecute and convict perpetrators.

19. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary measures to prevent the killings of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, and ensure their protection and that perpetrators are brought to justice and are given sanctions commensurate with the gravity of these crimes;**
- (b) Ensure full implementation of the Ekurhuleni Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Albinism adopted in 2013 and ensure effective investigations of violations of the rights of persons with albinism.**

Haiti (2018)

18. The Committee is deeply concerned of the heightened risks to the right to life of persons with disabilities, particularly women, due to violence and crime against them, exacerbated by superstitions and negative beliefs of disability. The Committee regrets reports of three women with a hearing impairment who were savagely murdered in 2016 on the grounds that they were

evil spirits. It further regrets that, to date, the perpetrators have not been prosecuted and sentenced.

19. The Committee urges the State party to take all legal and other measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy their right to life on an equal basis with others. It recommends that the State party ensure that all personnel in the administration of justice system are equipped with the resources to prosecute and punish crimes that infringe on the right to life of persons with disabilities.

Oman (2018)

21. The Committee notes with concern reports on the cultural practices of “compassionate” and “honour killing”, especially with regards to children with disabilities who may be killed by their mothers.

22. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party adopt appropriate measures to eliminate the practices of “compassionate” and “honour killing” especially where it affects children with disabilities, including by taking measures to address the stigmatization of and prejudice against such children aimed at reaffirming the value and dignity of children with disabilities within the family and the society at large.

Montenegro (2017)

20. The Committee is concerned about reported cases of death through suffocation in psychiatric hospitals and the fact that no specific prevention measures with safeguards have been taken since those reported deaths occurred. It notes with concern that hospitals lack specific protocols on how to proceed following allegations of abuse and that it is not mandatory to conduct an autopsy following the death of persons placed in institutions.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish anonymous and accessible complaint mechanisms in all hospitals, particularly psychiatric hospitals and departments, and in institutions, and develop an obligatory protocol that all hospitals and institutions are required to follow upon any abuse allegations;**
- (b) Make autopsy mandatory in cases of death in hospitals and institutions;**
- (c) Introduce specific safeguards to avoid accidents such as suffocation in all hospital and institution settings.**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

26. The Committee notes with concern that the substituted decision-making applied in matters of termination or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment and care is inconsistent with the right to life of persons with disabilities as equal and contributing members of society.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a plan of action aimed at eliminating perceptions towards persons with disabilities as not having “a good and decent life” and recognizing persons with disabilities as equal to others and part of the diversity of humankind. It also recommends that the State party ensure access to life-sustaining treatment and/or care.

Canada (2017)

23. The Committee is concerned about the adoption of legislation that provides for medical assistance in dying, including on the grounds of disability. It is also concerned about the absence of regulations for monitoring medical assistance in dying, the absence of data to assess compliance with the procedural safeguards regarding such assistance, and the lack of sufficient support to facilitate civil society engagement with and monitoring of this practice.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure persons who seek an assisted death have access to alternative courses of action and to a dignified life made possible with appropriate palliative care, disability support, home care and other social measures that support human flourishing;**

- (b) Establish regulations pursuant to the law requiring collection and reporting of detailed information about each request and intervention for medical assistance in dying;
- (c) Develop a national data standard and an effective and independent mechanism to ensure that compliance with the law and regulations is strictly enforced and that no person with disability is subjected to external pressure.

Cyprus (2017)

29. The Committee is concerned about the lack of preventative measures and disaggregated data on, inter alia, the causes and numbers of deaths of persons with disabilities residing in psychiatric facilities, institutions, group homes or other places of living.

30. The Committee urges the State party to adapt, monitor and enforce all possible measures to identify causes of death, including suicide, and take all prevention measures necessary to address the situations of risk of death among persons with disabilities.

Honduras (2017)

23. Al Comité le preocupa que las personas con discapacidad vean amenazada su vida por motivos de extorsión por las maras o bandas criminales.

24. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que proteja especialmente la vida de las personas con discapacidad de extorsiones y amenazas.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

22. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities may be at risk of facing a greater risk of death penalty due to lack of procedural accommodations, in criminal proceedings.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to replace death penalty as form of punishment and ensure that persons with disabilities are not subject to arbitrary deprivation of life.

Bolivia (2016)

23. The Committee is concerned at reports of cases of killing of newborn children with disabilities in the State party's most remote communities; these cases are motivated by persistent prejudices.

24. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen measures to protect children with disabilities and guarantee their right to life. It recommends that it adopt awareness-raising and educational measures for families of children with disabilities and their communities. It also recommends that the State party provide the necessary assistance to the families of children with disabilities to ensure that they have general information, services and support in their family life and in attaining an adequate and dignified standard of living.

Colombia (2016)

24. The Committee is concerned about reports that persons with disabilities were extrajudicially executed and later falsely reported as guerrillas in 10 cases of "false-positives".

25. The Committee recommends that the State party increase efforts to investigate the execution of persons with disabilities in "false-positive" cases during the armed conflict and establish criminal responsibility, and that it adopt measures to restore the dignity of victims and grant reparations to their families.

Ethiopia (2016)

21. The Committee is deeply concerned that protection of the right to life of persons with disabilities, especially persons with albinism and children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, is not effective either in law or in practice.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, including effective investigations and strengthening sanctions, to ensure an effective protection of the right to

life of persons with disabilities, especially persons with albinism and children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

Uganda (2016)

18. The Committee is concerned about the violations of the right to life of persons with disabilities in some communities where myths abound that disability is a “curse” leading to harmful consequences to persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party raise public awareness on the right to life of persons with disabilities and take legal action against perpetrators.

Gabon (2015)

24. The Committee is concerned about the practice of ritual crimes in the State party, including against persons with disabilities.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all appropriate legal, administrative and educational measures, including awareness-raising programs, to absolutely eradicate all instances of ritual crimes.

Kenya (2015)

19. The Committee is concerned by different forms of violence against persons with albinism in particular girls, including kidnaps, killings and attacks for the purpose of witchcraft practices, and the absence of measures to protect victims and to prosecute and convict perpetrators.

20. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

(a) Promptly investigate all cases of violence against persons with albinism ensuring that they are appropriately prosecuted and punished;

(b) Create shelters and redress services for victims of attacks including healthcare, counseling and free legal aid; and

(c) Redouble efforts to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with albinism and ensure the involvement of organizations of persons with albinism in any campaigns aimed at eliminating stigmatization and myths that underpin violence against persons with albinism.

Ukraine (2015)

20. The Committee is concerned about the reports that children with disabilities from institutions are at high risk to be targeted for trafficking of organs by organized crime groups.

21. The Committee urges the State party to implement immediate protection measures for children with disabilities who remain institutionalized and take measures to eliminate any risks of organ trafficking involving children with disabilities. The Committee also recommends to carry out systematic monitoring of institutions for children with disabilities.

Sweden (2014)

29. The Committee expresses its deep concern about the increasingly high rate of suicide among persons with disabilities, including boys and girls, in the State party.

30. The Committee urges the State party to adopt all necessary measures to prevent, identify and address situations of risk of suicide in persons with disabilities, including boys and girls.

China (2012)

19. The Committee expresses its utmost concern about the abduction of persons with intellectual disabilities, most of them children, and the staging of “mining accidents” in Hebei, Fujian, Liaoning and Sichuan, resulting in the victim’s death in order to claim compensation from the mine owners.

20. The Committee strongly urges the state party to continue investigating these incidents and prosecute all those responsible, and impose appropriate sanctions. It also asks the state party to implement comprehensive measures to prevent further abductions of boys with intellectual disabilities and provide remedies to the victims.

Hong-Kong

63. The Committee is concerned about the heightened suicide risk among persons with intellectual or psycho-social disabilities (35 % of the overall suicide rate in Hong Kong SAR).

64. The Committee calls upon Hong Kong, China, to provide the necessary mental treatment based on free and informed consent of the person and counselling to these persons. The Committee recommends a regular assessment of their suicide risk.

Spain (2011)

29. The Committee welcomes the fact that Act 26/2011 amends regulations to contain provisions to reflect the right to accessibility when granting informed consent to medical treatment. It however regrets that guardians representing persons with disabilities deemed “legally incapacitated” may validly consent to termination or withdrawal of medical treatment, nutrition or other life support for those persons. The Committee wishes to remind the State party that the right to life is absolute, and that substitute decision-making in regard to the termination or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment is inconsistent with this right.

30. The Committee requests the State party to ensure that the informed consent of all persons with disabilities is secured on all matters relating to medical treatment, especially the withdrawal of treatment, nutrition or other life support.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 11 CRPD
(Situations of risk and humanitarian
emergencies)*

September 2025

Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)

Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
China (Hong Kong)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)

Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)

Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Spain (2011)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on Article 11 on Russian Federation, Brazil, Croatia, Belgium, Ecuador, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Argentina, China, Hungary, Peru and Tunisia.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

19. The Committee welcomes article 62 of the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Provision of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, according to which persons with disabilities shall be rescued, treated and assisted first in times of emergency. However, the Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are not closely consulted nor actively involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian response plans, contrary to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy.

20. The Committee recommends that the State Party closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including those of women and girls with disabilities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of all disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian response plans at national and local levels, in line with the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines, and the Incheon Strategy.

Finland (2025)

20. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of mandatory requirements and monitoring mechanisms for disability inclusion in humanitarian action, civil protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change, including in the Åland Islands;

(b) The insufficient mechanisms for organizations of persons with disabilities, including those on the Åland Islands and for Sámi persons with disabilities to be closely consulted and actively involved in the design and implementation of policies concerning humanitarian action, civil protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change;

(c) The inaccessible emergency and early warning systems, including the cessation of the trial sign language emergency calls via video link program and the postponement of real-time text (RTT) for emergency calls until 2027.

21. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

(a) Ensure that the legislative, policy and implementation frameworks on humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction, civil protection and climate change are inclusive of measures for the protection and safety of persons with disabilities, establish reporting, capacity building and monitoring mechanisms and, incorporate disability inclusion indicators based on the principles and standards of the Convention;

(b) Establish formal engagement mechanisms for persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including those on the Åland Islands and for Sámi persons with disabilities, to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of policies concerning humanitarian action, civil protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change;

(c) Establish and implement accessible emergency and early warning systems, including by expediting implementation of relevant EU Directives and development of new emergency and early warning practices to ensure accessibility for all persons with disabilities.

Kiribati (2025)

19. The Committee recognizes the vulnerability of the State Party to the impacts of climate change and disasters and notes with concern:

(a) The insufficient attention paid to the situation of persons with disabilities in the Climate Change Policy, the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan (KJIP) and disaster legislation.

(b) The lack of disability-inclusive measures in disaster preparedness and response, including accessible early-warning systems, evacuation services and shelters, and reports that humanitarian aid, including food, clean drinking water and proper sanitation, is not available to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

20. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure the inclusion of disability perspectives in all national frameworks on climate change and disaster risk reduction, including the Climate Change Policy, the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan (KJIP) and disaster legislation to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to humanitarian aid on an equal basis with others, including through adequate funding, and that related information and communication, including on protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and disasters, on evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments and assistive devices and sanitation facilities, as well as decision making processes are accessible for persons with disabilities.

Maldives (2025)

21. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the lack of effective implementation of the Disability Act and specific integration of all groups of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in emergency planning and response, in particular in the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2024-2030) and the National Disaster Management Plan;

(b) At the limited availability of information on evacuation, emergency, and risk management systems in accessible formats, as well as the insufficient training on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities.

22. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including by:

(a) Strengthen the legislative and policy framework on disaster risk reduction and emergency response, in particular the Disaster Management Act (2015) and the Climate change policy framework to ensure they are disability inclusive;

(b) Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to humanitarian aid on equal basis with others, including through adequate funding, and that related information and communication, including on protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, on evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments and assistive devices, as well as decision making processes are accessible for persons with disabilities.

Canada (2025)

21. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Policies and action plans to address situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including in relation to climate change, the opioid crisis, disaster risk reduction and emergency management do not provide extensive guidance and concrete measures for the protection and safety of persons with disabilities, and that there are barriers to emergency responses, access to emergency management information and early warning systems;

(b) First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, and Black and other racialized communities experience environmental racism, such as polluting industries and hazards, which have detrimental health impacts causing or exacerbating impairment and secondary impairments, including life-threatening illnesses.

22. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, the Charter of Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Review federal, provincial, and territorial plans and policies to ensure that preparation and response measures to address situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including climate change, environmental action, the opioid crisis, public health, and other emergencies are disability inclusive, and establish protocols to ensure the provision of accessible information, communications and early warning systems, and training for public bodies and emergency service staff in these protocols;

(b) Ensure that the implementation of the 2024 National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act is disability inclusive and addresses the intersection between environmental racism and ableism.

Dominican Republic (2025)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Information received through several UN agencies about the lack of access to information, emergency services and social protection programs during the Covid-19 pandemic, which reflects the lack of inclusion of the requirements of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction plans and strategies;

(b) The insufficient consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in developing the disaster risk reduction and emergency strategies, plans and programs;

20. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including by:

(a) Ensuring that disaster risk response plans and strategies at the national, regional and municipal levels are drafted in close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, and explicitly address their specific requirements in all situations of risk;

(b) Ensuring the full accessibility of all communication measures, including emergency numbers and hotlines, implementing real-time communication methods and providing round-the-clock access to services such as text messaging, video relay services and other accessible communications technologies to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively reach emergency services at all times.

European Union (2025)

30. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of mandatory requirements and monitoring mechanisms for disability inclusion in humanitarian action, civil protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change;

(b) The limited support for organizations of persons with disabilities to be closely consulted and actively involved in the implementation of policies pertaining to humanitarian action, civil protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change.

31. Recalling its previous concluding observations (paras. 33 and 35), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the European Union, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure that the EU legislative, policy and implementation frameworks on humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction, civil protection and climate change protect the safety and security of persons with disabilities, enhance reporting, capacity building and monitoring mechanisms and incorporate indicators on disability inclusion and the principles and rights of the Convention;

(b) Promote disability-inclusive responses to prevent avoidable deaths in emergencies, establish close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in decision-making processes and monitoring of responses to humanitarian emergencies, pandemics, and other disasters and in global, regional and national negotiations on climate change, and support official recognition of organizations of persons with disabilities as part of a Disability Constituency within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Palau (2025)

19. The Committee notes the vulnerability of the State party to natural disasters and is concerned:

(a) That persons with disabilities are not sufficiently involved in disaster risk reduction plans at the national and community levels, including the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (2016 -2030);

(b) At the lack of unified measures taken to establish an emergency notification system that is accessible for all persons with disabilities regardless of the type of impairment.

20. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations improve the accessibility of warning information for persons with all categories of disabilities, particularly for persons with visual and hearing impairments, those with deafblindness and those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and ensure that persons with disabilities are represented in the National Emergency Committee (NEC) and included in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (2016 -2030).

Tuvalu (2025)

19. The Committee notes the vulnerability of the State party to disasters and is concerned about insufficient specific attention paid to the situation of persons with disabilities in Tuvalu National Climate Change Policy 2021 – 2030, as well as in disaster legislation and that humanitarian aid, including food aid, clean drinking water and proper sanitation, is not available for persons with disabilities on equal basis with others.

20. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including by:

- (a) Reviewing the National Climate Change Policy 2021 – 2030 and the relevant national legislation, policies and guidelines, including the disaster legislation under review to ensure they are disability inclusive;**
- (b) Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to humanitarian aid on equal basis with others, including through adequate funding, and that related information and communication, including on protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, on evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments and assistive devices, as well as decision making processes are accessible for persons with disabilities.**

Viet Nam (2025)

21. The Committee takes note of the establishment of Provincial Steering Committees for Disaster Prevention and Control and Provincial Search and Rescue Committees. However, it is concerned that:

- (a) Certain regulatory and implementation gaps remain concerning the prevention and management of natural disasters, as well as the reduction of disaster risk for persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities and their representative organizations have not been adequately included in these processes;**
- (b) The languages for communication and information during risk situations remain undefined, and targeted groups, including individuals with hearing and visual disabilities, have not received adequate information and warnings;**
- (c) From central to local level, no awareness-raising has been conducted on planning and execution of disaster risk reduction and early warning activities, and prevention and management of situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies;**
- (d) The absence of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities by type of impairment, age, and sex hinders the assessment of their situations and the identification of their backgrounds, making it challenging to develop suitable support plans in risk and humanitarian emergency scenarios.**

22. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including by:

- (a) Implementing measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, collaborate closely with Provincial Steering Committees to identify and address the specific needs required to provide necessary support during risk situations and humanitarian emergencies, tailored to each type of disability, and ensure their active and adequate inclusion in these discussions;**
- (b) Defining and implementing clear communication and information protocols during risk situations, ensuring that targeted groups, including individuals with hearing and visual disabilities, receive adequate information and warnings;**
- (c) Establishing cooperation with international organizations to ensure that, in close collaboration with persons with disabilities, awareness-raising on disaster risk reduction is conducted and documents on the prevention and management of risk situations and humanitarian emergencies for persons with disabilities are improved;**
- (d) Developing statistics disaggregated by age, sex, and type of disability for individuals most vulnerable to harm during situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.**

Belarus (2024)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of specific measures for persons with disabilities in the State party, those impacted or displaced by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, particularly in regard to the risks for children with disabilities facing situations of institutionalization, or, their involvement and abuse in the context of the conflict;
- (b) The lack of participation of and consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities in the formulation of National Emergency Risk Reduction Strategy 2019–2030;
- (c) The absence of specific measures and evacuation plans that are responsive to persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

22. The Committee, recalling the Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in Emergency Situations (2022), recommends that in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, the State party:

- (a) Expeditiously establish an identification system of persons with disabilities affected by conflict, including women and children with disabilities, internally displaced persons with disabilities, those with disabilities in refugee-like situations and those of Ukrainian origin, ensuring all humanitarian access and support to their requirements;**
- (b) Adopt a disability-inclusive response for children with disabilities impacted by conflict avoiding their institutionalization, support reunification with the families or community members, particularly with attention to those children with disabilities that were unaccompanied or abducted during the course of conflict in the region, and provide them with the necessary support to live in safe conditions as well as the basic services, such as health and education;**
- (c) Review and harmonize the National Emergency Risk Reduction Strategy 2019–2030 to promote the protection measures, including evacuation of persons with disabilities.**
- (d) Ensure that the emergency response mechanisms, services and evacuation plans are inclusive, available and accessible for all persons with disabilities, such as by visual and vibrational alarms and alerts, for deaf persons and deafblind persons, and adopt evacuation methods to allow persons with physical disability to keep their assistive devices, as well as provide dedicated training for the emergency services staff.**

Belgium (2024)

22. The Covid 19 pandemic and the 2021 floods resulted in a noted increase in deaths and suffering of persons with disabilities, due to the absence of an adequate coordinated framework for the protection and safety of persons with disabilities and a lack of disability-inclusive coordinated prevention and response measures across federal, regional and community levels. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Evacuation plans that include persons with disabilities, including persons with mobility impairments, are often lacking and that there is insufficient coordination among the existing plans;
- (b) Emergency services, emergency phone numbers and emergency digital applications are often inaccessible for persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with hearing impairments;
- (c) Local authorities and emergency services frequently remain unaware of the presence and requirements of persons with disabilities, resulting in persons with disabilities being left unnoticed and without appropriate help in crisis situations.

23. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) , the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive crisis management plan that fully includes persons with disabilities by, inter alia, rendering fully accessibly all evacuation plans, crisis**

communication, emergency services, and guarantee essential services at all times, including in the home, and ensure respect for privacy of persons with disabilities;

(b) Develop a disability-inclusive strategy across all levels of government for all types of risks and emergencies, including climate change and public health emergencies, and recognize the requirements of persons with disabilities in situations of risk in such a strategy.

Benin (2024)

21. The Committee is concerned:

(a) By the lack of specific and comprehensive protocols and guidelines for the evacuation of persons with disabilities during situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and disasters, the lack of budget allocations, and barriers to guaranteeing reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information, evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems and community needs assessments;

(b) By the lack of information on measures taken to ensure persons with disabilities receive warnings during risk situations in accessible formats;

(c) That the situation of persons with disabilities has not been addressed in managing situations of risk and in coordination of the national response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and disasters, responsive for the requirements of persons with disabilities, and ensure that reasonable accommodation is made so that information, evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments and assistive devices are accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas;

(b) Develop early warning systems that are accessible for all persons with disabilities, in situations of risk;

(c) Ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected and promoted in all stages of disaster risk reduction, including in recovery measures.

Burkina Faso (2024)

22. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That persons with disabilities including women and children with disabilities, internally displaced persons with disabilities and those with disabilities in refugee-like situations, have been disproportionately affected by the current military operations, security crisis and internal displacement they have led to;

(b) About the lack of disability-inclusiveness of Law No. 012-2014/AN of 22 April 2014 on the Prevention and Management of Risks, Humanitarian Crises and Disasters;

(c) That persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons, do not receive effective communication during situations of risks and emergencies.

23. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure the safety and security of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, among which those currently affected by armed conflict, including age and gender responsive protection for women and children with disabilities, internally displaced persons with disabilities, those with disabilities in refugee-like situations and those of ethnic Peul origin,

ensuring humanitarian access to them and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including access to food, water and medical assistance;

(b) Revise Law No. 012-2014/AN of 22 April 2014 on Risk Prevention and Management, humanitarian crises and disasters to provide for specific measures for the protection and support of persons with disabilities as per international guidelines;

(c) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons, in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including public health emergencies, have access to accessible modes of communication and information, including Easy Read, Braille and sign language.

Denmark (2024)

37. The Committee is concerned about the lack of an overarching disability-inclusive strategy for coordination of prevention and response measures in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland in relation to disaster risk reduction, climate change and emergency management and for the implementation of the Charter on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

38 .Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , the Committee recommends that Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations: develop a uniform mechanism for the identification of refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, including persons under temporary protection from Ukraine, to ensure implementation of specific protection and safety measures and the provision of reasonable accommodation, and ensure equality of access to essential services and disability-related support, including accessible communication, accessible housing, adequate livelihoods, assistive devices and support for entering the labour market.

Ghana (2024)

22.The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The current National Disaster Management Organization Act 517 of 1996 neglects the disaster management requirements of persons with disabilities, failing to ensure their inclusion in disaster management legislation, policies, and plans, and lacks a policy framework to address their requirements in emergencies, resulting in inadequate protection and support in situations of risk;

(b) Lack of accessibility of Disaster risk information and warnings to all persons with disabilities, putting their safety and well-being at significant risk during situations of risk;

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the National Disaster Management Organization Act 517 of 1996 to include the disaster management needs of persons with disabilities, develop a comprehensive policy framework that ensures their inclusion in legislation, policies, and plans, make disaster information accessible, involve persons with disabilities in planning, and provide targeted support and resources for their protection and support in situations of risk;

(b) Make disaster risk information and warnings accessible to all persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of impairment, to ensure their safety and well-being during emergencies;

Mauritius (2024)

19. Noting the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2016, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centre and related systems and tools, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of consideration of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Climate Change Act 2020 and the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans;
- (b) The insufficient attention paid to persons with disabilities during the recovery phase of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;
- (c) The absence of ongoing and effective collection of information on the location and requirements of persons with disabilities in preparation for situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;
- (d) The continued need to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including persons who rely on sign language, are able to receive information in accessible formats during an emergency, including natural disasters;
- (e) The absence of a systematic and effective way to ensure that methods for training officials and other individuals involved in emergencies are based on the human rights model of disability;
- (f) The lack of consultation and involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development, implementation and monitoring of emergency situations including disaster risk management.

20. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including by:

- (a) Reviewing the legal framework and action plans to reinforce the rights of persons with disabilities and to ensure the inclusiveness and accessibility of preparedness and disaster risk reduction measures and management, with regard to situations of risk and humanitarian emergency, including climate change;**
- (b) Mainstreaming disability into its COVID-19 recovery plans and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;**
- (c) Determining through surveys and other instruments on an ongoing basis the location and requirements of persons with disabilities to ensure that their rights are protected during situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;**
- (d) Ensuring that all persons with disabilities, including persons who rely on sign language, are able to receive information in accessible formats during an emergency, including natural disasters;**
- (e) Ensuring that methods for training officials and other individuals involved in emergencies are based on the human rights model of disability in line with the Convention;**
- (f) Creating a systematic method of close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development, implementation and monitoring of relevant laws, bodies and related systems and tools such as the National Multi Hazard Emergency Alert System, in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities during emergency situations and ensure accessible and disability-inclusive disaster risk management.**

Netherlands (2024)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of inclusion of the requirements of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction plans and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk, and the insufficient consultation of persons with disabilities in the drafting of such plans and strategies;
- (b) Information and communication measures not being accessible for all types of disabilities during emergencies and that the safety and well-being of persons with disabilities during emergencies are not guaranteed.

28. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in

Humanitarian Action and the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including by:

(a) Ensuring that disaster risk response plans and strategies at the federal, regional, and municipal levels are drafted in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations and explicitly respond to their specific requirements in all situations of risk;

(b) Ensuring the full accessibility of all various communication measures, including emergency numbers and hotlines implementing real-time communication methods and providing 24/7 access to services such as text messaging, video relay services, and other accessible communication technologies to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively reach emergency services at all times.

Ukraine (2024)

22. The Committee notes with concern that the State party did not take preventive measures to address risks, including in humanitarian emergencies, which could have allowed a better protection of persons with disabilities during the conflict. It observes that several factors have impeded the safety and security of persons with disabilities in the context of the conflict, and the increase in the number of persons that have acquired impairment. It is further concerned that:

(a) In civil protection and evacuation plans, no specific actions have been contemplated for persons with disabilities and amendments to such plans have not involved persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, causing serious difficulties for their protection and evacuation, as well as in the coordination of decisions on where, how and to whom ensure humanitarian aid. In addition, evacuation points are not accessible;

(b) The lack of accessibility of emergency and evacuation plans, as well as in shelters and emergency infrastructure;

(c) Persons with disabilities are more exposed to violence and to loss of their aids and devices in the armed conflict, and women and girls with disabilities face gender -based violence, abuse and marginalization in the conflict, increased risk of trafficking, and forced marriage;

(d) The procedure to obtain a conflict-related disability status is difficult and discriminates in access to social entitlements and long-term rehabilitation services depending on the region where hostilities leading to disability were conducted;

(e) Persons with disabilities in occupied territories, asylum seekers, refugees with disabilities and in refugee-like situations that have received international protection in other countries often face difficulties accessing entitlements from Ukraine;

(f) Insufficient comprehensive measures to protect the rights of internally displaced persons with disabilities – which, according to the State, totals 205,196 as of January 1, 2024 –, particularly about the insufficient access to adequate housing and social programs;

(g) The fact that some women and girls with disabilities are forced to cross the border and are subjected to violence, including sexual violence.

(h) The deterioration of the situation of older persons with disabilities, their increased institutionalization, and difficulties they faced to evacuate from conflict areas and protect from hostilities;

(i) The separation and forcible transfer of children, including children with disabilities, from Ukraine-controlled territories to Russia-controlled territories, and the insufficient information available about children with disabilities in territories under occupation, including information on how many are in institutions, if they have been separated from their families, and if they are receiving education and financial support;

(j) The State party has not sufficiently ensure that third countries receiving children with disabilities do not place them in institutions;

(k) Humanitarian, recovery, post conflict and development projects, including those with international and regional partners, do not mainstream disability and have not been developed in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;

(l) The State party did not mainstream disability in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

23. In light of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Guidelines on de-institutionalization including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Reform civil protection, emergencies and evacuation plans to provide adequate support and protection for persons with disabilities, accessible warning systems, shelters, and evacuation routes at home, in institutions and at the border. The State party should also:

(i) Provide persons with disabilities with information on disaster risk reduction and emergencies in accessible formats, including in Braille, Easy Read, sign language and using alternative modes and formats of communication;

(ii) Ensure accessible facilities for respite care and for keeping and maintenance of personal devices;

(iii) Ensure the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the planning and distribution of the humanitarian aid.

(b) Ensure that the national preparedness plans provide for inclusive and accessible warning systems and shelters for persons with disabilities and secure sufficient funding in its regular budget and that from development and recovery projects to ensure that the campaign “Ukraine without Barriers” and other accessibility projects are implemented;

(c) As per 2022 CEDAW’s Concluding Observations (CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/9), adopt legal safeguards to protect women and girls with disabilities from forced marriages under harassment and ensure that these cases are investigated, perpetrators sanctioned, and comprehensive reparations are provided for victims;

(d) Establish agile and expeditious mechanisms so that persons with disabilities can obtain a conflict-related disability status, access social entitlements and long-term rehabilitation services in all regions;

(e) Ensure that persons with disabilities in occupied territories, asylum seekers, refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations access entitlements from Ukraine;

(f) Guarantee a human rights-based response for internally displaced persons with disabilities, particularly those who have been displaced for prolonged periods, including in relation to violence and armed conflict, ensuring that they are provided with assistance and accessible and safe shelters;

(g) Prevent persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities, from crossing the border without their consent and prevent and punish violence, including sexual violence, against them;

(h) Recalling the Report on the human rights protection of older persons in emergency situations (A/HRC/42/43) of the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, develop comprehensive and inclusive policies specifically tailored to the needs of older persons with disabilities, to ensure that their rights are respected and to eliminate any protection gaps they face in emergencies;

(i) Make sure that children with disabilities in the armed conflict remain with their families in community-based environments and that, in cooperation with the international community, take all measures necessary to facilitate the return of children with disabilities who have reportedly been forcibly transferred to the territory of the Russian Federation;

(j) Ensure that third countries receiving children with disabilities from the State party, do not institutionalize them and commit to interrupt any international development funding that is being used to perpetuate the segregation of persons with disabilities and re-allocate such funding towards projects and initiatives that are in compliance with the Convention;

(k) Mainstream disability in all its future humanitarian, reconstruction, development and post-conflict projects with international and local partners, and develop them in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations. It also recommends that national legislation ensure that all businesses participating in the reconstruction comply with accessibility standards and establish enforcement mechanisms to that end;

(l) Adopt an overarching national plan to coordinate the implementation of programs to respond to pandemics and other public health emergencies, including a disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery plan.

Azerbaijan (2024)

23. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of appropriate security measures and evacuation plan responsive to persons with disabilities;

(b) The detrimental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the general population and on persons with disabilities, in particular on women with disabilities, including on the mental health, well-being and reduced income of persons with disabilities;

(c) The extensive presence of landmines in the State party's territory, in connection to armed conflict (HRI/CORE/AZE/2023, see paras. 76 to 79 and 86);

(d) The lack of information and training for persons with disabilities and personnel working with them about risk preparedness, on risk management and protection.

24. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and its own guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, including by:

(a) Adopting a comprehensive strategy to ensure the safety and protection of all persons with disabilities in situations of risks and emergencies, including measures to prevent risks, address vulnerability, provide accessible early warning, information and evacuation plans responsive to persons with disabilities in the low mobility population group;

(b) Ensure the close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of the post COVID-19 and long-term effects recovery plans and that these address inequalities and impacts faced by persons with disabilities, in particular on women and girls with disabilities, in urban and rural areas. The State party should ensure that the situation of persons with disabilities is addressed in its preparedness plans;

(c) Expedite the process to ratify or accede the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and transfer of Anti-personnel mines and on their destruction (Anti-personnel mine ban Convention) of 1997 and ensure that anti-personnel mines be removed as soon as possible and to develop systems that protect the rights of persons with disabilities who have been affected by landmines;

(d) Provide persons with disabilities and their personal assistants with comprehensive information preparedness and disaster risk reduction and ensure training about disability inclusion for public officials and other stakeholders intervening in disaster risk reduction and management.

25. The Committee notes with concern the risks of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, internally displaced persons with disabilities and those with disabilities in refugee-like situations, in the context of armed conflict.

26. The Committee recommends that State party:

(a) Protect persons with disabilities affected by armed conflict, including women and children with disabilities, internally displaced persons with disabilities, those with disabilities in refugee-like situations and those of ethnic Armenian origin, ensuring humanitarian access

to them and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including access to food, water and medical assistance;

(b) Ensure close consultations and the active involvement of women with disabilities in peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts, in line with the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/6, para.14) related to the meaningful and inclusive participation of women at all stages of peace and reconstruction processes;

(c) In implementing the provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice on 17 November 2023 in the case concerning Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan) to ensure the safe return to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Armenian refugees with disabilities that had to flee in the context of armed conflict and the safe unimpeded and expeditious movement of persons with disabilities who wish to depart from the Nagorno-Karabakh region in a safe, unimpeded and expeditious manner.

Bahrain (2024)¹

22. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities in national plans and programmes to address crises and natural disasters.

(b) The lack of specialised training for personnel working in emergency and civil defence services to ensure that these services reach persons with disabilities in an effective and timely manner.

23. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Guidelines for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, the Committee recommends that the State party

(a) Review its emergency, risk, crisis and disaster response plans and include measures to ensure that they are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

(b) Develop and implement, in close consultation and with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations, specialised training for civil defence and emergency services personnel on how to effectively and timely deliver services to persons with disabilities.

Costa Rica (2024)

19. Al Comité le preocupa la falta de medidas adoptadas para asegurar que los procesos de rehabilitación y reconstrucción después de la emergencia se basen en evaluaciones de riesgos en estrecha consulta y con la participación activa de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad y accesibles para las personas con discapacidad.

20. De conformidad con el Marco de Sendái para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 2015-2030, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte, en estrecha consulta y con la participación activa de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, velar por que los procesos de rehabilitación y reconstrucción después de la emergencia se basen en evaluaciones de riesgos accesibles para las personas con discapacidad, entre otras cosas aplicando los principios del diseño universal y de mejora de la construcción.

Kazakhstan (2024)

23. The Committee notes with appreciation the measures taken by the State party during the COVID-19 pandemic, including financial support and online mechanisms to recognize disability status for persons with disabilities during lockdown. The Committee notes, however, with concern:

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

(a) The risks for persons with disabilities in earthquakes, in particular in southern regions of the State party, and the limited scope of provisions for the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in legislation and risk reduction plans;

(b) The impact of nuclear testing from 1949 to 1989 on persons with disabilities, including on their sexual and reproductive health and rights;

(c) The absence of information on participation of persons with disabilities in the planning and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 and in climate change adaptation and in the recovery plans from the COVID-19 pandemic.

24. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and its own guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review its national legislation related to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, particularly the Civil Protection Act (No. 188-V) of 2014 and the guidelines approved by the Ministry for Emergency Response Order No. 48 of 26 November 2020, in order to establish early warning systems for persons with disabilities and to address the requirements of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and emergencies;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy and plans, with timeframes, targets and budget allocation, to ensure the safety and protection of all persons with disabilities in situations of risks and emergencies, regardless of the type of impairment, including measures to prevent risks, address vulnerability, early warning, accessible information and evacuation plans responsive to persons with disabilities;

(c) Adopt measures to monitor and address the consequences of nuclear testing and the impact on persons with disabilities, including measures to mitigate the impact on sexual and reproductive health and rights;

(d) Strengthen mechanisms for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans at the national and local levels, at all stages of the process, and in its COVID-19 recovery plans.

25. The Committee is concerned about substantial gaps in the protection of refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, from infringement of their rights in situations of risk, due to their exclusion from generally available social protection provided by the Social Code and other laws, and their restricted access to education, the health-care system and other social services.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party review and amend its laws, including the Social Code, to guarantee access to social protection, education and health care for refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, on an equal basis with others, and provide accessible information about these services.

Nicaragua (2024)

20. El Comité reconoce los esfuerzos del Estado parte con la elaboración de Guías sobre gestión de riesgo para personas con discapacidad, sin embargo, le preocupa:

a) La falta de información sobre participación de las personas con discapacidad en la elaboración de las Guías;

b) Desconocer si se emplearon dichas Guías durante la pandemia de Covid-19 y las medidas tomadas post-Covid para atender a las personas con discapacidad;

c) La información recibida sobre criminalización, represalias y amenazas contra mujeres activistas medioambientales, incluidas mujeres afrodescendientes, indígenas y mujeres con discapacidad;

21. De conformidad con el Marco de Sendái para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 2015-2030, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) La revisión y actualización, en estrecha consulta con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan, de la “Guía de participación de las Personas con

Discapacidad en los planes de respuestas departamental, municipal y comunitario” y de la “Guía para elaboración de planes familiares de respuesta ante situación de emergencias”, para que ambas incluyan información accesible, puntos de reunión, refugios de emergencia, rutas de evacuación seguros y accesibles, así como refugios accesibles y con personal capacitado;

b) Elaborar y difundir investigaciones y estadísticas sobre el impacto de la pandemia y sus secuelas en las personas con discapacidad y velar por que todas las personas con discapacidad y sus familias en situaciones de riesgo y en el contexto de emergencias humanitarias puedan recibir la información necesaria en formatos accesibles y en los dispositivos apropiados, incluyendo los sistemas de alerta temprana de emergencias;

c) Cesar inmediatamente la criminalización, represalias y amenazas contra mujeres activistas medioambientales, incluidas mujeres afrodescendientes, indígenas y mujeres con discapacidad.

Sweden (2024)

25. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the lack of an overarching disability-inclusive, human rights-based strategy for disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and emergency management, including public health emergencies to coordinate prevention and response measures across national and local levels;

(b) About the extent to which the Climate Policy Framework is disability-inclusive, including for Sami people with disabilities;

(c) That persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons do not receive effective communication during situations of risk and emergencies;

(d) That refugees, and asylum seekers with disabilities, persons under temporary protection from Ukraine do not receive adequate access to essential services and disability related supports.

26. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop an overarching disability-inclusive, human rights-based strategy for all situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including public health emergencies, climate change and disaster risk reduction, to ensure coordination at the national, regional and municipal levels;

(b) Take measures to ensure implementation of the Climate Policy Framework is disability-inclusive, including for Sami people with disabilities and consistent with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(c) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including public health emergencies, have access to accessible modes of communication and information, including Easy Read, Braille and sign language;

(d) Ensure that refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities, including persons under temporary protection from Ukraine have access to essential services and disability related supports, including accessible communications, accessible housing, adequate livelihoods, assistive devices and support for entering the labour market.

Zambia (2024)

21. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the lack of specific and comprehensive protocols and guidelines for the evacuation of persons with disabilities during humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, the lack of budget allocations, and barriers to guarantee reasonable accommodation and accessibility to

information, evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems and community needs assessments;

(b) That persons with disabilities are not given special consideration by the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, and that the establishment of committees for managing situations of risk and coordination of humanitarian assistance does not provide for inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;

(c) That persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those who are still in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and devices, and health services.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) In close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, develop protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, providing clarity of the specific requirements of persons with disabilities, and ensure that reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information, evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments and assistive devices are made accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas;

(b) Review the Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2010 and other laws, policies and guidelines to expressly provide for specific State response to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergency;

(c) Align the disaster management and risk reduction policy and strategies with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015- 2030);

(d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and pandemics, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices, are fully included into the emergency measures, such as rescue operations, evacuation or emergency services and have access to health services.

Andorra (2023)

23. The Committee notes that Act No. 28/2022, Qualified Civil Protection Act, provides special attention to persons with disabilities in awareness-raising campaigns and that adequate assistance must be provided to them, including information and protection measures. Nevertheless, it is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a disability-inclusive perspective in strategies and plans to manage situations of crisis, humanitarian emergencies and climate change, including civil protection plans;

(b) The absence of information on the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in policies concerning situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and climate change;

(c) The disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities, in particular those who are still in institutions.

24. Taking into account the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2015-2030, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a gender- and disability-responsive strategy and plans to manage situations of crisis, humanitarian emergencies and climate change, ensuring the accessibility of critical infrastructure, such as evacuation centres, and of information and communication, as well as the provision of reasonable accommodation and the availability of emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments and assistive devices to all persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that the National Civil Protection Commission closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of disaster risk reduction;

(c) Mainstream disability into its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including with regard to ensuring equal access to health services and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic, deinstitutionalize persons with

disabilities in times of emergency and provide them with appropriate support to live in the community.

Austria (2023)

27. The Committee notes with concern the lack of involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities on the Länder level, resulting in a lack of inclusive and accessible communication and services in disaster management plans. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of data on persons with disabilities in the context of situations of risk.

28. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, 2019, the Committee recommends that the State party, in particular the Länder, closely consult with and actively involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of disaster response and recovery measures, and render these measures, including evacuation mechanisms, warning systems, shelters, transportation, and humanitarian support facilities, fully accessible for persons with disabilities, as envisaged by the National Action Plan on Disability (NAP) 2022-2030

Germany (2023)

23. The Committee is concerned about the following:

(a) The lack of close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action, including the planning of COVID 19 pandemic mitigation responses that resulted in adverse impacts on persons with disabilities;

(b) The lack of an overarching disability inclusive, human rights-based strategy for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action that is in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the IASC Guidelines, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, 2019.

24. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the IASC Guidelines, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, 2019, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, develop:

(a) A national public health emergency plan that addresses the specific requirements of and responses for persons with disabilities and that operates across all levels of Federal, Länder and municipal governments;

(b) An overarching disability inclusive, human rights-based strategy for all situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including public health emergencies, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Israel (2023)

23. The Committee is concerned about the detrimental impact of the protracted occupation, hostilities, violence and insecurity on persons with disabilities living in occupied territories, including in Gaza, and measures restricting the movement of people and goods, and the destruction of essential services, resulting in lack of food, electricity, water and sanitation, essential health care and education.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party comply with the Convention and International Humanitarian Law, through adopting measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including by:

(a) Ensuring that persons with disabilities are humanely treated and protected against acts of violence, and adopting measures to ensure adequate living conditions of persons with disabilities, including their access to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies, access to food, clean water, services and goods in the community, electricity, health services, rehabilitation, education and housing, without discrimination;

- (b) Ensuring access of children with disabilities to non-discriminatory birth registration services, psychosocial care to address trauma, and services in the community, such as playgrounds, recreation, leisure and learning activities, preventing family separation and ensuring family reunification;**
- (c) Identifying and preventing the risks, harms and requirements of persons with disabilities during military operations and preventing attacks and damage on infrastructure and civilian premises, including hospitals, rehabilitation centres and ambulances, and to protect schools from military attacks;**
- (d) Facilitating unrestricted humanitarian assistance to adults and children with disabilities and the access of humanitarian actors.**

25. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The delay in adopting the regulations concerning accessibility in population evacuation incidents and absorption in emergencies, due to enter force in 2024, and about the national coordination of existing plans and programmes concerning accessible warning and evacuation systems, shelters, and other emergency services for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities, in particular persons living in congregate settings and information about further restrictions during the pandemic that exacerbated isolation and segregation.**

26. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the IASC Guidelines, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, 2019 and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Develop a national plan to address all aspects of situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including in relation to public health emergencies and disaster risk reduction and including in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;**
- (b) Adopt a national overarching plan to coordinate implementation of programmes that respond to pandemics public health emergencies, including a COVID-19 response and recovery plan that is disability inclusive.**

Malawi (2023)

23. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities have been particularly impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the context of disasters, including the cyclone Freddy and subsequent floods. However, the Committee observes that emergency response and the measures in the recovery period have yet to address specific risks and impacts affecting persons with disabilities. It particularly notes with concern :

- (a) That the policy framework adopted to manage disaster response, including the National Climate Change Management Policy (2016), the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act of 1991 and the Disaster Contingency Plan (2021-2022) lack focus on women and girls with disabilities, and information indicating that women and girls with disabilities are often the last in accessing rescue services during crisis;**
- (b) The lack of systematic data collection about the impacts of emergencies and disasters on persons with disabilities, including the lack of information about the situation of at least 52,211 internally displaced persons with disabilities as a consequence of cyclone Freddy, and about the emergency response provided to them;**
- (c) The continuing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities that have yet to be addressed, including the loss of support through personal assistance;**
- (d) The lack of measures to provide persons with disabilities with early warning information on accessible formats.**

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Be guided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, for the period 2015-2030 and introduce measures that explicitly refer to persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities in its policy framework concerning situations of risk and**

humanitarian emergencies, in all phases: prevention and preparedness, rescue, recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation. The State party should expand the coverage and type of disaster and humanitarian aid and response available for women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Be guided by the Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and establish a data collection system on persons with disabilities in situations of emergencies, aimed at identifying impacts of emergencies, identify barriers from accessing assistance, and gaps in resources and assistance available for persons with disabilities, including internally displaced persons with disabilities;

(c) Expand the scope of measures addressing persons with disabilities in the Malawi Socio Economic Recovery Plan (2021-2023) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular adopt measures and indicators of progress concerning equal access to vaccines programmes, effective access to social protection schemes, deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, access to support to live in the community;

(d) Develop, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations of persons with disabilities, disability and gender-inclusive and accessible warning systems and evacuation protocols.

Mauritania (2023)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of specific and comprehensive protocols for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, and the persistence of barriers to guarantee reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information, evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems and community needs assessments;

(b) The lack of adequate involvement of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, and in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, Sustainable Development Goals 11, accelerate the adoption of the National Strategy for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in disaster situations and develop protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, that recognize and accommodate the specific requirements of persons with disabilities, and provide reasonable accommodation, accessible information, evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments and assistive devices in both urban and rural areas.

21. The Committee is concerned about the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on persons with disabilities, in particular persons with disabilities in institutions and in family, including through domestic violence, in particular sexual violence and abuse, and about the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and support measures.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line by the guidance prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the policy brief prepared by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19:

(a) Mainstream disability into its COVID-19 recovery plans and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic, and protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, from sexual violence and abuse;

(b) Take measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities who are living in institutions, including in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the

community, in accordance with the Committee's guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies;

(c) Closely involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities, at all stages of the development and implementation of COVID-19 recovery plans;

(d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities are able to receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate electronic devices.

Mongolia (2023)

21. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the Law on Disaster Protection and the Plan of Action to decrease the natural disaster risks and actions during the disaster, as well as the Instruction to announce the emergency of the National Emergency Management Agency do not contain specific provisions on the assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and lack provisions on accessibility, including the use of sign language and Easy read;

(b) At the low level of involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 and climate change adaptation and Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific at the national level and in its reporting process.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the national legislation related to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and amend it in order to include provisions on protection of persons with disabilities, and adopt inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans, including sign language interpretation and Easy read, to all persons with disabilities, particularly children, women, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with sensory impairments;

(b) Closely consult persons with disabilities through their representative organizations on the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans at the national and local levels and at all stages of the process, and adopt a comprehensive strategy, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13.

23. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those who are still in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and devices.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines and telemedicine, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;

(b) Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities who are living in institutions, including in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022);

(c) Actively involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of developing and implementing COVID-19 recovery plans;

(d)Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices.

Paraguay (2023)

21.Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

a)Que las personas con discapacidad no hayan participado en la elaboración del Protocolo Institucional Integral para planes de emergencia y evacuación;

b)La escasa cantidad de información accesible en la prevención de las situaciones de riesgo, las catástrofes y las emergencias humanitarias, en particular respecto a los sistemas de alerta temprana de emergencias;

c)El limitado acceso a la información para las personas con discapacidad sobre la pandemia por coronavirus (COVID-19), incluyendo subtítulos, interpretación en Lengua de Señas Paraguaya y lenguaje sencillo, así como la falta de información sobre el impacto de la crisis en personas con discapacidad, en particular, aquellas que residen en instituciones;

22.De conformidad con el Marco de Sendai para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 2015-2030, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a)La consulta estrecha y participación de las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan en la revisión y actualización del Protocolo Institucional Integral para Planes de Emergencia y Evacuación, incluyendo información accesible, puntos de reunión, rutas de evacuación seguras y accesibles, así como refugios accesibles con personal capacitado;

b)Velar por que todas las personas con discapacidad y sus familias en situaciones de riesgo y en el contexto de emergencias humanitarias puedan recibir la información necesaria en formatos accesibles y en los dispositivos apropiados, incluyendo los sistemas de alerta temprana;

c)Integrar la perspectiva de discapacidad en sus planes de recuperación ante la pandemia del COVID-19, por cuanto se refiere a programas de salud, económicos y sociales, asegurar el acceso a la información en formatos accesibles, así como difundir estadísticas sobre el impacto de la pandemia en las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo aquellas que viven en instituciones.

Angola (2023)

17.The Committee is concerned about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities, in particular about the lack of reliable data on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted them.

18.The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a)Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in ensuring equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;

(b)Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in their communities;

(c)Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including those of women and girls with disabilities, at all stages of developing and implementing COVID-19 response and recovery plans;

(d)Ensure that all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and in humanitarian emergencies can gain access to information through accessible modes of communication and information.

Argentina (2023)

23.Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) En el marco del Plan Nacional para la Reducción de Riesgos y Desastres 2024-2030 que se encuentra en proceso de elaboración, la poca información sobre la incorporación de la perspectiva de discapacidad en la elaboración de este Plan, y la falta de consulta a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en este proceso;
- b) La escasa cantidad de información accesible sobre las situaciones de riesgo, las catástrofes y las emergencias humanitarias, en particular respecto a los sistemas de alerta temprana de emergencias;
- c) El limitado acceso a la información para las personas con discapacidad en la difusión de medidas de prevención y mensajes oficiales sobre la pandemia de la enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19), incluyendo subtítulos, interpretación en Lengua de Señas Argentina y lenguaje sencillo, así como la falta de información sobre el impacto de la pandemia en personas con discapacidad, en particular, aquellas que residen en instituciones.

24. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) En estrecha consulta con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan, garantizar que el Plan Nacional para la Reducción de Riesgos y Desastres 2024-2030 incorpore la perspectiva de discapacidad, incluyendo información accesible, puntos de reunión, refugios de emergencia y rutas de evacuación seguros y accesibles, de conformidad con el Marco de Sendái para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 2015-2030;**
- b) Velar por que todas las personas con discapacidad y sus familias en situaciones de riesgo y en el contexto de emergencias humanitarias puedan recibir la información necesaria en formatos accesibles y en los dispositivos apropiados, incluyendo los sistemas de alerta temprana de emergencias;**
- c) Integrar la perspectiva de discapacidad en sus planes de recuperación ante la COVID-19, entre otras cosas por cuanto se refiere a programas de salud, económicos y sociales, asegurar el acceso a la información en formatos accesibles de los mensajes dirigidos a la población general sobre la materia, así como difundir estadísticas sobre el impacto de la pandemia en las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo aquellas que viven en instituciones.**

Georgia (2023)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a disability-inclusive perspective of plans to manage situations of crisis, including accessibility for persons with disabilities of crisis communication, risk information, critical infrastructure and services;
- (b) The lack of mechanisms to facilitate participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction policies and strategies, and in the recovery phase;
- (c) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken to alleviate its consequences, particularly restrictions to use public transport, non-accessibility of remote learning and medical services, and the suspension of rehabilitation programmes;
- (d) The lack of information about the situation and the rights of persons with disabilities in the occupied territories of Abkhazia, Georgia, and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia, including measures related to the possibility for persons with disabilities to access humanitarian aid and to essential services in the community.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a gender- and disability-responsive strategy to ensure that critical infrastructure as well as risk information and crisis communication are fully accessible, covering all types of impairment, that it is available in local languages and accessible formats including Easy Read and sign language, and that takes into account the Sendai Disaster Risk reduction Framework;**
- (b) Establish mechanisms to closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities in preparedness, management and recovery policies, and adopt measures to raise the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities to enable them to interact effectively with government,**

administrative entities, the military, rescue and emergency organizations and other stakeholders during emergencies;

(c) Mainstream disability into its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including with regard to ensuring equal access to vaccines, health services and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic, and adopt measures for deinstitutionalization for persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community;

(d) Take measures, in cooperation with humanitarian actors and ensuring participations of organizations of persons with disabilities, to ensure access by persons with disabilities in the regions of Abkhazia, Georgia, and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia, to humanitarian aid, evacuation programmes and to community-based services.

Peru (2023)

22. Al Comité le preocupa que:

a) En los últimos meses, debido a la situación política actual, se hayan denegado derechos fundamentales a personas con discapacidad, incluido su derecho a protestar, se las haya detenido arbitrariamente, hayan resultado heridas y no hayan podido acceder a servicios y apoyo;

b) Debido a la ausencia de protocolos con perspectiva de discapacidad, las personas con discapacidad queden excluidas de las medidas de protección y de auxilio en caso de inundaciones, deslaves, terremotos y otras catástrofes naturales y relacionadas con el clima, incluidas alertas y comunicaciones accesibles, evacuaciones, refugios y otros servicios y disposiciones;

c) Las insuficientes consultas con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad para planificar, aplicar, supervisar y evaluar los procesos de reducción del riesgo de desastres y de mitigación del cambio climático.

23. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

a) Aplique medidas efectivas para garantizar la vida, la seguridad y los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, en especial las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, en la actual situación política, incluido el derecho de reunión y protesta pacíficas;

b) Elabore y aplique protocolos que incluyan a las personas con discapacidad en la planificación y la prestación de servicios en situaciones de riesgo y emergencias humanitarias, incluidos los peligros relacionados con el clima, en todas las fases: prevención y preparación, rescate, recuperación, reconstrucción y reconciliación, y que garanticen la accesibilidad universal de los entornos, los servicios, las comunicaciones y la información, como los refugios temporales, las evacuaciones, las alertas accesibles y la difusión de información en todos los formatos accesibles, incluidos el braille y la lengua de señas peruana;

c) Vele por que los planes para la reducción del riesgo de desastres y las estrategias y políticas sobre el cambio climático a todos los niveles se formulen junto a las personas con discapacidad y respondan de forma explícita a sus necesidades específicas en todas las situaciones de riesgo, de conformidad con el Marco de Sendái para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres 2015-2030.

Togo (2023)

21. The Committee is concerned at the lack of protocols for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, and barriers to guarantee reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information, evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems and community needs assessments.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including those of women and girls, develop protocols for evacuation in situations of risk,

humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, providing clarity of the specific requirements of persons with disabilities, and ensure accessibility to information, evacuation centres, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments and assistive devices are made accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas, and reasonable accommodation is considered in all situations.

23. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those who are still in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and devices. It is also concerned at the lack of effective inclusion of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the implementation of NOVSSI program to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable groups.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

- (a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;**
- (b) Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community;**
- (c) Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of developing and implementing COVID-19 response and recovery plans;**
- (d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices, and are fully included into the emergency measures, such as rescue operations, evacuation or emergency services.**

Tunisia (2023)

17. The Committee is concerned that there are no specific legislations or policies in place to ensure the inclusiveness and accessibility of preparedness and disaster risk reduction measures for the protection of persons with all types of impairments. It is further concerned that persons with disabilities through their representative organisations are not involved in disaster preparedness and responses.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Put in place strategies and policies to ensure the inclusiveness and accessibility of preparedness and disaster risk reduction measures and management strategies, needs-assessment, emergency evacuation procedures, early public warning systems, and recovery strategies and to guarantee that information on risk situations reach all members of the community, including persons with disabilities, particularly persons who are deaf or hard of hearing or deafblind, and persons with visual impairments, and are developed in accessible formats and languages;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, including women and girls organisations, are meaningfully consulted and actively participated in all steps relating to comprehensive strategies, plans, and protocols in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian emergencies, including those related to armed conflict and extreme climate conditions, namely in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and the systematic collection of disability disaggregated data;**
- (c) Take measures to regularly and effectively train rescue and emergency personnel on the inclusion of an age and a disability perspective based on human rights.**

Bangladesh (2022)

23. The Committee notes the vulnerability of the State party to natural disasters and is concerned about:

(a) The lack of effective inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies in the State party, particularly in the National Disaster Response Plan and the Standing Orders on Disasters, as well as a lack of appropriate policies and measures with respect to persons with disabilities in humanitarian emergencies, including evacuation, rescue, shelter, relief and post-disaster rehabilitation schemes;

(b) The fact that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, including Rohingya refugees, are disproportionately affected in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters and need especial protection.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreements on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13:

(a) Ensure the effective inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies in the State party, particularly in the National Disaster Response Plan and the Standing Orders on Disasters, and adopt and implement appropriate policies and measures for humanitarian emergencies, including evacuation, rescue, shelter, relief and post-disaster rehabilitation schemes, that includes all refugees;

(b) Increase humanitarian protection for persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, including Rohingya refugees, and include them in all evacuation, rescue, shelter, relief and post-disaster rehabilitation schemes.

China (2022)

26. The Committee notes with concern the lack of inclusion of the specific needs of persons with disabilities within disaster risk reduction plans and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, as well as insufficient measures to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of such plans and strategies including in decision-making processes to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences and during the recovery period.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party, being guided by the COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance and Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19 by the OHCHR and in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and with the active participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Prioritize the provision of emergency assistance to persons with disabilities, strengthen efforts to incorporate the requirements of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including access to emergency information and alarm signals through alternative modes of communication and information;

(b) Mainstream disability in COVID-19 response and recovery plans, with a specific emphasis on ensuring equal access to mainstream health care systems for persons with disabilities, still in institutions or living independently, and protecting persons with disabilities from the effects of the pandemic, including the increased social isolation;

(c) Ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities in all measures affecting them, including the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and measures taken during the recovery period.

China (Hong Kong)

65. The Committee notes with concern the lack of inclusion of the specific needs of persons with disabilities within disaster risk reduction plans and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, as well as insufficient measures to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of such plans and strategies

including in decision-making processes to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences and during the recovery period.

66. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong SAR, China, being guided by the COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance and Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19 by the OHCHR, and in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, with the active participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Prioritize the provision of emergency assistance to persons with disabilities, strengthen efforts to incorporate the requirements of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including access to emergency information and alarm signals through alternative modes of communication and information;

(b) Mainstream disability in COVID-19 response and recovery plans, with a specific emphasis on ensuring equal access to mainstream health care systems for persons with disabilities, still in institutions or living independently, and protecting persons with disabilities from the effects of the pandemic, including the increased social isolation;

(c) Ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities in all measures affecting them, including the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and measures taken during the recovery period.

Indonesia (2022)

22. The Committee is gravely concerned about the lack of information about the situation in West Papua and how the State Party is protecting and safeguarding West Papuans with disabilities in the context of ongoing armed clashes in conflict areas.

23. The Committee recommends that the State Party end the conflict in West Papua, progress passing of the Bill on Indigenous Peoples (RUU MHA), conduct an independent investigation into the situation in West Papua, including in relation to persons with disabilities, ensure unrestricted humanitarian aid and relief reaches West Papuans with disabilities, including internally displaced people with disabilities and implement protection measures to safeguard West Papuans with disabilities.

24. The Committee is concerned about the exclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons with disabilities from the narrow interpretation of the provisions of Law No. 8/2016, and their limited access to education, the health care system and other social services.

25. The Committee recommends that the State Party explicitly recognise that Law No. 8/2016 also applies to asylum seekers, refugees, and stateless persons and enable their access to education, the health system and other social services, including by providing accessible information about these services.

26. The Committee notes with concern the absence of a comprehensive disaster risk reduction framework, including laws, prevention and response plans, and specific protection and assistance for persons with disabilities, developed in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt, in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations a comprehensive disaster risk reduction framework, including prevention and response plans, and specific protection and assistance for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13.

28. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those in institutions and women and girls with disabilities, and that there is a lack of accessible emergency information targeting persons with disabilities.

29. The Committee, recalling the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, including in relation to gender-appropriate accessible emergency information, equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to address the negative impact of the pandemic;**
- (b) Relocate persons with disabilities from institutions to community living settings with appropriate support.**

Japan (2022)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Limited protection under the Basic Act on Disaster Management for the rights of persons with disabilities of privacy and non-discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation;
- (b) Lack of accessibility of evacuation shelters and temporary housing in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;
- (c) Insufficient consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate processes of disaster risk reduction and climate change, including earthquakes and nuclear plant disasters;
- (d) Limited accessible information on situations of risk, disaster, and humanitarian emergencies, including accessibility of emergency alert system for persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (e) Lack of implementation of the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” in the Kumamoto Earthquake, Northern Kyushu Heavy Rain Disasters, West Japan Heavy Rain Disasters and Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake;
- (f) Lack of disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including access to information, vaccines, health services and other economic and social programmes, and the disproportionate impact of the pandemic for persons with disabilities who are still in institutions.

26. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Amend the Basic Act on Disaster Management to reinforce the rights of persons with disabilities to privacy and non-discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodations, and issues related to disaster prevention and reduction and situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;**
- (b) Ensure that shelters, temporary housing and other services provided in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies are accessible and disability-inclusive, taken into account age and gender;**
- (c) Build resilient communities engaging the whole community, including persons with disabilities and their families into disaster prevention and reduction planning, by developing individual emergency plans and support systems based on community focal points, identifying gathering points, emergency shelters, and evacuation routes that are safe and accessible;**
- (d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities and their families can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices;**
- (e) Ensure that disaster risk reduction plans and strategies and policies on climate change at all levels are formulated with persons with disabilities and explicitly respond to their specific needs in all situations of risk, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;**
- (f) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, health services and other economic and social**

programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic, and adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

18. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Absence of reference to the specific requirements of persons with disabilities in legislation and policies, including the Law No.71 on Disaster Management and the National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan;
- (b) Lack of specific protocols for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, and barriers to guarantee reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information, evacuation centers, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, and community needs assessments;
- (c) Lack of consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies;
- (d) The disproportionate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities, in particular, persons who are in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and healthcare services.

19. Recalling the guidance issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on COVID-19 and the rights of persons with disabilities, the Secretary-General's policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and with the active participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that national legislation, policies and programmes that address situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies are disability-inclusive, and take into account the requirements of persons with disabilities, including those belonging to ethnic and religious groups and victims of unexploded ordnance;**
- (b) Develop protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, providing clarity of the specific requirements of persons with disabilities; and ensure that reasonable accommodation and accessibility to information, evacuation centers, emergency relief assistance, early warning systems, community needs assessments, and assistive devices are made accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas;**
- (c) Ensure the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities with a gender-balanced participation in the design and implementation of legislation and policies relating to climate change and disaster risk reduction and management, including the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee;**
- (d) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

23. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the Framework Act on the Management of Disasters and Safety of 2018 lacks disaster risk reduction plans, policies and protocols for the prevention and reduction of risks for persons with disabilities;
- (b) At the low level of involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 and climate change adaptation and Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific at the national level and in its reporting process.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Accelerate adoption of inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans to all persons with disabilities, particularly children, women, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with sensory impairments;**
- (b) Closely consult persons with disabilities through their representative organizations on the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans at the national and local levels and at all stages of the process, and adopt a comprehensive strategy, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13.**

25. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those who are still in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and devices.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

- (a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;**
- (b) Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community;**
- (c) Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of developing and implementing COVID-19 response and recovery plans;**
- (d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices.**

Singapore (2022)

21. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About the lack of specific and comprehensive disaster risk reduction plans, policies and protocols for the prevention and reduction of risks for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) That persons with disabilities are not sufficiently involved in disaster risk reduction plans in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 and climate change adaptation and Goal 7 of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.**

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Accelerate the adoption of inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans for all persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities and women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, on the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans at the national and district levels and at all stages of the process, and adopt a comprehensive strategy, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.**

23. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including by sexual violence and abuse in particular persons with disabilities in institutions, and about the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and support measures.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, instructed by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

- (a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic, and protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities from sexual violence and abuse;**
- (b) Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community, in accordance with the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies;**
- (c) Closely involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities, at all stages of the development and implementation of COVID-19 response and recovery plans;**
- (d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate electronic devices.**

Hungary (2022)

22. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Neither the Fundamental Law, the Disaster Protection Act, nor their respective protocols provide for specific measures in relation to the safety of persons with disabilities and various types of impairments in situations of risk and emergencies arising from conflict, natural disasters or refugee and migration crises;
- (b) Persons with disabilities placed in residential institutions and psychiatric settings, and persons with disabilities living independently have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, facing greater risks of contracting COVID-19, including due to lack of access to the general health system and social isolation;
- (c) Persons with disabilities have had limited participation in decision-making processes to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences and during the recovery period.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, following the guidance issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on COVID-19 and the rights of persons with disabilities and the United Nations policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19, and in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and with the active participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Revise its legislation, protocols, plans and measures in relation to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies arising from conflict, natural disasters or refugee and migration crises by incorporating the requirements of all persons with disabilities in such situations, including access to emergency information and alarm signals through alternative modes of communication and information;**
- (b) Mainstream disability in COVID-19 response and recovery plans, with a specific emphasis on ensuring equal access to mainstream health-care systems for persons with disabilities, still in institutions or living independently, and safeguarding persons with disabilities from the effects of the pandemic, including increased social isolation;**
- (c) Ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities in all measures affecting them, including the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and measures taken during the recovery period.**

Jamaica (2022)

20. The Committee notes the vulnerability of the State party to natural disasters and is concerned that persons with disabilities are not sufficiently involved in disaster risk reduction plans at the national and local levels. While noting that the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management includes persons with disabilities where there is an imminent hazard, the Committee is concerned at the lack of unified measures taken to establish an emergency notification system that is accessible for all persons with disabilities regardless of the type of impairment.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Improve the accessibility of warning information for persons with all types of impairment, particularly for persons with visual and hearing impairments and those with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Closely consult persons with disabilities through their representative organizations on the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction plans at the national and local levels and at all stages of the process, and adopt a comprehensive strategy, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13;

(c) Continue to ensure that the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management adequately addresses the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities in disaster risk responses.

22. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those who are still in institutions, and at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to emergency information and devices.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the guidance and policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including in respect of ensuring equal access to vaccines, and other economic and social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;

(b) Adopt measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities in times of emergency and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community;

(c) Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of developing and implementing COVID-19 response and recovery plans;

(d) Ensure that in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, all persons with disabilities can receive the necessary information in accessible formats and on the appropriate devices.

Mexico (2022)

31. The Committee notes a lack of specific protocols for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop specific protocols for evacuation in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, that are adapted to the specific situations of each state, providing clarity of the whereabouts of persons with disabilities and their specific requirements;

(b) Design and disseminate, in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription, in all of the State party's official languages, including those used by the indigenous communities, information on early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergency, protection systems, and institutional and community crisis response networks, and identify adequate places of refuge and shelters accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas;

(c) Train all civil defence staff in addressing issues of security and protection for persons with disabilities in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

33. The Committee notes with concern the lack of a disability-inclusive response to the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in institutions. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of data on the impact of the pandemic on persons with disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party follow the guidance issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on COVID-19 and the rights of persons with disabilities and the Secretary-General's policy brief on a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19, and that it:

- (a) Adopt a disability-inclusive response to the COVID-19 pandemic for persons with disabilities by implementing emergency deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, preventing their abandonment in their homes and providing them with the necessary support to live in the community in safe conditions;**
- (b) Implement support programmes for persons with disabilities to address the aggravated consequences of the pandemic, considering specific measures for women with disabilities regarding economic empowerment, access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health rights, and provision of information in accessible formats, as well as measures for persons with disabilities living in institutions;**
- (c) Compile data on infections, illness and death of persons with disabilities as a result of SARS-CoV-2, disaggregated by type of impairment, gender, residence in rural and urban areas and socioeconomic status;**
- (d) Closely consult with and involve persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, and their representative organizations at all stages of the development and implementation of COVID-19 response and recovery plans, and in the preparation of such plans for future crises.**

Switzerland (2022)

23. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of inclusion of the specific needs of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction plans and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and the insufficient measures to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of such plans and strategies;**
- (b) The lack of an action plan to implement the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;**
- (c) The lack of a proactive response to the specific needs of persons with disabilities in regard to COVID-19, including the lack of information for the public, transport authorities and the media regarding mask exemptions, which has resulted in the constant vilification of autistic persons with exemptions.**

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that disaster risk reduction plans and strategies at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels are formulated with persons with disabilities and explicitly respond to their specific needs in all situations of risk, in accordance with the Convention and with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;**
- (b) Adopt an action plan to implement the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action with clear and measurable objectives and indicators, including for disaster risk reduction, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, and in accordance with the Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action issued by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;**
- (c) Ensure disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery plans, strengthen cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and ensure that information on pandemic measures, including mask exemptions, is provided to the public, the relevant authorities and the media.**

Venezuela (2022)

20. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of contingency plans for emergencies of any kind that take into account persons with disabilities, as was observed during the pandemic;**

(b) The situation of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, which has a disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take steps, based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, article 11 of the Convention and the situations that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that prevention and risk-reduction protocols are validated by persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, and allocate a specific budget and assign trained staff for that purpose;

(b) Apply follow-up protocols to provide ongoing support to migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities transiting through the State party.

Djibouti (2021)

17. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The need to align the Act no. 140/AN/06/5ème on the national policy for risk and disaster management with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans to support and protect persons with disabilities, particularly children and women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with sensory impairments, in the situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(b) The lack of information on the effects of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities during general lockdowns and confinement measures, particularly persons with disabilities living in poverty and older persons with disabilities, and on the access of persons with disabilities to vaccine and other economic and social programmes, on an equal basis with others;

(c) The absence of consultation process with organizations of persons with disabilities regarding the development and implementation of immediate and long-term responses to the pandemic.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Act No. 140/AN/06/5ème on the national policy for risk and disaster management to align it with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and accelerate the adoption of inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans to persons with disabilities, particularly children and women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with sensory impairments;

(b) Mainstream disability in its COVID-19 response and recovery plans, to ensure equal access of persons with disabilities to vaccines and economic and social programmes, particularly for persons with disabilities living in poverty and older persons with disabilities.

France (2021)

23. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of disability-inclusive response to the disproportional impact of COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities due to the greater risks of contracting COVID-19 in institutions;

(b) The lack of accommodations for persons with disabilities in the context of general containment measures against COVID-19, and information about the refusal of admission to hospitals of persons with disabilities;

(c) That simultaneous visual and vocal alarm systems in public environments and services has yet to be provided;

(d) The absence of emergency accommodations for persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, living in refugee or asylum seeker camps, or those of Roma ethnic minority.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, being guided by the COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance and Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19 by the OHCHR:

- (a) Ensure the disability-inclusive response to the disproportional impact of COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities by implementing emergency deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, preventing abandonment at homes, and provide them with necessary support to live in the community in safe conditions;
- (b) Review the implementation of measures to contain the pandemic and establish accommodations in order to ensure appropriate response to persons with disabilities, including by providing assistance at home, the use of transparent masks for supporting deaf persons or support in online working environments;
- (c) Ensure accessibility of information about the pandemic for all persons with disabilities, including through sign language, reproduction of visual and vocal alarm systems;
- (d) Provide persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, living in refugee or asylum seeker camps, Roma persons with disabilities with access to emergency accommodations and humanitarian assistance in situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

Estonia (2021)

21. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That persons with disabilities still in institutions, including psychiatric settings have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, facing greater risks of contracting COVID-19 and further isolation in the context of general lockdowns and confinement measures;
- (b) That organizations of persons with disabilities have yet to be consulted with respect to the immediate and long-term responses to the pandemic;
- (c) Barriers for persons with disabilities, in accessing emergency information and devices, such as mobile applications and fire alarms, and the helpline 112.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, be guided by the COVID-19 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Guidance and Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19 by the OHCHR, ensure:

- (a) Mainstreaming disability in the COVID-19 response and recovery plans, including equal access to vaccines, and other economic, or social programmes to tackle the negative impact of the pandemic;
- (b) Adopt measures to undertake emergency deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, providing them appropriate support to live in the community;
- (c) The involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all stages of the COVID-19 response and recovery;
- (d) Access to information in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, through alternative modes of communication and information, and full accessibility to the emergency number 112 to all persons with disabilities.

Albania (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction and management strategies, as well as the lack of provision of accessible information for persons with disabilities on situations of risk, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement an accessible and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations of risk in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, including through hotlines, a text message-warning application, and manuals in sign language, Braille and Easy Read, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, and that it require all public services to develop plans for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in regular,

close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including at the local level.

Australia (2019)

21. The Committee, recognizing that the effects of climate change contribute to exacerbating inequality and vulnerability among persons with disabilities, remains concerned about the lack of:

- (a) Nationally consistent emergency management standards that ensure access to disability-specific and disability-responsive support during emergencies;
- (b) A mechanism for engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 at the national level and in its reporting process.

22. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation on the matter (CRPD/C/AUS/CO/1, para. 23) and recommends that the State party, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, establish a fully accessible and inclusive mechanism to engage with persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework.

Ecuador (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned that the Inclusive Risk Management Strategy still lacks a protocol for the prevention and reduction of risks for persons with disabilities.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party put in place, without delay, a protocol for the prevention and reduction of risks for persons with disabilities that has been validated by persons with disabilities through their representative organizations. It further recommends that the State party earmark a specific budget allocation for that purpose.

El Salvador (2019)

22. The Committee is concerned that only a few persons with disabilities, through their organizations, contributed to the Road Map for Inclusion, Protection and Attention to Persons with Disabilities in Emergencies and Disasters. Taking into consideration the fact that the State party is at risk from natural hazards, the Committee is also concerned that no budget has been allocated for the implementation of the road map and of the Strategic Plan of Action scheduled for 2020.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with persons with disabilities:

- (a) Ensure that budget is allocated for implementation of the road map and of the Strategic Plan of Action scheduled for 2020, and establish a contingency budget for humanitarian emergencies and disasters;
- (b) Implement the Strategic Plan of Action and monitor the accessibility of the shelters that are usually set up in emergencies;
- (c) Ensure that the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities are taken into consideration, and that they are provided with information in accessible formats.

Greece (2019)

15. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of standards governing the administration and services provided for persons with disabilities in general situations of risk and in refugee and asylum processes, and the compliance of the current risk management practices with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;
- (b) The insufficient measures taken to identify asylum seekers with disabilities, refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities who are in refugee-like situations who are arriving in the State party, to ensure their access to health care, adequate accommodation, basic facilities, security and safety, and to take specific measures and provide for individualized support, such as personal assistance, particularly for women and children with disabilities.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt effective asylum and refugee processes and develop a comprehensive strategy and protocols for general emergency risk situations, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. It also recommends that the State party render reception facilities accessible and provide the necessary health-care services, in line with the Committee’s general comment No. 2, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**
- (b) Immediately ensure that the vulnerability assessment of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, who are refugees, asylum seekers and persons in refugee-like situations be carried out systematically upon their arrival in the State party by trained personnel and on the basis of the human rights model of disability and of specific guidelines for the identification of persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, who are refugees, asylum seekers and persons in refugee-like situations, have access to social protection, assistive technologies, information and adequate services, particularly safe shelter, sanitation and medical care through, inter alia, the provision of individualized support; immediately guarantee that conditions in reception facilities respect the dignity of persons with disabilities, particularly children, who are refugees, asylum seekers or persons in refugee-like situations; and provide for their regular transfer to the mainland.**

India (2019)

24. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of policies regarding consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating disaster risk reduction strategies;**
- (b) The information gaps on the number of internally displaced persons with disabilities, particularly those living outside formal camps or resettlement areas, and the absence of humanitarian assessments to ensure appropriate and disability-inclusive emergency responses, including for persons at a higher risk of displacement;**
- (c) The lack of information about persons with disabilities in Jammu and Kashmir and strategies to ensure appropriate humanitarian assistance.**

25. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement:

- (a) Ensure the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the disaster risk reduction strategy and/or national disaster management plan or guidelines, ensuring the implementation of measures for accessibility and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in situations of risk;**
- (b) Develop early warning systems in situations of risk that are accessible for all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure a human rights-based response for internally displaced persons with disabilities, particularly those who have been displaced for prolonged periods, in all situations of risk, including in relation to violence and armed conflict, natural disasters or the exploitation of natural resources, and adopt policies to protect the rights of internally displaced persons with disabilities, ensuring that they are provided with assistance and accessible and safe shelters;**
- (d) Adopt measures to assess the situation of persons with disabilities in Jammu and Kashmir and ensure their access to assistance and community basic services, such as health and education, and consider endorsing the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.**

Iraq (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The disproportionate effect that armed conflict, other acts of violence committed against civilian populations and displacement in the State party have had on persons with disabilities**

and about the increase in the number of persons with disabilities due to conflict-related injuries and the lack of medical and other basic services, particularly in the Kurdistan Region; (b) The absence of a reference to the need for individualized supports for persons with disabilities during emergencies in Law No. 44 (2013) on civil defence and in Law No. 38 (2013), as well as in policies and programmes, including the national policy for managing the file on internally displaced persons in Iraq endorsed by the Council of Ministers in its decision No. 414 (2015).

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Allocate the human, technical and financial resources necessary to provide services, including habilitation and rehabilitation services, mental health services, sanitation, safe spaces, education and vocational training, to persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, who are victims of violence in the context of armed conflict or who are internally displaced, migrants or refugees, including measures to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of persons with disabilities, and to enforce Law No. 57 (2015) on victims of terrorism;

(b) In compliance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, ensure that national legislation, policies and programmes that address situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies are disability-inclusive, including by making continued efforts to render early warning and public warning systems accessible to persons with disabilities.

Kuwait (2019)

22. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of a specific strategy, protocols and tools to prevent, protect, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(b) The lack of information on how humanitarian aid, including evacuation systems, transport, shelters and assistive devices, is made accessible to persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) With the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, design and enact a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

(b) Adopt measures to ensure that information on evacuation systems, transport, shelters and assistive devices in situations of risk and emergency is provided to persons with disabilities in accessible formats.

Myanmar (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The rights and the specific requirements of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies are not sufficiently taken into account in the Natural Disaster Management Law or the Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction, and there is a lack of protocols, plans and measures with respect to persons with disabilities in these situations;

(b) Persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities and those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, face heightened risks in areas affected by conflict and humanitarian emergencies, including where stateless, internally displaced and returnee populations are resident or hosted in Northern Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin States.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Design and adopt specific legislation, protocols, plans and measures for the protection and safety of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and in humanitarian emergencies, which take into account the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen the humanitarian protection for persons with disabilities affected by conflict and humanitarian emergencies, including those belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, particularly in Northern Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin States.

Cuba (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of awareness of persons with disabilities on the existence and nature of protocols on assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, the limited dissemination of handbooks and guides on assisting persons with disabilities in potential disaster situations, and the lack of information in accessible means and formats of communication.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and disseminate widely a national plan on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies that provides for assistance for all persons with disabilities that takes into account their requirements, through specific and cross-cutting approaches, and a protocol on risk mitigation for persons with disabilities in situations of risk through accessible early-warning systems, including in sign language, Easy Read and Braille, focusing in particular on persons living in rural areas, and continue to provide training to first responders;

(b) Include persons with disabilities in all stages of disaster management with a view to ensuring that their requirements and rights are respected.

Niger (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a co-ordinating body for risks and national disasters that adequately incorporates persons with disabilities. It is concerned about the lack of information on how humanitarian aid is made accessible to persons with disabilities, including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in designing the National Emergency Management System Plan, and adopt a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy that is fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

Norway (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about the disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and emergencies, and about the absence of comprehensive policies related to disaster risk reduction that include persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of national disaster risk reduction strategies.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, through active consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop an emergency information and warning system that is fully available, free and accessible, throughout the State party for all persons with disabilities regardless of impairment;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategy that guarantees the accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all situations of risk.

Rwanda (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a disability perspective in the general strategy, plan, protocols and tools in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(b) The lack of civil protection personnel with knowledge and skills to assist persons with disabilities in disaster risk situations;

(c) The inaccessibility of information regarding disaster risk reduction and response for persons with disabilities, in particular persons who are deaf, blind, deaf-blind and persons with intellectual disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that the national strategy, plan, protocols and tools to deal with situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities,

and that through their representative organizations, they are included in structures responsible for disaster preparedness, management and recovery;

(b) Train and equip emergency response teams with the knowledge and skills to assist persons with disabilities in disaster risk situations;

(c) Put into place measures to ensure that information on disaster risk reduction and response is accessible to all persons with disabilities, including persons who are deaf, blind, deaf-blind and persons with intellectual disabilities.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The precarious situation of refugees and asylum-seeking persons with disabilities, resulting from the State party's military action in the region;

(b) Insufficient measures taken to guarantee that its preparedness, protection and disaster relief measures, shelters and evacuation routes, including corresponding information material, are accessible to persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee, recalling that if the State party exercises effective control over individuals in another jurisdiction (CCPR/C/96/D/1539/2006, para 14.2), or if it is a link in the causal chain that would make possible violations in another jurisdiction, the guarantees of the Convention apply, recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the respect of all the rights of persons with disabilities in the exercise of its powers in other jurisdictions, including in armed conflict, and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need (see A/HRC/33/38, paras. 71 (b) and (d));

(b) Adopt and implement a fully inclusive and accessible emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities at risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and guarantee the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities on emergency-related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

Senegal (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of a national plan for disaster risk reduction to support persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons who are blind or visually impaired;

(b) The lack of access to information in accessible formats including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transportation and available shelters.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the inclusion, meaningful consultation and effective participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the Civil Defence Directorate and in designing the National Emergency Management System Plan;

(b) Adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030);

(c) Adopt measures to ensure the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, especially for persons who are deaf, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, women and children with disabilities, on the accessibility and the inclusion of such persons in humanitarian aid, including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

Spain (2019)

20. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not sufficiently take into account the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and through the active participation of representative

organisations of persons with disabilities, design and adopt specific legislation, protocols, plans and measures for the protection and rescue of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, which take into account the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities.

Türkiye (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned about the absence of information on a comprehensive strategy and plan of action that ensures inclusion and accessibility of disaster risk reduction measures. It is also concerned about the absence of periodic risk assessments and disaggregated data collection that allows the State party to identify and address the specific risks that persons with disabilities face in armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national strategy and protocols on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian emergencies, inclusive of persons with disabilities, in line with the criteria indicated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction 2015-2030;**
- (b) Ensure that the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency involves organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of risk assessments, plans for disaster risk reduction and data collection efforts;**
- (c) Ensure continuous human, financial and technical resources for post-emergency rehabilitation, resettlement, reconstruction, and rebuilding processes, which are accessible and responsive to the specific requirements of persons with disabilities.**

Vanuatu (2019)

20. The Committee notes the vulnerability of the State party to natural disasters and is concerned that persons with disabilities are not sufficiently involved in disaster risk reduction plans at national, provincial and community level. It is also concerned that some persons with disabilities were still left behind during the evacuation from Ambae Island in 2018 and that there is a lack of unified measures taken for emergency notification system, which are accessible for persons with disabilities regardless of types of impairment.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Improve the accessibility of warning information for all different types of impairments, particularly for persons with visual and hearing impairment and those with intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Consult closely with persons with disabilities through their organizations in the design and implementation of all disaster risk reduction plans at the national, provincial and community level and adopt a comprehensive strategy, which incorporates recommendations made by the joint study into the Cyclone Pam response from the perspective of persons with disabilities in 2016 and 2017, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and Goals 11 and 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (c) Continue ensuring that clusters under the National Disaster Management Office, including the Gender Protection Cluster, adequately address the specific requirements of all persons with disabilities in disaster risk responses.**

Algeria (2018)

22. The Committee is concerned at the absence of measures to respond to the specific requirements of refugees with disabilities in the context of humanitarian crises.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt, within a clear timeline, a risk and emergency strategy and ensure that disability issues are integrated into the strategy, in compliance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Bulgaria (2018)

27. The Committee notes with concern that deaf and hard of hearing persons, blind persons and persons with intellectual disabilities face challenges in accessing information on situations of risk across the State party, including in remote and rural areas. It is also

concerned about the lack of information in sign language, electronic format, Braille, printed and Easy Read about early warning systems.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to information on situations of risk, including in sign language, electronic format, Braille, and Easy Read across the State party, including in remote and rural areas.

Malta (2018)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of disaster risk reduction, such as the General Emergency Plan, the regional evacuation plan, and of the development of new technologies and services. It is also concerned that some reception centres for asylum seekers and the Office of the Refugee Commissioner are not accessible for persons with disabilities and that information for persons with disabilities, particularly asylum seekers, is lacking in accessible formats.

18. The Committee recommends in line with the Sendai Framework For Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities are included in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of disaster risk reduction. It further calls on the State party to improve the access to facilities and information for asylum seekers with disabilities.

Philippines (2018)

22. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on measures taken to implement the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act and the coordination mechanisms by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council with respect to persons with disabilities in situations of risk. It is also concerned about the information that during the 2017 Battle of Marawi in Lanao del Sur province, many women, at-risk groups such as children, persons with disabilities were left in the center of gunfire and chaos causing massive internal displacement.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt an effective mechanism in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to have an accessible communication strategy (e.g. hotlines, a text message-warning application, general manuals in sign language and Braille, etc.) and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations risk;

(b) Ensure that disaster risk reduction strategies are inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities, and comply with the commitments of the Chapter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, and the 2016 Humanitarian Summit;

(c) Enact legislation and enforce measures requiring all public services to develop individual and local plans for the safe evacuation of persons with disabilities during situations of risk, in close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

Poland (2018)

17. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not sufficiently include specific requirements of persons with disabilities.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, through active consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, design and adopt specific regulations, plans and measures for the protection and rescue of all persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

South Africa (2018)

20. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national plan for disaster risk reduction to support persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons who are blind or visually impaired. It is also concerned about the lack of access to information in

appropriate formats including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transportation and shelters.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and to ensure universal accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities at all levels of disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015);

(b) Design and disseminate information in accessible formats to all persons with disabilities, in all of the State party's official languages, about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

North Macedonia (2018)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

22. The lack of incorporation of disability or accessibility and support to people with disabilities in the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, and the lack of emergency number in accessible formats, accessible equipment and provision for emergency and rescue trainings for people with disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise its legislation, policies and guidelines to ensure that Disaster Risk Reduction management and humanitarian aid is accessible and inclusive for persons with disability;

(b) Provide emergency number in accessible formats, equipment and provision for emergency and rescue trainings for people with disabilities.

Haiti (2018)

20. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The existing disaster risk reduction national strategic plan does not include a disability perspective for the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including disasters and that the State party relies on ad-hoc mobilization efforts by volunteers to reach out to persons with disabilities in cases of natural disasters;

(b) Organizations of persons with disabilities were not engaged in the formulation of the disaster risk reduction national strategic plan;

(c) Persons with disabilities do not have equal access to humanitarian and emergency services including the distribution of humanitarian assistance, and that shelters, centres and facilities are often inaccessible.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

(a) Expedite the revision of the disaster risk reduction national strategic plan with clear guidance and accessible protocols that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, and take them into consideration, in all situations of risk, in accordance with the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and raise awareness, including through public media campaigns about such protocols in case of natural disasters;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities are effectively engaged in the design and implementation of measures for their protection and safety in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(c) Take measures to improve the accessibility of humanitarian and emergency services, including distribution of assistance, shelters and facilities.

Nepal (2018)

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific protective measures and support for persons with disabilities targeting specifically vulnerable groups who were disproportionately affected (women, people with leprosy, children and indigenous peoples) by the 2015 earthquake.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt an effective mechanism in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to have an accessible communication strategy (e.g. hotlines, a text message-warning application, general manuals in sign language and Braille, etc.), and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations of disaster and risk. The Committee also recommends that the State party require all public services to develop individual and local plans for the safe evacuation of persons with disabilities in consultations with them through their representative organizations. In this regard, the State party should ensure that post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts follow a human rights based approach in order to effectively protect all persons with disabilities.

Oman (2018)

23. The Committee is concerned that the National Emergency Management System Plan does not adequately incorporate persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on how humanitarian aid is made accessible to persons with disabilities, including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in designing the National Emergency Management System Plan, and adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy that is fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, especially for women and children, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and also for the deaf, on the accessibility and inclusion of such persons in humanitarian aid, including emergency related information, evacuation systems, transport and shelters.

Seychelles (2018)

16. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not sufficiently consider the specific requirements of persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, through active consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, design and adopt specific regulations, plans and measures for the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and emergency, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Slovenia (2018)

16. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not sufficiently consider the specific requirements of persons with disabilities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party, through active consultations with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, design and adopt specific regulations, plans and measures for the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and emergency, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Sudan (2018)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a national strategy for the protection of persons with disabilities in emergency and humanitarian situations;
- (b) The limited support provided to persons with disabilities who are internally displaced, refugees or asylum seekers.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a disaster risk reduction strategy that is accessible and inclusive of persons with disabilities, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and ensure that humanitarian actors are trained in the human rights-based approach to disability;**
- (b) To strengthen its efforts to provide adequate support to persons with disabilities who are internally displaced, refugees or asylum seekers.**

Latvia (2017)

18. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific plans, prepared in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, on prevention, protection and assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a disaster risk reduction and management plan that ensures accessibility and the inclusion of all persons with disabilities, providing for a single point of contact in situations of emergency and disasters, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Luxembourg (2017)

22. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about training for personnel of emergency services on the rights of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on access to appropriate processing facilities and mental health support, including counselling, for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities arriving in the State party, especially those with psychosocial disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party train emergency services personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party ensure that asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities arriving in the State party have access to facilities on an equal basis with others, beyond physical accessibility, and that persons with psychosocial disabilities have access to appropriate support and rehabilitation.

Montenegro (2017)

22. The Committee is concerned about the lack of any comprehensive strategy, protocols or standards, and about the lack of regular training of relevant professionals and in public buildings to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to help in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. It is also concerned about the lack of equal access to information, such as accessible and adapted manuals, including guidelines in line with its general comment No. 2.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt an effective mechanism in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to have an accessible and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations of risk (including, for example, hotlines, a text message warning application, general manuals in sign language and Braille), and to require all public services to develop individual and local plans for the safe evacuation of persons with disabilities, in consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including at the local level.

Morocco (2017)

24. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a national strategy for the protection of persons with disabilities from risk situations, including natural disasters, and the lack of information on the accessibility of humanitarian and emergency services for persons with disabilities.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a disaster risk reduction strategy that provides for accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Panama (2017)

28. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a protocol on assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and the limited dissemination of handbooks and guides on assisting persons with disabilities in potential disaster situations.

29. In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop, adopt and disseminate widely a national plan on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies that provides for priority assistance for all persons with disabilities, through specific and cross-cutting approaches, and a protocol on risk mitigation for persons with disabilities in situations of risk through accessible early-warning systems, including in sign language, Easy Read and Braille, focusing in particular on persons living in rural areas and indigenous regions, and continue to develop the road map and provide training to first responders;

(b) Incorporate a disability perspective in its policies and programmes on climate change;

(c) Include persons with disabilities in all stages of disaster management with a view to ensuring that their needs and rights are respected.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

28. The Committee is concerned about the impact on persons with disabilities in situations of emergencies, including floods and fire, and the absence of comprehensive policies related to disaster risk reduction that include persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of disaster risk reduction.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive disaster risk reduction plan and strategies that provide for accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(b) Mainstream disability in all humanitarian aid channels and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in setting priorities on aid distribution in the context of risk and humanitarian emergencies, paying attention to the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

(c) Develop information and warning systems in humanitarian emergencies that are accessible for all persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities participate in resilience teams at the local level and have an active role in advising on and formulating policies and guidelines regarding disaster preparedness and planning.

Armenia (2017)

17. The Committee is concerned that legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies do not take the requirements of persons with disabilities into consideration.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party include a disability perspective in all legislation, protocols and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and take measures in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

20. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive strategy for protocols to support persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. In line with its general comment No. 2 (2014), it is especially concerned about the lack of equal access to information in appropriate formats.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt an effective system in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in order to have an accessible (e.g. through hotlines, a text message-warning application, general

manuals in sign language and in Braille) and comprehensive emergency strategy and protocols for situations of risk, and that it require all public services to develop plans for the evacuation of persons with disabilities in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including at the local level.

Canada (2017)

25. The Committee takes note of several policy measures at the federal, provincial and territorial levels that provide for comprehensive plans on preparedness and disaster risk management and reduction and that are inclusive of disability requirements. However, the Committee notes with concern the absence of disaggregated information about the situation of asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities in the State party.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct research on the effective access of asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities to the protection of their rights under the Convention;
- (b) Ensure the provision of accessible information, including easy-read versions of official documents, during asylum-seeking processes and with respect to social protection and rehabilitation programmes for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities;
- (c) Set up programmes to build capacity among international cooperation and assistance officials with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (d) Consider endorsing the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

Cyprus (2017)

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient measures guaranteeing full inclusion of persons with disabilities in emergency responses, including access to the telephone-based emergency service “112” for persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and sensory disabilities.

32. The Committee recommends that the Office of the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulations provide sufficient means of access to the telephone-based emergency service “112” in order for it to be made fully accessible to all persons with disabilities in emergency situations, as required by European Union Directive 2009/136/EC.

Honduras (2017)

25. El Comité observa con preocupación que si bien existen las entidades responsables de coordinar y dirigir las situaciones de riesgo y emergencias humanitarias no se incluye un protocolo especial para mitigar los riesgos de personas con discapacidad en situaciones de riesgo.

26. El Comité recomienda que el Sistema Nacional de Riesgos incorpore un protocolo específico para mitigar los riesgos de personas con discapacidad en situaciones de riesgo con unas alertas tempranas accesibles que incluyan lengua de señas y sistema braille prestando especial atención a las que viven en zonas rurales y remotas. Asimismo, le recomienda incorporar la discapacidad en sus políticas y programas sobre cambio climático.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

24. The Committee takes note of the State party information about its demining program. However, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of appropriate preparedness and information about risk reduction strategies during emergencies, in formats accessible to persons with disabilities, and information about accessibility of shelters and evacuation routes; and
- (b) The absence of information on the situation of refugee persons with disabilities and on how they are included in disaster risk reduction strategies.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the disaster risk reduction plan and strategies provides for accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and
- (b) Take measures to facilitate the protection of persons with disabilities in refugee camps, such as accessible shelters, water and sanitation, education and health, evacuation during emergencies and rehabilitation.

Jordan (2017)

23. The Committee notes that the State party is host to a significant number of refugees. It is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive, accessible and disability-inclusive disaster risk management strategy. It is also concerned that deaf persons are limited to using a certain type of mobile telephone when accessing the emergency hotline service.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) in adopting and implementing a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols that are fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, including refugees with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the emergency hotline service be made accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly deaf persons, via the independent technologies platform.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

22. The Committee is concerned that legislation and plans on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including Law No. 1491 on humanitarian aid, does not take the requirements of persons with disabilities into consideration in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party include a disability perspective in all legislation and plans relating to situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and that it adopt measures in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Bolivia (2016)

25. The Committee is concerned that accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction is insufficient, and that there are no response protocols in this regard.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, in the light of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, for the inclusion of accessibility in infrastructure and evacuation routes, and for the provision of information on disaster risk reduction, including in Braille and sign language and using alternative modes and formats of communication.

Colombia (2016)

26. The Committee notes with concern the limited participation of persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of risk reduction strategies and the lack of information accessibility.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, in the light of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction; for the inclusion of accessibility in infrastructure and evacuation routes; and for the provision of information on disaster risk reduction, including in Braille and sign language and using alternative modes and formats of communication.

28. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The fact that during the peace negotiations between the Government of the State party and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP), the

disability perspective has not been considered a priority in the context of the rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims with disabilities;

(b) The lack of accessibility of the Central Register of Victims and the shortage of reliable information and statistics on victims with disabilities;

(c) The large number of victims of anti-personnel mines and the limited efforts to ensure their full rehabilitation and community reintegration;

(d) The lack of accessibility and of the disability perspective in victim reparation programmes, such as that operated by the Land Restitution Unit, and the requirement of judicial interdiction in order to benefit from compensation as victims.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party include the disability perspective in all victim reparation and assistance programmes, in coordination with the National Disability System and in consultation with victims with disabilities and the organizations representing them, in particular by:

(a) Adopting rehabilitation and social inclusion policies for persons with disabilities who are victims of the armed conflict, including measures for their rehabilitation and community reintegration with a gender approach, aimed specifically at persons who have developed psychosocial disabilities as a consequence of the armed conflict;

(b) Ensuring the accessibility of all procedures related to the Central Register of Victims, especially in rural areas and the most remote locations;

(c) Eliminating the interdiction requirement for victims of the armed conflict to benefit from reparation and support programmes.

Ethiopia (2016)

23. The Committee is concerned at the absence of measures to tackle humanitarian crises, specifically relating to persons with disabilities and their specific requirements.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt, within a clear timeline, a risk and emergency strategy and ensure that disability issues are integrated into the strategy, in compliance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Guatemala (2016)

29. The Committee is concerned that the State party's action plans and national policy on preparedness and response in the event of humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters do not take into account the needs of persons with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that its action plans and national policy on preparedness and response in the event of humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters are inclusive and accessible to all persons with disabilities, focusing in particular on those living in rural and remote areas. It also recommends mainstreaming disability in its climate change policies and programmes, taking into consideration the outcomes of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with regard to persons with disabilities, the outcome document of the Climate Summit and the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

Italy (2016)

25. The Committee is concerned about the challenges encountered by refugees, migrants and asylum seekers with disabilities arriving in the State party, especially those with psychosocial disabilities, in accessing appropriate processing facilities and mental health support, including counselling.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all persons with disabilities arriving in the State party are able to access facilities on an equal basis with others and that those with psychosocial disabilities are given appropriate support and rehabilitation through strengthened systems. It also recommends that the State party ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and endorse the 2016 Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

21. The Committee notes that in 2009 the Ministry of Social Affairs issued technical guidelines for civil defence personnel on ways to plan the evacuation of persons with disabilities in emergency situations. The Committee is concerned, however:

(a) That, apart from those guidelines, there are no strategies, protocols or tools to prevent, protect, inform, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

(b) About the lack of detailed information regarding the training to be provided to all staff involved in the evacuation of persons with disabilities during emergencies.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols that are fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

(b) Regularly provide basic training to persons charged with evacuating persons with disabilities in the event of an emergency.

Uruguay (2016)

23. Al Comité le preocupa que el Sistema Nacional de Emergencia, Ley número 18621, no cuente con protocolos específicos para el tratamiento de personas con discapacidad en situación de emergencia nacional. También le preocupa la poca divulgación de los manuales y guías prácticas para el apoyo a las personas con discapacidad en situaciones de riesgo de desastres, el desconocimiento del personal de protección civil acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y la poca accesibilidad en vías de evacuación a nivel nacional.

24. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que proporcione capacitación permanente sobre los derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad al personal de protección civil. Dicha formación deberá incluir la divulgación de los instrumentos elaborados para la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad en las estrategias para la reducción de riesgos de desastres, y la inclusión de la accesibilidad en infraestructura y las rutas de evacuación.

Chile (2016)

21. Al Comité le preocupa la poca divulgación de los manuales y guías prácticas para el apoyo a las personas con discapacidad en situaciones de riesgo de desastres, el desconocimiento del personal de protección civil acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y la poca accesibilidad en vías de evacuación a nivel nacional. Asimismo, le preocupa la falta de accesibilidad de los servicios e información relacionada con la reducción de riesgos de desastres para las personas con discapacidad.

22. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que capacite de manera permanente al personal de protección civil en materia de derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad. Dicha formación deberá incluir la divulgación de los instrumentos elaborados para la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad en las estrategias para la reducción de riesgos de desastres, la provisión de servicios digitales de comunicación, la inclusión de la accesibilidad en infraestructura y las rutas de evacuación, así como la información relacionada con la reducción de los riesgos de desastres. También le recomienda que preste especial atención a la accesibilidad a la información, incluido el Braille, la lengua de señas y los medios y formatos alternativos de comunicación, y deberá tener en cuenta el Marco de Sendai para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres.

Lithuania (2016)

23. The Committee notes with concern that the requirements of persons with disabilities, especially those who are deaf, deaf blind or hard of hearing, are not explicitly factored into disaster response measures at the national and local levels, including the emergency call application called "GPIS112".

24. The Committee recommends that the State party implement, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, initiatives securing the inclusion of persons who are deaf, deaf blind or hard of hearing in emergency response and mitigation plans and adapt emergency call lines to respond to the requirements of persons who are deaf, deaf blind or

hard of hearing through the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Portugal (2016)

24. The Committee is concerned that the policies of civil protection and humanitarian assistance in the State party do not take sufficiently into consideration the needs of persons with disabilities in these areas.

25. The Committee recommends that all elements of the State party's disaster-reduction policies and programmes to be inclusive and accessible for all persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee notes that certain disability-related aspects are considered in the State party's policies and programmes regarding migration, refugees and asylum. However, it is deeply concerned that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities often find themselves in situations of destitution or extreme poverty.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party redouble its efforts in its policies and programmes regarding migration, refugees and asylum in order to support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities in situations of destitution or extreme poverty.

Serbia (2016)

19. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a general strategy, plan, protocols and tools to protect and assist persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. It is especially concerned about the lack of accessibility of evacuation plans and subsequent reconstruction plans, and lack of equal access to information, with special regards to mass media. Manuals for emergency situations are not in accessible formats either.

20. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt fully accessible and comprehensive emergency strategy, protocols and accessible informative services (e.g. hotlines, SMS-warning application, manuals in sign language and in Braille) adequately tackling the requirements of persons with disabilities, in particular when evacuating them. Additional measures should be taken in relation to information provided via mass media to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing persons have access to it, and to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The needs of persons with disabilities should also be considered in the planning and implementation of reconstruction programmes, taking into account accessibility standards and universal design.

Slovakia (2016)

34. The Committee is concerned that public broadcasting of warnings about natural disasters and emergencies is inaccessible.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party make available early warning systems in all formats, especially sign language and text messages (or other equivalent mobile applications) to ensure persons with disabilities can prepare and respond to emergency situations.

36. The Committee is concerned about the situation of refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities seeking admission to the State party and the fact that those who are detained are not provided with appropriate support and reasonable accommodation.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream disability in its refugee policies and that any detention of persons with disabilities in the context of asylum seeking is provided in line with the Convention.

Thailand (2016)

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific plans of prevention, protection and assistance for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, prepared in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a disaster risk reduction and management plan that ensures accessibility and the inclusion of all persons with disabilities, and that provides for a single point of contact in situations of emergency and disasters in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Uganda (2016)

20. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of reference to persons with disabilities in the National Policy for Internally Displaced Persons and the non-establishment of the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission;
- (b) The absence of specific provisions for refugees with disabilities in Northern Uganda through the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan;
- (c) The absence of provisions for evacuation of persons with disabilities in emergency situations such as fire outbreaks.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and also universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation;**
- (b) Provide information in accessible formats in all languages used in the State party, including Swahili and indigenous and refugee languages as well as sign language, about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergencies;**
- (c) Monitor, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the implementation of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan to ensure that the requirements of persons with disabilities, including refugees with disabilities, are addressed in post-conflict districts of Northern Uganda;**
- (d) Finalize the draft Uganda national disaster risk reduction and management policy, in close consultation with representatives of persons with disabilities to include provisions for identification and support for persons with disabilities, include persons with disabilities in the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Commission, and consider implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.**

European Union (2015)

30. The Committee is concerned that emergency number 112 is not fully accessible across the European Union to all persons with all types of disabilities and that Member States' civil protection policies are not in line with the new Council conclusions on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management.

31. The Committee recommends that the European Union take necessary measures to ensure that emergency number 112 is fully accessible across the European Union to all persons with all types of disabilities and that all aspects of disaster risk reduction policies and programs are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities.

32. The Committee is concerned about the lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities in all European Union policies and guidelines on humanitarian aid as well as the lack of mechanisms to share knowledge and good practices in line with the Convention between different European Union institutions and between European Union Member States.

33. The Committee recommends that the European Union: (a) Adopt an implementation plan, in line with the Council Conclusions of February 2015 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; (b) Establish a mechanism to build capacity and share good practice between different European Union institutions and between the European Union and its Member States on disability-inclusive and accessible humanitarian aid; (c) Establish a monitoring and accountability framework for the implementation of European Union policies and programmes including the collection of disaggregated data on sex, disability and age.

34. The Committee notes with deep concern the precarious situation of persons with disabilities in the current migrant crisis in the European Union. It is furthermore concerned that refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers with disabilities continue to be detained within the European Union in conditions which do not provide appropriate support and reasonable accommodations. The migration decision-making procedure is not accessible for all persons with disabilities and information and communication is not provided in accessible formats.

35. The Committee recommends that the European Union mainstream disability in its migration and refugee policies. In addition, the Committee recommends that the European

Union issue guidelines to its agencies and Member States that restrictive detention of persons with disabilities for migration and asylum seeking purposes is not aligned to the Convention.

Gabon (2015)

26. The Committee is concerned about the lack of emergency and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national risk reduction policy and emergency management protocols that are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, developed in close consultation with them and their representative organisations. In addition, ensure that all related information and humanitarian relief are distributed in accessible formats and ways to persons with disabilities.

Kenya (2015)

21. The Committee is concerned about the absence of information on the situation of internally displaced persons with disabilities, and those living in refugee camps, as well as the lack of information on emergencies and disaster strategies in accessible formats for persons with disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and to further ensure universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation;

(b) Provide information in accessible modes, means and formats of communication for all persons with disabilities, in all of the State party's official languages, and indigenous languages about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergency; and

(c) Adopt measures to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities in refugee camps and internally displaced persons with disabilities and ensure that they are entitled to access all services available, including accessible shelters, water and sanitation, education and health.

Mauritius (2015)

19. The Committee regrets the lack of clarity as to the legal framework, which the State party will include in the National Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Bill to meet its obligations under article 11 of the Convention.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the drafting process of the National Risk Reduction Disaster Management Bill, in order to ensure accessible and disability inclusive disaster risk management.

Qatar (2015)

21. The Committee is concerned by the lack of a specific strategy, protocols and tools to prevent, protect, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Ukraine (2015)

22. The Committee is concerned about the reports that persons with disabilities were abandoned and could not be evacuated during the conflict in the east of the country. It is particularly concerned about the reports that there were no warning system for deaf and blind people and that persons with multiple forms of disabilities could not use bomb shelters. The

Committee is also concerned about the lack of accurate data on displacement, casualties and injuries among persons with disabilities during the conflict. Furthermore, the Committee notes alarming reports that the humanitarian aid, including aid provided by international donors, is not accessible to persons with disabilities and contributes to their exclusion from relief efforts.

23. The Committee urges that the State party, including at the local level, take all necessary measures to facilitate the protection, including evacuation, of persons with disabilities who currently remain in the conflict areas of the country and ensure that its emergency response mechanisms and evacuation plans are inclusive and accessible to all persons with disabilities. It particularly calls upon the State party to prioritize persons with disabilities in its evacuation plans, including by training the personnel involved. The Committee further recommends to mainstream disability in all humanitarian aid channels and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in setting priorities on aid distribution.

24. The Committee is concerned that a lack of systematic registration process for persons with disabilities who are internally displaced hinders their access to social protection, emergency and humanitarian aid services, including shelters, medicine, benefits, pensions that are necessary for adequate standard of living.

25. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to systematically register internally displaced persons with disabilities and provide them with adequate standard of living.

Cook Islands (2015)

21. The Committee is concerned that accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and response protocols is insufficient.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct systematic disaggregated data collection to inform the development of accessible and inclusive protocols, especially for Deaf persons, by implementing and funding the Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management, and ensure the necessary budget allocations including through the use of financing originating from international cooperation.

Czech Republic (2015)

20. The Committee is concerned that national emergency protocols do not contain provisions for persons with disabilities, in particular deaf people.

21. The Committee urges the State party to ensure disaster risk reduction and emergency response mechanisms are inclusive and accessible to all persons with disabilities.

Dominican Republic (2015)

18. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in plans and strategies for dealing with risks and humanitarian emergencies, the unavailability of information in accessible formats and the lack of sign language interpreters.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a policy inclusive of persons with disabilities in its strategies, plans and protocols for dealing with situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including the provision of information in Dominican Sign Language.

Germany (2015)

23. The Committee is concerned about: a) access to the national emergency call system, especially for Deaf persons; b) the absence of a specific strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian relief.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party establish uniform emergency control centres across the State party, including modern protocols for Deaf persons. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt a human rights-based strategy for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian relief which should be inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Mongolia (2015)

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific protective measures and assistance to persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, despite the fact that the State party is subjected to frequent natural disasters.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national plan of assistance in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, and make the manual inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, especially deaf persons, including ensuring its dissemination in accessible formats.

Turkmenistan (2015)

23. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a specific strategy, protocols and tools to prevent, protect, assist and involve persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, with special regards to mass media, ensuring their equal access to information, especially when designing and executing evacuation plans and subsequent reconstruction plans, in compliance with accessibility standards.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency and disaster risk reduction strategy and protocols fully inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities , in particular when evacuating them, with specific regards to Deaf and hard of hearing people and people with multiple forms of disabilities. The needs of persons with disabilities should also be considered in the planning and implementation of reconstruction programmes, taking into account accessibility standards.

Denmark (2014)

30. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information from the State party on the involvement by persons with disabilities and their organizations in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of the Strategy for Danish Humanitarian Action 2010–2015, and at the absence of specific alert systems or protocols to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support and protection in the event of risk situations or emergencies.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party take action to ensure that disaster risk reduction is fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, to develop and enforce accessible alert systems or protocols, and to organize training for rescue and emergency personnel to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support and protection in the event of risk situations or emergencies.

Republic of Korea (2014)

19. The Committee is concerned about the absence of specific strategies in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities in situations of emergencies, including natural disasters. The Committee is particularly concerned that the enforcement decrees of the Framework Act on Building and the Act on the Promotion of Convenience for the Disabled, Senior Citizens, and Pregnant Women fail to include evacuation systems for persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a comprehensive plan to ensure, in situations of risk, including the occurrence of natural disasters, the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in consideration of the characteristics of their disabilities, and to further ensure universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation.

Mexico (2014)

21. The Committee notes with concern the lack of specific prevention, protection and assistance plans for persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national plan of assistance in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies that includes persons with disabilities on a cross-cutting basis and the institutions that care for them;

(b) Design and disseminate, in accessible formats in all of the State party's official languages, including those used by the indigenous communities, information on early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergency, protection systems, institutional and community crisis response networks, and identify adequate places of refuge and shelters accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas; and

(c) Train all civil defence staff in addressing issues of security and protection for persons with disabilities in situations of risk – such as armed violence, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters – including a gender and age perspective.

Sweden (2014)

31. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the State party's efforts to reduce risks and on its preparedness to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support in the event of a disaster.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake to ensure that disaster risk reduction is fully accessible and disability inclusive, and take measures to ensure its preparedness to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support in the event of a disaster.

Azerbaijan (2014)

24. The Committee notes that the State party has an Activity Plan on the evacuation of persons with disabilities from areas of emergency and the provision of humanitarian assistance. However, the Committee is concerned at the lack of detailed information regarding the training provided to staff involved in the evacuation of persons with disabilities during emergencies.

25. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to provide training to persons charged with the task of evacuating persons with disabilities in the event of an emergency. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake to adopt and implement a comprehensive plan on disaster risk reduction, which is fully accessible and fully inclusive.

Australia (2013)

22. The Committee notes with concern that despite the adoption of local and state emergency response and mitigation plans, disability needs are often not explicitly factored into disaster response measures and that there are as yet no specific measures in National Plans to address emergency intervention strategies for persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee calls upon the State party in consultation with people with disabilities, to establish nationally consistent emergency management standards, that are implemented across all three levels of government; to ensure inclusivity across diverse disabilities and to cover all phases of emergency management preparation, early warning, evacuation, interim housing and support, recovery and rebuilding. It further recommends inclusion in National Plans of emergency response schemes for persons with disabilities.

Austria (2013)

25. While taking note of the efforts by the State party to develop a plan on disaster preparedness, and its contributions to development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the State party's preparedness to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support in the event of a disaster.

26. The Committee urges the State party to provide information in its next periodic report on the specific measures taken to ensure its preparedness to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary support in the event of a disaster. The State party should also increase its efforts to implement the twin-track approach in order to fully achieve disability inclusion in all spheres of the Austrian Development Cooperation.

El Salvador (2013)

25. The Committee is concerned that information regarding plans on prevention, risk mitigation and care of persons with disabilities in emergency situations are not available in accessible formats, and that organizations of persons with disabilities are not assigned a role in such situations.

26. The Committee urges the State party to define a concrete role for organizations of persons with disabilities in the design of the national civil protection system and to ensure that information on emergency mechanisms is made available in accessible formats.

Paraguay (2013)

27. The Committee notes that the State party has finished formulating its national policy on risk protection and civil defence. However, it notes with concern the absence of objectives and specific strategies to include persons with disabilities, despite their vulnerability in emergency and risk situations.

28. The Committee urges the State party to adopt the national risk-management policy as a matter of urgency, ensuring the involvement of disabled persons' organizations and taking due account of their input and recommendations.

Spain (2011)

31. The Committee is concerned at the insufficiency of specific protocols for persons with disabilities in emergency situations.

32. The Committee calls upon the State party to review its laws and policies related to emergency situations with a view to including provisions guaranteeing the security and protection of persons with disabilities.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 12 CRPD
(Equal recognition before the law)*

September 2025

Article 12 - Equal recognition before the law

1. States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law.
2. States Parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.
3. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity.
4. States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will and preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person's rights and interests.
5. Subject to the provisions of this article, States Parties shall take all appropriate and effective measures to ensure the equal right of persons with disabilities to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, and shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their property.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)

Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Macao
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)

Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
Malta (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)

Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
New Zealand (2014)
Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Belgium (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)

China (2012)
Hungary (2012)
Peru (2012)
Spain (2011)
Tunisia (2010)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

21. The Committee is concerned about article 21 of the Civil Law, which provides that persons with disabilities “in physical function” shall conduct acts of civil legal affairs through their parents or guardians, and about articles 53 and 54 of the Law of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on the Provision of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which regulate guardianship.

22. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, abolish guardianship regimes and all forms of substituted decision-making and to adopt supported decision-making frameworks that respect the will and preferences of persons with disabilities, in line with General Comment No. 1.

Finland (2025)

22. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The large numbers of persons with disabilities under guardianship, and that, despite the reforms to the Guardianship Services Act (442/1999), there are insufficient legal and policy measures to replace substitute decision-making with supported decision-making;

(b) The limited scope and lack of clarity in the application of the supported decision-making service under the Disability Services Act and the use of guidelines by the welfare services counties that can limit access to this service;

(c) Insufficient measures to mitigate the risk arising from ratification of the 2000 Hague Convention on the International Protection of Adults (2000 Hague Convention) in promoting substitute decision-making measures and institutionalisation.

23. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) **Revise legislation to eliminate all forms of substitute decision-making regimes and establish a legislative and policy framework for the implementation of supported decision-making;**

(b) **Review and monitor the supported decision-making service to ensure it meets the standards and principles of the Convention, clearly define its application and extend its scope beyond the Disability Services Act, and ensure that access is not restricted through the guidelines of welfare services counties;**

(c) **Monitor and assess the impact of the implementation of the 2000 Hague Convention on persons with disabilities and their right to self-determination to determine there is no regression from the CRPD.**

Kiribati (2025)

21. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The absence of effective law and policy guarantees to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, can exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others;

(b) The lack of supported decision-making mechanisms and services which results in reliance on substituted decision-making by families and others.

22. Recalling its General Comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) **Review the national legislation to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, are not practically deprived of their legal capacity;**

(b) Establish supported decision-making mechanisms and services that ensure the provision of individualized support and respect for the autonomy, will and preference of persons with disabilities;

(c) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, health professionals, public officials, the media, the judiciary and members of the Parliament on the practical recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making;

(d) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process and in the training of the relevant personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making;

(e) Organize and resource the development of information about what supported decision making is, in accessible formats, including digital ones and Braille, sign language and Easy Read and distribute to persons with disabilities and their families.

Maldives (2025)

23. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The absence of supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others;

(b) The draft Mental Health Act does not explicitly provide for supported-decision-making.

24. The Committee recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

(a) Review the national legislation to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are not deprived of their legal capacity and are recognised as persons before the law on equal basis with others, and replace substitute decision-making systems, including guardianship, with supported decision-making systems, which ensures the provision of individualized support and respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;

(b) Incorporate provisions in the draft Mental Health Act to establish supported decision-making;

(c) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, health professionals, public officials, the media, the judiciary and members of the Parliament on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making.

Canada (2025)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of substitute decision-making regimes across all jurisdictions, and the lack of national leadership to promote and advance well-established supported decision-making models throughout Canada;

(b) The British Columbia Mental Health Act that explicitly overrides mental health care consent and supported decision-making rights through the “deemed consent” provisions that go beyond the terms of the State Party interpretative declaration and conditional reservation under article 12;

(c) The systemic flaws within the “designated representative” mechanism under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, including a lack of proper assessment in the appointment of representatives, the broad and contested scope of their role, inadequate training, and competence to support persons with disabilities and their powers to make substitute decisions.

24. Recalling its prior Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1 paras. 27 and 28) and its General Comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Take leadership in collaborating with provincial and territorial governments to eliminate substitute decision-making by creating and implementing a nationally consistent framework for supported decision-making;

(b) Repeal all legislation, including the British Columbia Mental Health Act, that overrides personal, free, and informed consent and supported decision-making rights and ensure that federal, provincial, and territorial mental health frameworks respect the legal capacity of persons with disabilities;

(c) Address the systemic flaws within the “designated representative” mechanism under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act by establishing mandatory policies and procedures, training, and compliance measures to ensure it acts as a supported decision-making mechanism based on the will and preference of persons with disabilities and respects the universal standard of legal capacity.

Dominican Republic (2025)

21. The Committee notes the provisions of article 23 of the Organic Law on Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities (Law 5-13). However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a mechanism to implement the provisions set forth in article 23 of Law 5-13 and the continued use of substituted decision-making system that result in loss or limitation of legal capacity, and the lack of supported decision-making mechanisms;

(b) Despite decision No. 4 of 30 September 2015 of the Monetary Board, access to bank services continues to be discriminatory for persons with disabilities, particularly for blind people who are catalogued as “illiterate” and required to bring witnesses to carry out any banking procedure.

22. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop mechanisms to implement article 23 of the law on equal rights for persons with disabilities and ensure that the supported decision model is effectively used in all cases;

(b) Harmonize the Constitution, the Civil Code and the Family Procedural Code with the Convention as soon as possible so as to guarantee all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, equal recognition before the law;

(c) Abolish all procedures which violate the right of persons with disabilities to have equal and independent access to banking services.

European Union (2025)

32. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of action under its competences to work towards the removal of guardianship regimes and restrictions of legal capacity of persons with disabilities in Member States, and to provide support for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity;

(b) That the European Union considers authorizing its Member States to ratify the Hague Convention of 13 January 2000 on the international protection of adults, thereby providing cross-border recognition of, inter alia, substitute decision-making regimes;

(c) That barriers remain for persons with disabilities in the European Union to control their property and financial affairs, and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, including in cross-border situations.

33. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the European Union, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Call on Member States to replace substitute decision-making regimes with supported decision-making systems that respect the will and preference of persons with disabilities, and to provide training on supported decision-making to public officials, families, and service providers;
- (b) Halt efforts to authorize EU Member States to join or remain parties to the Hague Convention of 13 January 2000 on the International Protection of Adults; do not proceed with the proposed Regulation COM/2023/280 final, and do not proceed with the proposed Council Decision COM(2023) 281 final/2;
- (c) Devise legislation eliminating discrimination of persons with disabilities to control their property and financial affairs, including to access banking services.

Palau (2025)

21. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual, psychosocial or multiple disabilities, continue to be denied their legal capacity on the grounds of disability in law and in practice.

22. Recalling its General Comment No.1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Repeal and amend, without delay, all legal provisions that restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment;
- (b) Replace all substituted decision-making regimes with supported decision-making regimes that respect the autonomy of persons with disabilities, and increase awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and relevant officials, including the judiciary, about the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly the right to equal recognition before the law;
- (c) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes, in consultations and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, health professionals, public officials, the media, the judiciary and members of the Parliament on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making;
- (d) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process and in the training of the relevant personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making;
- (e) Organize and fund the development of information about what supported decision making is, in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read and distribute to persons with disabilities and their families.

Tuvalu (2025)

21. The Committee is concerned about the denial of legal capacity for persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities as well as of the absence of supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others.

22. The Committee recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

- (a) Review the national legislation to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are not deprived of their legal capacity and are recognised as persons before the law on equal basis with others, and replace substitute decision-making systems, including guardianship, with supported decision-making systems, which ensures the provision of individualized support and respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative

organizations, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, health professionals, public officials, the media, the judiciary and members of the Parliament on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making;

(c) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process and in the training of the relevant personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making.

Viet Nam (2025)

23. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Civil Code of 2015 (91/2015/QH13), which stipulates that persons with mental or physical disabilities who are incapable of exercising their rights may do so through their legal representatives, guardians or legal aid organizations, has not been amended;

(b) The Penal Code includes provisions for mitigating circumstances of criminal responsibility for persons with disabilities who commit crimes, which prevents them from receiving due process, procedural adjustments, safeguards, and support when facing charges;

(c) No actions have been taken to replace the guardianship regime and other systems of substituted decision-making with decision-support mechanisms for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, as well as persons with autism.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Review and reform the Civil Code to align it with the Convention and ensure full recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, include relevant safeguards and access to the support necessary to exercise that capacity, and take steps to introduce provisions to provide decision-making support for persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure due process, procedural accommodations, and support for persons with disabilities when facing criminal charges;

(c) Reform legislation to abolish guardianship for individuals with psychosocial, intellectual, and autistic disabilities, and establish mechanisms to support their decision-making.

Belarus (2024)

23. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities continue to be subjected to legal incapacitation proceedings due to their medical diagnoses, often preceded by involuntary hospitalization;

(b) Partial incapacitation procedures introduced in 2020, lacks compliance with the Convention, and decision-making supportive mechanisms are absent for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others;

(c) Article 375 of the Criminal Procedure Code, in contravention to the Convention stipulates that a case of legal incapacity for a citizen may be tried by the court of law without his participation;

(c) Number of persons with disabilities restoring their legal capacity is low within the last some years;

(d) Persons with disabilities are excluded from Article 376 of the Civil Procedure Act, which provides measures for possibility of initiation of proceeding by third parties to remove restrictions on the legal capacity of a person.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

(a) Replace its guardianship and mental health regulations, by a supported decision-making mechanism and abolish all forms of deprivation of legal capacity on the basis of disabilities;

- (b) Harmonize the national legislation, in particular the Criminal Procedure Code and the Civil Procedure Act with the general principles, and article 5 and 12 of the Convention;
- (c) Review all legislation and measures with a view to eliminating all restrictions of rights as a result of a declaration of legal incapacity or on the grounds of a person's impairment;
- (d) Provide the authorities, including law enforcement agencies and courts, with training and awareness on the requirements of the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities.

Belgium (2024)

24. The Committee acknowledges that the State Party has carried out some reforms of its guardianship law with the intention that assistance take precedence over representation. However, recalling its previous recommendations (para.23), the Committee is concerned:

- (a) That, despite legislative reforms, such as the Law of 8 November 2023, current legislation continues to contain substitute decision-making regimes for persons with disabilities, including by allowing judges to select administrators for persons with disabilities;
- (b) At reports that the numbers of persons under guardianship are increasing and that there is a lack of data on the number of persons under guardianship with assistance and with representation;
- (c) At the very high workload and insufficient resources of the justices of the peace who oversee the appointment and management of administrators for persons with disabilities.

25. Recalling its General Comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Revise its legislation in order to eliminate all forms of substitute decision-making and replace them with measures for supported decision-making that respect the will and preference of persons with disabilities, and develop a comprehensive strategy for the implementation of supported decision-making mechanisms, with appropriate safeguards, across all levels of federal, community, regional and municipal governments;**
- (b) Until the completion of such legislation and implementation strategies, gather statistical data about the numbers of persons under guardianship ("judicial protection"), disaggregated by type of guardianship, type of impairment, gender, race, sex, age and other relevant status;**
- (c) Provide the required resources and support measures for persons with disabilities exercising their legal capacity; and until the abolition of substitute decision-making regimes, provide the resources and the appropriate tools to enable the justices of the peace to take decisions on a case-by-case basis and ensure that the implementation of the reformed law follows the spirit in which it was intended.**

Benin (2024)

23. The Committee notes with concern the existence of discriminatory provisions in the national legislation depriving persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities of their legal capacity and the absence of supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others.

24. The Committee recommends that, in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

- (a) Review the national legislation, including the Law No. 202-07 of 7 June 2002 (Persons and Family Code), to repeal tutorship and curatorship regimes on the basis of impairment and guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to equal recognition before the law, and replace substitute decision-making systems with effective mechanisms of supported decision-making in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;**
- (b) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations in the reform process and in the training of the relevant**

personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making;

(c) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes, in consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, health professionals, public officials, the media, the judiciary and members of the parliament, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making.

Burkina Faso (2024)

24. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Provisions of the Personal and Family Code of Burkina Faso (1989) that restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities through a system of guardianship and curatorship, and its revision in the absence of involvement of persons with disabilities;

(b) The absence of supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others;

(c) The absence of information on the number of persons placed under restricted capacity regimes, including guardianship and curatorship, and limited review of court decisions for purposes of restoring such persons' legal capacity.

25. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Amend the Personal and Family Code with the aim to withdraw guardianship and to introduce supported decision-making for all persons with disabilities, regardless of the impairment, and ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the reform process and in the training of the relevant personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making;

(b) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, health professionals, public officials, the media, the judiciary and members of the parliament, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making;

(c) Collect and disaggregate data on the number of persons subject to restricted capacity regimes and regularly review court decisions for purposes of restoring legal capacity.

Denmark (2024)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient measures taken to repeal restrictions on legal capacity on the basis of actual or perceived impairment under the Legal Incapacity and Guardianship Act and its 2019 amendments;

(b) Scarce systematic and disaggregated data on the number of guardianships issued and the number of persons with disabilities who have regained legal capacity since the ratification of the Convention by the State party;

(c) The lack of measures to repeal substitute decision-making systems and enact supported decision-making systems, and the inadequate support measures for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others;

40. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Amend the Legal Incapacity and Guardianship Act to guarantee full legal capacity to all persons with disabilities, and review existing guardianships and all remaining interdiction and incapacitation orders and adapt them to the new system of supported decision-making;

- (b) Collect data on guardianship of persons with disabilities disaggregated by race, sex, gender, age, disability and other relevant status;
- (c) Eliminate all forms of the existing substitute decision-making system and replace them with systems of supported decision-making that respect the will and preference of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, and develop a comprehensive strategy in the Kingdom of Denmark for the implementation of supported decision-making systems with appropriate and proportionate safeguards across all levels of national and municipal governments.

Ghana (2024)

24. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) The State Party's Constitution lacks specific measures to ensure persons with disabilities can exercise their legal capacity on equal basis with others, and the Persons with Disability Act (Act 715) does not address this subject matter, and lack of sufficient steps to develop a comprehensive policy framework with necessary safeguards to prevent abuse and protect their rights;
- (b) Lack of participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes affecting their legal capacity and rights, with substituted decision-making still prevalent.

25. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Amend the Constitution and the Persons with Disability Act (Act 715) to ensure persons with disabilities can exercise their full legal capacity equally with others, and develop a comprehensive policy framework with necessary safeguards to prevent abuse and protect their rights;**
- (b) Closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities in decision-making processes affecting their legal capacity and rights and eliminate substitute decision-making and replaced it with supported decision-making model.**

Mauritius (2024)

21. The Committee remains concerned that regimes of substitute decision-making and guardianship are still in place and no progress has been made to institute supported decision-making mechanisms in line with the Convention, leading to a failure to recognize the will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

22. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law and its previous recommendation, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, abolish guardianship measures in law and in practice and redirect organizational and financial resources from substituted decision-making towards developing supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the dignity, autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities, regardless of the level or mode of support they may require.

Netherlands (2024)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The effect of the interpretative declaration to art. 12 of the Convention;
- (b) The lack of recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to equality before the law by upholding substitute decision-making regimes that result in loss or limitation of legal capacity, and the lack of comprehensive and coordinated measures to transition from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making models, and that supported decision-making mechanisms are not being implemented for everyone;
- (c) Negative effects linked to administrative guardianship in all areas of life, such as special banks that segregate and make the existence of guardianship visible to anyone, high costs associated with changing administrators and guardianship as a legitimate reason to refuse a person as a tenant.

30. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Withdraw its interpretative declaration to art. 12 of the Convention;**
- (b) Repeal all legislation and policies that permit substitute decision-making and replace them with supported decision-making regimes that respect the will and preference of persons with disabilities and their right to equal recognition before the law, and fully implement supported decision-making, including monitoring and complaints mechanisms at no cost, and introduce a system of supported decision-making in the Caribbean territory of the Netherlands;**
- (c) Ensure that access to housing cooperatives and banks is not negatively impacted by existing guardianship regimes.**

Ukraine (2024)

24. The Committee notes with concern that the 2017 reforms that the State party approved on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities are insufficient and do not align with the Convention. In particular, it is concerned about:

- (a) The removal of legal capacity for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, which is still allowed;**
- (b) The fact that persons with disabilities only have legal standing for procedures related to the deprivation of their legal capacity;**
- (c) The arbitrary application and assessment of forensic psychiatric examinations in cases related to the removal and restoration of legal capacity;**
- (d) Judicial decisions restoring the legal capacity of persons with disabilities remain extremely low, and the lack of a review procedure for decisions on the removal of legal capacity rendered before 2017;**
- (e) Free legal assistance for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities is still restricted based on their impairment.**

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Abolish all laws and practices on substitute decision-making and those that deny the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms;**
- (b) Recognize the full legal and procedural standing of persons with disabilities to access courts regarding all matters and not only regarding the restoration of their legal capacity;**
- (c) Disseminate amongst persons with disabilities their right to appeal decisions removing their legal capacity, including campaigns in long-term care institutions;**
- (d) Ensure that the 2-year limitation for the deprivation of legal capacity is enforced in practice by long-term care institutions and courts;**
- (e) Establish a procedure to review and appeal decisions on the removal of legal capacity rendered before 2017;**
- (f) Amend its legal framework with the aim to recognize the right to appoint an independent or third-party expert in cases of removal and restoration of legal capacity, and any other legal proceedings related to the rights of persons with disabilities.**

Azerbaijan (2024)

27. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Provisions in the State party's Civil Code authorizing deprivation of legal capacity and guardianship on the basis of impairment (arts. 28. 8 and 33.4), affecting in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and at least 828 decisions of guardianship taken by courts in 2023;**
- (b) The prevalence of substitute decision-making through measures purported to provide persons with disabilities with support, such as patronage (art. 39 of the Civil Code) and in the "Guidelines on the Regulations of Notary Actions in the Republic of Azerbaijan" (section 22);**

(c) The absence of measures to ensure the right of persons with disabilities to own or inherit property, control their own financial affairs, access bank loans and mortgages.

28. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee reiterates its previous Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/AZE/CO/1, para. 27) and it recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, review with the aim to repeal provisions in the Civil Code and regulations that authorize restriction of legal capacity of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and introduce a mechanism to restore legal capacity for persons with disabilities under guardianship and provide information in accessible formats about restoration of legal capacity;

(b) Introduce legislation, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, providing supported decision-making that recognizes the autonomy, will and preference of persons with disabilities, ensures that informal and formal support arrangements are available, accessible and includes advance planning for support and decision-making and the right to refuse/modify a support relationship;

(c) Ensure the rights of persons with disability to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and banking procedures to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit and banking procedures, in both the public and private sectors, and the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of their property.

Bahrain (2024)¹

24. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The diminution of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, in accordance with articles 77, 78, 79 and 80 of the Civil Code No. 19 of 2001, which consider any act by a person with an intellectual disability or a person with a psychosocial disability to be voidable with the possibility of requesting the person to be placed under restraint.

(b) The absence of any mechanism to provide support for the exercise of legal capacity and decision-making for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

25. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal provisions in national laws, in particular the Civil Code and the Family Code, that deny persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities the right to exercise their legal capacity

(b) Eliminate all forms of proxy decision-making, including guardianship, and replace them with an effective mechanism to support decision-making in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in close consultation and with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations.

Costa Rica (2024)

21. El Comité toma nota de las aclaraciones proporcionadas por el Estado parte al concluir el diálogo constructivo. Sin embargo, le preocupa:

a) La aprobación, en 2023, de la Ley N. 10412, Ley Nacional de Salud Mental, que ha retomado la figura de la “persona garante” en los procesos de atención psicosocial, con una redacción que podría acercar esta figura a la de la curatela, abolida por la Ley de Promoción de la Autonomía Personal de las Personas con Discapacidad (Ley N. 9379);

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

b) La falta de medidas concretas para eliminar la figura de interdicción de la Constitución y en legislación del Estado parte, en particular el Código Civil, y la derogación del artículo 5 de la Ley N. 9379 para la Promoción de la Autonomía Personal para las Personas con Discapacidad, que reconoce la capacidad jurídica a las personas en situación de discapacidad, mediante la aprobación de la Ley No. 9747, el Código Procesal de Familia, en 2019;

c) Que no se cuente con información sobre el número de personas con discapacidad, en particular de personas con discapacidad psicosocial y/o intelectual, sujetas a los regímenes de capacidad restringida, incluida la incapacitación y curatela, así como de la limitada información del número de sentencias judiciales que se encuentran en la actualidad para restaurar su capacidad jurídica.

22. Recordando su observación general núm. 1 (2014), relativa al igual reconocimiento como persona ante la ley, el Comité recomienda que el Estado parte:

a) **Garantice que la figura de la persona garante no se utilice fuera de los parámetros de establecidos en la Convención, y que exista un mecanismo de control periódico de las funciones de los garantes, así como que se cuente con información sobre el proceso que permita a las personas con discapacidades a renunciar voluntariamente a su garante o nombrar un sustituto, asegurando a las personas con diferentes discapacidades el pleno ejercicio de su capacidad jurídica;**

b) **Armonizar, a la brevedad posible, la Constitución, el Código Civil y el Código Procesal de Familia con la Convención para garantizar el igual reconocimiento como persona ante la ley de todas las personas con discapacidad, incluso las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, eliminando entre otros aspectos, las disposiciones que permiten la restricción de su capacidad jurídica, como las figuras de la incapacitación y la curatela, así como garantizar medidas adecuadas de apoyo, en estrecha consulta y con la participación activa de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad;**

c) **Recolectar datos desagregados sobre el número de personas con discapacidad, en particular las personas con discapacidad psicosocial y/o intelectual, sujetas a los regímenes de capacidad restringida, así como del número de sentencias judiciales con las que se cuentan en la actualidad para restaurar su capacidad jurídica.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Legislation in the State party, including article 26 of the Civil Code, restricting legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, in particular of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and that persons with disabilities are subjected to guardianship and thereby deprived of political and civil rights, including their rights to vote, to marry, to found a family, and to manage assets and property;

(b) The absence of mechanisms for supported decision-making for persons with disabilities;

(c) Legal restrictions for persons with disabilities under guardianship to request reviews of judicial decisions concerning their guardianship and to regain legal capacity.

28. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Initiate a comprehensive legislative reform aimed at recognizing legal capacity of all persons with disabilities and abolishing guardianship enshrined in the Civil Code, and replace them with supported decision-making measures that guarantee the autonomy, will and preference of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Raise awareness in all quarters of society and the State, including among persons with disabilities, their families and community members, the legislature, government and administration, and the judiciary, on supported decision-making and legal capacity of persons with disabilities, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**

(c) Until the formal establishment of supported decision-making, systematically review guardianship appointments, provide legal support and advice for persons with disabilities on how to regain their legal capacity, and ensure that persons with disabilities have the right to choose a support person in decision-making processes.

Nicaragua (2024)

22. El Comité nota que en la Ley de los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad (Ley 763) se consigna la plena capacidad jurídica de las personas con discapacidad, sin embargo, le preocupa que:

a) El Código Civil utiliza términos peyorativos hacia las personas con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial y contiene artículos que limitan el goce y ejercicio de la capacidad jurídica de dichas personas, así como de las personas con discapacidad visual y auditiva contando con capítulos sobre la “guarda de los dementes” (cap. VII) y sobre la “guarda de los sordomudos y ciegos” (cap. VIII);

b) El Código de Familia señala, en sus artículos 22 al 31, que cuentan con capacidad jurídica las personas “no declaradas incapaces” y que tienen limitada esta capacidad personas que “padecen de alguna enfermedad mental, que no los priva totalmente de discernimiento” y “las personas que por impedimento físico no puedan expresar su voluntad de modo inequívoco, sin que hayan sido declarados incapaces” y actuarán “por medio de representación legal, derivada de la autoridad parental, nacida de la designación de tutela” ;

c) No existe información sobre el número de personas sujetas a los regímenes de capacidad restringida, incluyendo la incapacitación y curatela.

23. Recordando su observación general núm. 1 (2014), relativa al igual reconocimiento como persona ante la ley, el Comité urge al Estado parte a:

a) Armonizar el Código Civil de la Nación con la Convención para eliminar los términos peyorativos hacia las personas con discapacidad, particularmente hacia personas con discapacidad psicosocial y/o intelectual, garantizar el igual reconocimiento como persona ante la ley de todas las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo la eliminación de las disposiciones que permiten la restricción de su capacidad jurídica, así como las figuras de la incapacitación y la curatela;

b) Armonizar el Código de Familia con la Ley de los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad (Ley 763) y los artículos 12, 13, 19 y 23 de la Convención para reconocer la plena capacidad jurídica de las personas con discapacidad;

c) Recolectar, de manera constante, datos desagregados sobre el número de personas sujetas a los regímenes de capacidad restringida, y revisar las sentencias judiciales para restaurar su capacidad jurídica;

d) Implementar mecanismos de distinto tipo para la toma de decisiones con apoyo y salvaguardias que respeten la autonomía, la voluntad y las preferencias de todas las personas con discapacidad, independientemente del nivel de apoyo que puedan solicitar, facilitar el apoyo entre grupos de pares, y proveer mecanismos accesibles de denuncia.

Sweden (2024)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of measures taken to replace substitute decision-making regimes with supported decision-making mechanisms;

(b) The limited support measures for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others;

(c) The lack of nationally consistent application and unequal access across municipalities to the support provided by the ‘Personligt Ombud’ programme;

(d) Insufficient training on supported decision-making and its application, in particular within the judicial system.

28. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014), Equal recognition before the law, and in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Eliminate all forms of substitute decision-making and replace them with a system of supported decision-making that respects the will, preference and autonomy of persons with disabilities;

(b) Develop a national comprehensive strategy for the implementation of supported decision-making mechanisms with appropriate and proportionate safeguards across all levels of national, regional and municipal governments;

(c) Review the 'Personligt Ombud' programme to consider its application to all persons with disabilities and to ensure national coordination and consistency across municipalities;

(d) Develop and provide training programmes on supported decision-making across government agencies and other relevant sectors, including justice, health, banking and finance and social services.

Zambia (2024)

23. The Committee notes with concern the discriminatory provisions of the Mental Health Act No. 6 (2019) which deprives persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities of their legal capacity, as well as the absence of supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others.

24. The Committee recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

(a) Review the national legislation, in particular Section 4 (2) of the Mental Health Act No. 6 of 2019, to guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to equal recognition before the law and replace substitute decision-making systems, including guardianship, with supported decision-making systems, which ensures the provision of individualized support and respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;

(b) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes, in consultations and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, health professionals, public officials, the media, the judiciary and members of the Parliament on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making;

(c) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process and in the training of the relevant personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making;

(d) Organize and fund the development of information about what supported decision making is, in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read and distribute to persons with disabilities and their families.

Andorra (2023)

25. The Committee acknowledges that Act 30/2022, Qualified Act on the Person and the Family, recognizes the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and the obligation to offer a system of support and abolish the institution of guardianship and extended or rehabilitated parental authority. However, it observes with concern:

(a) Legal provisions, including articles 53 and 56 of the Act 30/2022, providing that "curatorship" must be established for persons with disabilities "who require this kind of support to exercise their legal capacity" and allow its establishment through judicial authority;

(b) The limited implementation of supported decision-making mechanisms to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others;

(c) The absence of information on the number of persons with disabilities under guardianship and on the review of court rulings to restore their legal capacity.

26. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, recommends that the State party:

(a) Review national legislation, including articles 53 and 56 of Act 30/2022, to guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to equal recognition before the law, and abolish provisions allowing restrictions of their legal capacity on the basis of impairment;

(b) Develop and implement a range of innovative supported decision-making systems that ensure the provision of individualized support in all aspects of life, tailored to all types of impairment, and respect the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;

(c) Collect disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities under guardianship and regularly review court rulings to restore their legal capacity.

Austria (2023)

29. The Committee notes the enactment of the 2nd Protection of Adults Act of 2018, and the close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in its development, but it is concerned about the significant remaining elements of substituted decision-making and the high number of established legal adult representations and court-appointed representations, about the lack of progress made in the implementation of the law, particularly the lack of community-based services for supported decision-making provided by the Länder, and the lack of awareness about the law in many parts of the State and society.

30. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal the remaining elements of substituted decision-making in its laws, substantially strengthen community-based services for supported decision-making, particularly those within the competencies of the Länder, and implement them comprehensively, and train the employees of all public and private entities who have a role in implementing the law. The Committee also recommends the State party regularly evaluate the implementation of the 2nd Protection of Adults Act, with a strong emphasis on the measures taken by the Länder.

Germany (2023)

25. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Act on Reform of Child and Adult Guardianship Law 2021 does not eliminate all forms of substitute decision-making;

(b) There is no national comprehensive strategy for the implementation of supported decision-making mechanisms.

26. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Eliminate all forms of substitute decision-making and replace it with a system of supported decision-making;

(b) Develop a national comprehensive strategy, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations across all levels of Federal, Länder and municipal governments for the implementation of supported decision-making mechanisms.

Israel (2023)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The extensive application of substitute decision-making mechanisms, in particular that legal capacity can be removed for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities often on a permanent basis, and the large number of guardianship orders for property and personal affairs (70,843 in 2022);

(b) That supporters are appointed by courts on the basis of the “best interests” principle and that there is a low number of supporters of decision-making being appointed (1,500 as of May 2023);

(c) The limited number of reviews of guardianship decisions and that current reviews do not encompass guardianships established before the reform to the Legal Capacity and Guardianship Law in 2016.

28. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party in close consultation and active involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Review and/or repeal laws and associated policies that have the purpose or effect of denying or diminishing the recognition of any person with disabilities as person before the law;

(b) Develop and implement a national supported decision-making framework that respects individual choices, will and preference of persons with disabilities;

(c) Establish a mechanism for the regular review of guardianship appointments, including those decided previous to the adoption of the Amendment No. 18 to the Legal Capacity and Guardianship Law 2016;

(d) Raise awareness about supported decision-making among persons with disabilities, their relatives, the judiciary, the Police, and legal profession, social workers, media and the community.

Malawi (2023)

25. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of legal capacity of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, including in the sphere of political participation, property rights, marriage and family relations and the right to free and informed consent, in the absence of measures of supported decision-making. It also notes that prevailing stereotypes in society lead to instances of *de facto* guardianship of persons with disabilities.

26. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend or repeal legislation that denies legal capacity on the basis of disability, recognise the right of persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law and establish a system of supported decision-making measures that respects persons autonomy, will and preferences. The State party should adopt measures to combat both formal and informal substitute decision-making;

(b) Recognize a broad range of formal and informal support mechanisms, including advance planning for support and decision-making;

(c) Collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities being restricted of legal capacity and set up mechanisms to restore legal capacity;

(d) Develop awareness raising programmes targeting persons with disabilities, notaries, judges and court staff, health care providers, financial service providers and other actors involved in the exercise of legal capacity (supporters, family members and communities) about the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities and the right to request support for decision-making.

Mauritania (2023)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of measures to replace substitute decision-making systems with supported decision-making systems that respect the autonomy, rights, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in all areas of life;

(b) The provisions of the Civil Code and Personal Status Code provisions constitute violation and deprivation of enjoyment and exercise for the legal capacity on basis of disability, as well as the lack of legislation and other policy measures to ensure that persons with disabilities,

particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, enjoy their legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including their capacity to enter into contracts, open bank accounts and take out bank loans and mortgages, and marry a partner of their choice;

(c) The lack of data on persons with disabilities still under guardianship, disaggregated by age, sex and type of disability.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all legislation that allows for restricted legal capacity and substituted decision-making, and adopt legislation to ensure supported decision-making;

(b) Develop awareness-raising campaigns, in consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, civil servants, judges, health professionals and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making;

(c) Adopt measures to collect data on persons still under guardianship, disaggregated by age, sex and type of impairment, with a view to restoring the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities.

Mongolia (2023)

25. The Committee remains concerned about the lack of progress made to abolish the guardianship and substituted decision-making regime under the Civil Code, limiting the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and at the lack of a timeframe to completely replace this system with supported decision-making system. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information about supported decision-making in accessible formats to increase understanding for persons with disabilities and their families.

26. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/MNG/CO/1, para. 21) and recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

(a) Repeal all discriminatory legal provisions on substitute decision-making systems, including guardianships and wardships, with supported decision-making systems, which ensures the provision of individualized support and respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process and in the training of the relevant personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making system;

(c) Organize and fund the development of information about what supported decision making is, in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read and distribute to persons with disabilities and their families.

Paraguay (2023)

23. Al Comité le preocupa que, pese a encontrarse dentro del Eje/Área 7 del Plan de Acción Nacional por los Derechos de Personas con Discapacidad:

a) No se han realizado acciones concretas para armonizar el Código Civil y otras normativas para eliminar los regímenes de sustitución de decisiones y para que se reconozca el derecho de las personas con discapacidad a la plena igualdad ante la ley;

b) No se cuente con información sobre el número de personas sujetas a los regímenes de capacidad restringida, incluyendo la incapacitación y curatela, y la limitada revisión de las sentencias judiciales para restaurar su capacidad jurídica.

24. Recordando sus anteriores observaciones finales (CRPD/C/PRY/CO/1, párrafo 30), su observación general núm. 1 (2014), relativa al igual reconocimiento ante la ley, el Comité urge al Estado parte:

- a) **Armonizar, a la brevedad posible, el Código Civil con la Convención para garantizar el igual reconocimiento como persona ante la ley de todas las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo la eliminación de las disposiciones que permiten la restricción de su capacidad jurídica, incluyendo las figuras de la incapacitación y la curatela, así como garantizar medidas adecuadas de apoyo, en estrecha consulta y con la participación activa de personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan;**
- b) **Recolectar datos desagregados sobre el número de personas sujetas a los regímenes de capacidad restringida y revisar de manera regular las sentencias judiciales para restaurar su capacidad jurídica.**

Angola (2023)

19. The Committee is concerned that substituted decision-making is still permitted in property management, financial management, contract management and health, amongst other areas, limiting the capacity to act of persons with disabilities on the basis of their psychosocial and/or intellectual disability.

20. **The Committee recommends that the State party take necessary measures to ensure that its domestic legislation guarantees the right of all persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, to equal recognition before the law, and that it establish supported decision-making mechanisms in all areas of life.**

Argentina (2023)

25. Al Comité le preocupa:

- a) Que, pese a los avances, el Código Civil y Comercial de la Nación, adoptado por la Ley 26.994 (2014), mantiene la posibilidad de restringir el ejercicio de la capacidad jurídica, en particular de personas que “padecen una adicción o una alteración mental permanente o prolongada”, y las figuras de la incapacitación y la curatela (artículos 31 - 42);
- b) La ausencia de información sobre el número de personas sujetas a los regímenes de capacidad restringida, incluyendo la incapacitación y curatela, y la limitada revisión de las sentencias judiciales para restaurar su capacidad jurídica;
- c) Que en contradicción con el modelo de derechos humanos, la designación judicial de apoyos implique la restricción de la capacidad jurídica y que, en ese marco, sólo se considere a las Curadorías Oficiales como posible proveedor de apoyos;
- d) El uso del criterio de beneficio de la persona en el proceso judicial de determinación de capacidad jurídica, así como la falta de salvaguardias y de mecanismos accesibles de denuncia.

26. **Recordando su observación general núm. 1 (2014), relativa al igual reconocimiento como persona ante la ley, el Comité urge al Estado parte:**

- a) **Armonizar el Código Civil y Comercial de la Nación con la Convención para garantizar el igual reconocimiento como persona ante la ley de todas las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo la eliminación de las disposiciones que permiten la restricción de su capacidad jurídica, así como las figuras de la incapacitación y la curatela;**
- b) **Recolectar datos desagregados sobre el número de personas sujetas a los regímenes de capacidad restringida, y revisar las sentencias judiciales para restaurar su capacidad jurídica;**
- c) **Implementar mecanismos de apoyo de distinto tipo para la adopción de decisiones, y salvaguardias que respeten la autonomía, la voluntad y las preferencias de todas las personas con discapacidad, independientemente del nivel o el modo de apoyo que puedan solicitar, facilitar el apoyo entre grupos de pares, y proveer mecanismos accesibles de denuncia.**

Georgia (2023)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Legislation and practices that continue to deny legal capacity to persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities who are considered to have “antisocial

personality disorder”, coma patients, and persons with advanced Alzheimer’s, and legislation limiting the exercise of legal capacity of persons with disabilities, including in the area of family life, parental rights, the right to work, and the right to participate in political and public life;

(b) Insufficient progress in ensuring that persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities living in institutions regain their legal capacity;

(c) The fact that appointment of support personnel still relies solely on the medical assessment and evidence provided by the Forensic Bureau, the delay in implementing a range of supported-decision mechanisms, and the limited awareness in government and society about the right of persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law and supported decision-making;

(d) The limited scope of mechanisms to address conflicts of interest between persons with disabilities on the one side and social workers and family members appointed as support persons on the other side.

26. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, and with reference to the assessment of the legal capacity reform conducted by the Public Defender of Georgia, in 2022, recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all provisions allowing substitute decision-making in any situation, and end situations of de facto guardianship as, inter alia, with respect to many persons with disabilities classified as “support recipients”;

(b) Ensure that supported decision-making is provided on the basis of the will and preferences of the person concerned, that persons with disabilities have the right to accept or refuse support and participate themselves with appropriate information in accessible formats, in all procedures concerning the appointment of support persons. The State party is recommended to introduce a range of supported decision-making alternatives tailored to any type of impairment;

(c) Introduce safeguards to prevent and address conflicts of interest between persons with disabilities and support personnel and ensure that the right of persons with disabilities to choose and access support prevails;

(d) Prioritize and establish accessible and expeditious mechanisms to ensure that persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities in institutions regain their legal capacity and have access to genuine support measures compatible with the Convention.

Peru (2023)

24. Al Comité le preocupa la escasa aplicación del Decreto Legislativo N° 1384, Decreto Legislativo que reconoce y regula la capacidad jurídica de las personas con discapacidad en igualdad de condiciones con las demás. El Comité observa con preocupación que:

a) No se ha realizado la estrategia de implementación del sistema de apoyos y salvaguardas y siguen existiendo restricciones y denegación de la capacidad jurídica, incluida la toma de decisiones por sustitución informal;

b) Que no se hayan revocado las sentencias de interdicción a personas con discapacidad dictadas antes de la reforma;

c) No ha habido medidas de sensibilización ni de difusión de información sobre la reforma y las implicaciones en todos los sectores, ni de comunicación a las personas con discapacidad afectadas por la reforma;

d) Los jueces y notarios no están familiarizados con el cambio de paradigma de la toma de decisiones sustitutiva a la toma de decisiones con apoyo;

e) No se han realizado inversiones suficientes, incluso a los equipos multidisciplinarios que apoyan al sector justicia, para promover las opciones de toma de decisiones con apoyo;

f) El artículo 172 del Código Penal sancione la agresión sexual cuando las víctimas no puedan dar su consentimiento. Dentro de la categoría de impedidos para consentir se incluye a las personas con “anomalías psíquicas” o “retardo mental”, esta disposición no está en

consonancia con la reforma de la capacidad jurídica, que reconoce el derecho de las personas con discapacidad a tomar decisiones, incluidas las relacionadas con los derechos sexuales y reproductivos.

25.El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

- a)Elabore, apruebe y aplique de forma adecuada, y mediante un proceso de consulta, la estrategia de implementación del sistema de apoyo y salvaguardias, incluso mediante la financiación de redes y servicios de apoyo impulsados por la comunidad;**
- b)Restablezca rápidamente la capacidad jurídica de las personas que actualmente permanecen bajo tutela;**
- c)Garantice campañas públicas, la difusión de información y la capacitación de jueces, notarios, funcionarios públicos, el sector privado, las personas con discapacidad, sus familias y las comunidades sobre el Decreto Legislativo N° 1384;**
- d)Supervise, a través del Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos (MINJUS), la aplicación del Decreto Legislativo N° 1384 en el ámbito notarial, y establecer mecanismos de denuncia en los casos en que los notarios se nieguen a atender casos que involucren a personas con discapacidad;**
- e)Fortalezca las capacidades de los equipos multidisciplinarios que apoyan al sector justicia para evaluar y determinar los requerimientos de apoyo, la voluntad y preferencias de los usuarios, incluso por medio de alternativas de comunicación accesible con las personas con discapacidad;**
- f)Reforme el artículo 172 del Código Penal para garantizar los derechos sexuales y reproductivos de las personas con discapacidad en igualdad de condiciones con las demás, incluido el derecho a consentir relaciones sexuales.**

Togo (2023)

25.The Committee notes with concern:

- (a)That article 6 of Act No.2004-005 deprives persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, of their legal capacity and placed under guardianship;**
- (b)At the absence of supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others.**

26.The Committee recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

- (a)Repeal article 6 of Act No. 2004-005 and review the national legislation to guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to equal recognition before the law and replace substitute decision-making systems, including guardianship, with supported decision-making systems, which ensures the provision of individualized support and respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;**
- (b)Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes, in consultations with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, public officials, the media, the judiciary and members of the Parliament on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making;**
- (c)Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process and in the training of the relevant personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making;**
- (d)Organize and fund the development of information about what supported decision making is, in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read and distribute to persons with disabilities and their families.**

Tunisia (2023)

19.The Committee is concerned that the State party continues to uphold guardianship and substituted decision making for persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual

disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, contrary to the Convention which recommends supported decision making. It is further concerned that the State party continues to uphold Law No. 66-2008 of 3 November 2008, on the facilitation of transactions for persons with motor disabilities, which allow financial institutions such as banks to limit the access of persons with disabilities including deaf persons and blind persons to their own finances when they are not accompanied by a witness in which case, if they go to the bank counter alone, they are denied the right to withdraw their own money. In some reported cases, the bank even requires that the witness be designated by a court decision.

20. The Committee, recalling its General Comment No. 1 (2014) on Legal Capacity recommends:

(a) Review all laws, including article 106 of the Code of Obligations and Contracts and articles 160, 162 and 163 of the Personal Status Code, that uphold guardianship and substituted decision making and replace such provisions with ones that uphold supported decision making and individual autonomy in accordance with the Convention;

(b) Repeal the Law No. 66 and replace it with a law that establishes the principles of autonomy, privacy and independence of persons with disabilities in their administrative and financial transactions.

Bangladesh (2022)

25. The Committee is concerned that the Contract Act 1872, the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 and the Hindu Inheritance (Removal of Disabilities) Act of 1928, deny legal capacity to persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, women with disabilities and persons belonging to religious and/or ethnic minority groups to enter into a contract or inherit property, and provide for a substituted decision-making regime.

26. The Committee recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014), the State party:

(a) Repeal the Contract Act of 1872, the Transfer of Property Act of 1882, the Hindu Inheritance (Removal of Disabilities) Act of 1928 and all other laws and policies which deny persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, women with disabilities and persons belonging to religious and ethnic minority groups, to enter into a contract or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit;

(b) Introduce supported decision-making mechanisms which appropriately respect the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

China (2022)

28. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of the substitute decision-making regime, enabled by the absence of measures to abolish the discriminatory provisions of the Civil Law (2017) (articles 21-24 and 28-31) allowing adults to be denied or restricted in their legal capacity to act based on "incapability of discerning his or her conduct".

29. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's General Comment No. 1 (2014):

(a) Recognize the discriminatory nature of the substitute-decision making regime and abolish all provisions allowing restrictions of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment;

(b) Adopt a mechanism to restore full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairment;

(c) Develop and implement, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, a nationally consistent supported decision-making framework that respects the will and preference and individual choices of persons with disabilities.

Hong-Kong (2022)

67. The Committee is concerned about regulations in the Mental Health Ordinance and the Guardianship Order that can lead to determination of legal incapacity and assignment of guardianship for adults with disabilities, stripping them of the right to exercise their legal capacity, including the right to social participation, the right to enter into a marriage and to form a family. The Committee is particularly concerned at reports of women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and/or psychosocial disabilities being disproportionately impacted by substituted decision-making regimes.

68. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong SAR, China, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

(a) Adopt laws and policies that replace the substitute decision-making system with supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preference of persons with disabilities, and ensure effective participation of women with disabilities to inform the drafting of laws and policies;

(b) Review all legislation with a view to eliminate all restrictions of rights as a result of a declaration of legal incapacity or on the grounds of a person's disability;

(c) Provide training on the requirements of the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities to the authorities, including law enforcement agencies and courts.

Macao

82. The Committee is concerned about the regimes of "interdiction" and "inabilitation" and the appointing of guardianship for those declared "interdicted" or "inabilitated", stripping them of the right to exercise their legal capacity, including the right to social participation, the right to enter into a marriage and to form a family.

83. The Committee urges Macao SAR, China, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

(a) To adopt laws and policies that replace the substitute decision-making system with supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preference of persons with disabilities;

(b) Review all legislation with a view to eliminating all restrictions of rights as a result of a declaration of legal incapacity or on the grounds of a person's disability;

(c) Provide training on the requirements of the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities to the authorities, including law enforcement agencies and courts.

Indonesia (2022)

30. The Committee is concerned that national legislation can deem people as lacking competence, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, placing them under conservatorship.

31. The Committee recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party review Law 8 of 2014 on mental health, articles 433 and 434 of the Civil Code, the Criminal Code and article 32 of Law 8 of 2016 on persons with disabilities to be harmonized with the Convention to guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law and to establish supported decision-making mechanisms in all areas of life.

Japan (2022)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Legal provisions that deny the right of persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law by allowing the restriction of their legal capacity, in particular, of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, based on assessments of their mental capacity, and by perpetuating substitute-decision making systems, under the Civil Code;

(b) Basic Plan on the Promotion of the Use of the Adult Guardian System approved in March 2022;

(c) Use of the term “the best interest of a person” within the Guidelines for Support for Decision-Making Relating to the Provision of Welfare Services for Persons with Disabilities of 2017.

28. Recalling its General Comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all discriminatory legal provisions and policies with a view to abolishing substitute decision-making regimes, and amend the civil legislation to guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law;

(b) Establish supported decision-making mechanisms that respect autonomy, will and preferences of all persons with disabilities, regardless the level or mode of support they may require.

Lao People’s Democratic Republic (2022)

20. The Committee observes with concern that:

(a) Provisions in legislation, including the Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Law on Civil Procedure and the Law on Criminal Procedure, deny the right of persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, on the basis of actual or perceived impairment;

(b) The perpetuation of substituted decision-making and fail to recognize the will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

21. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Law on Civil Procedure and the Law on Criminal Procedure and repeal any laws and associated policies and practices that have the purpose or effect of denying or diminishing the recognition of any person with disabilities as a person before the law;

(b) Develop and implement, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, supported decision-making mechanisms that respects the will, preferences and individual choices of persons with disabilities.

New Zealand (2022)

17. The Committee is concerned about the negative perceptions and the devaluing of persons with disabilities that were expressed during the passage of the End of Life Choice Act 2019, and the potential negative impact of this on the implementation, monitoring and review of the Act.

18. The Committee recommends that monitoring and review mechanisms for the End of Life Choice Act 2019 provide publicly available information on the impact on persons with disabilities, including the effectiveness of safeguards to counteract negative perceptions held by medical professionals and to prevent coercion in decision-making.

Republic of Korea (2022)

27. The Committee is deeply concerned about the lack of progress made to abolish the guardianship and substituted decision-making regime, limiting the active capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of psychosocial and/or intellectual impairment, and at the lack of a timeframe to completely replace this regime with supported decision-making system. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information about supported decision-making in accessible formats to increase understanding for persons with disabilities and their families.

28. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/KOR/CO/1, para. 22) and recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

- (a) Replace substitute decision-making systems, including guardianships and wardships, with supported decision-making systems, which ensures the provision of individualized support and respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process and in the training of the relevant personnel on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making;
- (c) Organize and fund the development of information about what supported decision making is, in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read and distribute to persons with disabilities and their families.

Singapore (2022)

25. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of legal capacity of persons with disabilities under certain conditions, and about the persistence of the guardianship and substituted decision-making regime, in particular with regard to medical decisions, depriving persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities of their right to equal recognition before the law.

26. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends the State party expedite the review of its national legislation, including the Mental Capacity Act, the Vulnerable Adults Act, the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Prisons Act, and guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, to equal recognition before the law, establish supported decision-making mechanisms in all areas of life, take all appropriate measures for the provision of individualized support, and train the relevant personnel accordingly.

Hungary (2022)

24. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The discriminatory nature of restriction on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, the absence of measures to abolish the discriminatory provisions of the Civil Code and the persistence of the substitute decision-making regime, depriving persons with disabilities of their rights;
- (b) That attributes of a substituted decision-making regime have been retained in the supported decision-making mechanism established in Act CLV of 2013, which resulted in a measure that is ineffective and discriminatory.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014):

- (a) Recognize the discriminatory nature of the substitute decision-making regime and abolish all provisions allowing restrictions on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment;
- (b) Adopt a mechanism to restore full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairment;
- (c) Revise all provisions as regards the supported decision-making mechanism with the aim of ensuring that supported decision-making mechanisms respect the dignity, autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in the exercise of legal capacity by all persons with disabilities.

Jamaica (2022)

24. The Committee is concerned that national legislation allows substituted decision-making in property management, financial management, health care, and contract management, among other areas, limiting the active capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of psychosocial and intellectual impairment.

25. The Committee recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party expedite the review of the Mental Health Act and

harmonize its national legislation, including article 13 (3) (g) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms Act (Constitutional Amendment) and section 8 (2) of the Property (Rights of Spouse) Act to guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial disabilities, to equal recognition before the law and to establish supported decision-making mechanisms in all areas of life.

Mexico (2022)

35. With reference to paragraph 23 of its previous concluding observations, the Committee is concerned about provisions in the Federal Civil Code and the Federal District Civil Code that contain rules on legal incapacity and guardianship for adults with disabilities, despite a judgment by the National Supreme Court of Justice of 2019. It is equally concerned about the rules conferring guardianship of children in institutions on the institution housing them. The Committee also notes with concern that the proposed national code for civil and family procedures fails to provide support measures allowing persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity, and that, in particular, women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities are disproportionately impacted by substituted decision-making regimes.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

(a) Adopt laws and policies that replace the substitute decision-making system with supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preference of persons with disabilities, and ensure effective participation of women with disabilities to inform the drafting of laws and policies;

(b) Review all federal and state legislation with a view to eliminating all restrictions of rights as a result of a declaration of legal incompetence or on the grounds of a person's disability;

(c) Provide training on the requirements of the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities to the authorities, including courts.

Switzerland (2022)

25. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to equality before the law, including the existence of laws denying or restricting the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and placing them under guardianship;

(b) The absence of measures to support persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others.

26. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Civil Code and the Act on the Protection of Adults and repeal any laws and associated policies and practices that have the purpose or effect of denying or diminishing the recognition of any person with disabilities as a person before the law;

(b) Develop and implement, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, a nationally consistent framework for supported decision-making that respects the will, preferences and individual choices of persons with disabilities.

Venezuela (2022)

22. The Committee notes that:

(a) Although article 410 of the Civil Code, under which persons with disabilities were considered civilly incompetent, was expressly repealed, the Committee is concerned that systems based on substitute decision-making, and the concepts of guardianship and curatorship, were not abolished;

(b) The National Assembly is currently drafting a new piece of legislation on persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee recommends that, bearing in mind article 12 of the Convention and its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

(a) Ensure that the new legislation is consistent with the Convention, including with regard to the removal of restrictions on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, and that it replaces substitute decision-making systems that deny persons with disabilities their legal capacity, including guardianship and curatorship, with supported decision-making systems; and take all measures to provide tailored support, properly inform persons with disabilities about such alternatives and train the personnel involved;

(b) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process.

Djibouti (2021)

19. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the legislation, including articles 166, 167, 176 and 179 of the Family Code, articles 565 and 579 of the Civil Code, and article 27 of the Criminal Code, deprives persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, of their legal capacity and uphold them under guardianship regime;

(b) The absence of supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others.

20. The Committee recommends that in line with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

(a) Review and repeal provision in its legislation, particularly the Family Code, Criminal Code and Civil Code, with a clear timeframe, to guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, to equal recognition before the law and establish supported decision-making mechanisms in all areas of life to ensure that persons with disabilities are not denied the right to exercise their legal capacity on the basis of a third party's analysis of their "best interests and that practices associated with "best interests" determinations should be replaced by the standard of "best interpretation of the will and preferences" of the person;

(b) Develop awareness-raising campaigns and capacity-building programmes, in consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities, for all stakeholders, including the families of persons with disabilities, community members, public officials, the judiciary and members of the Parliament on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making.

France (2021)

25. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Legal provisions, particularly article 459 in the Civil Code denying the right of persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law and establishing deprivation of legal capacity and autonomy through guardianship and wardship, on the basis of medical assessments of person's mental capacity;

(b) The absence of supported decision-making mechanisms compatible with the Convention, and measures that perpetuate substitute decision-making and fail to recognise the will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's General comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

(a) Review its understanding of legal protection measures and adopt the human rights model of disability ensuring the equal recognition of persons with disabilities before the law and repealing provisions allowing for substituted decision-making;

(b) Redirect organisational and financial resources from the substituted decision-making to develop supported decision-making mechanisms that respect dignity, autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities, regardless the level or mode of support they may require.

Estonia (2021)

23. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The State party's interpretative declaration made to article 12 of the Convention, upon ratification, and the provisions set out in the Civil Code, maintaining guardianship and the substitute decision-making regime, and limiting the active capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of psychosocial, and intellectual impairment;
- (b) The absence of supported decision-making mechanisms for the exercise of legal capacity by persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others;
- (c) The lack of disaggregated statistics about persons with disabilities placed under substitute decision-making regime, and the lack of measures for them to regain their legal capacity.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review its interpretative declaration on article 12 of the Convention, and guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law, and supported decision-making, in all areas of life;**
- (b) Amend the Civil Code to repeal the guardianship regime, and develop a system of supported decision-making for all persons with disabilities, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. Supported decision-making mechanisms must respect dignity, autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in the exercise of legal capacity by all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Adopt a plan of action to restore the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, irrespective of impairment.**

Albania (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient progress made to amend all national legislation that denies or restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, including the Civil Code, Civil Procedure Code, Family Code and the Mental Health Law, and on existing or planned mechanisms for supported decision-making. It is also concerned about the inadequacy of the State party's legal measures for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to make choices about their lives and enjoy the right to equal recognition before the law.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law and the report of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe following her visit to Albania (para. 74), the Committee recommends that the State party harmonize its legislation to adhere to the Convention, repeal all laws that restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, replacing substituted decision-making with supported decision-making regimes that respect the person's autonomy, will and preferences and establishing transparent remedies for persons with disabilities whose legal capacity has been removed, throughout the State party.

Australia (2019)

23. Despite the recommendations of the Australian Law Reform Commission, the Committee is concerned about the lack of progress made to abolish the guardianship system and substituted decision-making regime, particularly in decisions concerning forced psychiatric treatment, and at the lack of a time frame to completely replace that regime with supported decision-making systems.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal any laws and policies and end practices or customs that have the purpose or effect of denying or diminishing the recognition of any person with disabilities as a person before the law;**

(b) Implement a nationally consistent supported decision-making framework, as recommended in a 2014 report of the Australian Law Reform Commission entitled *Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws*.

Ecuador (2019)

25. The Committee is deeply concerned at the fact that the Civil Code and the Organic Code of General Procedure continue to provide for guardianships and wardships.

26. The Committee recommends that, bearing in mind its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the State party:

(a) Bring the Organic Code of General Procedure into line with the Convention without delay by, inter alia, eliminating restrictions on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities;

(b) Replace substitute decision-making systems, including guardianships and wardships, with supported decision-making systems, take all appropriate measures for the provision of individualized support, properly inform persons with disabilities about such alternatives and train the relevant personnel in accordance with article 12 of the Convention;

(c) Ensure the effective, independent participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the reform process.

El Salvador (2019)

24. The Committee is concerned that no progress has been made to repeal article 74 of the Constitution, which suspends citizenship rights due to “mental alienation” and “judicial interdiction”, and which severely restricts the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and persons with hearing impairments, whose equal recognition before the law is restricted.

25. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, and recommends that the State party repeal the regime of declaration of incapacity in its legislation, particularly in the Constitution and the Family Code. The Committee also recommends that the State party allocate human and budgetary resources to replace substituted decision-making with a supported decision-making regime for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial, intellectual or hearing disabilities.

Greece (2019)

17. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures taken to abolish the denial or restriction of legal capacity, and to ensure that supported decision-making measures are available for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the practical obstacles faced by persons with disabilities when exercising their legal capacity due to, inter alia, the absence of specific guidelines and the shortage of officials and service providers trained in the provision of the necessary support to persons with disabilities in decision-making.

18. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party bring its legislation into line with the Convention, replacing substituted decision-making, including judicial support mechanisms, with supported decision-making regimes that respect the person’s autonomy, will and preferences. It also recommends that the State party take all other appropriate measures to guarantee access by persons with disabilities to the support required to ensure their right to equal recognition before the law and to exercise their legal capacity, including training of officials and service providers across all sectors.

India (2019)

26. The Committee is concerned that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (sect. 14) allows for “limited guardianship” and a “system of joint decision” affecting persons with disabilities, particularly deafblind persons and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned that the State party understands guardianship as a form of support (CRPD/C/IND/Q/1/Add.1, para. 62), a perception that is not in accordance with the Convention. It is further concerned about the de facto guardianship imposed on persons affected by leprosy, and the absence of measures to introduce supported decision-making.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

(a) Eliminate all types of guardianship from its national and state legislation and practices, including in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (sect. 14), the Mental Health Care Act (sect. 4) and the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act;

(b) Introduce supported decision-making systems that are respectful of the autonomy, will and preferences of all persons with disabilities, and provide information to persons with disabilities about these systems;

(c) Raise awareness in society, including families of persons with disabilities, about the right to equal recognition before the law, and about how to realize the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, deafblind persons and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. The State party should train public officials on the right of persons with disabilities to equal recognition before the law and on supported decision-making arrangements, in line with the Convention.

Iraq (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The guardianship regime in relation to persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities set out in articles 46 (2) and 104 of the Civil Code (Law No. 40 (1951)), and also about the fact that articles 94, 95, 107 and 108 of the Civil Code and article 7 of Law No. 188 (1959) do not recognize the legal capacity of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Reports of instances in which the legal capacity of persons with hearing or visual impairments has not been recognized in financial matters.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite the amendment of Law No. 38 (2013) and other relevant legislation to guarantee the equal recognition of persons with disabilities before the law and develop a system of supported decision-making for all persons with disabilities, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;

(b) Raise awareness among society, including families, on how to respect the legal capacity of persons with disabilities in all areas of life.

Kuwait (2019)

24. The Committee is concerned about restrictions in legislation to equal recognition before the law and about:

(a) The inclusion of substituted decision-making provisions for persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in, among others, article 109 of the Civil Code, and that the inclusion of such provisions deprives persons with disabilities of their legal capacity without providing them with sufficient measures to support them in making decisions;

(b) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the exercise of their full legal capacity in all areas of life, including the mandatory assistance of a third person to enable a blind person to open a bank account, among other commercial transactions.

25. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review its legislation, including the Civil Code and Act No. 8/2010, to repeal substituted decision-making regimes, replace them with a supported decision-making regime and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms;

(b) Remove all practical barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the exercise of their legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including in relation to property, banking and asset management.

Myanmar (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned about the legislation in the State party that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairment, such as the Guardians and Wards Act or the “Lunacy” Act, which provide for substituted decision-making regimes.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party enact legislation recognizing the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities, abolishing substituted decision-making regimes, including guardianship, and introducing supported decision-making regimes that respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

Cuba (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned that the State party’s legislation, such as articles 30, 31 and 67 of the Civil Code (1987) and articles 137 and 138 of the Family Code (1975), limit the ability of persons with disability to fully exercise their legal capacity, and provide for substituted decision-making instead of supported decision-making.

26. In keeping with article 12 of the Convention and its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the review of its national legislation to repeal all legal provisions and end all practices that partially or completely limit the legal capacity of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Take tangible steps to establish a supported decision-making system that respects the autonomy, wishes and preferences of persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that there are no practical barriers and that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their right to legal capacity on an equal basis with others.**

Niger (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Certain national laws are discriminatory in nature and deprive persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities of their legal capacity, including articles 489 to 512 of the Civil Code;
- (b) The lack of supported-decision making regimes for persons with disabilities respecting their will and preferences.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party in line with the Committee’s general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

- (a) Repeal the provisions of the Civil Code, including articles 489 to 512 that restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Develop supported-decision making mechanisms for persons with disabilities respecting their autonomy, rights, will and preferences;**
- (c) Design capacity building programmes for public officials, including the judiciary and legislature, raise awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and community members about the right to equal recognition before the law of persons with disabilities, the supported decision-making regime, and the legal capacity of persons with disabilities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

Norway (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The substituted decision-making regime has not been yet replaced with supported decision-making regimes, including for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- (b) County governors are still appointing guardians for persons with disabilities;
- (c) Persons receiving support lack training so they can decide when less support is needed or when they no longer require support in the exercise of their legal capacity;
- (d) There is an absence of effective safeguards for the exercise of legal capacity and knowledge about the scope of support for decision-making.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Given that the Guardianship Act is under revision, consider systemic change by replacing guardianship and all other forms of substituted decision-making with supported decision-making for all persons with disabilities regardless of support requirements;
- (b) Repeal the Guardianship Act, which denies legal capacity based on impairment, ensure that no person is placed under guardianship and increase training about the recognition of full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities;
- (c) Establish a legal procedure aimed at restoring the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, and ensure that the supported decision making regimes respect the autonomy, will and preferences of the person concerned;
- (d) Create appropriate and effective safeguards monitored and supervised at the county level for the exercise of legal capacity to ensure the respect of the person's rights, will and preferences and protecting persons with disabilities from undue influence;
- (e) Conduct capacity building activities for public officials on the right to equal recognition before the law of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making arrangements and for persons receiving support so that they can decide when less support is needed or when they no longer require support in the exercise of their legal capacity.

Rwanda (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned that legislation, such as article 150 of the Law Governing Persons and Family, and Article 4(2) of the Law Governing Contracts, provides for the discriminatory restriction of legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment. The Committee is concerned about the existence of substituted decision-making and guardianship regimes for persons with disabilities.

24. In view of the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party repeal all discriminatory legal provisions and end all practices that limit the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, including article 150 of Law No. 32/2016 and article 4(2) of the Law Governing Contracts. It also recommends that the State party enact legislation recognizing the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities, includes a supported decision-making regime that respects the autonomy, wishes and preferences of persons with disabilities.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned that persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities are deprived of equal recognition before the law, resulting from the practice of evaluating the decision-making capacity of persons with disabilities. It is moreover concerned at the absence of measures taken to grant the necessary support to persons with disabilities for the exercise of their legal capacity.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No.1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

- (a) Take legislative measures to recognize the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and abolish substitute decision making regimes;
- (b) Introduce supported decision making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in all areas of life;
- (c) Create and implement awareness-raising programmes about supported decision-making and the legal capacity of persons with disabilities for persons with disabilities, their families, community members, social workers, the judiciary and the legislature;
- (d) Consult with organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in these legislative and policy processes.

Senegal (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of measures to replace substituted decision-making regimes with supported decision making regimes that respect the autonomy, rights, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in all areas of life;
- (b) The lack of legislation and other policy measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, enjoy their legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including to enter into contracts, open bank accounts and take bank loans and mortgages and to marry a partner of their choice;
- (c) The lack of data on persons with disabilities still under guardianship, disaggregated by age, sex and type of impairment.

22. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all legislation that allows for restricted legal capacity and substituted decision-making, and adopt legislation on supported decision-making;**
- (b) Develop awareness-raising campaigns, in consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities for all stakeholders, including their families and community members, civil servants, judges and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making.**
- (c) Adopt measures to collect data on persons still under guardianship, disaggregated by age, gender and type of impairment with a view to restoring full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities.**

Spain (2019)

22. The Committee is concerned that the Civil Code of the State Party provides for deprivation of legal capacity of a person on the basis of disability, and maintains the substitute decision-making.

23. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal all discriminatory legal provisions with a view to fully abolishing substitute decision-making regimes, recognize full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the dignity, autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

Türkiye (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The guardianship regime in the Civil Code limiting the capacity to act of persons with disabilities on the basis of psychosocial, intellectual, or hearing impairments, and that at least 13,934 persons with disabilities are reported to remain under guardianship and institutionalized in public and private institutions;
- (b) The reported continuing practice of two witnesses for notarial acts for persons with visual, hearing or speech impairments, despite amendments to the Notary Law prohibiting it;
- (c) The lack of transparent and effective data on safeguards and remedies, as well as access to information in cases of violations of the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities, particularly with regard to the right to marry and to vote.
- (d) The lack of information on the planned transition from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making;

26. The Committee, recalls its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the relevant laws to abolish restrictions of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and replace the guardianship regime with support decision-making mechanisms;**
- (b) Introduce an effective moratorium on new institutionalization of persons with disabilities under guardianship;**
- (c) Ensure compliance with the Notary Law, as amended to ensure equal recognition before the law for all persons with disabilities;**

(d) **Revise legislative measures in the Civil Code and in other laws that subject the right to marry and the right to vote of persons with intellectual impairments to medical authorization;**
(e) **Build the capacity of civil servants, law enforcement officials and judges as well as social workers on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on safeguards and good practices to provide supported decision-making. The State party should meaningful consult and involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and the Ombudsman, at the national, regional and local levels for developing trainings and awareness-raising about the supported decision-making.**

Vanuatu (2019)

22. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, continue to be denied their legal capacity on the ground of disability in law and in practice.

23. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal and amend, without delay, all legal provisions that restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment;

(b) Replace all substituted decision-making regimes with supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy of persons with disabilities and increase awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and relevant officials, including the judiciary, about the rights of persons with disabilities particularly equal recognition before the law.

Algeria (2018)

24. The Committee is concerned that national legislation, particularly the Civil Code (arts. 40, 42, 44 and 78) and the Family Code arts 81, 85 et 86, Chapter 5 Art 99, Chapitre 1 are inconsistent with the Convention in as much as they deny the legal capacity of persons with disabilities completely or partially, and provide for substituted decision making instead of supported-decision making. It is also concerned by the lack of data on persons still under guardianship, disaggregated by age, gender and type of impairment.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately repeal or amend discriminatory legislation, recognize the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, in line with the Committee's General Comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. It also recommends that the State party adopt measures to strengthen data collection on persons still under guardianship, disaggregated by age, gender and disability.

Bulgaria (2018)

29. The Committee is concerned about the State party's legislation still restricting legal capacity of persons with disabilities and providing for guardianship for persons with psychosocial and persons with intellectual disabilities. It is also concerned about the delay in approving the draft Natural Persons and Support Measures Act aimed at recognising the rights to legal capacity of persons with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation and adopt the Natural Persons and Support Measures Act, and fully upholds and recognise full legal capacity for all persons regardless impairment, following the guidelines of the Committee's General comment No. 1 (2014) Equal recognition before the law. It also recommends that the State party establish support-decision making procedures, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, and provide continuous training on article 12 of the Convention to different stakeholders, including members of the judiciary, health care and social protection professionals.

Philippines (2018)

24. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The State party legislation still denies legal capacity of persons with disabilities to express their will and preferences concerning all aspects of their lives, and establishes guardianship

and restricted capacity to exercise rights by persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(b) The ongoing deliberations at the Congress on the selective provision of support for decision-making, and on the “legal representatives” acting virtually as substitute decision-makers, which shall result in non-compliance of the right to equality before the law;

(c) Persons with disabilities face difficulties in accessing the legal system due to the absence of legal practitioners able to communicate with persons with disabilities, in particular persons with hearing impairments.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review Articles 37-39 of the Civil Code of the Philippines (R.A. No. 386), Article III Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and R.A. No. 9406 Civil Code and enact legislation recognizing full legal capacity of persons with disabilities in line with the Committee’s general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;

(b) Provide training, in consultation and cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, at the national, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the principles of supported decision-making;

(c) Establish a system of supported decision-making for persons with disabilities, in line with the freedom of choice of per

Poland (2018)

19. The Committee is concerned about the State Party’s interpretative declaration on article 12 and the Civil Code’s provisions allowing for deprivation of legal capacity of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disability and assignment of guardian or “curator” to make decisions on their behalves, as well as about the large and growing number of persons with disabilities deprived of their legal capacity.

20. The Committee calls the State Party to withdraw its interpretative declaration on article 12 of the Convention and, recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on Equal recognition before the law, to repeal all discriminatory provisions under the Civil Code and other legal acts, allowing for deprivation of legal capacity of persons with disabilities, considering that legal capacity includes the capacity to be both, a holder of rights and an actor under the law, and capacity to legal acts, as it is defined in legislation. It further recommends to establish a procedure aimed at restoring full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, and to develop supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of the person.

Malta (2018)

19. The Committee is seriously concerned that persons with disabilities are still deprived of their legal capacity and are still subject to multiple forms of discrimination, as per the Civil Code (Cap. 16), the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) and the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure and the Civil Code (Amendment) Act (“Guardianship Act”) (2012) which provide for substitute decision-making regimes. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are still placed under Interdiction and Incapacitation orders, and that the Personal Autonomy Bill which is currently being drafted may deprive persons with disabilities of their legal capacity, by introducing concepts and mechanisms, such as “safeguarding”, “co-decision making” and “representation agreements”.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Amend all discriminatory legal provisions, including provisions of the Civil Code (Cap. 16), the Code of Organization and Civil Procedures (Cap. 12), and the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure and the Civil Code (Amendment) Act (“Guardianship Act”) (2012), with a view to abolishing substitute decision-making regimes;

- (b) Restore the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities and review its guardianship system and all remaining Interdiction and Incapacitation orders;**
- (c) Introduce supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities, and adopt and implement a Personal Autonomy Bill in line with article 12 of the Convention;**
- (d) Improve data collection and disaggregation about persons who are still under substituted decision-making regimes and Interdiction or Incapacitation orders, with a view to improving public policies designed for social inclusion.**

South Africa (2018)

22. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The current guardianship and mental health laws, which maintain a substitute decision making regime and the absence of legislation and supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities that uphold the autonomy, rights, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in all areas of life;**
- (b) The lack of data on persons with disabilities under guardianship, disaggregated by age, gender and type of impairment.**

23. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all legislation that allow for substituted decision-making, and adopt legislation on supported decision-making and measures to strengthen data collection in this respect, disaggregated by age, gender and type of impairment;**
- (b) Provide training, in consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities for all stakeholders, including their families and community members, civil servants, judges and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on existing good practices in supported decision-making.**

North Macedonia (2018)

24. The Committee is concerned that the laws in the State party deprive or restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, especially the existing guardianship system, with restrictions on decision making and right to choice.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all discriminatory provisions that allow deprivation of legal capacity based on impairment and develop and replace these with supported decision-making mechanisms that respect autonomy, will and preferences of the person concerned;**
- (b) Conduct capacity building activities for public officials on the right to equal recognition before the law of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making arrangements.**

Haiti (2018)

22. The Committee notes with concern existing laws such as articles 399 to 424 of the Civil Code, and article 266 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which predate the entry into force of the Convention and deny persons with disabilities their legal capacity. It is concerned that persons under guardianship and curatorship regimes, in particular persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, are deprived of the right to exercise their legal capacity. It is also concerned about the lack of knowledge about supported decision-making regimes.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

- (a) Repeal all legal provisions that restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Replace all guardianship regimes with supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities, which respect their autonomy, rights, will and preferences;**
- (c) Develop capacity-building programmes for government officials on the right of persons with disabilities, equal recognition before the law and supported decision-making system, and raise awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and society in general.**

Nepal (2018)

21. The Committee is concerned that no changes of legal provisions to replace substituted decision-making with supported decision-making, which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities, in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention and general comment No. 1 (2014) have been undertaken. The Committee is particularly concerned that while the State party is making efforts to implement supported decision making, substituted decision making is still used in the State party. The Committee is further concerned at reports that persons with intellectual or/psychosocial disabilities are sometimes expelled from governmental, judicial, institutional or private enterprises, and accordingly their equal recognition before the law is denied, contrary to the provisions of article 12 of the Convention.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party revise its legislation in order to recognize the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, notwithstanding their impairment, on an equal basis with others, and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. The Committee further recommends that the State party provide training, in consultation and cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, at the national, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the principles of supported decision-making.

Oman (2018)

25. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Various national laws deprive persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, of their legal capacity, contrary to article 12 of the Convention;

(b) There is a lack of data on persons under guardianship, disaggregated by age, gender and type of impairment.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend its legislation, in particular articles 41, 42 and 44 of the Civil Code of 2013 so as to recognize the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preference of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;

(b) Create awareness-raising programmes for persons with disabilities, their families and community members, the judiciary and legislature on supported decision-making and legal capacity of persons with disabilities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(c) Adopt measures to strengthen data collection on persons under guardianship, disaggregated by age, gender and type of impairment.

Russian Federation (2018)

26. The Committee notes with concern that the State Party's legislation, especially the Civil Code and the Civil Procedure Code, uphold substitute decision-making and that the State party's legislation does not provide for supported decision making mechanisms for such persons.

27. The Committee recommends that the State Party amend its legislation, especially the Civil Code and the Civil Procedure Code, including by introducing the concept of supported decision making, and fully harmonize its legislation with provisions of article 12 of the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee's General Comment No. 1 and recognize full legal capacity to all persons with all types of disability.

Seychelles (2018)

18. The Committee notes with concern the discriminatory legal provisions in the non-litigious civil procedure act and Family Code, and allowing for deprivation of legal capacity, including business and procedural capacity, of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. It is also concerned that the State party considers guardians as a form of support although they are appointed to substitute the decision-making power of persons with disabilities in various areas of life. It is also concerned about the absence of mechanisms to replace the substituted decision-making with a supported decision-making regime.

19. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, and recommends that the State party repeal all discriminatory provisions allowing for deprivation of the legal capacity on the basis of impairment, and ensure that the amendment to the Family Code withdraws any form of substituted-decision-making for persons with disabilities, in any area of life. It also calls upon the State party to establish a procedure aimed at restoring full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, and to develop and implement supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of the person.

Slovenia (2018)

18. The Committee notes with concern the discriminatory legal provisions in the non-litigious civil procedure act and Family Code, and allowing for deprivation of legal capacity, including business and procedural capacity, of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. It is also concerned that the State party considers guardians as a form of support although they are appointed to substitute the decision-making power of persons with disabilities in various areas of life. It is also concerned about the absence of mechanisms to replace the substituted decision-making with a supported decision-making regime.

19. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, and recommends that the State party repeal all discriminatory provisions allowing for deprivation of the legal capacity on the basis of impairment, and ensure that the amendment to the Family Code withdraws any form of substituted-decision-making for persons with disabilities, in any area of life. It also calls upon the State party to establish a procedure aimed at restoring full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, and to develop and implement supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of the person.

Sudan (2018)

23. The Committee is concerned about laws in the State party continuing to deprive or restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities in many areas of life, in particular to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, such as the Personal Status Act of 1991, the Public Guardianship Act of 1837, article 202 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1991, and articles 57 to 61 of the Civil Transactions Act of 1984.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review its legislation, including the above mentioned Acts, to abolish the deprivation of legal capacity on the basis of impairment;**
- (b) Introduce supported decision-making arrangements that respect persons with disabilities autonomy, will and preferences and raise awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and society about them;**
- (c) Conduct capacity building activities for public officials on the right to equal recognition before the law of persons with disabilities and supported decision-making arrangements.**

Latvia (2017)

20. The Committee notes with concern that the amendments to the civil law in 2013 concerning legal capacity preserve discriminatory provisions, including temporary guardianship and partial legal capacity. It also notes with concern that, in practice, courts

generally apply substituted decision-making due to a lack of understanding of legal alternatives to the restriction of legal capacity.

21. Recalling article 12 (2) of the Convention, which states that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life, and its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal the legal provisions in civil law concerning substituted decision-making and restore the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities through a supported decision-making regime that respects the autonomy, will and preferences of the person.

Luxembourg (2017)

24. The Committee notes with concern the discriminatory legal provisions still in place, such as article 490 and Chapter III of the Civil Code and the Guardianship Act of 1982 providing for substitute decision-making regimes. It is concerned by the lack of disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities still deprived of their legal capacity and subject to substitute decision-making regimes.

25. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Repeal and/or amend all discriminatory legal provisions, including article 490 and Chapter III of the Civil Code and the Guardianship Act of 1982, with a view to abolishing substitute decision-making regimes;

(b) Restore the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities and review its guardianship system;

(c) Introduce supported decision-making mechanisms that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities, such as the mechanism of “person of trust” currently existing in the health sector for persons not denied legal capacity;

(d) Improve data collection and disaggregation about persons who are still under substituted decision-making regimes, with a view to improving public policies;

(e) Adopt professional quality standards for supported decision-making mechanisms;

(f) Together with persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, through their representative organizations, develop and carry out training to all relevant actors at the national and local levels, including civil servants, judges, social workers, health and social services professionals and the wider community on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on supported decision-making.

Montenegro (2017)

24. The Committee is concerned about the current substituted decision-making and guardianship regime, which restricts the exercise of various rights. It notes with concern that the number of persons with disabilities who are deprived of their full legal capacity continues to be high.

25. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee urges the State party to fully harmonize its legislation with the Convention, to replace the current guardianship and substituted decision-making regime with a system of supported decision-making that fully respects the autonomy, integrity, dignity, will and preferences of the person, and to establish transparent and effective remedies for persons with disabilities whose legal capacity has been removed.

Morocco (2017)

26. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The denial, on the basis of impairment, of legal capacity of persons with disabilities, in particular of persons with sensory, psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and the de facto guardianship exercised in families of persons with disabilities;

(b) The absence of understanding and development of supported decision-making alternatives for persons with disabilities that respect their will and preferences.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law:

(a) Repeal the provisions of the Family Code and other laws that restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) Introduce and develop supported decision-making mechanisms for persons with disabilities that respect the autonomy, rights, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in all areas of life;

(c) Design capacity-building programmes for public officials on, and raise awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and society of, the right to equal recognition before the law of persons with disabilities and the supported decision-making system.

Panama (2017)

30. The Committee is concerned that, even though Act No. 15 of 2016 provides for equal recognition before the law and the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, restrictions on their legal capacity contained in articles 404 to 407 of the Family Code, in the Commercial Code and in article 45 of the Civil Code remain in force.

31. In keeping with article 12 of the Convention and its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all legal provisions and end all practices that partially or completely limit the legal capacity of persons with disabilities;

(b) Take tangible steps to establish a supported decision-making system that respects the autonomy, wishes and preferences of persons with disabilities;

(c) Ensure that there are no barriers and that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their right to legal capacity on an equal basis with others.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The legislation in the State party that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairment;

(b) The prevalence of substituted decision-making in legislation and in practice, and the lack of full recognition of the right to individualized supported decision-making that fully respects the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;

(c) The insufficient support to all asylum seekers and refugees with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities in exercising their legal capacity;

(d) The high number of black people with disabilities who are compulsorily detained and treated against their will.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including those representing persons from black and minority ethnic groups and in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, abolish all forms of substituted decision-making concerning all spheres and areas of life by reviewing and adopting new legislation in accordance with the Convention to initiate new policies in both mental capacity and mental health laws. It urges the State party to step up efforts to foster research, data and good practices in the area of, and speed up the development of, supported decision-making regimes. It recommends that the State party ensure that asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities can exercise all rights enshrined in the Convention.

Armenia (2017)

19. The Committee notes with concern the discriminatory legal provisions in the Constitution and the Civil Procedure Code that allow for the deprivation of legal capacity and the appointment of a guardian on the basis of psychosocial or intellectual disability. It is also concerned by the lack of mechanisms to replace the system of substituted decision-making with a supported decision-making regime.

20. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal the discriminatory legal provisions in the Constitution and the Civil Procedure Code, restore the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities and introduce supported decision-making regimes.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

22. The Committee is concerned about the current guardianship regime, which contradicts the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. It is concerned about the lack of transparent and effective remedies, particularly regarding the current practice of depriving persons with disabilities of their full legal capacity. The Committee is gravely concerned about the denial of the rights to marry and vote.

23. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party harmonize its legislation with the Convention, replacing substituted decision-making with supported decision-making regimes that respect the person's autonomy, will and preferences and establishing transparent remedies for persons with disabilities whose legal capacity has been removed, throughout the State party.

Canada (2017)

27. The Committee is concerned that since 2010, the number of cases of guardianship of persons with disabilities has increased in all provinces but one. In many provinces and territories a substitute decision maker is permitted to make health-care decisions for a person who is found to be "incapable" of making his or her own decision. The Committee is also concerned that a number of federal statutes reinforce exclusionary tests of legal capacity and do not provide recognition of supported decision-making.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and other service providers, take leadership in collaborating with provinces and territories to create a consistent framework for recognizing legal capacity and to enable access to the support needed to exercise legal capacity. It also recommends that the State party take steps to remove exclusionary provisions from federal statutes and to introduce provisions for supported decision-making in the Bank Act, the Income Tax Act and other statutes as appropriate.

Cyprus (2017)

33. The Committee notes with concern that the State party maintains the concept of substituted decision-making and guardianship across all legislation, such as regarding the administration of property and accessing judicial procedures.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party, as a matter of urgency and in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention:

(a) Bring the draft law on self-advocacy and supported decision-making fully into line with the Convention, accelerate its adoption and take all other legislative amendments necessary to abolish substituted decision-making and guardianship and ensure that the right to supported decision-making is established across all legislation in accordance with general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;

(b) Allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to support the transformation from the present paradigm to a new paradigm that is in line with the Convention, and being guided by, inter alia, general comment No. 1 (2014).

Honduras (2017)

27. Al Comité le preocupa que distintas leyes del Estado parte, al igual que el Código de Familia, que en el artículo 277 mantiene la figura de tutor y protutor, no armonizan con la Convención y discriminan y restringen la capacidad jurídica de las personas con discapacidad.

28. En consonancia con el artículo 12 de la Convención y su observación general núm. 1 (2014) sobre igual reconocimiento como persona ante la ley, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que derogue toda disposición legal que limite parcial o totalmente la capacidad jurídica de las personas con discapacidad y adopte medidas concretas para establecer un modelo de sistema de apoyo al proceso de toma de decisiones que respete la autonomía, voluntad y preferencias de las personas con discapacidad, que reemplace las formas de sustitución en la toma de decisiones.

29. Le preocupan al Comité las restricciones que se imponen a ciertas personas con discapacidad respecto al derecho a ser propietarias y heredar bienes, controlar sus propios asuntos económicos o a recibir préstamos bancarios, hipotecas y otros, en igualdad de condiciones con las demás personas.

30. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que garantice a todas las personas con discapacidad el acceso en igualdad de condiciones con las demás personas a ser propietarias y heredar bienes, a créditos, hipotecas y toda la variedad de servicios financieros.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

26. The Committee is concerned about the guardianship regime in relation to persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities set up in the civil law and the law of non-litigious matters. It is also concerned about the absence of supported decision-making for persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review its civil and criminal legislation with the aim of withdrawing the guardianship regime, affecting persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and recognise full legal capacity of persons with disabilities on equal basis with others, in all areas of life;

(b) Develop a system of supported decision-making for all persons with disabilities, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law; and

(c) Raise awareness among society, including families, about the contents and scope of the right to equal recognition before the law, and on how to respect the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.

Jordan (2017)

25. The Committee notes with concern that articles 44 and 128 of the Civil Code (Law No. 43 of 1976) and articles 204 and 212 of the Personal Status Law (No. 36 of 2010) deprive persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, of their legal capacity, contrary to article 12 of the Convention.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation, in particular the Civil Code and the Personal Status Law, so as to recognize the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities, notwithstanding their impairment, on an equal basis with others, and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

24. The Committee notes with concern the discriminatory legal provisions in the Civil Code, particularly article 24, which allow for the deprivation of a person's legal capacity and the appointment of a guardian, on the grounds of psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. The Committee is concerned that current efforts to amend legislation in this regard may still not be in line with the Convention and that there are no mechanisms in place to replace the system of substituted decision-making with a supported decision-making regime.

25. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal the discriminatory legal provisions in the Civil Code, including article 24;

(b) Restore the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities and review its guardianship system with the aim of introducing supported decision-making mechanisms;

(c) Provide training, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and the Ombudsman, at the national, regional and local levels for all stakeholders, including civil servants, judges and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on existing good practices in supported decision-making.

Bolivia (2016)

27. The Committee is concerned at the continued existence in the State party of regimes that limit partly or completely the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, and at the lack of any measures to repeal such regimes.

28. In keeping with its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal legal regimes that partly or completely limit legal capacity, and that it implement systems to support persons with disabilities in the exercise for their legal capacity, having proper regard for their will and preferences.

Colombia (2016)

30. The Committee is concerned that the State party's Civil Code and case law still provides for restrictions on the exercise of legal capacity for persons with disabilities and that, as a result, they are denied access to justice and free and informed consent.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal any provisions of the Civil Code and other legislation that partially or fully restrict the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, and take legal and administrative measures to provide the necessary support to persons with disabilities to fully exercise this right and to take decisions in such areas as health, sexuality and education, while fully respecting their will and preferences, as established in the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014), on equal recognition before the law.

32. The Committee is concerned about the provision made, in Decree No. 1500 of 2014 of the Medellín Mayoral Office, for judicial interdiction in programmes for persons with disabilities living in the streets.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal Decree No. 1500 of 2014 of the Medellín Mayoral Office, review programmes to provide persons with disabilities with access to the support they may require in the exercise of their legal capacity, and adopt a plan for housing and support services for persons with disabilities to enable them to live independently and be included in the community.

Ethiopia (2016)

25. The Committee is concerned that the legislative provisions of the Civil Code contradict article 12 of the Convention, in particular articles 339-388 and 1728 in chapter 3 ("Insane persons and infirm persons") and chapter 4 (Judicial interdiction), and article 740 of the Commercial Code. Those provisions restrict the right of persons with psychosocial disabilities and intellectual disabilities to the full enjoyment and exercise of their rights, including the right to marry, to act as witness and to vote, and parental rights and, for blind, deaf and deaf-blind persons, the right to carry out banking transactions.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the legislative provisions that are non-compliant with article 12 of the Convention, in particular those provisions of the Civil Code (chaps. 3 and 4, arts. 339-388 and 1728) and Commercial Code (art. 740) and all forms of substituted decision-making. It also recommends that the State party explicitly recognize in law the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities with respect to all rights, including the right to marry, to enter into a contract, to vote, to own property, to a family, to carry out banking transactions and to have access to justice, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law.

27. The Committee is concerned that the provision of support is not effectively available in order to ensure the exercise of legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the provision of support in order for persons with disabilities to be able to exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis. It

also recommends that the State party develop and implement supported decision-making models that respect the autonomy, will and preferences of the person and that it adopt safeguards against undue influence and conflict of interest, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1.

Guatemala (2016)

31. The Committee notes with concern that a large number of persons with disabilities are subject to total or partial guardianship and therefore deprived of certain rights such as the right to vote, marry, found a family or manage assets and property. It is also concerned by the fact that the Civil Code provides for the restriction of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and that, to date, no commitment has been made to bring it into line with the Convention.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities who have been deprived of their legal capacity can exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention, as indicated in its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. The Committee also recommends that the State party repeal the existing systems of total and partial guardianship, under which a person has no or limited legal capacity, and develop systems of supported decision-making to enable and promote the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

33. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities who are institutionalized are automatically deprived of their legal capacity, with the director of the institution assuming the role of their guardian from then on.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all persons with disabilities who continue to be placed in institutions of any kind are not deprived of their legal capacity and are given access to systems of supported decision-making.

Italy (2016)

27. The Committee is concerned that substituted decision-making continues to be practised through the mechanism of administrative support "Amministrazione di Sostegno".

28. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws that permit substituted decision-making by legal guardians, including the mechanism of administrative support and the enactment and implementation of supported decision-making provisions, including the training of professionals in the justice, health and social sectors.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

23. The Committee is deeply concerned about legislative provisions that make it possible to restrict and even deny the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, for example the provisions in, among others, Federal Act No. 5 of 1985 (Civil Code), Federal Act No. 28 of 2005 and Federal Act No. 29 of 2006 as amended by Federal Act No. 14 of 2009 and the Criminal Code, including in relation to the right to marry. The Committee is also concerned that women in the State party, including women with disabilities, continue to be subjected to male guardianship.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal regimes of substituted decision-making (among others, provisions of Federal Act No. 5 of 1985 (Civil Code), Federal Act No. 28 of 2005 and Federal Act No. 29 of 2006 as amended by Federal Act No. 14 of 2009 and the Criminal Code) and replace them by supported decision-making regimes that uphold the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party abolish altogether the system of male guardianship of women, including women with disabilities.

Uruguay (2016)

25. Al Comité le preocupa que distintas leyes del Estado parte, en particular los artículos 37 y 80 de la Constitución de la República del Uruguay al igual que el Código Civil, Ley 17535 sobre

personas sujetas a curaduría general, están en contradicción con la Convención y discriminan y restringen la capacidad jurídica de las personas con discapacidad.

26. En consonancia con el artículo 12 de la Convención y su observación general No 1 (2014), el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que derogue toda disposición legal que limite parcial o totalmente la capacidad jurídica de las personas con discapacidad y adopte medidas concretas para establecer un modelo de sistema de apoyo al proceso de toma de decisiones que respete la autonomía, voluntad y preferencias de las personas con discapacidad que reemplace las formas de sustitución en la toma de decisiones.

27. Le preocupan al Comité las restricciones que se imponen a personas con discapacidad respecto al derecho a ser propietarias y heredar bienes, controlar sus propios asuntos económicos o a recibir préstamos bancarios, hipotecas y otros, en igualdad de condiciones con las demás personas.

28. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que garantice a todas las personas con discapacidad el acceso, en igualdad de condiciones con las demás personas, a ser propietarias y heredar bienes, a créditos, hipotecas y toda la variedad de servicios financieros.

Chile (2016)

23. Al Comité le preocupa la vigencia del Código Civil de 1857 que establece la incapacidad legal de personas con discapacidad, así como de la Ley núm. 18600 que regula el proceso de declaratoria de interdicción con base en la certificación de un psiquiatra.

24. El Comité solicita al Estado parte que derogue toda disposición legal que limite parcial o totalmente la capacidad jurídica de las personas con discapacidad adultas, y adopte medidas concretas para establecer un modelo de toma de decisiones con apoyo que respete la autonomía, voluntad y preferencias de las personas con discapacidad, en armonía con el artículo 12 de la Convención y la observación general núm. 1 (2014) del Comité.

25. Al Comité le preocupa que las personas con discapacidad no tengan derecho al consentimiento informado, particularmente aquellas declaradas interdictas o institucionalizadas por razón de discapacidad mental, en el caso de tratamientos médicos o intervenciones quirúrgicas cuyos efectos son irreversibles, tal como se dispone en el artículo 15 de la Ley núm. 20584.

26. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que revise y derogue las disposiciones que restringen el consentimiento libre e informado de todas las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo las que se encuentran declaradas interdictas y están bajo tutela, o quienes se encuentren institucionalizadas, y se adopten las regulaciones necesarias para el pleno ejercicio del consentimiento libre e informado, para actuar en todo tipo de intervenciones médicas o científicas.

Lithuania (2016)

25. The Committee is deeply concerned at the legal provisions permitting the denial or restriction of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities contrary to article 12 of the Convention, which thereby limit rights of persons with disabilities to give their free and informed consent for treatment, to marry, to found a family and to adopt and raise children.

26. With reference to its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal laws, policies and practices permitting guardianship and trusteeship for adults with disabilities and replace regimes of substituted decision-making with regimes of supported decision-making.

Portugal (2016)

28. The Committee is deeply concerned that in the State party there is a large number of persons with disabilities subjected to total or partial guardianship and, as such, deprived of certain rights, for instance the rights to vote, to marry, to found a family, and to manage assets and properties. It is also concerned that the current review of the Civil Code continues to include restrictions in legal capacity.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt appropriate measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities who have been deprived of their legal capacity may exercise all the rights set out in the Convention, including the right to vote, to marry, to found a family or to manage assets and property, as stated in its General Comment No 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. The Committee also recommends that the State party repeal the existing total and partial guardianship systems, which remove or limit the legal capacity of the individual, and develop supported decision-making systems which enable and promote the effective exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention.

Serbia (2016)

21. The Committee is concerned about the incapacity and guardianship regime, which contravenes the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 1. (2014) on equal recognition before the law. It is concerned by the lack of transparent and effective safeguards and remedies. The Committee is especially concerned by the denial of the right to marry and to vote.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party harmonize its legislation with the Convention with a view to replacing substituted decision-making with supported decision-making regimes which respect the person's autonomy, will and preferences, and establish transparent safeguards. The Committee further recommends that the State party provide training, in consultation with and the involvement of persons with disabilities, their representative organizations, and the Ombudsman, at the national, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges, and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on good practices in supported decision-making.

Slovakia (2016)

38. The Committee is concerned that, despite recent legal and procedural reforms, all persons with disabilities are not given equal recognition before the law and are denied the right to vote, the right to marry and found a family, enjoy property and to retain fertility.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal section 10 (1) of the Civil Code, which provides for deprivation of legal capacity, and section 10 (2) of the Civil Code, which provides for restriction of legal capacity, and to introduce supported decision-making which respects the autonomy, will and preferences of the individual.

Thailand (2016)

25. The Committee is deeply concerned about substituted decision-making and guardianship regimes for persons with disabilities.

26. In the light of its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee urges the State party to repeal the regimes of substituted decision-making enshrined in, among others, sections 28 and 1670 of the Civil Code, and replace them with supported decision-making regimes that uphold the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

Uganda (2016)

22. The Committee is concerned about legislation in the State party, including the Succession Act (2011), the Divorce Act (1904) and the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act 1961, which restrict legal capacity of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned about the de facto guardianship in families of persons with disabilities that deprive persons with disabilities of their ability to make choices in aspects such as marriage and inheritance.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Eliminate formal and/or informal substituted decision-making regimes and replace them with a system of supported decision-making, in line with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;

(b) Repeal legislation and eliminate practices that allow for deprivation of legal capacity on the basis of disability and adopt measures to prohibit deprivation of legal capacity on a customary basis;

(c) Raise awareness among persons with disabilities, their families and community members, the judiciary and legislature on supported decision-making and legal capacity of persons with disabilities, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Brazil (2015)

24. The Committee is concerned that some of the State party's legislation still provides for substituted decision-making in some circumstances. This is contrary to article 12 of the Convention as elaborated in the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. The Committee is also concerned that supported decision-making procedures require judicial approval and do not give primacy to the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

25. The Committee urges the State party to withdraw all legal provisions that perpetuate the system of substituted decision-making. It also recommends that, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and other service providers, the State party take tangible steps to replace the system of substitute decision-making with a supported decision-making model that upholds the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention. It further recommends that all persons with disabilities currently under guardianship be kept duly informed about the new legal scheme and the exercise of the right to supported decision-making should be guaranteed in all cases.

European Union (2015)

36. The Committee notes with deep concern that across the European Union a large number of persons with disabilities have their full legal capacity restricted.

37. The Committee recommends that the European Union take appropriate measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities deprived of their legal capacity can exercise all the rights enshrined in European Union treaties and in European Union legislation such as on access to justice, to goods and services, including banking and employment, and to healthcare, as well as voting and consumer rights, in line with the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. It further recommends that the European Union step up efforts to foster research, data collection and exchange of good practices on supported decision-making in consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities.

Gabon (2015)

28. The Committee is deeply concerned about substituted decision-making and guardianship regimes for persons with disabilities.

29. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party repeal regimes of substituted decision-making enshrined in articles 618 and 640 of the Civil Code, among others, and replace them by supported decision-making regimes which uphold the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

Kenya (2015)

23. The Committee is concerned that different laws of the State party such as the Children's Act 2001, the Mental Health Act of 1991 and the Marriage Law (2014) deprive persons with disabilities of their legal capacity, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned about the de facto guardianship in families of persons with disabilities that deprive persons with disabilities of their ability to make choices in aspects such as buying food, renting a house or inheritance.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Eliminate all forms of formal and informal substituted decision-making regimes and replace them with a system of supported decision-making, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;

(b) Repeal legislation and practices that allow for deprivation of legal capacity on the basis of impairment and adopt measures to prohibit deprivation of legal capacity on customary basis;

(c) Support and facilitate on going initiatives to implement article 12, including research by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the models of supported decision making spearheaded by representative organizations of persons with disabilities; and

(d) Develop training and information campaigns to the public about the contents and scope of the right to legal capacity in all areas of life, considering the involvement of all stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities and decision makers.

Mauritius (2015)

21. The Committee is concerned that the institution of substituted decision making and guardianship for persons with disabilities meeting the derogatory criteria listed in the Mauritius Civil Code as well as the deprivation of the rights of institutionalized persons with disabilities to entering into contracts, vote, marry, take decisions about health and access courts of law violate article 12 of the Convention.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish guardianship measures in law and practice and to ensure recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law.

Qatar (2015)

23. The Committee is deeply concerned about substituted decision-making and guardianship regimes for persons with disabilities enshrined in, among others, Article 305 of the Criminal Code, article 34 of the Guardianship (Assets of Minors) Act No. 40 of 2004, and article 127 of the Civil Code (Act No. 22 of 2004) which restrict the exercise of rights including the right to vote, marry, family, give and/or withdraw free and informed consent, access to justice and choice of where and with whom to live.

24. Recalling its general comment No. 1, the Committee recommends that the State party carry out a review of its legislation with a view to repeal regimes of substituted decision-making and replace them by supported decision-making regimes which uphold the autonomy, will and preferences of persons with disabilities.

Ukraine (2015)

26. The Committee is concerned that persons who were deprived of their legal capacity by a court decision lose all their rights, including the right to challenge their status before a court and that the State party's legislation does not provide for supported decision making mechanisms for such persons.

27. The Committee calls upon the State party to replace its guardianship and mental health law with supported decision making mechanisms and abolish all deprivation of legal capacity both fully and partially in relation to all persons with disabilities. The Committee further recommends that the State party fully harmonize its provisions with article 12 of the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee's General Comment No. 1 and recognize the full legal capacity of all persons with all types of disability.

Cook Islands (2015)

23. The Committee is concerned that current legislation enables the appointment of a Trustee to make legal decisions on behalf of a person with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal legislation in order to abolish guardianship measures in law and practice and ensure the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms, in line with the Committee's General Recommendation 1;

(b) Develop support mechanisms at community level to promote choice, autonomy and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities.

Croatia (2015)

17. The Committee is concerned that substituted decision making has not been replaced by supported decision making in law and in social practice, and that legislative amendments that are envisaged still consider the “best interest” of the person as opposed to his/her will and preferences and would maintain a modified regime of substitute decision-making. It is concerned that the Constitutional Court has suspended the new Family Act which abolished plenary guardianship.

18. The Committee recommends that legislative measures are taken to abolish substitute decision making regimes in accordance with the Committee’s general comment No.1 (2014), and that it provide a wide range of measures which respect a person’s autonomy, will and preferences, including with respect to a person’s right, to give and withdraw their own individual informed consent for medical treatment, to access justice, to vote, to marry, to full parental rights, and to work. It further recommends taking tangible steps to introduce systems of supported decision making and to this end train social workers, legal professionals and public authorities on the rights enshrined in the Convention. Organizations of persons with disabilities as well as other relevant stakeholders should be involved in these legislative and policy processes.

Czech Republic (2015)

22. The Committee notes with concern that the new Civil Code still prescribes for the possibility of limiting one’s legal capacity and putting a person with disability under partial guardianship.

23. The Committee calls upon the State party to amend its Civil Code and fully harmonize its provisions with article 12 of the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee’s General Comment No. 1 and recognize the full legal capacity of all persons with all types of disability, and to improve access to supported decision-making and implement the provision of the Civil Code.

Dominican Republic (2015)

20. The Committee notes with concern that the Civil Code establishes regimes on legal incapacity that are based on substitute decision-making and override the wishes of a person classified under the heading of “imbecility, mental derangement or insanity”, in violation of article 12 of the Convention.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party do away with any regime that partially or totally deprives persons with disabilities of their legal capacity, that it amend the Civil Code to recognize the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, and that it put in place measures of supported decision-making in line with the Committee’s general comment No. 1 (2014) on article 12: Equal recognition before the law.

22. The Committee is concerned at the fact that discriminatory practices towards people with disabilities are still to be found in some domestic banks and financial institutions, whereby persons with disabilities, notably visual disabilities, are denied independent management of their financial affairs.

23. The Committee asks the State party to repeal any restriction on, or impediment to, access by persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to banking services or the independent management of their financial affairs.

Germany (2015)

25. The Committee is concerned that the legal instrument of guardianship (“rechtliche Betreuung”), as outlined in and governed by the German Civil Code (BGB) is incompatible with the Convention.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Eliminate all forms of substituted decision-making and replace them with a system of supported decision-making, in view of the Committee’s General Comment No. 1 (2014);

- (b) Develop professional quality standards for supported decision-making mechanisms;**
- (c) In close cooperation with persons with disabilities, provide training on article 12 of the Convention in line with Committee's General Comment No. 1 at the federal, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges, social workers, health and social services professionals, and the wider community.**

Mongolia (2015)

21. The Committee is concerned about the inadequacy of the State party's legal measures for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to make choices about their lives and enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others. The Committee is furthermore concerned that the State party permits guardians of persons with disabilities to make decisions regarding the property and personal issues of persons deemed persistently incapable of legal capacity due to psychological restrictions caused by disability. The Committee notes that such a system continues to promote substituted decision-making instead of supported decision-making, contrary to the provisions of article 12 of the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law.

22. The Committee urges the State party to ensure legal capacity for persons with disabilities, including: to choose where and with whom they want to live, to vote for the political party they prefer, to have their health care decisions respected, to control their own financial affairs and to have access to cinemas and other leisure and cultural activities. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal provisions of the Civil Code to move from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making, which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences and is in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention and general comment No. 1, including with respect to the individual's right to give and withdraw informed consent for medical treatment, among others: to have access to justice, to vote, to marry, to exercise parental rights, to work and to choose his or her place of residence. The Committee further recommends that the State party provide training, in consultation and cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, at the national, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making.

Turkmenistan (2015)

25. The Committee is concerned that the Family Code, which governs matters of guardianship, tutorship and wardship, continues to advance substituted decision-making instead of making further steps towards supported decision-making, contrary to the provisions of article 12 of the Convention and the adopted General Comment on this article. It is also concerned at the lack of transparent and clear distinctions among the legal institutions relevant to legal capacity as well as information on the existing safeguards and remedies in case of violation of the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party harmonize its legislation with the Convention with a view to replacing substituted decision-making with supported decision-making regimes which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences, including transparent safeguards.

New Zealand (2014)

21. The Committee notes the recent work on examining supported decision-making regimes in New Zealand.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate steps to revise the relevant laws and replace substituted decision-making with supported decision-making. This should provide a wide range of measures that respect the person's autonomy, will and preferences, and is in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention, including with respect to the individual's right, in his or her own capacity, to give and withdraw informed consent, in particular for medical treatment, to access justice, to marry, and to work, among other

things, consistent with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law.

Denmark (2014)

32. The Committee notes that the Legal Incapacity and Guardianship Act continues to allow for substituted decision-making, thereby restricting the individual's exercise of rights such as the right to vote, access to justice, and consent to medical treatment.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party review the Legal Incapacity and Guardianship Act and incorporate into legislation supported decision-making, which respects the person's rights, will and preferences, in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention, which includes the individual's right to give and withdraw informed consent for medical treatment, to have access to justice, to vote, to marry and to work.

Republic of Korea (2014)

21. The Committee is concerned that the new adult guardianship system, which was introduced in July 2013, permits guardians to make decisions regarding the property and personal issues of persons deemed persistently incapable of managing tasks due to psychological restrictions caused by disease, disability or old age. The Committee notes that such a system continues to promote substituted decision-making instead of supported decision-making, contrary to the provisions of article 12 of the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party move from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making, which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences and is in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention and general comment No. 1, including with respect to the individual's right to give and withdraw informed consent for medical treatment, to have access to justice, to vote, to marry, to work and to choose his or her place of residence. The Committee further recommends that the State party provide training, in consultation and cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, at the national, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the mechanisms of supported decision-making.

Belgium (2014)

23. The Committee commends the State party's efforts to reform legislation on legal capacity. It notes the adoption of the new Act reforming legal incapacity regimes, but is concerned that the new law continues to adhere to a substitute decision-making model and does not provide for the right to supported decision-making.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate steps to revise the Act of 17 March 2013 in view of the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014), and allocate sufficient financial and human resources to provide for supported decision-making and enable justices of the peace to take decisions on a case-by-case basis, as required by the law.

Ecuador (2014)

24. The Committee is concerned that the State party's civil legislation provides for a substitute decision-making model through the use of roles such as guardians and wards, and that there is no immediate plan to reform the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure to include a supported decision-making model, as recommended in general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a working group with representatives of independent organizations of persons with disabilities in order to carry out a timely review of civil legislation and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms. It also recommends that the State party draw up an agenda, with a timetable, for the implementation of the new plan.

Mexico (2014)

23. The Committee is concerned at the lack of measures to repeal the declaration of legal incompetence and the limitations on the legal capacity of a person on the grounds of disability. It is also concerned at the lack of social awareness in this respect and the reluctance of some justice officials to put into effect the recommendations made by the Committee in its general comment No. 1 on equal recognition before the law (2014).

24. The Committee urges the State party to suspend any legislative reform that would perpetuate a system of substitute decision-making and to take steps to adopt laws and policies that replace the substitute decision-making system with a supported decision-making model that upholds the autonomy and wishes of the persons concerned, regardless of the degree of disability. At the same time, it urges the State party to review all federal and state legislation in order to eliminate any restriction of rights stemming from a declaration of legal incompetence or on the grounds of a person's disability. It recommends that the State party take steps to train the authorities and society regarding the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities, on the basis of the recommendations made by the Committee in its general comment No. 1 (2014).

Sweden (2014)

33. Even though declarations of incapacity have been completely abolished, the Committee is concerned that the appointment of an administrator is a form of substituted decision-making.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate steps to replace substituted decision-making with supported decision-making and provide a wide range of measures which respect the person's autonomy, will and preferences and are in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention, including with respect to the individual's right, in his or her own capacity, to give and withdraw informed consent for medical treatment, to have access to justice, to vote, to marry and to work.

Azerbaijan (2014)

26. The Committee is concerned that the Civil Code, which governs matters of guardianship and trusteeship, continues to advance substituted decision making instead of supported decision-making contrary to the provisions of article 12 of the Convention restricting the exercise of rights such as the right to vote and access to justice.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the Civil Code with a view to replacing substituted decision-making with supported decision-making for persons with disabilities, and ensure that persons with disabilities exercise all rights including the right to vote and adopt among others. The Committee recommends that supported decision-making structures be introduced which fully respect the person's autonomy, will and preferences, and be in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention in the exercise of his or her rights under the Convention.

Costa Rica (2014)

21. The Committee expresses its concern about the continuing existence of such procedures as interdiction and the declaration of mental insanity in respect of persons with disabilities, and the resulting restrictions on the exercise of other rights, including the right to vote and the right to have a home and found a family.

22. The Committee urges the State party to approve the bill on the personal autonomy of persons with disabilities (No. 17507), to revise and repeal article 91 of the Constitution and to repeal the provisions of the Civil Code and the Code of Civil Procedure governing incapacity and insanity proceedings on the basis of disability. It recommends that the State party establish safeguards for persons with disabilities and develop a model for support in the decision-making process that takes due account of the individual's autonomy, free will and preferences, and of their rights, including the right to free and informed consent to receive medical treatment, the right of access to justice, and the rights to vote, to marry and to choose their place of residence.

23. The Committee notes with concern that it is banking practice not to consider persons with disabilities creditworthy.

24. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to loans, mortgages and a full range of financial services on an equal basis with others.

Australia (2013)

24. The Committee notes that the Australian Law Reform Commission has been recently commissioned to inquire into barriers to equal recognition before the law and legal capacity for persons with disabilities. The Committee is however concerned about the possibility of maintaining the regime of substitute decision-making, and that there is still no detailed and viable framework for supported decision-making in the exercise of legal capacity.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party uses effectively the current inquiry process to take immediate steps to replace substitute decision-making with supported decision-making and provides a wide range of measures which respect the person's autonomy, will and preferences and is in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention, including with respect to the individual's right, in his/her own capacity, to give and withdraw informed consent for medical treatment, to access justice, to vote, to marry, and to work.

26. The Committee further recommends that the State party provides training, in consultation and cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, at the national, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges, and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on the primacy of supported decision-making mechanisms in the exercise of legal capacity.

Austria (2013)

27. In 2012, approximately fifty-five thousand Austrians were under guardianship, with half with respect to all aspects of life. This is concerning, particularly because the Austrian guardianship laws do appear to be old fashioned and out of step with article 12 of the Convention. The Committee commends the State party for introducing a pilot program under the national action plan on supported decision-making.

28. The Committee recommends that substituted decision making be replaced with supported decision making. The Committee recommends that Austria do more to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to supported decision-making and are not placed under guardianship. The Committee recommends that supported decision making structures should respect the person's autonomy, will and preferences, and be in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention, including with respect to the individual's right, in his/her own capacity, to give and withdraw informed consent for medical treatment, to access justice, to vote, to marry, to work, and to choose a place of residence. The Committee also recommends that disabled persons organizations be involved in all aspects of the pilot program on supported decision-making. The Committee further recommends that the State party provide training, in consultation and cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations of persons with disabilities, at the national, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges, and social workers, on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on mechanisms of supported decision-making.

El Salvador (2013)

27. The Committee is concerned at the legal disqualification arising in civil and family law when persons with intellectual, psychosocial, hearing or visual impairments are interdicted or declared legally incapable, limiting some of their rights. The Committee regrets the lack of information provided on persons with disabilities placed in the system of guardianship or protection, and on the propriety of the processes for lifting interdictions. The Committee notes with concern that the Public Notaries Act limits possibilities for "blind", "mute" and "deaf" persons and those who "are not in full command of their mental faculties" to work as notaries.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party replace the rules on interdiction based on disability by a decision-making support mechanism that respects the autonomy, will and preferences of the individual, and that it adopt immediate measures, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to set up adequate decision-making support

services, in keeping with the provisions of the Convention. The Committee requests that the State party abolish the restriction on persons with disabilities working as notaries and provide the necessary reasonable accommodation for them to exercise this profession.

Paraguay (2013)

29. The Committee is concerned at the State party's mechanism for declaring persons with disabilities legally incapable and regrets the lack of understanding in the State party concerning the scope of article 12 of the Convention. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of data and information on persons with disabilities who have been declared legally incapable since the declaration of incapacity is an impediment to respect for the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, and the full exercise of that capacity, in all areas of life, including, but not limited to, matters of property.

30. The Committee urges the State party to repeal the legal provisions of the Civil Code governing the procedure for declaring legal incapacity on grounds of disability and to set up an independent review mechanism with the aim of fully restoring the rights of those who have been declared legally incapable. It also recommends that the State party set up safeguards for persons with disabilities and develop a model for support in the decision-making process that takes due account of the individual's autonomy, free will and preferences, and of their rights, including the right to free and informed consent to medical treatment, the right of access to justice, and the rights to vote, to marry and to choose their place of residence.

Argentina (2012)

19. The Committee is deeply concerned about the inconsistencies observed in both the laws already in force and bills that are now being considered in the State party which are based, or continue to be based, on a substitute decision-making model that overrides the wishes of the persons concerned, which clearly runs counter to article 12 of the Convention. The Committee is also concerned at the reluctance of some justice officials to apply the rules that set limits on a court's discretion in restricting the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.

20. The Committee urges the State party to launch an immediate review of all current legislation that is based on a substitute decision-making model that deprives persons with disabilities of their legal capacity. At the same time, the Committee urges the State party to take steps to adopt laws and policies that replace the substitute decision-making system with a supported decision-making model that upholds the autonomy, wishes and preferences of the persons concerned. In addition, the Committee recommends that training workshops on the human rights model of disability be organized for judges to encourage them to adopt the supported decision-making system instead of granting guardianships or trusteeships.

21. The Committee expresses concern at the inconsistencies existing between the proposal for the amendment and standardization of the Civil and Commercial Code and the Convention, as the concept of judicial prohibition would be retained and judges would have complete discretion to appoint a trustee or decide on what decision-making support tools are needed by persons with disabilities.

22. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the concept of judicial prohibition does not figure in the proposal for the amendment and standardization of the Civil and Commercial Code and to guarantee the effective participation in the review process of organizations representing persons with disabilities.

China (2012)

21. The Committee is concerned about the system for establishing legal guardianship, which is not in compliance with art. 12 CRPD. It takes note of the complete absence of a system of supported decision-making measures which recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to make their own decisions and to have their autonomy, will and preferences respected.

22. The Committee urges the state party to adopt measures to repeal the laws, policies and practices which permit guardianship and trusteeship for adults and take legislative action to

replace regimes of substituted decision-making by supported decision making, which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences, in the exercise of one's legal capacity in accordance with Article 12 of the CRPD. In addition, the Committee recommends the state party in consultation with DPOs to, prepare a blueprint for a system of supported decision-making, and legislate and implement it which includes:

- a. Recognition of all persons' legal capacity and right to exercise it;
- b. Accommodations and access to support where necessary to exercise legal capacity;
- c. Regulations to ensure that support respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences and establishment of feedback mechanisms to ensure that support is meeting the person's needs;
- d. Arrangements for the promotion and establishment of supported decision-making;

Hungary (2012)

25. The Committee takes note of the fact that the State party is undertaking efforts to harmonize its national legislation with the provisions of article 12 of the Convention. It welcomes the plans to provide for supported decision-making in the drafting of the new Civil Code. The Committee however remains concerned about the possibility of maintaining a modified regime of substitute decision-making in the drafting of the new Civil Code. The Committee is also concerned that the process of drafting of the new Civil Code has not been used to provide for a detailed and viable framework for supported decision-making in the exercise of legal capacity in accordance with the provisions of article 12 of the Convention.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party use effectively the current review process of its Civil Code and related laws to take immediate steps to derogate guardianship in order to move from substitute decision-making to supported decision-making, which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences and is in full conformity with article 12 of the Convention, including with respect to the individual's right, on their own, to give and withdraw informed consent for medical treatment, to access justice, to vote, to marry, to work, and to choose their place of residence. The Committee further recommends the State party to provide training, in consultation and cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, at the national, regional and local levels for all actors, including civil servants, judges, and social workers on the recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on mechanisms of supported decision-making.

Peru (2012)

22. The Committee is concerned at reports that a number of persons with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas and in long-term institutional settings, do not have identity cards and, sometimes, have no name.

23. The Committee urges the State party to promptly initiate programmes in order to provide identity documents to persons with disabilities, including in rural areas and in long-term institutional settings, and to collect complete and accurate data on people with disabilities in institutions who are currently undocumented and/or do not enjoy their right to a name.

24. The Committee notes with concern that legislation of the State party (article 7 of the Constitution and articles 564 and 565 the Civil Code) is not in conformity with article 12 of the Convention, as it establishes substitute decision-making instead of supported decision-making and permits the suspension of civil rights of persons with disabilities in cases of judicial interdiction. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of information concerning the number of persons who have been subjected to guardianship and trusteeship and the lack of legal remedies and safeguards, such as independent review and right to appeal, that are in place in order to revoke those decisions.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish the practice of judicial interdiction and review the laws allowing for guardianship and trusteeship to ensure their full conformity with article 12 of the Convention and take action to replace regimes of substitute decision-making by supported decision-making, which respects the person's autonomy, will, and preferences.

26. The Committee is concerned that the State party's Civil Code denies the ability to exercise the right to marry to the "deaf-mute, blind-deaf and blind-mute persons, as well as to mentally handicapped persons and those suffering from mental deterioration".

27. The Committee urges the State party to amend the Civil Code in order to adequately guarantee the exercise of civil rights, in particular the right to marry, to all persons with disabilities.

Spain (2011)

33. The Committee notes that Act 26/2011 allows a period of one year following its entry into force for the presentation of a bill to govern the scope and interpretation of article 12 of the Convention. The Committee is further concerned that no measures have been taken to replace substitute decision-making by supported decision-making in the exercise of legal capacity.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party review the laws allowing for guardianship and trusteeship and take action to develop laws and policies to replace regimes of substitute decision-making by supported decision-making, which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences. It further recommends that training be provided on this issue for all relevant public officials and other stakeholders.

Tunisia (2010)

22. The Committee is concerned that no measures have been undertaken to replace substitute decision-making by supported decision-making in the exercise of legal capacity.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party review the laws allowing for guardianship and trusteeship and take action to develop laws and policies to replace regimes of substitute decision-making by supported decision-making. It further recommends that training be provided on this issue to all relevant public officials and other stakeholders.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 13 CRPD
(Access to Justice)*

September 2025

Article 13 - Access to justice

1. States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages.

2. In order to help to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, States Parties shall promote appropriate training for those working in the field of administration of justice, including police and prison staff.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

Finland (2025)

Kiribati (2025)

Canada (2025)

Dominican Republic (2025)

European Union (2025)

Palau (2025)

Tuvalu (2025)

Viet Nam (2025)

Belarus (2024)

Belgium (2024)

Benin (2024)

Burkina Faso (2024)

Denmark (2024)

Ghana (2024)

Mauritius (2024)

Netherlands (2024)

Ukraine (2024)

Azerbaijan (2024)

Bahrain (2024)

Costa Rica (2024)

Kazakhstan (2024)

Nicaragua (2024)

Sweden (2024)

Zambia (2024)

Andorra (2023)

Austria (2023)

Germany (2023)

Israel (2023)

Malawi (2023)

Mauritania (2023)

Mongolia (2023)

Paraguay (2023)

Angola (2023)

Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)

Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)

Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
New Zealand (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)

China (2012)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 13 on Croatia, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Austria, Argentina, Hungary, Peru, Spain and Tunisia.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of accessible legal services, support mechanisms, and procedures to ensure access to justice for persons with disabilities in the State Party including procedural accommodation, accessible formats, and physical accessibility of court and administrative facilities;

(b) The lack of roles within the justice system filled by persons with disabilities and the lack of information provided on measures taken to promote the recruitment, training and retention of persons with disabilities in the legal profession.

24. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, and endorsed by the Committee, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State Party:

(a) Adopt and implement comprehensive measures to ensure access to the justice system for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including by the provision of free legal aid, information in accessible formats, and procedural and gender-sensitive and age-appropriate accommodations.

(b) Develop specific measures and inclusive policies to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the justice sector, including as lawyers, judges, court staff, and advisors, and provide ongoing capacity-building for all justice actors on the rights enshrined in the Convention.

Finland (2025)

24. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The insufficient provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations in all judicial and administrative proceedings and the lack of adequate training for judicial and administrative personnel on procedural accommodation and access to justice for persons with disabilities;

(b) The delays in administrative court processes that prevent provision of essential support to children and adults with disabilities for lengthy periods of time and administrative court decisions that return matters to the county that effectively requires repetition of the same process, without reasonable prospect of success;

(c) The insufficient measures to respond to the needs of victims and suspected offenders with disabilities;

(d) The lack of resources, including funding for organisations of persons with disabilities to provide legal advice and advocacy and to participate in the design and delivery of training to judicial personnel.

25. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Implement a comprehensive, mandatory strategy to ensure the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities free of charge in all adjudicative civil, criminal and administrative proceedings, including access to certified sign language interpreters, so that persons with disabilities can participate effectively;

(b) Ensure appropriate and mandatory training for all judicial and administrative personnel, including members of the judiciary, administrators, prosecutors, law enforcement, public defenders and prison personnel on the provision of procedural accommodation and access to justice for persons with disabilities, without reasonable prospect of success;

(c) Amend administrative court processes to eliminate delays in the provision of essential support to persons with disabilities, and to ensure that court decisions provide an effective remedy and do not result in repetition of the administrative process;

(d) Take measures to fulfil the rights of victims with disabilities and persons with disabilities suspected or accused of an offence in line with the Convention and obligations under EU law, including the Anti-Trafficking Directive 2024/1712 and Directive 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence, and the EU Victims' Rights Strategy 2020-2025;

(e) Adequately resource and fund organisations of persons with disabilities to provide legal advice and advocacy to persons with disabilities and to participate in the design and delivery of training to judicial and administrative personnel.

Kiribati (2025)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing justice on equal basis with others, including the physical inaccessibility of courtrooms and other public facilities, the absence of qualified sign language interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings and the limited availability of documents and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;

(b) The lack of reasonable and procedural accommodations, in particular for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Insufficient knowledge, training and awareness among legal aid lawyers, police officers and members of the judiciary on working with and representing persons with disabilities.

24. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Accelerate action to comply with the findings of the national accessibility audit by renovating existing public buildings, including courthouses, police stations and all judicial and administrative facilities and guarantee the provision of qualified sign language interpreters as well as documents and information in accessible formats, including Braille, Easy Read, and audio, in all judicial and administrative proceedings;

(b) Guarantee reasonable and procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to enable their effective participation in all stages of judicial proceedings;

(c) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for the judiciary and justice-sector professionals, such as prosecutors and law enforcement officials including police and prison officers, on the provisions of the Convention and on access to justice for persons with disabilities, including on procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities.

Maldives (2025)

25. The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing justice on equal basis with others, including legislation denying legal capacity of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, physical inaccessibility of police stations and court houses, the lack of free legal aid and age- and gender-appropriate procedural accommodations, the lack of accessible information and communication in court proceedings, the insufficient knowledge, training and awareness among legal aid lawyers, police officers and judiciary on working with and representing persons with disabilities, as well as the lack of knowledge among persons with disabilities about their rights and about formal procedures on how to enforce their entitlements and processes to obtain remedies. It is also concerned at the lack of access of persons with disabilities to legal professions.

26. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite the ongoing review of the Penal Code, in particular its Section 62, in order to bring it in line with the Convention;

(b) Adopt and implement effective mechanisms to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with physical and sensory impairments, and measures to provide information in accessible formats, sign language interpretation, and ensure the physical accessibility of police stations, court buildings and all judicial and administrative facilities;

(c) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for the judiciary and justice-sector professionals, such as prosecutors and law enforcement officials including police and prison officers, on the provisions of the Convention and on access to justice for persons with disabilities, including on procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities;

(d) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities may enter the legal professions on an equal basis with others, and ensure individualized support for that purpose.

Canada (2025)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Jurisdictional differences in eligibility and the issues covered by legal aid;

(b) Regional inconsistencies in protocols and processes for accessing procedural and age-appropriate accommodation in the justice system, the over-reliance on medical documentation to request procedural accommodations and disclosure of private medical records in decisions and, insufficient sign language interpretation in courts, tribunals, and police interactions;

(c) Significant delays and backlogs in resolving disability discrimination complaints in many human rights tribunals.

26. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities 2020, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Establish principles and guidelines in funding agreements with provincial and territorial governments to ensure broad legal aid eligibility criteria, expand the issues covered, and that legal aid services are nationally consistent;

(b) Develop nationally consistent protocols and guidelines for the request and provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings, including to prevent over-reliance on medical documentation, to ensure respect for privacy and in relation to the provision of sign language interpretation in courts, tribunals, and police interactions;

(c) Increase resourcing to human rights tribunals in order to expedite disability discrimination complaints and eliminate backlogs.

Dominican Republic (2025)

23. The Committee is concerned about the barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities, in particular:

(a) The ineffectiveness of implementation of the provisions in section VII of Law 5-13 on the equal rights of persons with disabilities related to legal aid provision and sign language interpretation in the legal proceedings;

(b) The limited accessibility of many courthouses and the limited procedural and administrative accommodation in all legal proceedings, in particular the age- or gender-sensitive procedural accommodation;

(c) The limited participation of persons with disabilities as judges, legal advisers or witnesses and the scarcity of measures at the provincial and municipal levels to ensure said participation;

(d) The insufficient training for judges on access to justice for persons with disabilities.

24. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and endorsed by the Committee, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

- (a) Take measures to implement section VII of Law 5-13 on equal rights for persons with disabilities to ensure effective legal assistance provision for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Remove all barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities in general and for women, children and older persons with disabilities in particular, and to inform these groups of the remedies available to them to file complaints and obtain redress;**
- (c) Ensure access to judicial and administrative facilities for all persons with disabilities, by providing accessibility and the provision of alternative and augmentative means of information and communication, such as Braille, sign language, accessible digital formats, Easy Read, audio description and video transcription, throughout legal proceedings;**
- (d) Provide age- and gender-appropriate procedural accommodations in all administrative and judicial proceedings to ensure, through the delivery of support services and free legal representation, that persons with disabilities can participate in the justice system as judges, legal advisers or witnesses and undertake the necessary procedural reforms to ensure that these accommodations are provided;**
- (e) Extend the scope of training on the rights of persons with disabilities to include all justice personnel, including those in rural and remote areas.**

European Union (2025)

34. The Committee observes with concern that:

- (a) Deprivation of legal capacity infringes on persons with disabilities' right to effective access to justice on an equal basis with others, affecting particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (b) Online platforms and digital tools in the justice sector of the European Union are largely inaccessible for persons with disabilities.**

35. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, of 2020, its previous Concluding Observations and Recommendations (para. 39) and recommends that the European Union, within its competences:

- (a) Review its legislation on access to justice and guarantee the right to legal capacity of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings, by, inter alia, ensuring that persons with disabilities can directly participate in all stages of the administrative and justice processes, according to their will and preference, and by establishing remedies for violations of their right to access to justice;**
- (b) Adopt additional criteria and procedures for the provision of support measures and procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities, in all legal proceedings, that include a dialogue with the persons with disabilities concerned to identify their requirements and positive measures to remove physical, communication and attitudinal barriers, a non-exhaustive list of procedural accommodations available, including the provision of legal documents and information on procedures in Easy Read, Braille, augmentative and alternative means and modes of communication;**
- (c) Strengthen capacity building in the justice sector and in public administration about the Convention and its right of access to justice, and consider good practices in Member States, such as the use of intermediaries and/or facilitators;**
- (e) Amend the laws on judicial proceedings to guarantee all fair trial rights of persons with disabilities, including the presumption of innocence, the right to be present in criminal proceedings, to access to interpretation, a lawyer and legal aid, regardless of their legal capacity status;**

(f) Ensure that persons with disabilities are included in the digitalization of justice.

Palau (2025)

23. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Barriers that persons with disabilities continue to face in accessing justice, including the lack of qualified sign language interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings for persons who are deaf, and the lack of documents and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;

(b) Lack of provision of reasonable and procedural accommodations to persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial disabilities, including some legal provisions, such as Section 901, Chapter 9 of the Palau's Code which is inconsistent with the Convention;

(c) Low level of awareness among the judiciary and the police about the rights of persons with disabilities.

24. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement effective mechanisms to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with physical and sensory impairments, including those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind and persons with visual impairments, and measures to provide information in accessible formats, and ensure the physical accessibility of court buildings and all judicial and administrative facilities;

(b) Bring all legislation, including criminal laws and policies, in compliance with the Convention to ensure due process guarantees for all persons with disabilities and ensure a review of Section 901, Chapter 9 of the Palau's Code on the legal situation of persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Strengthen training for the judiciary and law enforcement personnel, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and prison staff, on the rights of persons with disabilities;

(d) Raise awareness among persons with disabilities about their right to access to justice, including legal aid, the remedies and redress available to them through the judicial system.

Tuvalu (2025)

23. The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing justice on equal basis with others, including legislation denying legal capacity of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, physical inaccessibility of police stations and court houses, the lack of free legal aid and age- and gender-appropriate procedural accommodations, the lack of accessible information and communication in court proceedings, the lack of knowledge, training and awareness among legal aid lawyers, police officers and judiciary on working with and representing persons with disabilities, as well as the lack of knowledge among persons with disabilities about their rights and about formal procedures on how to enforce their entitlements and processes to obtain remedies.

24. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement effective mechanisms to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with physical and sensory impairments, and measures

to provide information in accessible formats, and ensure the physical accessibility of police stations, court buildings and all judicial and administrative facilities;

(b) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for the judiciary and justice-sector professionals, such as prosecutors and law enforcement officials including police and prison officers, on the provisions of the Convention and on access to justice for persons with disabilities, including on procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities.

Viet Nam (2025)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities who have received legal advice, the physical accessibility of public prosecutor offices, the availability of information and communication, and whether justice providers have been trained in disability rights;

(b) The absence of information on whether persons with disabilities are employed in the area of access to justice, and if they do, whether the courts are physically accessible, have access to information and communication, and whether current workers have been trained in disability issues;

(c) The failure to apply procedural adjustments with a gender and age approach when persons with disabilities face trial;

(d) The lack of consideration for providing support and procedural accommodations to persons with disabilities in their roles as witnesses, plaintiffs, and defendants, as well as the lack of accessibility in law school entrance exams and of the provision of reasonable accommodations to enable persons with disabilities to pursue legal careers;

(e) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing legal and administrative representation, legal aid, and disability-inclusive legal services, which limit their ability to seek redress for discrimination.

26. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, and endorsed by the Committee, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a mechanism for collecting data disaggregated by sex, age, and type of disability for persons with disabilities who have required support during judicial processes, detailing the types of support provided and their follow-up;

(b) Identify and provide data on the number of persons with disabilities employed in the area of access to justice, ensure that courts are physically accessible, provide access to information and communication, and train justice providers in disability rights;

(c) Analyze and document cases involving persons with disabilities where gender, indigenous, and age approaches, as well as procedural adjustments, have been applied;

(d) Ensure adequate measures to provide support and procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities in their roles as witnesses, plaintiffs, and defendants, and introduce accessibility in pre-career law examinations and provide reasonable accommodations, enabling persons with disabilities to pursue legal careers;

(e) Guarantee access to adequate legal and administrative representation for persons with disabilities, taking into account gender and age considerations, to enable them access to justice when facing discrimination.

Belarus (2024)

25. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Law on Judicial Enforcement Proceedings, and the Instruction on Notarial Procedure lack guarantees in the recruitment of qualified interpreters for deaf persons;

(b) Persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are excluded from participating in court hearings when deciding on the need and possibility of compulsory treatment in a

medical institution, and lack of awareness persists among lawyers on the individual requirements of persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities;

(c) Persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, are sometimes also included in the State party's list of people involved in extremist or terrorist activities;

(d) Law enforcement, judicial staff and judges lack trainings on a regular basis in relation to the knowledge and awareness to undertake effective communication with persons with disabilities;

(e) Court case statistics are not disaggregated by disability, causing difficulties to assess the number of persons with disabilities accessing the justice system;

(f) Persons with disabilities, particularly persons with vision impairments, persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, lack access to judicial materials in accessible formats.

26. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities (OHCHR, 2020), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Harmonize the Law of the Republic of Belarus on Judicial Enforcement Proceedings and any other guideline or policy, in providing deaf people with qualified interpreters in Belarusian sign language;

(b) Provide persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities the possibility of due process with the established safeguards and aids when facing a trial and that lawyers defending persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or with intellectual disabilities are properly trained;

(c) Refrain from including persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, in the State party's list of people involved in extremist or terrorist activities;

(d) Undertake measures to provide regular and standardized trainings for all law enforcement, judicial staff and judges, in developing their knowledge and understanding of communication in relation to all persons with disabilities;

(e) Establish a system of collection and analysis of statistical data on the number of complaints submitted by persons with disabilities, the rates of dismissal or withdrawal of complaints, procedural accommodations provided during proceedings. All data should be disaggregated, including in relation to intersecting forms of discrimination and other relevant sociodemographic characteristics, including the age, sex, gender, geographic location, migrant, asylum seeking and refugee situation.

(f) Ensure the dissemination of all documents during the judicial procedures in all accessible formats.

Belgium (2024)

26. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Age-appropriate and disability and gender responsive procedural accommodations to ensure effective participation in all legal processes are not sufficiently provided;

(b) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons have no guaranteed legal right to a sign language interpreter at no cost in all processes applying law;

(c) Persons with disabilities no longer automatically benefit from free legal aid;

(d) Judicial personnel, such as judges, clerks, magistrates, and others, are often inadequately trained about the individualized requirements of persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, and recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

(a) Put in place age- and gender-responsive procedural accommodations in all judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, be they of civil, criminal or administrative nature, on a no-cost basis, including access to certified sign language interpreters, so that persons with disabilities can participate effectively, including as judges,

clerks, lawyers or witnesses, in such proceedings, and make the necessary procedural changes to provide such accommodation;

(b) Ensure appropriate and mandatory training for all of the State party's judicial and administrative personnel, including members of the judiciary, administrative entities, police officers, prosecutors and prison personnel, on the application of the standards and principles under the Convention to ensure access to justice.

(c) Ensure persons with disabilities have access to affordable legal aid.

Benin (2024)

25. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of information on how persons with disabilities have access in practice to the legal guarantees of the Code of Criminal Procedure;

(b) The barriers that persons with disabilities continue to face in accessing justice, including high costs, the lack of qualified sign language interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings for persons with hearing impairments, and the lack of documents and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of knowledge, training and awareness among police officers and the judiciary about working with persons with disabilities, and the lack of knowledge and capacity among legal aid lawyers in representing persons with disabilities in particular women and children with disabilities as well as persons with intellectual disability and persons with psychosocial disability.

26. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, developed in 2020 under the leadership of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (art. 59, 346 and 425) concerning obligations placed on law enforcement, the judiciary and other justice sector institutions on providing information, procedural accommodation and reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities are fully implemented;

(b) Adopt and implement effective mechanisms to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-responsive accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, persons with hearing impairments. The State party should take measures to provide information in accessible formats and ensure the physical accessibility of court buildings and all judicial and administrative facilities, including in rural and remote areas;

(c) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for the judiciary and justice-sector professionals, such as prosecutors and law enforcement officials, including police and prison officers, on the provisions of the Convention and on access to justice for persons with disabilities.

Burkina Faso (2024)

26. The Committee is concerned about the existence of a number of barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities, including:

(a) The high costs to obtain legal aid and to pay for courts fees, the lack of qualified sign language interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings for persons with an hearing impairment, and the lack of documents and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;

(b) Insufficient training of personnel to guide persons with disabilities through complex administrative and judicial proceedings, including criminal proceedings, and a lack of information in such training about the requirements of persons with disabilities;

(c) That the judicial remedies provided for in certain cases of discrimination based on disability, in particular by Act No. 012-2010/AN of 1 April 2010 on the protection and

promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in Burkina Faso and the Labour Code, remain inaccessible to most persons with disabilities, owing to the lack of procedural facilities and the physical inaccessibility of the courts, including the lack of sign-language interpretation;

(d) Barriers in access to justice for persons with disabilities under guardianship and other substitute decision-making.

27. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, and endorsed by the Committee, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt, in accordance with the Convention, an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, as well as the necessary legal, administrative and judicial measures to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of the judicial process, including making procedural adjustments and providing individualized assistance to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate effectively in the various aspects of legal proceedings, and develop alternative and augmentative means of information and communication, such as with Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription, for use throughout legal proceedings;

(b) Intensify efforts to provide training on the Convention to judicial and law enforcement officials;

(c) Take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities who are subjected to discrimination obtain redress and compensation, and to ensure that perpetrators of discrimination are punished;

(d) Guarantee access to justice for persons under substituted decision-making, those still in institutions or in any form of psychiatric treatment, by repealing legislation that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, recognizing their full capacity to participate in judicial proceedings in different roles, including as witnesses or defendants, and taking measures to eliminate cultural constructs and discriminatory attitudes among the judiciary.

Denmark (2024)

41. The Committee is concerned about barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities across Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, including:

(a) Insufficient provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for the application of law, to facilitate effective participation in all aspects of the judicial system and in all legal proceedings;

(b) Limited knowledge and training within the administrative and judicial system about the rights of persons with disabilities, including the provision of individualised support, to ensure effective participation and disability and gender responsive interviewing techniques for children and adults with disabilities.

42. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, and endorsed by the Committee, the Committee recommends that Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, develop a strategy to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, in administrative and judicial proceedings for the application of law, covering all functions in such proceedings, including the following:

(a) Measures to amend procedural rules in criminal, civil, labour and administrative law that ensure procedural and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities, covering all functions, such as parties to a case, judges, magistrates, administrators, clerks and other court personnel, on a no-cost basis;

(b) Appropriate training for persons in the administrative and judicial system, including members of the judiciary, administrators, police officers, prosecutors and prison personnel, on the application of the rights under the Convention, to ensure the effective guarantee of access to justice.

Ghana (2024)

26. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) There is a lack of a comprehensive policy framework addressing access to justice for persons with disabilities, resulting in significant barriers to navigating the justice system, and the under-resourced Legal Aid Scheme is unable to provide adequate legal services to persons with disabilities who come into conflict with the law.

(b) Women and children with disabilities face barriers in reporting and accessing justice in cases of violence, abuse, and exploitation mainly due to lack of awareness, communication barriers, and high costs;

(c) Police stations, courts, and prisons often lack necessary accommodations and accessible communication formats, such as Easy Read, Braille, large print, tactile communications, and sign language interpreters for persons with disabilities. Additionally, prison and probation officers, as well as other justice system personnel, lack adequate training on disability rights, hindering their capability to effectively support persons with disabilities.

(d) The justice system poses significant barriers, such as requiring persons with disabilities to pay for medical forms confirming abuse and facing mistrust from justice system actors. This mistrust, stemming from prejudices, often leads to doubts about the credibility of testimonies made by persons with disabilities, including allegations of sexual violence.

27. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Develop and adopt a comprehensive policy framework addressing access to justice for persons with disabilities, as provided in Article 29(5) of the Constitution and Section 5 of Act 715, and allocate more resources to the Legal Aid Scheme to ensure it can provide adequate legal services to persons with disabilities who come into conflict with the law.

(b) Implement targeted measures to support women and children with disabilities in reporting and accessing justice in cases of violence, abuse, and exploitation, including increasing awareness, reducing communication barriers, and lowering costs.

(c) Ensure police stations, courts, and prisons are equipped with necessary procedural accommodations and accessible communication methods, such as Braille, large print, tactile communications, and sign language interpreters, and provide comprehensive training on disability rights for all justice system personnel to enhance their ability to effectively support persons with disabilities.

(d) Implement mandatory training for justice system actors to address prejudices and improve the credibility assessment of abuse claims made by persons with disabilities.

Mauritius (2024)

23. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There are delays in replicating the Supreme Court building's physical accessibility features to all courts across the State party, and there are gaps in the availability, provision and awareness of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations for all persons with disabilities throughout the legal process;

(b) There is a lack of widespread and comprehensive knowledge on the Convention among legal professionals, police officers, judges, magistrates, prison officers and other stakeholders, despite its partial incorporation into their training syllabus and the availability of relevant training opportunities by entities such as the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies;

(c) There is an absence of data available on the number of formal cases and complaints involving persons with disabilities, including information on accountability and remedies provided to persons whose rights have been violated.

24. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, which it endorsed in 2020, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expand the scope and awareness of measures to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-responsive accommodations within the justice system, including individualized support, and improve the physical accessibility of court buildings and judicial and administrative facilities, to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate effectively in judicial, administrative and other proceedings at all stages and in all areas of the law;**
- (b) Strengthen training programmes for members of the legal profession, law enforcement, judiciary, prison officers and other justice system personnel on the provisions of the Convention and on access to justice for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on the number of cases involving persons with disabilities at each stage of the legal process in criminal, civil, administrative and other systems as well as mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution, grievances and complaints, including information on accountability and remedies.**

Netherlands (2024)

31. The Committee is concerned about the barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities, namely:

- (a) Restrictions on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with disabilities under guardianship or other forms of substituted decision-making regimes;**
- (b) Limited accessibility of many courthouses, and limited accessibility of legal proceedings in judicial and administrative bodies, especially for persons with disabilities with hearing impairments;**
- (c) The high costs for legal aid and court fees, impeding access to justice for persons with low income, such as persons with disabilities who rely on benefits;**
- (d) Complex appeals procedures and a lack of accessible information.**

32. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, endorsed by the Committee, as well as target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal legislation that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities in judicial and administrative proceedings, and guarantee their access to justice on an equal basis with others, including throughout judicial and administrative proceedings;**
- (b) Ensure access to judicial and administrative facilities for all persons with disabilities, including through universal design, and the provision of alternative and augmentative means of information and communication for use throughout legal proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, accessible digital formats, Easy Read, audio description and video transcription;**
- (c) Take necessary measures to ensure that economic barriers do not impede access to justice, particularly for individuals reliant on disability benefits.**
- (d) Render legal procedures disability- and gender-responsive and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to clear, accessible information and adequate legal assistance and establish a central point for tailored advice and support, that can help persons with disabilities to navigate the complexities of the legal system and exercise their rights effectively.**

Ukraine (2024)

26. The Committee notes with concern that obstacles remain for persons with disabilities to access courts, in particular:

- (a) That judges lack knowledge of international human rights standards on the legal capacity of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Insufficient awareness amongst persons with disabilities about their right to free legal aid;
- (c) The lack of procedural accommodation, including measures to ensure access to courts for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and insufficient sign language interpreters accredited in courts;
- (d) The lack of measures so that persons with disabilities can participate fully as complainants, witnesses, expert witnesses, judges, or clerks.

27. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, and endorsed by the Committee, as well as target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal legislation that creates barriers for persons with disabilities to access justice and ensure the involvement of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings, on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Provide individualized accommodations including age and gender-appropriate, and accessible modes and formats of communication in all judicial procedures, including for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (c) Provide mandatory and ongoing capacity-building programmes, including training on the provisions of the Convention for members of the judiciary and the legal profession;**
- (d) Increase its efforts to empower persons with disabilities as direct or indirect participants in the justice system, including to ensure that persons with disabilities who are qualified can practice the legal profession, as lawyers and court officers, without discrimination.**

Azerbaijan (2024)

29. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The use of the medical model in determining beneficiaries of an advocate at the expense of the state in civil, administrative and criminal court proceedings;
- (b) The provisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure (articles 95.2.1 and 264.2) denying persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities participation in criminal proceedings as witnesses;
- (c) The low number of prosecuted cases of gender-based violence, including sexual violence due to lack of measures to protect the security of women survivors of violence, gender stereotypes and accessibility barriers;
- (d) That financial support is not available to specific organizations representing women and girls in divorce cases regarding issues of property division and child custody.

30. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Concluding Observations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/6, paras. 12 and 24), in 2022, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the human rights model as opposed to the medical model is used in determining the eligibility of persons with disabilities to receive a state paid advocate in civil, administrative and criminal proceedings;**
- (b) Repeal provisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure that deprive persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from testifying as witnesses in criminal proceedings;**
- (c) Develop gender-responsive, procedural and age-appropriate accommodations for women and children with disabilities in cases related to gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and address stereotypes and physical barriers preventing access to justice by women and girls and boys with disabilities;**

(d) Ensure financial grants for organizations providing legal services for women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of law, including civil, administrative, family, labour and criminal spheres of law.

Bahrain (2024)¹

26. The Committee is concerned about the obstacles to access to justice for persons with disabilities, in particular:

- (a) The absence of procedural and administrative accommodations in the justice sector, the judiciary and the relevant administrative system at all stages of litigation.
- (b) Lack of specialised training for staff working in the justice sector on the requirements for enabling persons with disabilities to exercise their right of access to justice.
- (c) Lack of accessibility in security centres and courts and lack of information and means of communication in accessible formats in investigation records and court sessions.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party should:

- (a) Provide procedural and accessibility accommodations for all persons with disabilities in the justice and administrative sectors.**
- (b) Develop, in close consultation and with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations, specialised training for personnel working in the justice and related administrative sectors, including judges, on the right of access to justice for persons with disabilities and the provision of procedural accommodations**
- (c) Develop an implementation plan with a specific time frame to provide accessibility in security centres, courts, places of detention and reform centres, as well as providing information at various stages of litigation in accessible formats for persons with disabilities.**

Costa Rica (2024)

23. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) Que el acceso a la justicia de las personas con discapacidad, en particular las mujeres, los niños, las personas indígenas y afrodescendientes, y las personas de edad con discapacidad es limitado;
- b) La insuficiente disponibilidad de intérpretes cualificados de lengua de señas para los procedimientos administrativos y judiciales, y la inaccesibilidad de los edificios administrativos y judiciales;
- c) La falta de ajustes de procedimiento acordes con la edad y el género en los procedimientos civiles, penales y administrativos, y los escasos servicios de asistencia, ajustes razonables y patrocinio jurídico gratuito a las personas con discapacidad durante todo el proceso, así como la poca participación de las personas con discapacidad como juzgadores, asistentes jurídicos o testigos y las escasas reformas a nivel provincial y municipal que garanticen lo anterior;
- d) La escasa capacitación de todos los juzgadores del país en materia de acceso a la justicia para personas con discapacidad.

24. Recordando los Principios y Directrices Internacionales sobre el Acceso a la Justicia para las Personas con Discapacidad, de 2020, y la meta 16.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Adoptar medidas para eliminar todas las barreras al acceso a la justicia para las personas con discapacidad en general, en particular las mujeres, los niños, las personas indígenas y afrodescendientes, y las personas de edad con discapacidad, y adoptar medidas para informar a esos grupos de los recursos de que disponen para interponer denuncias y obtener reparación;**
- b) Garantizar la disponibilidad de intérpretes calificados de lengua de señas en los procedimientos administrativos y judiciales, acelerar la evaluación y el desarrollo de normas**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

sobre la accesibilidad de los edificios administrativos y judiciales, en estrecha consulta y con la participación activa de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad y aplicarlas rápidamente, y proporcionar decisiones administrativas y judiciales en formatos accesibles;

c) Establecer ajustes de procedimiento, adecuados a la edad y el género, en todas las diligencias judiciales para asegurar la participación efectiva de las personas con discapacidad, también como juzgadores, asesores judiciales o testigos, por medio de servicios de asistencia y patrocinio jurídico gratuito, y realice las reformas procesales necesarias que garanticen estos ajustes;

d) Ampliar el alcance de la capacitación sobre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, para que llegue a la totalidad del personal de justicia del Estado parte, incluidas las áreas rurales y remotas.

Kazakhstan (2024)

29. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Legislation, including articles 323-328 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and practice restricting access to justice for persons with disabilities under substitute decision-making regimes, in centres for the provision of special social services, for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and for children with disabilities due to age limit requirements;
- (b) The limited provision of procedural, gender and age-appropriate accommodation in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings due to a lack of awareness about available procedural accommodation among members of the judiciary, the bar, and persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;
- (c) The physical inaccessibility of a part of the courts and of other judicial and administrative facilities, and the lack of information about court proceedings in accessible formats;
- (d) The exclusion of children with disabilities, notably children with psycho-neurological conditions, from free legal aid services.

30. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal legislation that restricts the right of persons with disabilities to participate in judicial and administrative proceedings, and recognize their capacity to participate in judicial and administrative proceedings in all roles, on an equal basis with others, and ensure availability of legal aid in all areas of the State party;
- (b) Guarantee procedural, gender and age-appropriate accommodation in all judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, for all types of impairment and based on individual requirements, and ensure access to official information and communication about such proceedings in accessible formats including Braille, Easy Read and sign language;
- (c) Render all court buildings and judicial and administrative facilities accessible, particularly by means of universal design, to guarantee access to judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;
- (d) Ensure access to affordable legal aid for children with disabilities of any type of impairment, and establish procedures for them to express their views in the determination of the best interests of the child, by providing procedural accommodation appropriate to their age, maturity and specific disability-related requirements.

Nicaragua (2024)

24. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) Los escasos avances en el establecimiento de accesibilidad física, a la información y comunicación en todos los sitios de impartición de justicia del país, incluyendo en las áreas rurales, que no se cuente con suficientes intérpretes de lengua de señas nicaragüense para

los procesos judiciales de las personas sordas, y la limitada capacitación a juzgadores sobre acceso a la justicia de las personas con discapacidad en todo el país;

b) Que la Ley Integral contra la Violencia hacia las Mujeres (Ley 779), no sea interseccional, al no especificar sobre mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, personas LGBT, mujeres indígenas con discapacidad, que no contemple el delito de tráfico de personas y que priorice la mediación en casos de violencia contra las mujeres;

c) La falta de información sobre implementación de ajustes de procedimiento acordes con la edad y el género en los procedimientos civiles, penales y administrativos, si existen servicios de asistencia, ajustes razonables y patrocinio jurídico gratuito a las personas con discapacidad durante todo el proceso, así como si ha habido reformas a nivel provincial que garanticen lo anterior;

d) La falta de independencia del poder judicial y de la fiscalía general y el sesgo judicial de género y que más del 50 por ciento de los procedimientos en casos de violencia de género, incluida la violencia sexual, se sobreesen o acaban en sentencias absolutorias y que las Oficinas de Familia suelen disuadir a las mujeres de presentar denuncias en casos de violencia de género;

25. Recordando los Principios y Directrices Internacionales sobre el Acceso a la Justicia para las Personas con Discapacidad, de 2020, y la meta 16.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Tomar medidas urgentes para garantizar la accesibilidad física, a la información y a la comunicación en todos los sitios de acceso a la justicia, incluidos los suficientes intérpretes de LSN, documentos en braille y en lectura fácil, así como la capacitación al total de los juzgadores en todo el país, incluidas las áreas rurales;

b) Establecer un protocolo de acceso a la justicia para personas con discapacidad con ajustes de procedimiento acordes con la edad y el género en los procedimientos civiles, en todos los juzgados del país, incluidas las áreas rurales, estableciendo el debido proceso, ajustes razonables y patrocinio jurídico gratuito a las personas con discapacidad durante todo el proceso para todas, incluyendo a personas con discapacidad detenidas por motivos políticos a quienes se les debe respetar sus garantías procesales como prioridad;

c) Garantizar la capacitación continua, así como la independencia de los jueces y la rendición de cuentas de fiscales y policías en casos de violencia de género.

Sweden (2024)

29. The Committee is concerned about barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities, including:

(a) Limited procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in particular for neurodivergent persons;

(b) Limited knowledge, training and competence within the justice system regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, including disability-specific interviewing techniques for children and adults with disabilities;

(c) Limited access to the legal aid system and financial barriers to obtaining legal representation.

30. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities develop a national disability justice strategy that includes:

(a) Measures to amend procedural rules in criminal, civil, labour and administrative law that ensure procedural and age-appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities on a no-cost basis;

(b) Appropriate training for those in the justice system, including members of the judiciary, police officers, prosecutors and prison personnel, on the application of Convention standards and principles to ensure access to justice;

(c) Review the Legal Aid Act to remove financial barriers to legal representation, in particular for administrative and discrimination law cases.

Zambia (2024)

25. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The barriers that persons with disabilities continue to face in accessing justice, including high costs, the lack of qualified sign language interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings for persons who are deaf, and the lack of documents and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of knowledge among persons with disabilities about their rights and about formal procedures on how to enforce their entitlements and process to obtain remedies;
- (c) The lack of knowledge, training and awareness among legal aid lawyers, police officers and judiciary on working with and representing persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities;
- (d) The State party's reliance on civil society to conduct disability rights capacity building for justice officials.

26. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the implementation of the National Legal Aid Policy (2018), and take legal, administrative and judicial measures to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities at all stages of administrative and judicial procedures;**
- (b) Ensure that provisions in the Persons with Disabilities Act with regard to obligations placed on law enforcement and the judiciary and other justice sector institutions on providing information, procedural accommodation, as well as reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities are fully implemented;**
- (c) Adopt and implement effective mechanisms to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, and measures to provide information in accessible formats, and ensure the physical accessibility of court buildings and all judicial and administrative facilities, including in rural and remote areas;**
- (d) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for the judiciary and justice-sector professionals, such as prosecutors and law enforcement officials including police and prison officers, on the provisions of the Convention and on access to justice for persons with disabilities.**

Andorra (2023)

27. The Committee notes the following with concern:

- (a) Article 27 of the Criminal Code excludes from liability certain individuals "who are unable to understand the wrongfulness of the act owing to a mental disorder or impairment";
- (b) The limited information on the accessibility of judicial premises and proceedings, and about the availability of procedural accommodation and legal aid for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The insufficient training of court and other officials in the justice system on the rights of persons with disabilities.

28. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, of 2020, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend article 27 of the Criminal Code, and guarantee the participation of persons with disabilities in administrative and judicial proceedings in all roles, on an equal basis with others;**

(b) Provide gender-sensitive and age-appropriate procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings, ensuring the accessibility of the physical, information and communication aspects, including the provision of professional sign language interpreters, the use of Braille, Easy Read and audio and video transcription, and the access to legal aid services;

(c) Strengthen mandatory and ongoing capacity-building programmes on the Convention for the judiciary and justice-sector professionals, prosecutors, notaries, and law enforcement officials, including police and prison officers.

Austria (2023)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient availability of qualified sign language interpreters for administrative and court proceedings, inaccessibility of some administrative and court buildings, a wide-spread lack of administrative and court decisions in accessible formats, and insufficient accessibility of administrative and court hearings online;

(b) The denial of legal standing to any person with disabilities subject to substitute decision-making within the ambit of the substitution.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the availability of qualified sign language interpreters in administrative and court proceedings, expedite the evaluation and development of standards on the accessibility of administrative and court buildings, in close consultation with and the active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, and implement them expeditiously, provide administrative and court decisions in accessible formats, and render administrative and court hearings online accessible;

(b) Amend the laws to remove the exclusion of persons with disabilities subject to substitute decision-making from legal standing.

Germany (2023)

27. The Committee is concerned about access to justice barriers for persons with disabilities, including:

(a) The lack of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations within the justice sector and the costs incurred by persons with disabilities in providing their own accommodations and support to facilitate effective participation in the legal proceedings;

(b) The lack of understanding by legal professionals about access to justice for persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of accessible judicial facilities, information and communications.

28. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation with and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, develop a national disability justice strategy to:

(a) Amend the procedural rules in criminal, civil, labour and administrative law to ensure procedural and age-appropriate accommodations are provided to persons with disabilities in all proceedings on a no cost basis;

(b) Ensure appropriate training of those working in the field of administration of justice, including the judiciary, police and prison personnel on Convention standards and principles to ensure access to justice;

(c) Ensure that judicial facilities, information and communications are accessible.

Israel (2023)

29. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Gaps in the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations for all persons with disabilities in all proceedings that fall outside the application of the Investigation and testimony Procedures (Adjustments for persons with mental and intellectual disabilities) Law 5766/2005, such as the provision of justice intermediaries;

(b) Attitudinal barriers among the Police, and the judiciary that limit participation of women with disabilities in judicial proceedings and the exercise of their rights as victims or witnesses, particularly in cases of gender-based violence.

30. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, of 2020, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Expand the scope of measures to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations within the justice system, including by establishing a cost-free system for the provision of justice intermediaries, video testimony, alternative and augmentative modes of communication, communication support people, sign language interpreters and captioning in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities in all areas of law;

(b) Strengthen training programmes among judges, the legal profession, the Police and justice system personnel on access to justice for persons with disabilities.

Malawi (2023)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) That persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities are not recognized as witnesses in criminal proceedings and the lack of measures across the legal system to recognize defendants who are persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, and to provide them with procedural accommodation required;

(b) Physical and attitudinal barriers in rural areas that lead to underreporting and lack of remedies for women and girls with disabilities survivors of gender-based violence. Particularly, it is concerned that women and girls with disabilities can not reach out police stations and file complaints and that cases of violence against women and girls with disabilities are often disregarded by the village head;

(c) The lack of information about legal proceedings in accessible formats, including through sign language interpretation, which limits access to justice by women with intellectual disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities, women with hearing impairments and women who are deaf-blind;

(d) That legal aid lawyers, the Police, the judiciary lack information and training to work and represent persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities.

28. Recalling the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, of 2020, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that legislation recognizes the right of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, to participate in judicial proceedings, including as defendants and witnesses, and introduce the legal duty to provide persons with disabilities with procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations;

(b) Conduct research and establish mechanisms at the community level to ensure that community justice systems recognise and adjudicate cases, including gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and redress survivors. The State party should develop programmes to raise awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities among community heads with roles in managing community-based programmes;

(c) Ensure the provision of interpretation services throughout judicial proceedings, and prepare information in accessible formats, including in Braille, Easy Read, augmentative and alternative communication;

(d) Set up systematic training, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, academia and the Malawi Law Society for the legal profession, in particular legal aid lawyers, the police, the judiciary on the Convention and the application of the human rights model of disability in their functions and work.

Mauritania (2023)

25. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities face barriers in their access to justice, including attitudinal barriers and prejudice among administrative and court personnel, insufficient training of personnel to guide persons with disabilities through complex

administrative and judicial proceedings, including criminal proceedings, and a lack of information in such training about the requirements of persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities (2020), endorsed by the Committee, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt, in accordance with the Convention, an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, and take the legal, administrative and judicial measures necessary to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of administrative and judicial procedures;

(b) Provide age- and gender-appropriate procedural accommodation, including individualized assistance, to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate effectively in administrative and judicial proceedings at all stages and in all areas of the law;

(c) Make use of alternative means of information and communication for use throughout administrative and judicial proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription, apply the principle of universal design and adopt an action plan to ensure physical access to all facilities in which administrative and judicial procedures take place;

(d) Intensify the provision of training on the Convention to administrative, judicial and law enforcement officials, including to judges.

Mongolia (2023)

27. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the persistence of barriers that persons with disabilities face with regard to access to justice, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with hearing disability due to lack of procedural accommodation, the lack of accessible information and communication in the context of legal procedures, and the inaccessibility of buildings and toilets;

(b) The lack of capacity building program on human rights of persons with disabilities to judiciary and justice sector professionals, policymakers and lawmakers, medical, health and social workers, and all other professionals in the justice system.

28. The Committee refers to its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/MNG/CO/1, para. 23), recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and endorsed by the Committee, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt, in accordance with the Convention, an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, as well as the necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to eliminate all barriers to the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of the judicial process;

(b) Develop alternative and augmentative means of information and communication for use throughout legal proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription, apply the principle of universal design and adopt an action plan to ensure physical access to all justice facilities, including buildings and toilets, and accessible transportation;

(c) Strengthen professional development programmes for judges, other judicial officials, administrative professionals and other relevant government officials on the provisions of the Convention and the human rights model of disability and their implementation in domestic law.

Paraguay (2023)

25. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) Que no se reporten avances en la aprobación y aplicación del Protocolo de Acceso a la Justicia para Personas con Discapacidad;

b) La Resolución N.º 886/14 sólo “insta” y no obliga a los defensores públicos a la aplicación de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad;

- c)La falta de implementación de los criterios de accesibilidad física universal en todos los sitios de impartición de justicia del país, y la necesidad de incorporar intérpretes de Lengua de Señas Paraguaya al plantel permanente del Poder Judicial;
- d)La escasa capacitación de todos los juzgadores del país en materia de acceso a la justicia para personas con discapacidad;
- e)La falta de información sobre los avances de las acciones del Consejo Nacional de Acceso a la Justicia y si contempla horizontalmente a las personas con discapacidad;
- f)La falta de ajustes de procedimiento acordes con la edad y el género en los procedimientos civiles, penales y administrativos, y los escasos servicios de asistencia, ajustes razonables y patrocinio jurídico gratuito a las personas con discapacidad durante todo el proceso, así como la poca participación de las personas con discapacidad como juzgadores, asistentes jurídicos o testigos y las escasas reformas a nivel provincial y municipal que garanticen lo anterior;
- g)La carencia de reformas a la legislación penal para que las sanciones aplicables a personas con discapacidad psicosocial o intelectual estén sujetas a las mismas garantías y tengan las mismas condiciones que cualquier otra persona sometida a un proceso, previendo en su caso, aplicación de ajustes razonables y de procedimiento;
- h)La falta de información del proceso aplicado a las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial que se encuentran actualmente dentro del sistema penitenciario esperando juicio.

26.Recordando los Principios y Directrices Internacionales sobre el Acceso a la Justicia para las Personas con Discapacidad aceptados por el Comité, (2020), y la meta 16.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a)Aprobar el Protocolo de Acceso a la Justicia para Personas con Discapacidad a la brevedad posible y garantizar su estricta aplicación;
- b)Reformar la Resolución No. 886/14 para que exista la obligatoriedad por parte de los defensores de justicia a ejercer su oficio sobre las bases de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad;
- c)Asegurar la accesibilidad física de los edificios de los tribunales y de las instancias judiciales y administrativas acelerando la implementación de los criterios de accesibilidad física universal y la comunicación sobre los procedimientos en formatos accesibles, a través de la incorporación de intérpretes en lengua de señas y facilitadores de la comunicación al plantel permanente del Poder Judicial, y el uso de un lenguaje sencillo, entre otras cosas;
- d)Ampliar el alcance de la capacitación sobre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, para que llegue al total de personal de justicia del Estado parte incluidas las áreas rurales y remotas;
- e)Asegurar que las acciones del Consejo Nacional de Acceso a la Justicia se extiendan a las personas con discapacidad;
- f)Establecer ajustes de procedimiento, adecuados a la edad y al género, en todas las diligencias judiciales para asegurar la participación efectiva de las personas con discapacidad, incluso como juzgadores, asesores judiciales o testigos, por medio de servicios de asistencia y patrocinio jurídico gratuito y realizar las reformas procesales necesarias a nivel provincial que garanticen estos ajustes;
- g)Revisar la legislación actual para que las sanciones aplicables a personas con discapacidad psicosocial y/o intelectual estén sujetas a las mismas garantías y tengan las mismas condiciones que cualquier otra persona sometida a un proceso, previendo en su caso aplicación de ajustes razonables y de procedimiento;
- h)Revisar la situación procesal de las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial que se encuentran actualmente en el sistema penitenciario esperando juicio, para garantizar sus derechos.

Angola (2023)

21.The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities still face barriers to access justice, including in the form of attitudinal barriers and prejudices amongst court officials, the

lack of reasonable accommodation for them, the insufficient training of court and other officials to guide them through complex judicial processes and proceedings, and the lack of information as to whether persons with disabilities participated in the development, delivery or evaluation of such training. The Committee is also concerned that no procedural accommodations have yet been made to guarantee effective access to justice for all persons with disabilities. It further notes the lack of measures adopted to ensure that they have access to the legal profession.

22. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Convention and the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities;

(b) Take all the necessary legal, administrative and other measures to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities at all stages of the judicial process, and adopt measures to ensure their effective participation in judicial proceedings such as through procedural accommodation and individualized assistance, and through the use of alternative and augmentative means of information and communication in accordance with the needs of persons with different disabilities, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription;

(c) Adopt an action plan to ensure physical access to all justice facilities, including through accessible transportation, incorporating the principle of universal design;

(d) Intensify efforts to provide training on the rights and obligations established by the Convention to justice and law enforcement officials, especially in rural areas;

(e) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can enter the legal professions on an equal basis with others, and take steps to ensure individualized support for that purpose.

Argentina (2023)

27. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) La limitada implementación de ajustes de procedimiento acordes con la edad y el género en los procedimientos civiles, penales y administrativos, así como la falta de reformas a nivel provincial que garanticen ajustes de procedimiento;

b) El limitado avance en materia de accesibilidad física de los tribunales y de las instancias judiciales y administrativas, de la información y comunicación, en particular para las personas sordas y las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial;

c) El limitado alcance de servicios de asistencia, ajustes razonables y patrocinio jurídico gratuito a las personas con discapacidad durante todo el proceso y la asignación insuficiente de recursos para el Programa para la Asistencia a Personas con Discapacidad en sus Relaciones con la Administración de Justicia;

d) El limitado alcance de la capacitación de los operadores de justicia, reflejada en sentencias en las que se valora especialmente el diagnóstico médico como base para la restricción de la capacidad jurídica de personas con discapacidad.

28. Recordando los Principios y Directrices Internacionales sobre el Acceso a la Justicia para las Personas con Discapacidad, de 2020, y la meta 16.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Garantizar los ajustes de procedimiento adecuados a la edad y al género en todas las diligencias judiciales para asegurar la participación efectiva de las personas con discapacidad, y realizar las reformas procesales a nivel provincial que garanticen estos ajustes;

b) Asegurar la accesibilidad física de los edificios de los tribunales y de las instancias judiciales y administrativas, en particular por medio del diseño universal, y el acceso a los medios oficiales de información y comunicación sobre los procedimientos en formatos

accesibles, entre otras cosas a través de intérpretes en lengua de señas, facilitadores de la comunicación y el uso de un lenguaje sencillo;

c) Ampliar el alcance del Programa para la Asistencia a Personas con Discapacidad en sus Relaciones con la Administración de Justicia, dotándolo de mayores recursos humanos y presupuesto, a fin de garantizar servicios de asistencia y patrocinio jurídico gratuito o asequible a las personas con discapacidad durante todo el juicio;

d) Intensificar las capacitaciones sistemáticas a los operadores de justicia sobre la Convención, incluyendo el derecho a la capacidad jurídica de todas las personas con discapacidad, la accesibilidad, los ajustes razonables y los ajustes de procedimiento.

Georgia (2023)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The "Law of Georgia Criminal Procedure Code Georgia", excluding persons with disabilities "not able to adequately comprehend, memorize and recollect the circumstances that are essential to the case, and to give information or testimony" from being interrogated as a witnesses, including in cases of alleged abuse, and denying persons with disabilities undergoing compulsory psychiatric treatment the right to request a review of the treatment by a judicial authority;

(b) The lack of accessibility and effective procedural accommodation in judicial and administrative procedures;

(c) The lack of information about legal aid and remedies, including access to a lawyer, for persons with disabilities;

d) Reports of impunity for abuses by law enforcement officials;

(e) Reports of online harassment towards persons with disabilities not prosecuted despite the existence of criminal provisions against online harassment.

28. **The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, of 2020, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal all legal provisions that restrict the right of persons with disabilities to participate in administrative and judicial proceedings and recognize their right to participate in administrative and judicial proceedings in all roles, on an equal basis with others;**

(b) **Provide gender- and age-appropriate procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities ensuring physical, information and communication accessibility of administrative and judicial procedures, including the provision of professional sign language interpreters and the use of Braille;**

(c) **Guarantee persons with disabilities access to legal aid services, particularly to competent lawyers and actively inform persons with disabilities about their rights;**

(d) **Expand independent monitoring mechanisms for law enforcement to issues of access to justice, and ensure that reports of abuse of persons with disabilities are investigated effectively;**

(e) **Strengthen training for law enforcement officials and the legal profession about the equal rights of persons with disabilities to access to justice and to ensure provisions in the Convention are invoked in conducting judicial proceedings and in judicial decisions;**

(f) **Establish effective mechanisms to enforce existing laws against hate-crimes, in particular online harassment, against persons with disabilities and introduce accessible tools and information, including in Easy Read, to provide persons with disabilities with information about the status of their complaints.**

Peru (2023)

26. Al Comité le preocupa que:

a) El acceso a la justicia de las personas con discapacidad es limitado, en particular para las personas con discapacidad de comunidades indígenas, las mujeres y las niñas víctimas de violencia o abusos;

b) Los ajustes procesales para personas con discapacidad no están previstos en el Código Procesal Penal y los jueces necesitan información adicional y capacitación sobre cómo implementarlos;

c) El artículo 162 del Código Procesal Penal restringe la posibilidad de prestar testimonio en función de la "idoneidad física o psíquica", lo que equivale a una discriminación basada en la discapacidad real o percibida;

d) Personas con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial han sido declaradas "inimputables", bajo el concepto regulado por el artículo 20 del Código Penal, en ausencia de garantías procesales en el proceso penal, y privadas de su libertad como consecuencia de ello;

e) La inaccesibilidad física de la mayoría de los tribunales y de las instancias judiciales y administrativas en el Estado parte.

27. Recordando los Principios y Directrices Internacionales sobre el Acceso a la Justicia para las Personas con Discapacidad, de 2020, y la meta 16.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

a) **Garantice la participación de personas con discapacidad en distintas calidades en todas las etapas del proceso judicial y administrativo y establezca un programa de formación permanente para todo el sector de la justicia con el fin de que se conozcan y garanticen los derechos de las personas con discapacidad;**

b) **Garantice ajustes procesales adecuados a la edad en todas las diligencias judiciales para las personas con discapacidad, independientemente de su discapacidad, y sufrague los costos de los ajustes procesales, y el acceso a los medios oficiales de información y comunicación sobre los procedimientos en formatos accesibles, entre otras cosas, a través del subtítulo para personas sordas, servicios de intermediarios el braille, los formatos de lectura fácil y la lengua de señas;**

c) **Modifique el Código Penal y el Código Procesal Penal, con la participación y en estrecha consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, para garantizar el derecho de acceso a la justicia de las personas con discapacidad en igualdad de condiciones con las demás, incluso mediante la provisión de ajustes procesales.**

d) **Revise y rectifique los casos de personas con discapacidad que actualmente se encuentran privadas de libertad por haber sido declaradas inimputables y les proporcione recursos efectivos para presentar quejas sobre violaciones a sus derechos;**

e) **Garantice la accesibilidad física de los tribunales y de las instancias judiciales y administrativas, en particular por medio del diseño universal, para garantizar el acceso de las personas con discapacidad a las diligencias judiciales en igualdad de condiciones con los demás.**

voluntad y preferencias, con un enfoque que tenga en cuenta el género, la edad y la cultura.

Togo (2023)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of measures taken to implement Act No. 2013-010 on legal aid;

(b) The barriers that persons with disabilities continue to face in accessing justice, including the lack of qualified sign language interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings for persons who are deaf, and the lack of documents and information in accessible formats for persons with other disabilities.

28. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt measures to ensure effective implementation of Act No. 2013-010 of 27 May 2013 on legal aid and article 41 of Act No. 2004-005 regarding the provision of legal assistance for women with disabilities in relation to marriage disputes in order to ensure provision of support to persons with disabilities, including in rural areas;**

(b) **Adopt and implement effective mechanisms to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons**

with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, and measures to provide information in accessible formats, and ensure the physical accessibility of court buildings and all judicial and administrative facilities, including in rural and remote areas;

(c) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for the judiciary and justice-sector professionals, such as prosecutors and law enforcement officials including police and prison officers, on the provisions of the Convention and on access to justice for persons with disabilities.

Tunisia (2023)

21. The Committee is concerned by the lack of knowledge about the rights of persons with disabilities among law enforcement and judicial officers as well as the insufficient number of interpreters to support the cases of persons with disabilities, in particular persons who are deaf or hard of hearing or deafblind, which leads the courts to ask professional interpreters or family members to interpret and therefore, be involved in the cases, or postpone the hearings. It is also concerned that the legal support to persons with disabilities is only provided for those who have the Disability card, which is conditional on not exceeding a certain financial level.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Set up trainings for the police, prison personnel, and court officials on a human rightsbased approach to persons with disabilities, taking into account gender and age;**
- (b) Provide procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities, such as free or affordable legal assistance, sign language interpretation for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, or the provision of documents in accessible format, including in Easy Read, in civil, administrative and penal cases, regardless of the requirement of the disability card.**

Bangladesh (2022)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of procedural and gender and age-appropriate accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or deafblind, particularly measures to provide information in accessible formats, such as Braille, Easy Read and sign language, and to ensure the physical accessibility of court buildings and all judicial and administrative facilities, including in rural and remote areas;**
- (b) Prejudices, stereotypes and intimidation against women with disabilities by judicial authorities when trying to access justice;**
- (c) Insufficient awareness and training for all interlocutors in the justice system, concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, and the absence of reasonable accommodation to enable persons with disabilities to act as lawyers, judges, jurors and other professions in the judiciary.**

28. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement effective mechanisms to ensure procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations in judicial and administrative proceedings for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind, and measures to provide information in accessible formats, and ensure the physical accessibility of court buildings and all judicial and administrative facilities, including in rural and remote areas;**

(b) Combat all prejudices, disability stereotypes and stigma, and eliminate all barriers, including intimidation against women with disabilities, so that the judicial process is disability and gender-sensitive;

(c) Ensure effective training for judicial personnel, including the police and prison staff, to comprehend the rights of persons with disabilities and provide individualized support and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities who wish to act as lawyers, judges, jurors and other professions in the judiciary.

China (2022)

30. The Committee notes with concern barriers that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with hearing impairments, face in the justice system due to the lack of procedural accommodation, lack of accessible information and communication on legal procedures and inaccessible buildings.

31. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities (2020) prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Sustainable Development Goal 16, target 3, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement The Guiding Opinions of the Supreme People's Court on Comprehensively Promoting the Construction of Litigation Service Centres in the People's Courts (2014) to ensure access to justice for persons with disabilities, including by providing reasonable accommodation for illiterate persons with hearing impairments and negotiating accommodations with applicants, such as providing Braille, Easy Read, audio and video transcription and interpreters of "natural sign language" in courts;

(b) Strengthen professional development programmes for the judiciary, judicial and administrative professionals and other relevant government officials on the provisions of the Convention and the human rights model of disability and their implementation in domestic law.

Indonesia (2022)

32. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to justice for persons with disabilities, including lack of physical access to courts and other justice facilities, attitudinal barriers and prejudice among court personnel, as well the lack of procedural and age and gender appropriate accommodations, such as trained personnel to guide persons with disabilities through judicial processes and the provision of sign language interpreters.

33. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, including measures to eliminate physical and attitudinal barriers to all justice facilities and to implement the necessary legal, administrative and judicial measures for the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of the judicial process;

(b) Make procedural and age-appropriate adjustments, including the provision of individualized assistance, to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate effectively in the various aspects of legal proceedings;

(c) Ensure access to alternative and augmentative means of information and communication for use throughout legal proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription;

(d) Strengthen training on the Convention to justice and law enforcement officials, including in rural areas and remote islands.

Japan (2022)

29. The Committee notes with concern the:

(a) Provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure and the Code of Criminal Procedure, restricting access to justice for persons with disabilities under substituted decision-making regimes,

those in residential institutions, as well as persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities by reason of the perceived lack of their litigation capacity;

(b) Lack of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings to ensure effective participation of persons with disabilities, and the lack of accessible information and communication for them;

(c) Physical inaccessibility of courts, judicial and administrative facilities.

30. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities (2020) prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Sustainable Development Goal 16, target 3, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal legal provisions that restrict the right of persons with disabilities to participate in judicial proceedings, and recognise their full capacity to participate in judicial proceedings in all roles on equal basis with others;

(b) Guarantee procedural and age-appropriate accommodations in all judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities, regardless the impairment of the concerned person, including coverage of the litigation charges for accommodations, and access to official information and communication about proceedings in accessible formats, including information and communication technologies, captioning, autism referent persons, Braille, Easy Read and Sign language;

(c) Ensure physical accessibility of court buildings, judicial and administrative facilities, particularly, by means of universal design, to guarantee equal access to judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities on equal basis with others.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

22. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of access to justice by persons with disabilities, in particular, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing, as a result of the absence of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, and the lack of access to physical facilities, information and communication procedures used in the administration of justice;

(b) Inaccessible legal clinics, dissemination platforms, such as the "LaoLaw" mobile phone application, as well as lack of mainstreaming disability within the Village Mediation Unit services and lack of free legal aid in accessible formats, in particular, for persons who are blind and deaf;

(c) The insufficient understanding of persons with disabilities about legal proceedings, and limited awareness among the judiciary and law enforcement officials about the rights of persons with disabilities.

23. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures to provide legal assistance and gender- and age-appropriate procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities to enable their participation in all legal procedures on an equal basis with others, including by facilitating the use of the communication method of their choice in judicial interactions, such as sign language, Braille, Easy Read, captioning, augmentative and alternative communication devices, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication;

(b) Ensure disability inclusion in justice services, particularly Village Mediation Units, Legal Aid Offices, and Courts, and guarantee the accessibility of dissemination platforms such as the "LaoLaw" mobile applications;

(c) Ensure regular training programmes for lawyers, court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers, including police and prison officers, on the rights of persons with disabilities, and awareness-raising efforts for all persons with disabilities.

New Zealand (2022)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The over-representation of persons with disabilities in the care and protection, youth justice and prison populations and
- (b) The lack of free independent advocacy and legal representation.

24. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Develop a disability justice strategy to address the over-representation of persons with disabilities in the care and protection, youth justice and prison populations, including by strengthening age-appropriate procedural accommodations, measures to prevent persons with disabilities coming into contact with the justice system, and training on disability rights in the justice and care and protection systems;**
- (b) Establish and adequately resource free independent advocacy and increase resources for community legal advice services.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

29. The Committee is concerned at the continued existence of restrictions that interfere with the full access to justice of persons with disabilities on an equal footing with others.

30. The Committee refers to its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/KOR/CO/1, para. 24), recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt, in accordance with the Convention, an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, as well as the necessary legal, administrative and judicial measures to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of the judicial process;**
- (b) Make procedural adjustments, including the provision of individualized assistance, to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate effectively in the various aspects of legal proceedings;**
- (c) Develop alternative and augmentative means of information and communication for use throughout legal proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription, apply the principle of universal design and adopt an action plan to ensure physical access to all justice facilities, including through accessible transportation;**
- (d) Intensify efforts to provide training on the Convention to justice and law enforcement officials;**
- (e) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities may enter the legal professions on an equal basis with others, and ensure individualized support for that purpose.**

Singapore (2022)

27. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities face barriers in their access to justice, including attitudinal barriers and prejudice among administrative and court personnel, insufficient training of personnel to guide persons with disabilities through complex administrative and judicial proceedings, including criminal proceedings, and a lack of information about the requirements of persons with disabilities in such training. The Committee is also concerned about the practice of the courts to base their assessment of the requirements for individualized procedural accommodations solely on medical evaluations.

28. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities of 2020, endorsed by the Committee, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt, in accordance with the Convention, an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, as well as the necessary legal, administrative and judicial measures to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of administrative and judicial procedures;**

- (b) Provide age- and gender-appropriate procedural accommodation, including individualized assistance, to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate effectively in administrative and judicial proceedings at all stages and in all areas of the law;
- (c) Develop alternative means of information and communication for use throughout administrative and judicial proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video transcription, apply the principle of universal design and adopt an action plan to ensure physical access to all facilities in which administrative and judicial procedures take place;
- (d) Intensify the provision of training on the Convention to administrative, judicial and law enforcement officials, including to judges.

Hungary (2022)

26. The Committee notes with concern the barriers that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, those placed under the substitute decision-making regime, those in residential and psychiatric institutions and persons with physical disabilities, face in the justice system owing to the lack of procedural and age-appropriate accommodation, the lack of accessible information and communication on legal procedures and inaccessible buildings.

27. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that all necessary and effective procedural safeguards and accommodations are in place so that all persons who have restricted legal capacity and those placed in residential and psychiatric facilities can have access to an effective judicial review of decisions affecting them and to free and effective legal representation in all proceedings;
- (b) Revise the Code on Civil Procedure and the Criminal Proceedings Act to guarantee procedural and age-appropriate accommodation for all persons with disabilities in any legal circumstances by developing alternative and augmentative means of information and communication, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read, symbol systems and audio and video transcription.

Jamaica (2022)

26. While noting the provisions of section 17A of the Legal Act, which guarantees legal aid for persons with disabilities, the Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities face barriers in terms of access to justice, including attitudinal barriers and prejudices among court personnel, insufficient training of personnel to guide persons with disabilities through complex judicial processes and proceedings, and a lack of information about the participation of persons with disabilities in such training. The Committee is also concerned that no procedural accommodations have yet been made to guarantee effective access to justice for all persons with disabilities and to ensure that persons with disabilities may enter the legal professions.

27. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt, in accordance with the Convention, an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, as well as the necessary legal, administrative and judicial measures to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of the judicial process;
- (b) Make procedural adjustments, including the provision of individualized assistance, to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate effectively in the various aspects of legal proceedings;
- (c) Develop alternative and augmentative means of information and communication for use throughout legal proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read and audio and video

transcription, apply the principle of universal design and adopt an action plan to ensure physical access to all justice facilities, including through accessible transportation;

(d) Intensify efforts to provide training on the Convention to justice and law enforcement officials, especially in rural areas;

(e) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities may enter the legal professions on an equal basis with others, and ensure individualized support for that purpose.

Mexico (2022)

37. With reference to paragraph 25 of its previous concluding observations, the Committee is concerned about limited access to justice of persons with disabilities, particularly those from indigenous communities, women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence and abuse, persons with disabilities living in institutions and children with disabilities, resulting in seemingly wide-spread impunity of perpetrators of crimes committed against persons with disabilities in institutions or under guardianship, particularly women and children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. The Committee notes with concern that, in particular, women with disabilities face financial, linguistic and geographic restrictions of their right to access to justice, as well as a lack of reasonable and procedural accommodation. It is further concerned about restrictions of the right of women with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities in indigenous communities, to access to justice in cases of gender-based violence and in cases of women who are under guardianship or are institutionalized, including disregard for the testimony of women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement age-appropriate and gender-sensitive legal measures guaranteeing access to justice for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities in indigenous communities, such as procedural accommodations, accessible and affordable legal aid, counselling and personal assistance; remove barriers to the physical environment, to information and to prosecution services in criminal cases; and ensure that federal and state prosecutors adapt their directives and their practice accordingly;

(b) Provide effective remedies to persons with disabilities living in institutions, allowing them to effectively lodge their complaints about violations of the Convention, and provide them with legal aid;

(c) Establish specific standards to provide effective redress in situations of gender-based violence, and ensure that children with disabilities are in fact heard in any proceedings affecting them;

(d) Eradicate gender- and disability-based stereotypes in the justice system, and ensure that all procedures, including prosecutions and trials, are conducted in a gender- and disability-sensitive manner.

Switzerland (2022)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Barriers to access to justice for persons with disabilities, including the accessibility of administrative tribunals and courts, the financial risks of taking action, the lack of availability of accessible information and communications and the lack of procedural accommodation to facilitate effective participation in legal proceedings;

(b) The lack of understanding and application of the standards and principles of the Convention in judicial and administrative procedures;

(c) That persons with disabilities deemed “incapable of discernment” are not provided with procedural and reasonable accommodation in order to facilitate their effective role as participants in legal proceedings on an equal basis with others.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure access to judicial and administrative facilities, including through universal design, and the provision of alternative and augmentative means of information and communication for use throughout legal proceedings, such as Braille, sign language, accessible digital formats, Easy Read, audio description and video transcription;

- (b) Strengthen federal and cantonal procedural regulations to ensure the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodation at all levels of the justice system;
- (c) Develop professional development programmes for the judiciary, judicial and administrative professionals and other relevant government officials on the provisions of the Convention and the human rights model of disability and their implementation in domestic law;
- (d) Repeal legislation that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, and guarantee their access to justice on an equal basis with others, including throughout judicial proceedings.

Venezuela (2022)

24. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Restrictions still exist that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying full access to justice on an equal footing with others, since they are limited to judicial buildings where the physical environment, information and communications are accessible, and that staff training remains incomplete;
- (b) The Public Interpreters Act does not consider Venezuelan sign language interpreters to be assistant justice officials.

25. Bearing in mind article 13 of the Convention, the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the Civil Code to remove the restrictions preventing deaf or blind persons from giving testimony during legal proceedings;
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities who are subject to or participate in court proceedings have a person of their choosing to help them make decisions and to communicate with them, in line with the safeguards set out in general comment No. 1 (2014);
- (c) Compile a list of judicial establishments that are physically accessible, provide information in accessible formats and use accessible modes of communication, and ensure that all establishments where justice is administered, without exception, meet those accessibility standards;
- (d) Continue the training of judicial officials and make age- and gender-appropriate procedural adjustments, setting deadlines and goals and allocating resources to this end;
- (e) Amend the Public Interpreters Act to include Venezuelan sign language interpreters so that they have legal standing to participate in judicial processes.

Djibouti (2021)

21. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of concrete measures to implement Article 32 Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018) on the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities throughout legal processes, including judicial and administrative processes;
- (b) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing justice and the unavailability of accessible free legal support for persons with disabilities under the legal aid programme;
- (c) The lack of trained professionals and qualified sign language interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings for persons who are deaf, and the lack of documents and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities.

22. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2020 by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to ensure the provision of persons with disabilities with procedural age-appropriate accommodations through legal processes, including judicial and administrative processes, in line with article 32 of the Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018);
- (b) Ensure that the legal aid programme provides support to persons with disabilities, including in rural areas and in refugee camps;

(c) Ensure that sufficient professional and qualified sign language interpreters and other communication support means are available within the judicial system, including documents in accessible formats such as Braille, tactile and Easy Read, in order to ensure the effective participation of persons with disabilities, including for those in rural areas and in refugee camps, in the all judicial and administrative proceedings;

(d) Strengthen capacity-building programmes for the judiciary and justice-sector professionals, such as prosecutors and law enforcement officials including police and prison officers, on the provisions of the Convention and on access to justice for persons with disabilities.

France (2021)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Barriers in access to justice for persons with disabilities under substituted decision-making, those still in institutions, and under psychiatric treatment, including in psychiatric settings, and stigmatization and discriminatory rulings based on disability;

(b) Barriers for persons with disabilities to appeal decisions concerning psychiatric treatment;

(c) The lack of accessibility to justice facilities, affecting litigants and court officials with disabilities, including at police stations, and the lack of information about procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, and on measures to provide accessible information for all persons with disabilities throughout court proceedings;

(d) Limited access to legal aid due to the financial barriers, and the limited coverage of independent legal counselling.

28. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities (2020) prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Sustainable Development Goal 16, target 3, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Guarantee access to justice for persons under substituted decision-making, those still in institutions or in any form of psychiatric treatment, by repealing legislation that restrict legal capacity of persons with disabilities and recognise their full capacity to participate in judicial proceedings in different roles, including as witnesses or defendants, and take measures to eliminate cultural constructs and discriminatory attitudes among the judiciary;

(b) Ensure the right to appeal any restriction of freedom, including treatment without consent, establish an independent monitoring and reporting mechanism on the access to justice in the mental health system;

(c) Ensure physical access to justice facilities including through universal design; ensure access to information throughout judicial procedures, including access to judicial decisions. Likewise, strengthen measures to provide persons with disabilities with procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, especially for persons with vision impairments and deaf persons, those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and autistic persons. Appropriate accommodations include alternative and augmentative modes of communication such as sign language, Braille, accessible digital formats, Easy Read, and the establishment of independent intermediaries and facilitators, including autism reference persons;

(d) Adopt a mechanism to review decisions concerning access to full or partial legal aid and in all areas of law and strengthen the capacity of independent legal advice services in the departmental centres for persons with disabilities, and ensure the right to appeal any restriction of freedom, including treatment without consent.

Estonia (2021)

25. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That persons with disabilities under guardianship face de facto denial of access to justice, and the prevailing paternalistic attitudes concerning persons with disabilities participating at legal proceedings;

(b) The limited scope of procedural accommodations that are age-and-gender- responsive to persons with disabilities, and the absence of programmes to ensure legal assistance to all persons with disabilities;

(c) The reported lack of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities throughout legal proceedings, barriers in physical access to justice facilities, including courts and police stations, and the lack of accessible transportation to arrive to these facilities.

26. The Committee recalls the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities (2020) prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the recognition of full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities, and their equal right to access to justice including throughout proceedings before courts, tribunals and administrative authorities, and recognize their right to seek restoration of their legal capacity, and legal assistance to pursue their claims;

(b) Strengthen capacity-building programmes to the judiciary, and the justice sector professionals on the provisions of the Convention and the human rights model of disability;

(c) Adopt mechanisms to provide persons with disabilities with appropriate provision of age-appropriate accommodations, including support, and access to legal aid throughout legal proceedings, in all areas of law, and at all levels of the judiciary;

(d) Develop alternative and augmentative means of information and communication throughout legal proceedings, such as Braille, Sign language, Easy Read, audio and video transcription, means of universal design, and adopt an action plan to ensure physical access to all justice facilities, including through accessible transportation.

Albania (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific and available measures taken to ensure comprehensive access to the justice system for persons with disabilities, such as free legal aid, accessible legal services and sign language interpreters in court rooms, police stations, procedural accommodations and prosecutorial authorities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on specific measures and protocols to remove barriers to access to justice and to provide procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities, including written information and communications for notary-related services.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure transparent and barrier-free access to the justice system for persons with disabilities without discrimination;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to free legal aid, particularly those still living in institutions;

(c) Ensure, without discrimination, the availability of access to assistive technologies and registered and qualified sign language interpreters, and the provision of Braille, Easy Read, sign language and other alternative formats, in judicial proceedings and notary-related services;

(d) Strengthen efforts to provide training and capacity-building programmes on the Convention for judicial, law enforcement and notary personnel in the application of a human rights approach to disability;

(e) Provide training and capacity-building programmes on the Convention for persons with disabilities to increase their legal awareness.

Australia (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The fact that only some states and territories have passed legislation to support the equal participation of persons with disabilities in the jury system while the rest and the federal Government have not done so;

(b) The lack of nationally consistent disability justice plans across governments to ensure that persons with disabilities are supported in accessing the same legal protections and redress

as the rest of the community, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities whose reasonable and procedural accommodations are not adequately met;

- (c) The fact that legislation still views persons with disabilities as being unfit to plead;
- (d) The overrepresentation of convicted young persons with disabilities in the youth justice system, especially male youth from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
- (e) Ongoing use of substituted decision-making to assist persons with disabilities “unable to navigate the legal system by themselves”;
- (f) Absence of national data disaggregated by disability at all the stages of the criminal justice system, including data on the number of persons unfit to plead who are committed to custody in prison and other facilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, without any discrimination. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop legislation in all states on the equal participation of persons with disabilities in the jury system;**
- (b) Develop nationally consistent disability justice plans across governments to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly those whose reasonable and procedural accommodations are not adequately met, are supported in accessing the same legal protections and redress as the rest of the community;**
- (c) Bring all state, territory and federal legislation, including criminal laws and policies, in compliance with the Convention to ensure due process guarantees for all persons with disabilities and ensure a review of the legal situation of persons whose equal recognition before the law is restricted and who have been declared unfit to stand trial;**
- (d) Address the overrepresentation of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in the juvenile justice system and implement the recommendations contained in *Pathways to Justice – An Inquiry into the Incarceration Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*;**
- (e) Eliminate substitute decision-making, provide gender and culture-specific individualized support, including psychosocial support, for persons with disabilities in the justice system, make information accessible and provide community-based sentencing options;**
- (f) Ensure that training modules on working with persons with disabilities and the Convention are incorporated into mandated training programmes for police officers, prison officers, lawyers, judicial officers, judges and court staff;**
- (g) Collect data disaggregated by disability, age, gender, location and ethnicity at all stages of the criminal justice system, including on the number of persons unfit to plead who are committed to custody in prison and other facilities.**

Ecuador (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned at the continued existence of restrictions that interfere with the full access to justice of persons with disabilities on an equal footing with others.

28. Taking into account the recommendation made in paragraph 27 of its concluding observations on the State party’s initial report (CRPD/C/ECU/CO/1), the Committee recommends that, in accordance with the Convention and bearing in mind target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party revise its laws so as to guarantee full access to justice for persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, without discrimination. It also recommends that the State party continue to provide training to justice officials; that it take due account of accessibility considerations with respect to the physical environment, information and communications in all facilities having to do with the administration of justice; that it make age-appropriate procedural adjustments; and that it establish timelines, goals and funding arrangements to this end.

El Salvador (2019)

26. The Committee remains concerned about the lack of measures taken to establish procedural adjustments, including gender and age accommodations, to ensure access to justice for persons with disabilities, in rural and urban areas.

27. Taking into account target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal any legislation that creates barriers for persons with disabilities to access justice and establish the necessary safeguards to guarantee the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings, on an equal basis with others, including a gender and age focus, and individualized accommodations, such as accessible modes and formats of communication – Braille, Easy Read, captioning, alternative communication devices and professional sign language interpreters, among others.

Greece (2019)

19. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Court buildings are not fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and that there are insufficient accessible legal services and legal information, including in Braille, Easy Read formats and sign language;

(b) Procedural accommodations are not fully ensured at all stages of civil, criminal and administrative proceedings, particularly the provision of translation and interpretation for persons with hearing and speech disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure effective access to justice without any discrimination, with an effective monitoring mechanism. It also recommends that the State party ensure effective access to legal services and legal aid, cost-free assistive technologies and quality translation and interpretation in sign language, Braille and other alternative formats, provided free of charge at all stages of civil, criminal and administrative proceedings. It further recommends that the State party continue to provide adequate training on the rights of persons with disabilities to judges, lawyers and law enforcement officials, progressively strengthening its efforts in this area, and to take into account article 13 of the Convention while implementing target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

India (2019)

28. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations and the barriers affecting equal access to justice by persons with disabilities, including the lack of access to court buildings, the lack of accessible information and sign language interpretation and the insufficient legal aid;

(b) The fear of retribution faced by victims in cases of violence and gender-based violence against women with disabilities;

(c) Gender stereotypes and prejudices in the justice system that curtail the right of women with disabilities to access to justice in cases of gender-based violence against them and in cases affecting women who are under guardianship or institutionalized, including disregard for the testimony of women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;

(d) The lack of awareness and capacity-building among all actors in the justice system concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, and the absence of measures such as those for the provision of reasonable accommodation that would enable persons with disabilities in assuming positions as judges, members of the jury or other functions in the judiciary.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities without discrimination, and procedural, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodations in complaint mechanisms and the justice system, in all areas of law. The State party should strengthen its efforts to provide persons with disabilities with accessible and free legal aid, remove barriers to the physical environment and information, and develop accessible reporting

procedures, particularly in cases of gender-based violence against women and in cases affecting women who are under guardianship or institutionalized;

(b) Ensure that the justice system adjudicates cases in a gender-sensitive manner and that procedures for lodging complaints are responsive to women with disabilities and guarantee their privacy and safety;

(c) Combat stigmas and gender and disability stereotypes, ensuring that prosecutions and trials are managed in a disability- and gender-sensitive manner;

(d) Ensure that the different actors in the criminal justice system, including the police are trained to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities, and promote and support persons with disabilities' participation as professionals in the judicial system, including as judges.

Iraq (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities being denied the right to take part in court proceedings, apart from standing witness, according to article 86 of Law No. 107 (1979);

(b) The inaccessibility of the judicial system because of a limited knowledge about disability issues within the judicial sector and because of existing barriers to the courts and tribunals, including physical barriers and barriers to obtaining information in accessible formats such as Braille, Easy Read and sign language, and also about the limited information available on the measures taken by the State party to implement article 15 (6) (b) of Law No. 38 (2013);

(c) The limited information available on the number of persons with disabilities benefiting from legal aid, particularly in regions not covered by legal clinics (A/HRC/WG.6/20/IRQ/1, para. 25).

26. The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party:

(a) Guarantee to all persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, equal and supported access to all judicial processes, including through the provision of gender- and age-appropriate procedural accommodations;

(b) Take measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with visual or hearing impairments, have access to justice by eliminating all barriers, by guaranteeing them the right to actively participate in all judicial proceedings, by providing information and enabling communication in accessible formats such as Braille, Easy Read and tactile and sign language, by increasing the number of qualified sign language interpreters and by continuing to conduct training for law enforcement personnel on the human rights model of disability;

(c) Provide free or affordable legal aid for persons with disabilities in all areas of the State party and ensure the necessary budgetary allocations.

Kuwait (2019)

26. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of legal stipulations on the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations to persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings;

(b) The lack of information regarding the accessibility of the justice system, including police premises, and the shortage of sign language interpreters;

(c) The absence of accessible information about the rights of persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations to persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure the accessibility of police and judicial premises, legal aid and an adequate number of sign language interpreters, including in Kuwaiti sign language;

(c) Ensure the availability of information about the rights of persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as Braille and Easy Read, to guarantee that all persons with disabilities have full, unrestricted and effective access to justice at all stages of the proceedings.

Myanmar (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of access to justice by persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, as a result of barriers, including the lack of free legal aid or gender- and age-appropriate procedural accommodations;
- (b) Reported cases of women and girls with disabilities who are survivors of gender-based violence not being able to access to justice owing to multiple barriers, such as stigmatization of victims, fear of reprisals and difficulties in producing evidence;
- (c) The insufficient understanding and awareness among the judiciary and law enforcement officials about the rights of persons with disabilities, the diversity among persons with disabilities and individual accommodations.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to provide legal assistance and gender- and age-appropriate procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities to enable their participation in all legal procedures on an equal basis with others, including by facilitating the use of the communication method of their choice in judicial interactions, such as sign language, Braille, Easy Read, captioning, augmentative and alternative communication devices, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communications;**
- (b) Remove barriers that women and girls with disabilities who are survivors of gender-based violence face in gaining access to justice, including stigmatization of victims, fear of reprisals and difficulties in producing evidence;**
- (c) Ensure regular training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns for lawyers, court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers, including police and prison officers, on the rights of persons with disabilities, the diversity among persons with disabilities and individual accommodation.**

Cuba (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned about the barriers facing persons with disabilities in access to justice, including attitudinal barriers and prejudices of court personnel, as well as insufficient training of personnel to assist persons with disabilities through the complex judicial processes and proceedings, and the lack of information in the participation of persons with disabilities in such training. The Committee is concerned that no procedural accommodations have yet been made to ensure effective access to justice for all persons with disabilities and for access to legal professions for persons with disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt, in line with the Convention, an action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, as well as the necessary legal, administrative and judicial measures to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of the judicial process;**
- (b) Make procedural adjustments, including the provision of individualised assistance, to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively participate in the various aspects of legal proceedings;**
- (c) Step up efforts to ensure that qualified sign language interpreters are present during all court processes and judicial proceedings and ensure that other formats of communication, such as Braille and Easy Read, are available;**
- (d) Intensify efforts to provide training on the Convention for justice and law enforcement officials, especially in rural areas;**
- (e) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can access legal professions on an equal basis with others, and ensure individualised support for that purpose;**
- (f) Adhere to article 13 of the Convention in its implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Niger (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned about the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing justice, including inaccessibility to judicial premises, lack of procedural

accommodations, especially the absence of professional sign language interpreters, Braille and Easy Read materials.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party adhere to article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, particularly target 16.3, and:

(a) Provide procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities through the support of the National Agency for Legal and Judicial Assistance, and provide necessary budgetary allocation to this agency;

(b) Ensure that sufficient professional and certified sign language interpreters are available within the judicial system and that documents are provided in accessible formats for the participation of persons with disabilities in all judicial and administrative proceedings;

(c) Conduct trainings and awareness-raising programmes for the judiciary, and law enforcement officials, including police and prison officials on access to justice for persons with disabilities;

(d) Support and empower persons with disabilities to work in the justice system with the provision of reasonable accommodation.

Norway (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of procedural and age-appropriate accommodation in the justice and law enforcement sector, especially for deaf or hard of hearing persons, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;

(b) The current legal aid system which does not provide access to free legal aid for persons with disabilities, particularly for those still living in institutions and the fact that education, health-care services and discrimination are not prioritized in the Legal Aid Act.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure procedural and age-appropriate accommodation in the justice and law enforcement sector;

(b) Revise its current legal aid scheme, ensuring the provision of free legal aid for persons with disabilities, including for those still living in institutions and ensure that education, health-care services and discrimination are prioritized in the Legal Aid Act;

(c) Adhere to article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Rwanda (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities cannot effectively participate in the judicial system, especially persons who are deaf and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. The Committee is especially concerned about:

(a) The lack of knowledge about disability rights within the judicial sector, including court staff, judges, prosecutors, magistrates, lawyers, law enforcement officials and staff of corrective facilities;

(b) The lack of accessibility to judicial premises and proceedings, especially by women and girls with disabilities, and the absence of procedural accommodation.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, especially persons who are deaf and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities can exercise their right to access to justice. In particular, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide continuous training for those working in the justice, law and order sector, on the rights of persons with disabilities, taking into account the diversity of persons with disabilities in judicial proceedings as witnesses, victims, or perpetrators;

(b) Ensure the accessibility of the judicial premises and proceedings to all persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, by inter alia, providing accessible and free legal services to persons with disabilities, sign language interpretation services, and comprehensive age- and gender- appropriate procedural accommodation.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Current legislation, including Articles 148 and 149 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, deny access to justice to persons deprived of legal capacity and restricts persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities from filing a complaint directly before the judiciary;
- (b) Availability of information in accessible formats is insufficient to enable persons with disabilities, particularly those who are blind, deaf and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to participate in judicial proceedings;
- (c) Persons with disabilities, and especially those living in rural areas, face additional obstacles in the access to justice, due to insufficient accessibility of infrastructure and a lack of procedural accommodation;
- (d) No specific measures to guarantee non-discriminatory access to justice to persons with disabilities, including by respecting their right to freely chose judicial and law enforcement personnel involved, have been taken.

24. The Committee recommends that the State Party, taking into account article 13 of the Convention and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Remove any provisions, including in the Code of Criminal Procedure, restricting access to courts by persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure (i) the availability of professional and certified sign language interpreters and documents in accessible formats such as Braille, tactile and Easy Read, as well as (ii) non-discriminatory access to assistive technologies to all persons with disabilities to guarantee their full participation in all judicial and administrative proceedings;**
- (c) Take all necessary measures to combat discrimination faced by persons with disabilities in the access to justice, ensure that the legal system is fully accessible, especially in rural areas, and provide comprehensive procedural accommodation;**
- (d) Step up efforts to raise the awareness of court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, including police and prison officials, especially in rural areas and remote communities, on the provisions of the Convention.**

Senegal (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of access to justice by persons with disabilities, as a result of barriers, including insufficient knowledge about disability issues within the judicial and law enforcement sectors, lack of free legal assistance and procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, and inaccessible physical environment within the justice system;
- (b) The lack of trained professionals and certified sign language interpreters in administrative and judicial proceedings for persons who are deaf and the absence of documents in accessible formats to enable persons who are blind and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to participate in judicial proceedings;

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with article 13 of the Convention and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Adopt measures towards providing legal assistance, procedural and age-appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities and accessibility in all court buildings, tribunals, police stations, prisons and all places of detention;**
- (b) Ensure that professional, qualified sign language interpreters and other communication supports are available within the judicial system, including the availability of documents and other communication supports in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities, such as Braille, tactile, and Easy Read, in order to ensure their effective participation in all judicial and administrative proceedings;**
- (c) Conduct regular training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns and information for judicial staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, including police and prison officials to understand the need to ensure access to justice for persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Adopt concrete measures to support and empower persons with disabilities to work in the justice system as judges, prosecutors and lawyers, with provision of necessary support and budgetary allocations to enhance greater access to justice by persons with disabilities.**

Spain (2019)

24. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Widespread lack of accessibility to buildings in which law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary are located, and the lack of overall procedural gender and age-appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings that takes into consideration the different types of disabilities, including sensory, intellectual or psychosocial;
- (b) Barriers, that prevent persons under substitute decision-making regimes from participating in legal proceedings on an equal basis with others, including through the undermining of the testimonial credibility of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- (c) Overall lack of awareness about the provisions of the Convention by lawyers, court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact legislation to remove barriers for persons with disabilities and access to justice and to guarantee the provision of procedural and gender and age-appropriate accommodations and establish related safeguards to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others through facilitating the use of sign language, Braille, Easy Read, captioning, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice in judicial interactions;**
- (b) While implementing recommendation 23 above, ensure that the status of guardianship and type of disability does not prevent the full access to justice by persons with disabilities and that specific support is provided for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and victims of gender-based violence;**
- (c) Ensure regular training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns for lawyers, court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, including police and prison officials, on the need to provide persons with disabilities with access to justice;**
- (d) Adhere to article 13 of the Convention in its implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Türkiye (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of specific measures and transparent protocols with remedies to provide procedural and age appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities, including official provision of quality sign-language interpretation for persons who are deaf, accessible formats of communication for deaf-blind, hard of hearing persons, and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, particularly in civil cases;
- (b) The limited provision of legal aid for persons with disabilities in all areas of law and the lack of access to information about legal services;
- (c) The barriers for physical accessibility to court buildings and prosecution offices;
- (d) The Law on the Judges and Prosecutors (No. 2802), which prevent the employment of persons with disabilities as judges and prosecutors.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take steps to facilitate accessible and non-discriminatory access to the justice system for persons with disabilities by ensuring procedural and age-appropriate accommodation and clear administrative procedures based on legislation;**
- (b) Ensure human and financial resources to provide persons with disabilities with legal aid, which is accessible and affordable, including through accessible information and communication means with lawyers;**
- (c) Allocate resources and develop a plan within the judiciary with a timeframe and benchmarks to ensure accessibility of police stations, courts, prosecution units, including the provision of accessible transportation;**

(d) Amend the Law on the Judges and Prosecutors (No. 2802) and adopt legal measures to allow and facilitate the effective participation of all persons with disabilities in the justice system, including as judges, witnesses, complainants, and respondents.

Vanuatu (2019)

24. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to justice by persons with disabilities due to the various barriers, including the lack of physical accessibility to police stations and courts, and the lack of procedural accommodation and legal aid. Furthermore, it is concerned at the low level of awareness among the judiciary and the police on the rights of persons with disabilities.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the link between article 13 of the Convention and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it:

- (a) Ensure persons with disabilities have access to procedural and age-appropriate accommodation, free legal aid and accessibility provisions, such as by the use of sign language, captioning, Braille and Easy Read and ensure that persons with disabilities are not denied reasonable accommodation in access to justice;**
- (b) Strengthen training of the judiciary and law enforcement personnel, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and prison staff, on the rights of persons with disabilities in all provinces of the State party;**
- (c) Raise awareness among persons with disabilities on their rights to access to justice, including legal aid, remedy, and redress in the judicial system available to them.**

Algeria (2018)

26. The Committee is concerned by article 26 of Executive Decree No. 16-159 of 30 May 2016 and article 34 of Act No. 13-17 which establishes certain standards of physical and psychological fitness as conditions to access the professions of judge and lawyer. It is also concerned about existing barriers to access courts and tribunals, including physical barriers and barriers to obtain information in accessible formats such as Braille, Easy Read and sign language. The Committee is also concerned by the absence of systematic training for members of the judiciary, law practitioners and law enforcement officials on the concept of procedural accommodation and/or age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party, taking into account article 13 of the Convention and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Repeal any laws and policies which discriminate against persons with disabilities in the legal profession;**
- (b) Eliminate all physical barriers which prevent persons with disabilities from accessing the entire justice system on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Facilitate access to information in all formats to persons with disabilities, including Easy-Read, Braille, accessible digital formats, and sign language;**
- (d) Provide systematic and on-going training to members of the judiciary, law practitioners and law enforcement officials on the Convention and the obligation to ensure physical access and accessible legal services.**

Bulgaria (2018)

31. The Committee notes with concern the shortage of trained sign language interpreters for deaf persons who are parties in different proceedings, and the lack of documents in accessible formats for blind persons, persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities in different proceedings.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure availability of sign language interpreters and documents in accessible formats such as Braille, electronic format, and Easy Read, to all persons with disabilities in all judicial and administrative proceedings.

Malta (2018)

21. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on specific measures and protocols to implement 3A(4) of the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap.

413) and to provide procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities, in addition to selected measures aimed at facilitating communication (article 593 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12), articles 451 and 640 of the Criminal Code (Cap. 9)). The Committee is also concerned by the lack of documents in accessible formats for blind and deaf-blind persons and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in various proceedings, the absence of policies to empower persons with disabilities to participate in the justice system as direct or indirect participants, such as lawyers, court officers or law enforcement officials. It is further concerned about the lack of systematic and continuous training to members of the judiciary, members of the legal profession, prosecutors and prison officers with regard to the equal rights of persons with disabilities and human rights in general.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the implementation of its legislation to guarantee the provision of procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodations based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities, and establish related safeguards to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of documents in accessible formats;**
- (b) Provide free or affordable legal aid for persons with disabilities in all areas of law and ensure the necessary budgetary allocation to the institution or institutions mandated with this task;**
- (c) Increase its efforts in order to empower persons with disabilities to participate in the justice system as direct or indirect participants, such as lawyers, court officers or law enforcement officials;**
- (d) Provide mandatory and ongoing capacity-building programmes, including training on the provisions of the Convention for members of the judiciary and members of the legal profession; for example, by broadening the audience of the Disability Equality Training that is currently being provided to the recruits of the Police Academy;**
- (e) Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in its implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Philippines (2018)

26. The Committee is concerned about the barriers facing persons with disabilities in access to justice, including attitudinal barriers and prejudices of court personnel as well as well-trained sign language interpreters to assist the persons with disabilities through the proceedings. It is also concerned about the lack of implementation of Executive Order 709 establishing the Sub-Committee on Access to Justice and Anti-Discrimination Executive Order 709.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to provide age-appropriate or procedural accommodations, including physical access to court rooms, accessible legal services, qualified sign language and tactile sign interpreters in courtrooms and police stations, legal and procedural information in Easy Read. It also recommends that the State party conduct capacity building programmes of the legal profession, police and prison officers concerning the rights enshrined in the Convention.

Poland (2018)

1. The Committee is concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disability deprived of their legal capacity are denied the right to take part in a litigation and to stand as witnesses in procedures before civil courts. Furthermore, it is also concerned about the barriers which persons with disabilities in general face in accessing justice due to lack of:

- (a) Procedural accommodation, as well as the use of sign language, Braille, accessible digital formats, Easy Read and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication in all legal proceedings;**
- (b) Accessibility to justice buildings, courts and tribunals and police stations, for persons with physical disabilities;**

- (c) Human rights based knowledge on disability of the justice system and law enforcement personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (d) Mechanisms for persons with disabilities to report violence, including the lack of access to justice for children with intellectual disabilities, women with disabilities or those living in institutions;
- (e) Legal assistance for persons with disabilities, including legal assistance and procedural accommodation for persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (f) Access to legal professions for persons with disabilities based on presumptions that they are “unfit” for the profession.

2. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee equal and supported access to all judicial processes for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities deprived of their legal capacity. It further recommends to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to justice in practice, and in particular to:

- (a) Ensure procedural accommodation, as well as the use of sign language, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication in all legal proceedings;**
- (b) Ensure that justice buildings, courts and tribunals, and police stations, are accessible for persons with physical disabilities;**
- (c) Provide regular training to law enforcement and judicial officers about the rights of all persons with disabilities and obligations of the State Party under the Convention;**
- (d) Ensure effective mechanisms for persons with disabilities to report violence, including crimes on the grounds of hatred, as well as access to justice for children with intellectual disabilities, women with disabilities or those living in institutions;**
- (e) Ensure universal and free legal assistance for persons with disabilities, having low income particularly, and legal assistance and procedural accommodation for persons with psychosocial disabilities;**
- (f) Support persons with disabilities to practice legal professions and ensure reasonable accommodation for this purpose;**
- (g) Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

South Africa (2018)

24. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The barriers, including physical and legislative, that prevent the effective participation of all persons with disabilities, especially women and children, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, blind and deaf persons, in accessing the justice system, due to lack of procedural accommodations, including accessibility, in the judicial system;
- (b) The absence of information about the justice system and its proceedings in accessible formats provided to blind and visually impaired persons (Braille and audio), deaf persons (sign language interpretation) and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities (Easy-Read);
- (c) The limited knowledge about the human rights of persons with disabilities within the judicial system and inadequate number of trained professional and certified sign language interpreters, Braille users or Easy-Read users to convey judicial information to persons with disabilities that require them.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party, taking into account article 13 of the Convention and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Establish legal safeguards to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others and ensure that procedural, gender and age-appropriate accommodations based on free choice are provided for persons with disabilities in all judicial premises, police stations, and all places of detention, including prisons;**
- (b) Adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to justice and information and communication in accessible formats, such as Braille, tactile, Easy-Read and sign language;**

(c) Ensure a systematic training programme for judicial officials, law enforcement officials, including police and prison officials, on the right of all persons with disabilities to justice, including involving persons with disabilities as judicial officials.

North Macedonia (2018)

26. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The lack of consistency in laws with regard to access to justice for persons with disabilities and the lack of legislation on hate crimes relating to disability;
- (b) The lack of accessibility to the judicial system, due to the lack of knowledge of disability issues within the judicial sector, lack of adequate procedural accommodations, information in accessible formats and accessibility to judicial premises;
- (c) The bureaucratic restrictions to free legal aid under the current Law on Free Legal Aid.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to align the laws requiring courts to facilitate trial procedures and procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities and to extend such measures to the police and prosecution services; effectively implement the principle of procedural accommodation under article 27 on the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016);**
- (b) Take measures to amend the criminal law in order for crimes against persons with disabilities to be recognised as hate crimes;**
- (c) Adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities and the deaf and hard of hearing persons, blind persons, deaf-blind persons, have access to justice, and that information and communication is in accessible formats such as Braille, accessible electronic formats, tactile, Easy Read and sign language;**
- (d) Conduct training to law enforcement personnel on the human rights-based approach to disability;**
- (e) Ensure that access to free legal aid for persons with disabilities is not restricted in the new draft Law on Free Legal Aid.**

Haiti (2018)

24. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Obstacles to the effective participation of persons with disabilities in the justice system, including the lack of procedural accommodation and legal aid;
- (b) The serious problems in the judicial system which are exacerbated for persons with disabilities, inter alia, discrimination, barriers to accessibility of the premises of police, courts and places of detention and inaccessibility of information;
- (c) Lack of qualified personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities and the low level of awareness among the judiciary and law enforcement officials about the human rights of persons with disabilities.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enact appropriate legislation to ensure the removal of obstacles to have access to justice and to guarantee the provision of procedural, gender- and age-appropriate accommodations based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities, and establish related safeguards to enable their participation in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, can have access to justice and information and communications in accessible formats, including Braille, tactile media, plain language, Easy Read, and sign language;**
- (c) Fully implements articles 51 and 54 of the Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2012) to develop and implement mandatory and ongoing capacity-building programmes, including training, on the provisions of the Convention among the judiciary and law enforcement personnel, including judges, prosecutors, police officers and prison staff, about the rights of persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;**

- (d) Adopt measures to increase the legal awareness of persons with disabilities and take the measures to address the underrepresentation of persons with disabilities and to empower them to work in the justice system, such as judges or prosecutors;**
- (e) Pay attention to the links with article 13 of the Convention for the realization of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Nepal (2018)

23. While noting the efforts being made by the State party to ensure access to justice by persons with disabilities, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of explicit provisions for ensuring disability type and age appropriate accommodation in situations necessary for guaranteeing access to justice for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned at reports of the insufficient use of sign language, Braille as well as Easy Read, and the lack of appropriate awareness training for judicial, legal and law enforcement professionals.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to ensure physical access, accessible legal services and qualified sign language and tactile sign interpreters in courtrooms and police stations, including measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against on account of their disability (when sign language or Braille is required), or due to the lack of appropriate training of legal professionals, police and prison officers.

Oman (2018)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The impediments that hinder the attainment of access to justice by persons with disabilities, as a result of insufficient knowledge about disability issues within the judicial and law enforcement sectors, lack of substantive procedural accommodations, including lack of accessibility within the justice system;**
- (b) The inadequate number of trained professional and certified sign language interpreters to translate administrative and judicial proceedings for deaf persons and the unavailability of documents in accessible formats to enable blind persons and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to participate in proceedings.**

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, taking into account article 13 of the Convention and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Ensure that procedural accommodations are provided for persons with disabilities in all court buildings, tribunals, police stations, prisons and all places of detention;**
- (b) Ensure the availability of professional and certified sign language interpreters and documents in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities, such as Braille, tactile, and Easy Read, in order to ensure their full participation in all judicial and administrative proceedings;**
- (c) Ensure training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns and information for court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, including police and prison officials on the need to provide access to justice for persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Adopt measures to support and empower persons with disabilities to work in the justice system as judges, prosecutors, lawyers, etc. with provision of all necessary support so as to enhance greater access to justice by persons with disabilities.**

Russian Federation (2018)

28. The Committee notes with concern the shortage of trained sign language interpreters for deaf persons in judicial and administrative proceedings and the lack of documents in accessible formats for blind persons, persons with intellectual and/or psycho-social disabilities in different proceedings.

29. The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure availability of sufficient number of sign language interpreters and documents in accessible formats, including Easy-Read and Brail and other accessible formats, modes and means, to all persons with disabilities in all judicial and administrative proceedings.

30. The Committee is concerned about the fact that the State party has not formulated policies to empower persons with disabilities to be part of the justice system as direct or indirect participants, such as lawyers, court officers and law enforcement officials..

31. The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts in order to empower persons with disabilities to be part of the justice system as direct and indirect participants such as lawyers, court officials and law enforcement agencies.

Seychelles (2018)

20. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information on specific procedural, gender- and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities in judicial proceedings, in particular for deaf-blind persons;

(b) The lack of accessibility of buildings of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary;

(c) Barriers to access to justice for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in particular persons in institutions and/or deprived of their legal capacity;

(d) The fact that the State party has not formulated policies to empower persons with disabilities to be part of the justice system as direct or indirect participants, such as lawyers, court officers and law enforcement officials.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure full access to the judicial system for persons with disabilities, including by:

(a) Enacting appropriate legislation and a strategy to ensure the removal of all barriers to access to justice by persons with disabilities, develop guidelines and protocols to provide procedural, gender- and age-appropriate accommodations based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities, including providing persons with disabilities with information and communications in accessible formats;

(b) Strengthen its efforts to ensure the accessibility of buildings of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary for all persons with disabilities;

(c) Implement procedural accommodations and alternative formats of communication, paying attention to the situation of deaf-blind persons and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including those living in institutions, and increase their legal awareness;

(d) Step up its efforts in order to empower persons with disabilities to be part of the justice system as direct and indirect participants such as lawyers, court officials and law enforcement agencies;

(e) Being guided by article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Slovenia (2018)

20. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information on specific procedural, gender- and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities in judicial proceedings, in particular for deaf-blind persons;

(b) The lack of accessibility of buildings of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary;

(c) Barriers to access to justice for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in particular persons in institutions and/or deprived of their legal capacity;

(d) The fact that the State party has not formulated policies to empower persons with disabilities to be part of the justice system as direct or indirect participants, such as lawyers, court officers and law enforcement officials.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure full access to the judicial system for persons with disabilities, including by:

(a) Enacting appropriate legislation and a strategy to ensure the removal of all barriers to access to justice by persons with disabilities, develop guidelines and protocols to provide procedural, gender- and age-appropriate accommodations based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities, including providing persons with disabilities with information and communications in accessible formats;

- (b) Strengthen its efforts to ensure the accessibility of buildings of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary for all persons with disabilities;
- (c) Implement procedural accommodations and alternative formats of communication, paying attention to the situation of deaf-blind persons and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including those living in institutions, and increase their legal awareness;
- (d) Step up its efforts in order to empower persons with disabilities to be part of the justice system as direct and indirect participants such as lawyers, court officials and law enforcement agencies;
- (e) Being guided by article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sudan (2018)

25. The Committee regrets the lack of information regarding access to justice for persons with disabilities and is concerned about the lack of accessibility of the judicial system, due to lack of knowledge about disability issues within the judicial and law enforcement sector; lack of adequate procedural accommodations; lack of judicial information in accessible formats and lack of accessibility to police and judicial premises;

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to implement in practice the Ministry of Justice's circular of 2016 requiring courts to facilitate trial procedures and procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities and to extend such measures to the police and prosecution services;
- (b) Adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and deaf and hard of hearing persons, have access to justice, and information and communication in accessible formats such as Braille, tactile, Easy Read and sign language;
- (c) Conduct training to law enforcement personnel on the human rights-based approach to disability.

Latvia (2017)

22. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Non-systematic provision of accommodation in judicial proceedings for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including the absence of guaranteed legal assistance in all judicial proceedings;
- (b) Reported prejudices within the judiciary, including advocates, against persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) Lack of legal protection for persons with disabilities in residential institutions.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the provision of judicial procedural accommodation, including by means of the Easy Read format, professional sign language interpretation and the use of Braille easy-read format, for all persons with disabilities and establish related safeguards to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others;
- (b) Strengthen training on the Convention for the judiciary, lawyers and law enforcement officers;
- (c) Ensure access to free legal aid for persons with disabilities living in residential institutions;
- (d) Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Luxembourg (2017)

26. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on specific measures and protocols to remove barriers to access to justice and to provide procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities, including written information and communications that consider the multilingual reality of the State party. It is also concerned about the lack of sufficient systematic and continuous

training to members of the judiciary, members of the legal profession, prosecutors and prison officers with regard to the equal rights of persons with disabilities and human rights in general.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account the multilingual reality of the State party and:

(a) Enact appropriate legislation to ensure the removal of barriers to access to justice and to guarantee the provision of procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodations based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities, and establish related safeguards to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others;

(b) Provide mandatory and ongoing capacity-building programmes, including training, on the provisions of the Convention for law enforcement personnel, members of the judiciary and members of the legal profession;

(c) Take measures to address the underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in the legal profession;

(d) Adopt measures to increase the legal awareness of persons with disabilities;

(e) Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in its implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Montenegro (2017)

26. The Committee is concerned that most court buildings in the country remain inaccessible for persons with physical impairments, and that:

(a) Persons working in the administration of justice are not sufficiently trained in the rights of persons with disabilities, including on procedural accessibility, particularly with regard to access to assistive technologies;

(b) Legal aid, registered and qualified sign-language interpretation and Braille service, as well as alternative modes of communication and other measures to provide persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities with access to judicial and administrative proceedings are insufficiently available.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party provide for barrier-free and non-discriminatory access to justice based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities, and for disability-related and age-appropriate accommodations in all legal proceedings. It recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that:

(a) Accessibility measures, such as Braille, the provision of sign language interpretation, alternative modes of communication and Easy Read formats are available in a non-discriminatory manner at all stages of judicial and administrative proceedings;

(b) Judicial, law enforcement and notary personnel are properly trained in the application of a human rights approach to disability.

Morocco (2017)

28. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The barriers militating against the effective participation of persons with disabilities in the judicial system, owing to a lack of knowledge about disability issues within the judicial sector, the absence of substantive procedural accommodations, the lack of legal aid for persons with disabilities and the lack of accessibility to all judicial premises, including court buildings and places of detention;

(b) The non-availability of judicial information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, such as Braille, Easy Read and sign language.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, have access to justice and information and communication in accessible formats, such as Braille, tactile formats, Easy Read and sign language;

(b) Provide, within the judicial sector, effective procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities, according to gender and age;

(c) Ensure continuous training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns and information for court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, including police and prison officials, on the need to provide persons with disabilities with access to justice;

(d) Take the measures necessary to support and empower persons with disabilities to work in the justice system as, for example, judges and prosecutors, with the provision of all necessary support, so as to enhance greater access to justice by persons with disabilities.

Panama (2017)

32. The Committee is concerned that no procedural accommodations have yet been made to ensure effective access to justice for all persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the barriers, especially of a legal nature, that prevent persons whose legal capacity has been revoked or who live in institutions from effectively participating in legal proceedings.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt, in line with the Convention, the action plan on access to justice for persons with disabilities, as well as the necessary legal, administrative and judicial measures to eliminate all restrictions on the effective participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of the judicial process;

(b) Ensure that women with disabilities have access to justice in practice;

(c) Make procedural adjustments, including the provision of personal or intermediary assistance, to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively participate in the various aspects of legal proceedings;

(d) Step up efforts to ensure that sign language interpreters are present during judicial proceedings;

(e) Take steps to empower persons with disabilities with a view to their participating as professionals in the justice system;

(f) Intensify efforts to provide training on the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto for justice officials, especially in rural areas and indigenous regions;

(g) Take into account article 13 of the Convention in its implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The low level of awareness among the judiciary and law enforcement officials about the human rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Reports of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities who do not receive appropriate support in exercising their legal capacity and access to justice;

(c) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing civil legal aid as a consequence of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 in England and Wales and the introduction of fees for employment tribunals in the State party;

(d) The fact that the regulations exclude persons with hearing impairments from participation in jury proceedings, and that personal assistants/interpreters are not deemed to constitute procedural accommodation.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Develop and implement capacity-building programmes among the judiciary and law enforcement personnel, including judges, prosecutors, police officers and prison staff, about the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Design and implement a decision-making regime with guidelines and appropriate resources, focusing on respecting the will and preferences of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in court proceedings;

(c) Provide free or affordable legal aid for persons with disabilities in all areas of law and remove fees to access courts and employment tribunals, bearing in mind the Supreme Court ruling of 26 July 2017 regarding the Employment Tribunal's fees (*R (on the application of UNISON) (Appellant) v. Lord Chancellor (Respondent)*);

(d) Ensure that all persons with disabilities enjoy the right and are provided with adequate procedural accommodation within the justice system, and enable in particular deaf persons through the use of sign language interpreters, to fully and equally participate as jurors in court proceedings;

(e) Take measures to empower persons with disabilities to work in the justice system as judges, prosecutors or in other positions, with the provision of all necessary support.

Armenia (2017)

21. The Committee is concerned about the very limited accessibility of most of the State party's courts, and administrative and notary buildings. It is also concerned about the lack of legal safeguards to ensure the right to a fair trial, due process and the safe and full participation of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in all judicial proceedings, including through the provision of procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation, in particular sign language interpretation for persons with hearing impairment and accessible formats of legal and judicial information and communication for persons with visual impairment. It is further concerned about the insufficient availability of accessible and affordable legal services for persons with disabilities.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the provision of procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation on the basis of the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities, and establish related safeguards to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others. It also recommends that the State party take measures to increase training and capacity-building programmes on the Convention for law enforcement personnel, and for persons with disabilities to increase their legal awareness, and that it ensure that persons with disabilities have access to free legal aid. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 13 of the Convention in its implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

24. The Committee is concerned that there is a lack of information on specific and available measures, as well as transparent protocols to provide procedural and age- appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings, including the notary-related services.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure transparent, barrier- free and non-discriminatory access to justice based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party strengthen efforts to provide adequate training on the rights of persons with disabilities to judicial and law enforcement personnel. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure availability of non-discriminatory access to assistive technologies and ensure registered and qualified sign language interpreters, and the provision of Braille and other alternative formats, in judicial proceedings.

Canada (2017)

29. The Committee observes that administration of justice and the establishment and maintenance of penitentiaries fall under the competency of federal, provincial and territorial levels of administration. It takes note of the legal obligation to provide sign language interpretation throughout judicial and/or administrative proceedings. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of accommodation procedures that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities who face difficulties in understanding and filling out forms contend with when attempting to bring claims for the protection of their rights;

(b) The absence of information about procedural and age-appropriate accommodation available for women and children with disabilities, including indigenous women, at all levels of the justice system;

(c) The absence of funding at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to support persons with disabilities in filing cases of human rights violations.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Provide guidance and training to the judiciary at all levels in order to implement the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights Act, in particular its provisions for measures to facilitate the testimony of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities during judicial proceedings, paying particular attention to persons with disabilities who seek redress;**
- (b) Introduce additional criteria to the provision of accessibility in the justice sector, ensuring that the options available comprise Braille, sign language interpretation, alternative modes of communication and easy-read versions of documents, free of charge for all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;**
- (c) Set up progress indicators for and periodic assessments of the measures to provide age-appropriate and gender-sensitive accommodation for persons with disabilities at the federal, provincial and territorial levels, and ensure that lawyer associations, civil society organizations working on human rights and representative organizations of persons with disabilities are entitled to provide input on such accommodation;**
- (d) Introduce effective training of personnel in the justice, police and prison systems on the rights enshrined in the Convention.**

Cyprus (2017)

35. The Committee notes with concern that the justice system is largely inaccessible and that personnel in the judicial and law enforcement sectors are not adequately trained on the Convention.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate steps to ensure accessibility and procedural accommodation, including high quality sign language interpretation and information in easy-to-read and Braille formats in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, especially target 16.3. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide personnel in the judicial and law enforcement sectors, with mandatory periodic education and training on the universality of human rights for all persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on marriage, family, parenthood and relationship issues, including the right to retain fertility and found and foster a family as outlined in article 23 of the Convention.

Honduras (2017)

31. Al Comité le preocupa que no se hayan implementado aún ajustes de procedimiento que hagan efectivo el acceso a la justicia para todas las personas con discapacidad. Igualmente le preocupa la existencia de barreras, particularmente normativas, así como la falta de interpretación en lengua de señas, para que las personas que han sido declaradas interdictas o que se encuentren institucionalizadas puedan desempeñarse efectivamente durante los procesos judiciales.

32. El Comité urge al Estado parte a que asigne suficientes recursos humanos y económicos para la implementación del Plan de Acción de Acceso a la Justicia de las Personas con Discapacidad desde la perspectiva de la Convención. Le recomienda también que adopte las medidas legislativas, administrativas y judiciales necesarias para eliminar toda restricción a las personas con discapacidad para actuar efectivamente en cualquier proceso. También le recomienda realizar ajustes de procedimiento, incluyendo la asistencia personal o intermediaria, para garantizar el efectivo desempeño de las personas con discapacidad en las distintas funciones dentro de los procesos judiciales. Asimismo, el Comité recomienda que el Estado parte asigne recursos humanos y financieros suficientes y específicos para que la Fiscalía Especial de los Derechos Humanos y la Fiscalía Especial de la Protección a la Mujer lleven a cabo su mandato y acudan a las mujeres con discapacidad si son abusadas sexualmente.

33. Preocupa al Comité el escaso acceso a la justicia de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente de aquellas que viven en zonas rurales y comunidades indígenas y afrohondureñas, las barreras de accesibilidad de todo tipo y la falta de ajustes procesales para ellas. Además le preocupa que los operadores de justicia no conozcan suficientemente la Convención y que, por tanto, no actúen conforme a la misma.

34. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte adoptar todas las medidas necesarias para luchar contra la discriminación a que hacen frente las personas con discapacidad para acceder a la justicia, asegurando la plena accesibilidad al sistema judicial, y a que se efectúen ajustes procesales completos. El Comité también recomienda que el Estado parte intensifique sus esfuerzos para impartir al personal de la administración de justicia formación sobre la Convención, especialmente en zonas rurales y comunidades remotas.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

28. The Committee observes that the State party provides legal representation for persons with disabilities in civil and criminal proceedings. However, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The denial of access to justice to persons deprived of their legal capacity;
- (b) The absence of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations that allow persons with disabilities themselves to exercise an active role as direct and indirect participants in all legal procedures, including through accessible information; and
- (c) The absence of information about training for judges and other personnel including the police and prison staff, concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review its legislation with the aim to enable persons with disabilities to participate effectively in any type of legal proceedings, including exercising their roles as victims, defendants, and witnesses;**
- (b) Develop protocols at the judiciary aimed at identifying procedural, gender-sensitive, and age-appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities including provision of documents on legislation and court proceedings through sign language interpretation, braille, easy-read and other accessible formats, modes and means of communication; and**
- (c) Develop a capacity-building strategy within the judicial branch on the rights of persons with disabilities, targeting lawyers, magistrates, judges, prison staff and the Police.**

Jordan (2017)

27. The Committee notes with concern that article 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Law No. 9 of 1961) restricts persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from filing a complaint directly before the judiciary. The Committee is concerned about the shortage of trained professional and certified sign language interpreters to translate administrative and judicial proceedings for deaf persons and the unavailability of documents in accessible formats to enable blind persons and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to participate in proceedings.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, taking into account article 13 of the Convention and target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Amend, in a timely manner, the Code of Criminal Procedure to remove all provisions that restrict access to courts by persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure the availability of professional and certified sign language interpreters and documents in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure their full participation in all judicial and administrative proceedings.**

Republic of Moldova (2017)

26. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on specific measures and protocols to provide procedural, gender and age-appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities, including the provision of sign-language interpretation for deaf persons and accessible formats for communication for deaf-blind persons and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. It notes with concern:

- (a) The prejudices against persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (b) The lack of access to free legal aid for persons with disabilities, particularly for those still living in institutions;
- (c) The lack of access to justice of women with disabilities in criminal proceedings related to gender-based violence.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the provision of procedural, gender and age-appropriate accommodations based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities and establish related safeguards to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Provide training and capacity-building programmes on the Convention for law enforcement personnel and for persons with disabilities, to increase their legal awareness;**
- (c) Ensure access to free legal aid, including for persons with disabilities still living in institutions;**
- (d) Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Bolivia (2016)

29. The Committee is concerned that there are restrictions on persons with disabilities – no right to represent themselves, for example – that prevent them from enjoying full access to justice; it is particularly concerned that these restrictions are imposed on those who need the most support.

30. The Committee urges the State party to repeal any legal provision that limits access to justice for persons with disabilities, and recommends that it implement support systems for persons with disabilities who need them.

31. The Committee is concerned that judicial bodies do not make procedural adjustments when persons with disabilities are involved in proceedings. It is also concerned that they do not have sign language interpreters or use Braille transcription or other accessible formats and modes of information and communication.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to put in place the support necessary to ensure access to justice for persons with disabilities, notably by implementing procedural adjustments and measures to ensure the accessibility of facilities, information and communication.

33. The Committee is concerned that no in-service training on the rights of persons with disabilities is provided for judicial personnel, leading to insufficient awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities and violation of their procedural guarantees and other fundamental rights.

34. The Committee urges the State party to set up in-service training programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities for judicial personnel, the police, prison personnel and other justice officials. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 13 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

34. The Committee is concerned that the State party's General Code of Procedure bars persons with disabilities from appearing as witnesses, that procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities involved in judicial proceedings are not provided, and that accessibility aids, such as the use of Braille, sign language, or easy-to-read materials, are not available.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal article 210 of the General Code of Procedure;**
- (b) Adopt procedural accommodations to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in any role and stage in judicial proceedings;**
- (c) Ensure the accessibility of physical facilities, materials, information and communications throughout the justice system, including the availability of guide-interpreters, sign-language interpreters, and materials in easy-to-read and electronic format;**
- (d) Strengthen training programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities for magistrates, judges, court, police, security and prison personnel and public defenders;**
- (e) Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in pursuing target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Ethiopia (2016)

29. The Committee is concerned that the training of justice staff, lawyers, court staff and the police on the rights of persons with disabilities is neither compulsory nor carried out regularly. It is also concerned that procedural accommodation is not effectively available, in law and in practice.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure compulsory and regular training of justice and police staff on the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that procedural accommodation be effectively available at all stages of investigations and court proceedings. It further recommends that the State party take into account article 13 of the Convention, while implementing target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guatemala (2016)

35. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to justice enjoyed by persons with disabilities, particularly those living in rural areas and indigenous communities, the various barriers to accessibility and the lack of procedural accommodations provided for them. It is also concerned that justice officials are not sufficiently familiar with the Convention and therefore do not act in accordance with it.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all necessary measures to combat the discrimination faced by persons with disabilities with respect to access to justice, ensure that the legal system is fully accessible and provide comprehensive reasonable and procedural accommodations. The Committee also recommends that the State party step up its efforts to provide training on the Convention for justice officials, especially in rural areas and remote communities. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 13 of the Convention in its implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

37. The Committee notes with concern that, within the legal system of the State party, the credibility of the accounts of victims with disabilities, especially women and girls, tends to be called into question, which leads to cases not being properly investigated or recorded.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party, through the judiciary, provide adequate training and appropriate human resources to the special courts set up to combat femicide and other forms of violence against women and to the free legal aid offices for women who are victims of violence, in order to ensure that women and girls with disabilities who suffer violence or abuse receive proper attention.

Italy (2016)

29. The Committee is concerned with the lack of anti-discrimination training given to personnel in the judicial and law enforcement sectors with regard to equal rights in all aspects of marriage and family life for persons with disabilities and on combating negative stereotyping.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party provide training to personnel in the judicial and law enforcement sectors on the right of all persons with disabilities to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, including their right to retain fertility and found a family, as outlined in article 23 of the Convention.

31. The Committee is concerned at the inaccessibility of the justice system with regard to information and communications.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the provision of full procedural accommodations, including professional sign language interpretation, and information in easy-to-read and Braille formats. It also recommends that the State party take into account article 13 of the Convention while implementing target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

25. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That judicial officials are unaware of the rights of persons with disabilities and that the justice sector has no programmes specifically designed to provide assistance to persons with disabilities;

(b) At the lack of accessibility within the justice system, including in respect of legal aid and assistance, sign language interpreters in court rooms and procedural accommodations, despite the issuance of Ministerial Decree No. 619 of 2015;

(c) At the lack of information about court cases initiated by persons with disabilities;

(d) That no measures have been taken to address the challenges faced by women, especially women who are not citizens of the State party, in accessing justice when they report having experienced violence.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Train court staff, judges, police officers and prison staff to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, including the right to a fair trial, and the obligation to provide procedural accommodation;

(b) Take measures to ensure in practice the physical and information- and communication-related accessibility to all judicial facilities, for example through the provision of professional sign language interpreters and the use of Braille, among other procedural accommodations;

(c) Take measures to collect quantitative and qualitative data about court cases initiated by persons with disabilities;

(d) Take measures to address the challenges faced by women, especially women who are not citizens of the State party, in accessing justice when they report having experienced violence;

(e) Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uruguay (2016)

29. Al Comité le preocupa que no se hayan implementado aún ajustes de procedimiento que hagan efectivo el acceso a la justicia para todas las personas con discapacidad. Igualmente le preocupa la existencia de barreras, particularmente normativas, para que las personas que han sido declaradas interdictas o que se encuentren institucionalizadas puedan desempeñarse efectivamente durante los procesos judiciales.

30. El Comité insta al Estado parte a que asigne suficientes recursos humanos y económicos para la implementación del Plan de Acción de Acceso a la Justicia de las Personas con Discapacidad desde la perspectiva de la Convención. Le recomienda también que adopte las medidas legislativas, administrativas y judiciales necesarias para eliminar toda restricción a las personas con discapacidad para actuar efectivamente en cualquier proceso. También le recomienda realizar los ajustes de procedimiento incluyendo la asistencia humana o intermediaria, particularmente intérpretes de lenguas de señas, para garantizar el efectivo desempeño de las personas con discapacidad en las distintas funciones dentro de los procesos judiciales. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 13 de la Convención y la meta 16.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, en cuanto a garantizar el acceso a la justicia para todos.

31. El Comité expresa su preocupación por los escasos avances para implementar las Observaciones realizadas por el Comité de los Derechos del Niño en relación con la administración de la justicia juvenil, lo que tiene una especial incidencia en jóvenes con discapacidad psicosocial e intelectual. Le preocupa especialmente que el Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia no esté en consonancia con el respeto a los derechos humanos establecidos en la Convención sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad y que, por ese motivo, los jóvenes con discapacidad no reciban la adecuada consideración.

32. El Comité insta al Estado parte a implementar las observaciones realizadas por el Comité de los Derechos del Niño sobre justicia juvenil (CRC/C/URY/CO/3-5, párr. 70) y a asegurar que el Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia incorpore la consideración de los jóvenes con discapacidad psicosocial e intelectual conforme a la Convención. Le recomienda también asegurar el adecuado acceso a la justicia de los jóvenes con discapacidad, poniendo a su servicio los ajustes razonables que precisen por razón de su discapacidad.

Chile (2016)

27. Al Comité le preocupa que no se hayan implementado aún ajustes de procedimiento que hagan efectivo el acceso a la justicia a todas las personas con discapacidad. Igualmente le preocupa la existencia de barreras, particularmente normativas, para que las personas que han sido declaradas interdictas o se encuentren institucionalizadas puedan desempeñarse efectivamente durante los procesos judiciales.

28. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas legislativas, administrativas y judiciales necesarias para eliminar toda restricción a la capacidad de las personas con discapacidad para actuar efectivamente en cualquier proceso. También le recomienda que proporcione los ajustes de procedimiento y razonables, incluyendo la asistencia personal o intermediaria, para garantizar el efectivo desempeño de las personas con discapacidad en las distintas funciones dentro de los procesos judiciales.

Lithuania (2016)

27. The Committee is concerned that the training courses available to judicial and law enforcement personnel do not cover all barriers faced by persons with disabilities who wish to gain access to the justice system and are insufficient in scope and number.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and implement a national plan of action to build the capacity of judicial and law enforcement personnel, including judges, prosecutors, police officers and prison staff, to enhance their knowledge of the rights of persons with disabilities and to ensure the provision of procedural and age- appropriate accommodation in all legal procedures and of reasonable accommodation in prisons.

Portugal (2016)

30. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to justice for persons with disabilities and the lack of procedural accommodations made for them in the State party.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all necessary measures to combat the discrimination that persons with disabilities face in accessing justice, making sure that full procedural accommodations are made and funds are allocated to train legal system personnel on the Convention.

Serbia (2016)

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on specific measures and protocols to provide procedural, gender and age appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings, including the provision of sign-language interpretation for deaf persons, and of accessible formats of communication for deaf-blind persons, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, particularly in civil cases. The Committee is also concerned that women with disabilities are not protected against sexual violence on equal basis with others according to the Criminal Code articles 178 and 179.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party take further steps to ensure barrier-free and non-discriminatory access to justice through the provision of procedural and age appropriate accommodation based on persons with disabilities' free choice and preference, and establish related safeguards. The Committee recommends the State party to adopt measures to provide deaf persons access to civil proceedings on an equal basis with others. The Committee recommends that the State party review its Criminal Code to ensure that procedures, sanctions and reparations for victims with disabilities are harmonized with the Convention.

Slovakia (2016)

40. The Committee is concerned about the lack of procedural accommodation and reasonable accommodation in the justice and law enforcement sector, especially with regard to persons with intellectual disabilities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party amend procedural rules to ensure that persons with intellectual disabilities are provided with procedural accommodation from the

outset. It also recommends that the State party make legal aid available to persons with disabilities so that they have access to justice on an equal basis with others.

42. The Committee further recommends that the State party provide mandatory training to all personnel in the justice, administration and law enforcement sectors on:

- (a) The rights enshrined in the Convention, including participation on an equal basis with others regardless of legal capacity status;
- (b) Procedural accommodation in the legal process;
- (c) Reasonable accommodation;
- (d) The combating of harmful gender and disability stereotypes.

Thailand (2016)

27. The Committee is concerned at the lack of accessibility to the justice system, including physical access, legal aid, sign language interpreters in the courtroom, and procedural accommodation, particularly in rural areas. The Committee is also concerned that section 95 of the Civil Procedure Code can limit persons with disabilities from having their testimony accepted on an equal basis with others.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party implement physical, informational and communicational accessibility, including through the provision of professional sign language interpreters, the use of Braille and other procedural accommodation; ensure the training of court personnel, judges, police officers and prison staff so as to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, including the right to a fair trial, and amend the Civil Procedure Code to ensure the right to testify on an equal basis with others.

Uganda (2016)

24. The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the judicial system as a result of lack of reasonable accommodation and accessibility to court buildings, and prejudices, poverty and lack of general knowledge about disability in the justice sector.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to justice, including by establishing free legal aid for persons with disabilities who claim their rights, and information and communication in accessible formats, including in Braille, tactile, augmentative and alternative formats, and Ugandan Sign Language;
- (b) Ensure that the judiciary provides procedural accommodation according to gender and age for persons with disabilities;
- (c) Conduct regular training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns and information for court staff, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement agents including police and prison officials, on the duty to provide access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Brazil (2015)

26. The Committee is concerned at the inaccessibility of judicial facilities. It is also concerned about the lack of measures to ensure procedural gender-sensitive and age-appropriate accommodations related to persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends the State party to introduce a national plan to ensure accessibility of judicial facilities. It also recommends to take measures to ensure that legal proceedings include gender-sensitive and age-appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee recommends the introduction of effective training of personnel in the justice, police and prison systems on the rights enshrined in the Convention.

European Union (2015)

38. The Committee is concerned about the discrimination persons with disabilities face in accessing justice due to lack of procedural accommodation in European Union Member States.

39. The Committee recommends that the European Union take appropriate action to combat discrimination persons with disabilities face in accessing justice by providing full procedural

accommodation within its Member States, and the provision of funding for training of justice personnel on the Convention.

EU Institutions compliance with the Convention (as public administrations)

80. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access to justice for persons with disabilities in European courts.

81. The Committee recommends that the European Union guarantee full access to justice and eliminate all barriers, physical, procedural, including those relating to legal capacity, at European courts.

Gabon (2015)

30. The Committee is concerned at the lack of accessibility to the justice system, including physical access, legal aid and sign language interpreters in court rooms as well as procedural accommodations.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party implement physical, informational and communicational accessibility, such as the provision of professional sign language interpreters, Braille and other procedural accommodations, and the training of court staff, judges, police and prison staff to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities including the right to a fair trial.

Kenya (2015)

25. The Committee is concerned about the barriers that hinder persons with disabilities access to justice in particular due to the absence of reasonable accommodation measures throughout the court proceedings that affect in particular women with disabilities, the lack of information available in accessible formats, additional costs to access services of sign language interpretation, and lack of free legal aid. It is also concerned about the actual obstacles in the prosecution of cases where persons with disabilities have been witnesses or victims. It is further concerned about the legal provisions that restrain the validity of corroborated evidence of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to justice, including by establishing free legal aid for persons with disabilities who claim their rights, and information and communication in accessible formats, including the Kenyan sign language;

(b) Define explicitly in legal instruments the duty of the judiciary to provide procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities in accordance with article 13 of the Convention; and

(c) Develop a capacity building strategy within the judicial branch on the rights of persons with disabilities, including lawyers, magistrates, judges, prison staff and the Police.

Mauritius (2015)

23. The Committee regrets the lack of clear information on the results of conciliation measures and the redress provided to the victims. The Committee is also concerned that no information was provided on actions taken to ensure accountability for violations of the rights of persons with disabilities.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party provide for disability-related and age-appropriate accommodations in all legal proceedings. The State party should ensure that accessibility measures such as braille, provision of sign language interpretation, alternative modes of communication, easy to read format, and enforcement measures are available and free of charge in all courts and that personnel in the justice and prison system are properly trained on the application of human rights standards specifically for persons with disabilities.

Qatar (2015)

25. The Committee is concerned that judicial officials are unaware of the rights of persons with disabilities and that the justice sector has no programmes specifically designed to

provide assistance to persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of accessibility to the justice system, including legal aid and assistance, sign language interpreters in court rooms, as well as procedural accommodations.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party implement the training of court staff, judges, police and prison staff to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities including the right to a fair trial and the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation. It also recommends that the State party implement measures to ensure physical, informational and communicational accessibility of all judicial facilities, such as the provision of professional sign language interpreters, Braille and other procedural accommodations.

Ukraine (2015)

28. The Committee notes with concern that most court buildings in the country remain inaccessible for persons with physical impairments. It is also concerned that persons working in administration of justice are not trained on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on reasonable accommodation and procedural accessibility. The Committee regrets the lack of information on availability of legal aid, sign language interpretation and other measures to provide persons with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities to judicial and administrative proceedings.

29. The Committee urges the State party to ensure equal access to judicial and administrative proceedings to all persons with disabilities, including access to court buildings to persons with physical impairments and to documents in accessible formats. . It further recommends training of judges, police, penitentiary system officials and other personnel in the justice system on the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Cook Islands (2015)

25. The Committee is concerned that current legislation denies access to justice to persons deprived of legal capacity, and that the justice system is not sufficiently accessible.

26. The Committee recommends the State party to:

- (a) Take immediate measures to repeal laws permitting substituted decision making which restrict access to courts and ensure all persons with disabilities can access justice by amending legislation to enable supported decision making,**
- (b) Provide accessible information and communication, including sign language interpreters, legal aid, physical access to the courts, and other procedural accommodations;**
- (c) Ensure effective training of personnel in the justice and prison system on the application of human rights standards specifically for persons with disabilities, including accessibility, procedural accommodations and reasonable accommodation.**

Czech Republic (2015)

24. The Committee notes with concern the lack of access for blind persons, persons with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities to judicial and administrative proceedings.

25. The Committee urges the State party to ensure availability of documents in accessible formats to all persons with disabilities who need them. It further recommends training of judges and other personnel in the justice system on the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Dominican Republic (2015)

24. The Committee is concerned that there is no requirement under the State party's administrative procedures for judicial authorities to make procedural accommodations, such as providing sign language interpretation, when persons with disabilities take part in proceedings. It also notes with concern the shortage of training courses for judicial personnel on the content and approach of the Convention.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party review its administrative and judicial rules and procedures with a view to adapting them and ensuring access to justice for persons with disabilities, including the guarantee of interpretation in Dominican Sign Language, the use of augmentative and alternative modes of communication and full accessibility to the physical environment, information and communication. It also recommends the introduction

of ongoing programmes to train judges, prosecutors and other judicial personnel in the rights of persons with disabilities.

Germany (2015)

27. The Committee is concerned about: a) the lack of structures and procedural accommodation within the justice sector specifically designed to provide assistance to persons with disabilities, particularly girls who are victims of violence and abuse; b) the inaccessibility of judicial facilities and lack of understanding of legal professionals with regard to access to justice; c) the lack of implementation and enforcement by the judiciary of the standards of the Convention in the national legal system and within court rulings.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Introduce targeted measures to improve the physical and communicative accessibility of courts, judicial authorities and other bodies involved in administering the law;**
- (b) Introduce legislative reforms so that the national criminal, civil, labour and administrative procedures include the requirement to ensure procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities, taking into particular account persons with intellectual disabilities, or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and children with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure effective training of personnel in the justice, police and prison system on the application of human rights standards to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.**

Mongolia (2015)

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of explicit provisions ensuring procedural accommodation in situations necessary for guaranteeing access to justice for persons with disabilities. This includes the insufficiency of sign language, Braille and appropriate training for the judicial, legal and law enforcement professionals.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt legal measures to implement the principle of procedural accommodation, including measures to ensure that persons with disabilities would not be discriminated on account of physical, or language (when sign language or Braille is required), or due to the lack of appropriate training of legal profession, police and prison officers, with special attention to women with disabilities.

Turkmenistan (2015)

27. The Committee expresses its concern about the lack of information on specific measures and protocols, other than those included in the Code of Criminal Procedures, to provide reasonable accommodation in judicial proceedings, including the provision of sign language interpretation for deaf or “mute” persons, and accessible formats of communication for deafblind persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with psychosocial disabilities, among others, particularly in civil cases.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party facilitate full barrier-free and non-discriminatory access to the justice system for persons with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodation with safeguards. The State party should also review accordingly the value of the testimony of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, deafblind persons, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

New Zealand (2014)

23. The Committee notes that, in New Zealand, persons who acquire a disability through injury only have recourse to compensation via the Accident Compensation Corporation. The Committee notes that persons who have suffered injuries are concerned over the lack of access to justice to pursue their claims. There is concern about the limited amount of legal aid funding that is available and about the discretionary basis upon which legal costs are awarded. There is also concern that the Accident Compensation Corporation machinery lacks a human rights focus.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party examine the processes for the assessing of compensation by the Accident Compensation Corporation to ensure that

adequate legal aid is available and that its processes are fully accessible to all claimants, and finally to ensure that this mechanism has a human rights focus.

25. The Committee notes that the Government is considering the establishment of an accident compensation tribunal to replace appeals to the District Court. The Committee is concerned that there has been insufficient consultation with persons who have acquired disabilities through injury, and with their representative organizations, about the establishment and operation of this tribunal.

26. The Committee recommends that organizations representing persons with disabilities be consulted about the proposal to establish an accident compensation tribunal. The Committee also recommends that the tribunal adopt a flexible approach to the admission of evidence, and that those who lack the means should be given adequate legal aid to ensure full access to the tribunal.

27. The Committee is concerned that no specific training of judges by the Institute of Judicial Studies has been given either on the Convention or on the requirement that justice be accessible to all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual and those with psychosocial disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the Institute of Judicial Studies, in conjunction with disabled persons' organizations, run training programmes on the Convention and on the rights of persons with disabilities who come before New Zealand courts and tribunals.

Republic of Korea (2014)

23. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective implementation of article 26 of the Anti-Discrimination against and Remedies for Persons with Disabilities Act, which requires that the Government ensure reasonable accommodation during judicial procedures for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that judicial personnel lack sufficient awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee notes the existence of the Guidelines for Judicial Assistance for Persons with Disabilities published by the Korean Supreme Court in 2013.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of article 26 of the Anti-Discrimination against and Remedies for Persons with Disabilities Act. It further recommends that standard modules on working with persons with disabilities, on the provision of reasonable accommodation, in particular procedural and age-appropriate, as well as gender-sensitive, accommodations, and on the guarantee of access to justice be incorporated into training programmes for police officers, prison staff, lawyers, the judiciary and court personnel. It is recommended that the Guidelines for Judicial Assistance for Persons with Disabilities, published by the Korean Supreme Court, be legally binding and implemented effectively.

Ecuador (2014)

26. The Committee is concerned that judicial officials are unaware of the rights of persons with disabilities provided for in national and international instruments, that the justice sector has no programmes specifically designed to provide assistance to persons with disabilities and at the inaccessibility of judicial facilities. The Committee is concerned that there is no requirement under the criminal, civil, labour and administrative procedures in Ecuador for judicial authorities to make procedural accommodations when persons with disabilities take part in proceedings.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Adapt training programmes for judicial personnel to ensure that they cover the rights of persons with disabilities included in national and international human rights instruments; (b) Ensure that the Council of the Judiciary implement a national adaptation plan so that there is adequate accessibility to judicial facilities both in terms of both their architecture and communications and that the plan includes the requirement to provide Ecuadorian sign-language interpreters and easy-read facilities for the participation of deaf persons and persons with intellectual disabilities, respectively; (c) Ensure that the legislature introduce legislative reforms so that the national criminal, civil, labour and administrative procedures include the requirement to make

procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities, thereby enabling their access to justice on an equal basis with others.

Mexico (2014)

25. The Committee is concerned at the limited access to justice of persons with disabilities from indigenous communities, of women and girls with disabilities who are the victims of violence and abuse, of persons with disabilities living in institutions and of children with disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt priority corrective measures to ensure that the groups of persons with disabilities who are particularly discriminated against also have access to justice;**
- (b) Provide legal aid to persons with disabilities who live in poverty or in institutions;**
- (c) Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to justice and may express their opinion in the course of the determination of the best interests of the child, through procedural accommodations appropriate to their age and specific disability-related needs.**

Costa Rica (2014)

25. The Committee is concerned that measures on access to justice have been confined to physical accessibility, that care manuals and protocols have not been produced and that training for persons involved in the administration of justice has been inadequate and does not include all aspects of the rights of persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party review its administrative and judicial rules and procedures with a view to adapting them and ensuring access to justice for persons with disabilities, including the guarantee of interpretation in Costa Rican sign language, the use of augmentative and alternative modes of communication and full accessibility to the physical environment, transport and communication.

27. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities undergoing criminal proceedings have no guarantees of due process adapted to their disability.

28. The Committee urges the State party to review judicial proceedings in criminal cases to ensure that all proceedings involving persons with disabilities are subject to due process safeguards. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its criminal legislation in order to make penalties applicable to persons with disabilities subject to the same guarantees and conditions as those applicable to any other person who is the subject of criminal proceedings, making provision as necessary for reasonable accommodation and procedural adjustments.

Australia (2013)

27. The Committee is concerned at the lack of training for judicial officers, legal practitioners and court staff on ensuring access to justice for persons with disabilities, as well as lack of guidance on how to access justice for persons with disabilities. It is further concerned that access to sign language interpreters or use of Augmentative and Alternative Modes of Communication (AAC) is not supported in all of the States and Territories.

28. The Committee recommends that standard and compulsory modules on working with persons with disabilities be incorporated into training programs for police, prison officers, lawyers, judicial officers and court staff. It further recommends that legislation and policy across States and Territories be amended to ensure access to justice for persons with disabilities in line with article 13.

29. The Committee further urges the State party to ensure that persons with psychosocial disabilities are ensured equal substantive and procedural guarantees as others in the context of criminal proceedings and in particular to ensure that no diversion programs are implemented that transfer individuals to mental health commitment regimes or that require the individual to participate in mental health services rather than providing such services on the basis of the individual's free and informed consent.

30. The Committee further recommends the State party to ensure that all persons with disabilities who are accused of crimes and are currently detained in jails and institutions

without a trial are promptly allowed to defend themselves against criminal charges and are provided with required support and accommodation to facilitate their effective participation.

El Salvador (2013)

29. The Committee is concerned about the barriers to access to justice encountered by persons with disabilities and the lack of reasonable accommodation. The Committee is also concerned at the limited access to justice for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of abuse or neglect owing to the low credibility ascribed to their witness statements.

30. The Committee calls on the State party to:

(a) Put in place reasonable procedural accommodation with a gender and age focus to ensure access to justice for persons with disabilities and to provide free legal assistance, information on each case – as early as the police investigation – in accessible formats, access to judicial buildings and the services of trained Salvadoran sign-language interpreters;

(b) Strengthen the mandate of the Office of the Human Rights Advocate regarding legal remedies for the defence of the rights of persons with disabilities;

(c) Design training programmes for all those involved in the legal system, including the police, judges, legal professionals, social workers and health-care workers, in both urban and rural areas;

(d) Adopt measures to secure access to justice for women and girls with disabilities, with due consideration paid to their role as witnesses and victims during the trial phase.

Paraguay (2013)

31. The Committee is concerned that the State party's criminal legislation provides for penalties termed "care measures", that may be applied to persons with disabilities without due process.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its criminal legislation in order to make penalties applicable to persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities subject to the same guarantees and conditions as those applicable to any other person who is the subject of criminal proceedings, making provision as necessary for reasonable accommodation and procedural adjustments.

China (2012)

23. While appreciating the establishment of legal aid service centres for persons with disabilities, the Committee notes that these service centres often lack the necessary resources and do not operate on an independent basis. The committee is concerned that neither the criminal nor the civil procedure laws in China are accessible for the use of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others and instead patronizing measures are put into place such as the designation of public defenders that treat the person concerned as if they lacked legal capacity.

24. The Committee suggests that the state party allocate the necessary human and financial resources to the legal aid service centres. It asks the state party to ensure that these centres safeguard the access to justice of persons with disabilities independently and in practice, also below the county level. The Committee suggests that the state party reviews its procedural civil and criminal laws in order to make mandatory the necessity to establish procedural accommodation for those persons with disabilities who intervene in the judicial system can do it as subject of rights and not as objects of protection.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 14 CRPD
(Liberty and security of person)*

September 2025

Article 14 - Liberty and security of person

1. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others:
 - a) Enjoy the right to liberty and security of person;
 - b) Are not deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that any deprivation of liberty is in conformity with the law, and that the existence of a disability shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty.
2. States Parties shall ensure that if persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty through any process, they are, on an equal basis with others, entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and shall be treated in compliance with the objectives and principles of the present Convention, including by provision of reasonable accommodation.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
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Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
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Israel (2023)
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Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)

Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
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Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)

Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)

Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
New Zealand (2014)
Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Belgium (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Hungary (2012)

Peru (2012)

Spain (2011)

Tunisia (2010)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 14 on Mauritania

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

25. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities, in particular those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons of short stature, are subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention, including in psychiatric recovery centres, including in segregated communities, often without warrant, charges, legal representation or judicial oversight;

(b) The State Party has not provided disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities in prisons or other places of deprivation of liberty, their conditions of detention, or cases where they have challenged the lawfulness of their detention.

26. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and recommends that the State party:

(a) **Take measures to prevent and punish the arbitrary arrest of persons with disabilities in law and practice, including in psychiatric recovery centres, requiring that arrests of persons with disabilities be based on judicially issued warrants; ensure access to legal counsel in all proceedings; and establish independent judicial oversight and monitoring mechanisms with full, unrestricted access to all facilities;**

(b) **Collect and publish disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in all places of deprivation of liberty, including sex, age, type of impairment, location, and detention conditions.**

Finland (2025)

26. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of measures to repeal laws and legal provisions that involuntarily detain persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment;

(b) The lack of clarity on the position of the State Party in relation to its future participation in any process towards the adoption of an additional protocol to or recommendation concerning the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine.

27. Recalling its general comment No. 1(2014), its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) **Ensure that disability is not a reason to deprive a person's liberty under any law, including the Mental Health Act (116/1990) and the Act on Special Care for People with Intellectual Disabilities, and end all practices that allow for deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment;**

(b) **In recognition of the Committee's joint open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to the Council of Europe, dated June 2021, as well as the January 2025 open letter to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Committee on Bioethics of the Council of Europe, the Steering Committee for Human Rights, the Commissioner of Human Rights, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and other organizations and entities of the Council of Europe, promote the move away from coercive measures and the development of a non-coercive framework on mental health, as required under the Convention in future participation in any process towards the adoption of an additional protocol to or recommendation concerning the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine;**

Kiribati (2025)

25. The Committee is concerned about the existence of legislation in the State party, including Section 5 of the Constitution and Section 144 of the Criminal Procedural Code, and in the draft Mental Health Bill that allows for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities based on their impairment.

26. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party repeal all provisions in legislation and amend draft legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment;

Maldives (2025)

27. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That there is a delay in the adoption of a mental health law in line with the Convention, as well as the persistence of forced institutionalization and substitute decision-making systems, particularly in criminal justice.

(b) There is a lack of specific measures, in line with the Convention, to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system.

28. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite the adoption of the Mental Health Law, ensuring that it is in line with the Convention, to guarantee the right to liberty for all persons with disabilities including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including those who acquired a disability while in prison, benefit from due process of law guarantees on an equal basis with others.

Canada (2025)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Mental health and substance use treatment legislative and policy frameworks that allow for involuntary detention and treatment, increased support for Drug Treatment Courts, the increase in involuntary hospitalisation, and release and access to housing and services conditional on community treatment orders;

(b) Over-policing and complex court practices that adversely impact and effectively criminalise Indigenous, Black and racialised groups, homeless persons with disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities leading to frequent contact with the criminal justice system and incarceration;

(c) Over representation of persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system and prisons, in particular Indigenous women with disabilities, Black and other marginalised persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with FASD;

(d) The lack of culturally appropriate, gender and age specific individualised supports, accessible infrastructure and disability-related supports, and health services, including mental health and drug treatment support options within prisons;

(e) The indefinite detention in outpatient community treatment or mental health facilities, and the lack of access to procedural guarantees for persons with disabilities who are declared 'unfit to stand trial' or not criminally responsible.

28. Recalling its Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex), the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Repeal federal, provincial, and territorial mental health and substance use treatment laws and policies allowing for involuntary detention and treatment, including under the auspices of Drug Treatment Courts and through community treatment orders;

(b) Invest in rights-based, culturally appropriate voluntary, community-based mental health and substance use supports and treatment options, including peer-led options; ensure regulatory oversight and human rights monitoring, and ensure harm reduction and safe supply programs that respond to the intersecting identities of people who use drugs;

(c) Take all legislative, policy, judicial and administrative measures to address the over-representation of persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system and prisons,

including by addressing the social determinants of incarceration, such as poverty, ableism, racial injustice, and gender inequality, and by reforming policing practices and complex court processes;

(d) Implement laws and policies to ensure that prisoners with disabilities receive culturally appropriate, gender and age specific individualised supports, accessible infrastructure and disability-related supports, and health services, including mental health and drug treatment support options;

(e) Amend and/or repeal legislation that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, allowing for harsher measures against persons with disabilities than against defendants convicted of the same crimes, such as indefinite detention, and guarantee their access to justice on an equal basis with others throughout judicial proceedings.

Dominican Republic (2025)

25. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The provisions in the general law No. 42-01 which gives the authorities the power to intern persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities in institutions and psychiatric hospitals based on the concept of “dangerousness”;

(b) The lack of updated official data on persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty, disaggregated by place of detention and occupancy rate thereof.

26. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative, administrative, policy and judicial measures necessary to:

(a) Remove from its legal framework the concept of dangerousness as a criteria for the deprivation of liberty for persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Provide, in its next periodic report, updated official data on persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty, disaggregated by place of detention and occupancy rate thereof.

European Union (2025)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of action by the European Union under its competences to abolish involuntary detention, of persons with disabilities in Member States, including in closed psychiatric facilities, and about the heightened risk of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, autistic persons, children, older persons, and migrants with disabilities of being detained;

(b) The lack of effective monitoring of detention of persons with disabilities, including in closed psychiatric facilities, and of the provision of the requisite support measures.

37. Recalling the Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , the Committee recommends that the European Union take all measures within its competences necessary to:

(a) Abolish involuntary detention of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, autistic persons, children, older persons, and migrants with disabilities, on the basis of their disability, and provide incentives for Member States to end all detention on the basis of disability, whether de jure or de facto, and fund research on the development of community-based services;

(b) Effectively monitor the situation of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty in all places of detention.

Palau (2025)

25. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, are still subjected to laws that deprive them of their liberty based on impairment, and that there is a lack of information on the measures

taken to ensure that those persons are not subjected to arbitrary treatment, including confinement.

26. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all relevant provisions in legislation that allow for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, on the basis of impairment;

(b) Establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities are not subjected to arbitrary and forced treatment, particularly treatment that results in confinement, including at home, and ensure that reasonable accommodation and safety is provided to persons with disabilities who come in conflict with the law.

Tuvalu (2025)

25. The Committee is concerned about the existence of legislation in the State party, including art.111 of the Mental Treatment Act, that allows for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities based on their disability, in particular their “mental capacity”, and the lack of guarantee of their security in those circumstances.

26. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review its national legislation to guarantee the constitutional right to liberty for all persons with disabilities including those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Implement the Tuvalu National Disability Policy, Gender Policy and Children policy, and establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are not subjected to arbitrary detention, and ensure that reasonable accommodation and safety is provided to persons with disabilities who come in conflict with the law.

Viet Nam (2025)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The enactment of the Mental Health Plan 2016-2025 and its alignment with the Principles of the Convention;

(b) Whether the conditions for persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as persons with autism, in their homes ensure they are not forcibly confined and promote family coexistence;

(c) Whether persons with disabilities in prisons or detention centres receive all guarantees of due process and the reasonable accommodations they require, particularly women and indigenous persons with disabilities.

28. Recalling the Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative, administrative, policy and judicial measures necessary to:

(a) Ensure that the Mental Health Plan 2016-2025 aligns with Article 14 of the Convention and its respective guidelines;

(b) Review national standards policies and practices to guarantee that persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as persons with autism, are not forcibly confined to their homes or prisons without due process;

(c) Adopt regulations to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities held in prisons or detention centres, and ensure that women and indigenous persons with disabilities in such facilities receive appropriate support .

Belarus (2024)

27. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Article 36 of the Mental Health Care Act allows for compulsory hospitalization and treatment based on a court decision in relation to persons with disabilities depriving their legal capacity;
- (b) Risks of infringement of liberty and security persist along with violence, abuse and ill-treatment in settings of detention, for persons with an officially recognised disability status, those with unregistered disabilities and those having obtained a disability in the course of their detention.

28. Recalling the Committee's Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and the Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in Emergency Situations, the Committee recommends that in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, in particular psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and their representative organizations, the State party:

- (a) Undertake reforms in the Mental Care Act, including Article 36, to eliminate the possibility of non-consensual institutionalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, and children with such disabilities;**
- (b) While deinstitutionalization is in process, ensure a mechanism that comprises representation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to prevent, detect, and address violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities, functioning as an independent system of monitoring and evaluation for the institutions where persons with disabilities are segregated;**
- (c) Undertake measures to effectively handle the complaints of the cases of deprivation of liberty and security of persons with disabilities.**

Belgium (2024)

28. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities can be lawfully deprived of their liberty because of their disability, and that, despite legal reforms that attempt to limit such deprivation of liberty to the most serious cases, the number of interned persons has risen to over 4,000 in the State party;
- (b) Persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities without residence permits, are often interned indefinitely in placement facilities, psychiatric annexes and prisons without appropriate support.

29. Recalling the Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), as well as its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

- (a) Amend and/or repeal all laws and abolish practices that allow for deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, allow for harsher measures against persons with disabilities than other defendants convicted of the same crimes, and allow for indefinite detention, and guarantee access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others throughout judicial proceedings;**
- (b) Ensure that interned persons without residence permits, including persons with disabilities, have access to external care and support to enable them to leave prison, psychiatric annexes and other security placement facilities to live in the community when eligible to do so;**
- (c) Urgently address the lack of accessibility and disability and mental health support measures, including the provision of reasonable accommodation, and overcrowding in prison and detention facilities, and ensure adequate support measures to facilitate reintegration into the community;**

(d) Recognize the Committee's joint open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, of June 2021 and in its future participation in any process for an additional protocol or recommendation to the Oviedo Convention, aim to move away from coercive measures and build up a non-coercive framework on mental health, as required under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Benin (2024)

27. The Committee is concerned by the information received:

- (a) On the involuntary confinement reserved for persons with psychosocial disabilities living in the streets, as they can be apprehended by the police and placed in psychiatric centres;
- (b) At the lack of monitoring mechanisms to ensure the right to reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in correctional and detention facilities.

28. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Review and amend all discriminatory provisions in its laws, including the Law No. 202-07 of 7 June 2002 (Persons and Family Code), the Law No. 2020-37 of 3 February 2021 on the protection of Personal Health and any other legislation providing for the detention, forced institutionalization and compulsory health treatment of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities placed under tutorship and/or curatorship regimes on the basis of impairment to bring them into conformity with the Convention and international human rights norms and standards, including by addressing detention of persons with psychosocial disabilities living in the streets during major events.

(b) Establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities are not subjected to arbitrary and forced internment and treatment, particularly treatment that results in confinement, and ensure that reasonable accommodation and safety are provided to persons with disabilities who come into conflict with the law.

Burkina Faso (2024)

28. The Committee is concerned about Article 109 of Act No. 23-94/ADP of 19 May 1994 on the Public Health Code, in particular the conditions of forced hospitalization of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric establishments, on the basis of administrative decisions or doctors' decisions.

29. Recalling the Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party reviews the legal provisions, in particular article 109 of the Public Health Code, to withdraw provisions authorizing institutionalization on the basis of impairment, and develop a system of mental health support in the community for children and adults, including children and adults with persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons.

Denmark (2024)

43. The Committee is concerned that :

- (a) Legislation in the Kingdom of Denmark, including the Danish Act No. 655 of 2017 on the Use of Coercion in Somatic Treatment of Permanently Incapacitated Persons, allows, under certain preconditions, for the detention and compulsory treatment of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities who resist treatment and are deemed incapable of giving informed consent;
- (b) Children and adolescents with disabilities can, on welfare grounds, be placed in secure residential institutions under prison-like conditions that also house youth detained for crime-related reasons;

(c) Denmark distinguishes between punishment and treatment, and Greenland between criminal sanctions and treatment, depending on whether or not the accused persons are considered “unfit to stand trial” on account of their impairment, and that a conviction to treatment is often longer than a sentence to ordinary punishment for the same crime would be, or even of indefinite duration.

44. Recalling the Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Repeal all laws and abolish all practices that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment and forced treatment, including mental health laws and institutionalization policies;

(b) Amend relevant legislation to ensure that children and adolescents with disabilities cannot be placed in secure residential institutions on welfare grounds;

(c) Initiate a structural review of the procedures used to sanction persons with disabilities deemed unfit to stand trial, and ensure that they do not get convicted to longer sentences than other persons, and that all guarantees of fair trial, such as the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial, and others, are fully guaranteed;

(d) Review all cases of deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities currently in hospitals, institutions and other places of deprivation of liberty, due to a non-criminal court or administrative order, and transfer them to a community-based places of residence, freely chosen and with access to a range of community-based support services;

(e) Recognizing the Committee’s joint open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities of June 2021 and in its future participation in any process for an additional protocol or recommendation to the Oviedo Convention, do not support coercive measures and promote to establish a non-coercive framework on mental health.

Ghana (2024)

28. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The 2012 Mental Health Act No. 846 contains provisions that are contrary to the Convention;

(b) Persons with Disabilities Act (Act 715) lacks provisions to protect the liberty and security of persons with disabilities and prevent arbitrary deprivation of liberty, and the slow progress in enacting the Legislative Instrument required by the Mental Health Act (Act 846) to protect the rights of persons with disabilities;

(c) Socio-cultural practices continue to deprive persons with disabilities, particularly those with albinism and psychosocial disabilities, of their liberty and human rights, exacerbated by insufficient public awareness;

(d) The absence of a comprehensive system for collecting and maintaining disaggregated data on the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities.

29. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Revise the Mental Health Act 846: Section 58, which permits seclusion and restraint; Sections 68-71, which allow for guardianship and substitute decision-making; and Sections 42-53, which authorize involuntary admission and treatment, all of which contradict the CRPD and provide training for mental health professionals on CRPD principles and rights-based approaches to mental health care;

(b) Amend Act 715 to include provisions that protect the liberty and security of persons with disabilities, prevent arbitrary deprivation of liberty for persons with intellectual and or psychosocial disabilities and expedite the progress towards enacting the Legislative Instrument required by the Mental Health Act (Act 846) to enhance the protection of their rights;

(c) Implement public awareness, educational and legal measures to address socio-cultural practices that deprive persons with disabilities of their liberty and human rights;

(d) Establish a system for collecting and maintaining disaggregated data on the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities to effectively address and prevent these issues, ensuring informed policy-making and targeted interventions.

Mauritius (2024)

25. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Mental Health Care Act 1998, despite several amendments to limit indefinite and prolonged hospitalization, still allows for the involuntary hospitalization and institutionalization of persons with disabilities, including children, based on their perceived or actual impairment or dangerousness;

(b) The Mental Health Commission and the Managerial Committee tasked with overseeing the involuntary deprivation of liberty lack sufficient operational independence and an understanding of the Convention to effectively perform their designated functions.

26. Recalling its Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative, administrative, policy and judicial measures necessary to:

(a) Amend the law and eradicate policies and practices that allow for the involuntary hospitalization and institutionalization of persons with disabilities, including children, on the basis of actual or perceived impairments, or their presumed dangerousness to themselves or to third parties;

(b) Review the current legal framework and practices to ensure that the Mental Health Commission and the Managerial Committee possess sufficient independence in practice from the mental healthcare centres and receive training on the obligations of the State party under the Convention.

Netherlands (2024)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Provisions in the Act on Compulsory Mental Healthcare (WVGZ) and the Act on Care and Involuntary Treatment of Psychogeriatric and Mentally Disabled Clients (WGZ) that allow for the involuntary detention of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) The complex and difficult to understand complaint mechanism against compulsory institutionalization and the lack of accessible information about the right to support by a client confidential counsellor;

(c) Information on a lack of training of law enforcement officers on the requirements of persons with disabilities.

34. Recalling the Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, as well as its general comment No. 1 (2014), the Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative, administrative, policy and judicial measures necessary to:

(a) Review and repeal all legal provisions, policies and practices that allow for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability and withdraw the interpretative declaration to article 14 of the Convention;

(b) Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework on involuntary treatment, including involuntary measures at home, and take measures to ensure compliance with reporting obligations and provide persons with disabilities with information in accessible formats and access to legal representation in filing complaints against forced institutionalization;

(c) Provide training to all law enforcement officers on the requirements of persons with disabilities;

(d) Recognize the Committee's joint open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities of June 2021 and in its future participation in any process for an

additional protocol or recommendation to the Oviedo Convention, do not support coercive measures and promote to establish a non-coercive framework on mental health.

Ukraine (2024)

28. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Despite the amendment to the Law of Ukraine on Psychiatric Care (No. 1489-III) to involve some degree of judicial control on the matter, the State party still allows the hospitalization of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities without their consent;
- (b) The lack of information on the content and status of the draft Law prepared by the Ministry of Health "On Ratification of the Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine of 1997".

29. Recalling the Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), as well as the Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (2015), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all laws and regulations allowing the forced hospitalization of persons with disabilities and recognize the full legal capacity and procedural standing of persons with disabilities to provide their consent for all issues related to their health, including procedures to ensure informed decisions;
- (b) Undertake a comprehensive review of cases where there is no consent of persons with disabilities for hospitalization to ensure that they are discharged;
- (c) Recognize the Committee's joint open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, of June 2021 and in its future participation in any process for an additional protocol or recommendation to the Oviedo Convention, it aims to move away from coercive measures and build up a non-coercive framework on mental health, as required under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Azerbaijan (2024)

31. The Committee remains concerned about:

- (a) Provisions in the Law on Protection of Health of the Population allowing hospitalization or institutionalization, control, and isolation of "persons suffering from mental disorder or illness" and "individuals who have committed socially dangerous acts";
- (b) Involuntary hospitalization of persons with disabilities resulting from the deviation of defendants with disabilities from criminal proceedings;
- (c) The lack of measures to provide mental health services in the community.

32. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (CRPD/C/AZE/CO/1, para. 29) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Explicitly prohibit forced institutionalization and involuntary hospitalization on the basis of impairment, recognize them as prohibited forms of discrimination and release persons with disabilities who are deprived of their liberty on the basis of their impairment;
- (b) Amend and/or repeal legislation that denies persons with disabilities the full protection guaranteed to anyone who is deprived of her or his liberty by arrest or detention, including by involuntary hospitalization, to take proceedings before a court and to be afforded the specific procedural guarantees required in such proceedings;
- (c) Reform its mental health services and develop voluntary community-based support for persons with disabilities, in particular mental health support, outside of psychiatric settings, in line with the human rights model of disability.

33. The Committee notes with concern that the process to draft an additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine may include repressive measures against persons with disabilities on the basis of their perceived dangerousness and not in accordance with their will and preference.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party recognize the Committee's joint open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, of June 2021, and in its future participation in any process for an additional protocol or recommendations to the Oviedo Convention, aim to move away from coercive measures and build up a non-coercive framework on mental health, as required under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Bahrain (2024)¹

28. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

- (a) The practice of forced placement on the basis of disability of children and adults in residential care institutions within and outside the State party.**
- (b) The absence of a specific law governing the mental health sector that guarantees respect for the individual autonomy, freedom of choice and free and informed consent of persons with psychosocial disabilities**
- (c) The forced placement of persons with psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric hospitals without controls and for specific periods of time.**

29. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (2016) and its guidelines on deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party

- (a) Prohibit the placement of persons with disabilities in residential care institutions inside and outside Bahrain and launch a comprehensive national plan to replace the residential system with family-based alternatives and inclusive community-based services.**
- (b) In close consultation with persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organisations, review the draft mental health law before the House of Representatives in order to include measures and provisions that guarantee the individual autonomy of persons with disabilities and prohibit placement and forced treatment.**

Costa Rica (2024)

25. Al Comité le preocupa:

- a) Que en el Reglamento sobre el consentimiento informado en la prestación de servicios de salud del Sistema Costarricense de Seguridad Social permite la institucionalización forzosa sin el consentimiento libre e informado de las personas con discapacidad;**
- b) La falta de información sobre personas con discapacidad que han sido detenidas en hospitales psiquiátricos como medida de seguridad, ya sea administrativa o penal.**

26. Recordando sus directrices sobre el derecho a la libertad y la seguridad de las personas con discapacidad (2017) y sus directrices sobre la desinstitucionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia, el Comité exhorta al Estado parte a:

- a) Modificar el Reglamento sobre el consentimiento informado en la prestación de servicios de salud del Sistema Costarricense de Seguridad Social de modo a prohibir la institucionalización sin el consentimiento libre e informado de las personas con discapacidad;**
- b) Recopilar y publicar datos desagregados y actualizados sobre la cantidad de personas con discapacidad en situación de encierro en todas las jurisdicciones, incluyendo la cantidad de niños y adultos con discapacidad segregados en instituciones.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Legislation, including articles 169, 170 of the Code on the Health of the People and the Healthcare System, allowing for involuntary committal and psychiatric treatment of persons**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to psychiatric facilities, including psychiatric hospitals, based on their perceived or actual impairment or dangerousness (CRPD/C/KAZ/RQ/1, para. 109);

(b) The prohibition for persons with disabilities to leave special social service centres;

(c) The lack of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in detention.

32. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize involuntary hospitalization of persons with disabilities as a prohibited form of discrimination on the grounds of impairment, amounting to arbitrary deprivation of liberty, and review and repeal legislation, including provisions of the Code on the Health of the People and the Healthcare System, that permits institutionalization on the basis of impairment;

(b) Review cases of deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities currently in hospitals and special social service centres with a view to releasing them from the institution and transfer them to a community-based place of residence with access to a range of community-based support services;

(c) Amend and/or repeal legislation that denies to persons with disabilities the full protection guaranteed to anyone who is deprived of her or his liberty by arrest or detention, including by involuntary hospitalization, to take proceedings before a court and to be afforded the specific procedural guarantees required in such proceedings;

(d) Ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation to all persons with disabilities in detention, including in pre-trial detention, in all types of detention facilities, of any type of impairment.

Nicaragua (2024)

26. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) Que el Código de Familia contemple, en su artículo 464, el internamiento no voluntario por razones de trastorno psíquico, lo que es contrario al artículo 14 de la Convención y sus directrices;

b) Que no se les permita a las personas con discapacidad en instituciones penitenciarias contar con sus medios auxiliares argumentando que se transforman en “armas blancas”;

c) La falta de información sobre cuantas personas con discapacidad han sido detenidas y se encuentran en el régimen penitenciario.

27. Recordando sus directrices sobre el derecho a la libertad y la seguridad de las personas con discapacidad y sus directrices sobre la desinstitutionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia, el Comité exhorta al Estado parte a:

a) Reformar el Código de Familia (Ley 870) para eliminar por completo la institucionalización forzada de las personas con discapacidad;

b) Tomar acciones inmediatas para que las personas con discapacidad que se encuentren en instituciones penitenciarias puedan utilizar sus medios auxiliares;

c) Investigar y documentar con datos desagregados, cuantas personas con discapacidad se encuentran dentro del régimen penitenciario.

Sweden (2024)

31. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities can be deprived of their liberty on the basis of impairment, and that the barriers to discharge from psychiatric institutions is prolonged due to limited community housing options;

(b) The indeterminate detention of persons with disabilities who are deemed ‘unfit’ to stand trial.

32. Recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee

recommends that the State party take all necessary legislative, administrative, policy and judicial measures to:

- (a) Repeal all laws and abolish practices that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, including mental health laws, and ensure access to appropriate, accessible community housing and supports;
- (b) Amend and/or repeal legislation that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, allowing for harsher measures against persons with disabilities than defendants convicted of the same crimes, such as indeterminate detention, and guarantee their access to justice on an equal basis with others throughout judicial proceedings.

Zambia (2024)

27. The Committee notes with concern that section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code allows the deprivation of liberty and indefinite detention of persons with psychosocial disabilities considered unfit for trial. It is also concerned at lack of monitoring mechanisms to ensure the right to reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in correctional and detention facilities.

28. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review and amend all discriminatory provisions in the laws, including section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code to bring them in conformity with the Convention and human rights norms and standards including addressing prolonged detention of persons found unfit for trial under the President's Pleasure without regular case reviews;
- (b) Establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities are not subjected to arbitrary and forced treatment, particularly treatment that results in confinement, and ensure that reasonable accommodation and safety is provided to persons with disabilities who come in conflict with the law.

Andorra (2023)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Discriminatory provisions, including article 315 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that allow for the involuntary hospitalization of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, for "therapeutic purposes", as well as article 73 (1) of the Criminal Code that establishes the hospitalization in psychiatric facilities as a measure of deprivation of liberty;
- (b) The limited information related to community-based mental health services and the number of persons with disabilities deprived of liberty on the basis of impairment.

30. The Committee recalling its Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (2015), recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal legislative provisions, including article 315 of the Code of Civil Procedure and article 73(1) of the Criminal Code, allowing for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the grounds of impairment and/or perceived danger to themselves or others;
- (b) Ensure the availability of community-based mental health services and support, respecting the right to liberty of persons with disabilities and guaranteeing their right to decide on their health care, including in situations of individual crisis;
- (c) Provide disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities deprived of liberty on the basis of impairment, including in psychiatric facilities, addiction treatment centres, or special educational or rehabilitation establishments.

Austria (2023)

33. The Committee is concerned that the State party's mental health legislation is largely based on a medical model of disability, allows for involuntary detention and compulsory treatment.

34. The Committee recalls its Guidelines on the Right to Liberty and Security of Persons with Disabilities and recommends that the State party abolish all provisions that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment or for compulsory treatment, that measures for supported decision-making in places of detention are provided, and that organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are closely consulted with and actively involved in the development of these measures.

Germany (2023)

29. The Committee is deeply concerned:

(a) About the forced institutionalisation and forced treatment of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment in care and integration assistance facilities and other institutions, psychiatric institutions and forensic psychiatric care;

(b) That children and young people with disabilities can be deprived of their liberty on the basis of therapeutic necessity.

30. Recalling its Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (2016) and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to:

(a) Prohibit involuntary detention, forced institutionalisation and forced treatment of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment;

(b) Strengthen all judicial and administrative protections to prevent the deprivation of liberty of children and young persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

31. The Committee is concerned about 'unfit' to stand trial provisions that allow for the indefinite detention of persons with disabilities in forensic psychiatric care.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party amend and/or repeal legislation that restricts the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, allowing for harsher measures against persons with disabilities than against defendants convicted of the same crimes, such as indefinite detention, and guarantee their access to justice on an equal basis with others throughout judicial proceedings

Israel (2023)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The involuntary hospitalization and mental health treatment in psychiatric settings affecting children and adults with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities on the presumption of dangerousness and as a result of decisions made by the district psychiatric committees and the district courts;

(b) Psychiatric treatment orders or involuntary hospitalization orders concerning persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities following declarations of persons being unfit to stand trial by a court (CRPD/C/ISR/1, see para. 154);

(c) The limited scope and substandard quality of health care provided to prisoners with disabilities, in particular Palestinians with disabilities, and the lack of oversight of the healthcare system run by the Israeli prison system.

32. Recalling its Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, see Annex), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Withdraw provisions in the Criminal Procedure Law 5742-1982, the Treatment of Persons with Mental Disabilities Law and the Youth Care and Supervision Law (5720-1969) that provide for institutionalization on the basis of impairment, and develop a system of support in the community for children and adults, including children and adults with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Amend and/or repeal legislation that denies to persons with disabilities the full protection in criminal proceedings afforded to all defendants, including the presumption of innocence, and that results in sanctions or a referral to diversion mechanisms such as the deprivation

of liberty through involuntary hospitalisation orders and involuntary treatment through psychiatric treatment orders;

(c) Transfer health care services from the Israeli prison system to the national health care system and implement specific strategies to meet the healthcare needs of prisoners with disabilities, in particular Palestinians with disabilities.

33. The Committee is concerned about reports of excessive and disproportional use of force, including arbitrary arrests, harassment and violence against persons with disabilities by Israeli Defense Forces, the Israeli Police, and private guards in the context of public demonstrations, during law enforcement operations and in connection with night raids or searches in households that affect Palestinian persons with disabilities, and disproportionately Palestinian women with disabilities and the lack of investigation of complaints.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) End arbitrary arrests and detentions, including administrative detentions of persons with disabilities, and ensure that persons with disabilities in detention have access to all guarantees provided for international human rights law, as recommended to the State party by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/ISR/CO/5, para. 35);

(b) Prevent the excessive and disproportional use of force by the Israeli Defense Forces, the Israeli Police and private guards, adopt gender specific protection and safeguards during law enforcement operations and ensure gender appropriate complaint and redress mechanisms for Palestinian persons with disabilities.

Malawi (2023)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability provided in the Mental Treatment Act of 1948 and affecting persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Provisions in the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code (art. 135) that exempt persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities from criminal responsibility and provide for their deprivation of liberty in psychiatric hospitals, "with or without limitation" of time;

(c) Information indicating that women in prison, including women with disabilities were transferred to other prisons away from families during the COVID 19 pandemic and hence, have been deprived of material and social support;

(d) Information about lack of accessibility measures and reasonable accommodation in relation to persons with disabilities held in custody and in prisons.

30. In accordance with the Committee's Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, see Annex), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, particularly organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities:

(a) Complete the review process of the Mental Health legislation and abolish involuntary mental health treatment in psychiatric hospitals and other settings on the basis of disability. The State party should incorporate person-centered, community based and participatory support in the scope of mental health;

(b) Repeal all legal provisions that deny to persons with disabilities the full protection criminal proceedings afford to all defendants, including the presumption of innocence and that result in sanctions or a referral to diversion mechanisms that are more severe than regular criminal sentences, such as the deprivation of liberty of undefined or indefinite duration and involuntary or forced medication or treatment;

(c) Ensure that women with disabilities in prisons are able to be located close to their families and receive the essential supports they require;

(d) Take measures to ensure that all places of detention, including prisons, police cells and reformatory centers are accessible for persons with disabilities and that reasonable

accommodation is provided. The State party should also introduce provisions to address disability requirements in the Prisons Act and Regulations and prison staff about the rights of persons with disabilities.

Mongolia (2023)

29. The Committee remains concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are still subjected to deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability and perceived dangerousness to themselves or others.

30. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (2015) and recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities², and recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize the involuntary hospitalization of persons with disabilities as discrimination on the grounds of impairment, amounting to deprivation of liberty, and repeal all relevant legislative provisions, including the provisions of the Law on Health and the Law on Mental Health allowing for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the grounds of impairment and perceived dangerousness to themselves or others;

(b) Introduce legislation that ensures procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities in all procedures in connection with deprivation of liberty;

(c) Establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities are not subjected to

Paraguay (2023)

27. Al Comité le preocupa que:

a) Se sigan efectuando internamientos de personas con discapacidad psicosocial y/o intelectual sin su consentimiento y las estancias prolongadas en el hospital psiquiátrico;

b) Existe poca información sobre muchas personas con discapacidad que han sido detenidas en el hospital psiquiátrico como una medida de seguridad ya sea administrativa o penal;

c) El Plan Nacional de Derechos Humanos y el Plan de Acción Nacional para los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad no contemplan procesos de desinstitucionalización;

d) El 65% del presupuesto asignado a salud mental sea dirigido al Hospital Psiquiátrico, en donde aún hay personas con discapacidad psicosocial internadas y donde actualmente se están realizando ampliaciones.

28. Recordando sus Directrices sobre el derecho a la libertad y a la seguridad de las personas con discapacidad (2015) y sus Directrices sobre Desinstitucionalización incluidas las situaciones de emergencia (2022), el Comité exhorta al Estado parte a:

a) Reformar las leyes y prácticas sobre salud mental para eliminar por completo la institucionalización forzada de las personas con discapacidad y las hospitalizaciones indefinidas;

b) Recopilar y publicar datos desagregados y actualizados sobre la cantidad de personas con discapacidad en situación de encierro en todas las jurisdicciones, incluyendo sobre la cantidad de niños y adultos con discapacidad segregados en instituciones;

c) Agregar al Plan Nacional de Derechos Humanos y al Plan Nacional para los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad la obligatoriedad de establecer un proceso de desinstitucionalización con plazos, presupuestos, metas y seguimiento, incluso durante las situaciones de emergencia;

d) Considerar que el presupuesto que actualmente se asigna al hospital psiquiátrico y a la construcción de nuevas instalaciones en el mismo, sea re-direccionado a programas de apoyo comunitario dentro del proceso de desinstitucionalización.

²

A/HRC/40/54/Add.1.

Angola (2023)

23. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are still subjected to laws that deprive them of their liberty based on impairment, and that there is a lack of information on the measures taken to ensure that those persons are not subjected to arbitrary treatment, including confinement. It is also concerned at the lack of monitoring mechanisms to ensure the rights and reasonable accommodation issues of persons with disabilities in correctional facilities.

24. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all relevant legislative provisions allowing for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the grounds of impairment and perceived dangerousness and introduce legislation that ensures non-discrimination through, for example, procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities, including during interrogation and detention, and explicitly prohibit forced institutionalization of those persons, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and older persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure the rights of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities to liberty and security of person on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Establish an independent mechanism to monitor and prevent persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities being subjected to arbitrary and forced treatment;**
- (d) Provide training to health professionals, law enforcement and prison officials on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and monitoring mechanisms to ensure their rights in correctional and detention facilities.**

Argentina (2023)

29. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) Las disposiciones del Código Penal Argentino (artículo 34 inc. 1) y del Código Procesal Penal de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (artículos 62 y 63) que permiten la privación de la libertad de las personas con discapacidad sobre la base del criterio de peligrosidad;
- b) Las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad en el sistema penal y penitenciario;
- c) Los internamientos involuntarios prolongados, la ausencia de consentimiento informado en hospitalizaciones calificadas como voluntarias, y la posibilidad de internamientos involuntarios bajo la Ley 26.657, Ley Nacional de Salud Mental de 2010 (artículo 43);
- d) Que los proyectos para la reforma de la Ley Nacional de Salud Mental sean regresivos;
- e) La falta de datos actualizados sobre las personas con discapacidad en situación de encierro.

30. El Comité recuerda sus Directrices relativas al artículo 14 de la Convención, de 2015, y exhorta al Estado parte a:

- a) Reformar el Código Penal Argentino y los Códigos Procesales penales pertinentes, entre ellos el de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, a fin de evitar la privación de libertad de las personas con discapacidad sobre la base de su peligrosidad, revisar los casos de las personas internadas en cárceles por medidas de seguridad y garantizar el debido proceso;**
- b) Reforzar las medidas adoptadas para eliminar las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad en el sistema penal y penitenciario, incluyendo el cumplimiento del Acuerdo de Solución Amistosa firmado en el 2022 entre el Estado parte y el Comité por el caso de Raúl Cardozo;**
- c) Reformar la Ley Nacional de Salud Mental y otras normativas para prohibir los internamientos involuntarios e implementar planes de salud mental basados en el modelo de derechos humanos de la discapacidad;**
- d) Vigilar que los proyectos para la nueva Ley de Salud Mental se ajusten a la Convención;**
- e) Contar con datos desagregados y actualizados sobre la cantidad de personas con discapacidad en situación de encierro en todas las jurisdicciones, incluyendo hospitales monovalentes privados y las granjas de rehabilitación para consumo problemático de sustancias.**

Georgia (2023)

29. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Involuntary psychiatric inpatient and specialist care in designated facilities on the basis of disability, as envisaged by the Oviedo Convention, affecting particularly adults and children with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The lack of accessibility of the physical environment of penitentiary institutions, including the absence of accessible meeting rooms for persons with disabilities and their lawyers and for hosting meetings with visitors, including family members;
- (c) That the process to draft an Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention may include repressive measures against persons with disabilities due to their perceived dangerousness and not in accordance with their will and preferences.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party;

- (a) Withdraw provisions that allow for involuntary deprivation of liberty and treatment on the basis of disability and adopt measures to ensure the availability of community and human rights-based mental health services and support across the country, respecting the right to liberty of persons with disabilities, and guaranteeing their right to decide on their health care, including in situations of individual crisis;**
- (b) Ensure that facilities of deprivation of liberty are accessible and that reasonable accommodation is provided, and allocate the respective human, technical and financial resources.**
- (c) The Committee recommends the State party, in the fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine (Oviedo Convention), follow the human rights model of disability and the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities³, and reform its mental health services accordingly, including by providing voluntary support measures. Recognising the Committee's Joint Open letter with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of June 2021⁴, the Committee also recommends that the State party's future participation in any process for an Additional Protocol or recommendations to the Oviedo Convention aim at moving away from coercive measures and build up a non-coercive framework on mental health, as required by the CRPD.**

Peru (2023)

28. Al Comité le preocupa que:

- a) Personas con discapacidad intelectual y psicosocial continúen privadas de su libertad en instituciones psiquiátricas públicas y privadas, y que dichas instituciones no sean sujetas a suficiente supervisión y seguimiento;
- b) Existe poca información sobre la situación de las personas con discapacidad privadas de libertad y un importante hacinamiento en las prisiones, lo que, unido a infraestructuras inadecuadas, repercute negativamente en la accesibilidad y apoyos a los privados de libertad con discapacidad.

29. Recordando sus directrices sobre el derecho a la libertad y a la seguridad de las personas con discapacidad, el Comité exhorta al Estado parte a que:

- a) Garantice que toda la legislación pertinente, incluidos el Código Penal, el Código Procesal Penal y la Ley de Salud Mental, prohíba la privación de libertad por motivos de discapacidad real o percibida. Adicionalmente, asegure que los procedimientos salvaguarden el derecho al consentimiento informado y el derecho a la libertad y la seguridad de las personas con discapacidad en los servicios de salud, y que garanticen recursos efectivos y la aplicación de medidas de supervisión, incluida la supervisión independiente, en los servicios de salud**

³ A/72/55, annex

⁴ [Open letter on Draft Additional Protocol to the Oviedo Convention \(June 2021\)](#).

mental públicos y privados, a fin de evitar la privación arbitraria de libertad e imponer sanciones por incumplimiento y violación de los derechos de los usuarios;

b)Desarrolle una estrategia para abordar el hacinamiento y las infraestructuras inadecuadas en las prisiones, que responda a las solicitudes de ajustes razonables y proporcione medidas de accesibilidad. Además, que recopile sistemáticamente datos desglosados sobre privados de libertad con discapacidad.

Togo (2023)

29.The Committee notes with concern about the discriminatory provisions under articles 130 and 131 of Act No. 2009-007 that allow for the involuntary detention and hospitalization of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deemed “dangerous” to themselves or others which is incompatible with the Convention.

30.The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and recommends that the State party:

(a)Repeal all relevant legislative provisions, allowing for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the grounds of impairment and perceived dangerousness to themselves or others, introduce legislation that ensures non-discrimination through, for example, procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities, including during interrogation and detention, and restore the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities to liberty and security of person, on an equal basis with others;

(b)Establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities are not subjected to arbitrary and forced treatment, particularly treatment that results in confinement.

Tunisia (2023)

23.The Committee is concerned that persons with psychosocial disabilities are involuntarily admitted to psychiatric hospitals under judicial order or at the request of a third party, often the guardian, where they are at times subjected to violent treatment. It is also concerned that the law n° 2004-40 of May 3rd, 2004 which authorizes the psychiatrist to commit his patient to a psychiatric facility without the consent, will or preference of the person concerned is still in place.

24.The Committee, recalling the Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) recommends that the State party:

(a)Repeal any legislation, including the Order No. 83 of 1992 dated on 3 August 1992 on the mental health and the conditions of hospitalization in the hospital due to mental disorders, and its amending law n° 2004-40 of May 3rd, 2004 and other mental health laws, and to eradicate policies and practices that allow for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairments, or presumed dangerousness to oneself or to third parties, particularly persons with psychosocial impairments;

(b)Ensure reasonable accommodation facilities within prisons and detention centres, considering the requirements of different disability in a manner consistent with the Convention.

Bangladesh (2022)

29. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, are still subjected to frequent harassment, arrest and detention through the misapplication of existing laws. It is also concerned about cases of confinement and shackling of persons with intellectual disabilities by family members at home and about detention and treatment of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, without their free and informed consent.

30. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

(a) **Revise section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, the Metropolitan Police Ordinances, and the Vagabond and Homeless Persons Rehabilitation Act 2011, to prevent unwarranted harassment, arrest, detention, unlawful restraint and confinement of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including also revising the Penal Code 1860 and the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act of 2010;**

(b) **Take concrete measures to prevent the confinement of persons with intellectual disabilities within the home and take measures to collect statistical data, disaggregated by age, gender and disability, on the number of persons with disabilities who are detained without their consent;**

China (2022)

32. The Committee notes with concern the discriminatory provisions of Art. 9 of the Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, which allows for the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of persons with psychosocial disabilities, forced institutionalisation and non-consensual psychiatric treatment, on the grounds of family responsibility and on the grounds of medical assessments and diagnoses such as “severe mental disorder”. The Committee is further concerned about reports of Uyghur and other Muslim minority persons with disabilities who are detained in vocational education and training centres without support to ensure their safety and to meet all their disability-related needs.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Take note of the Committee’s guidelines on article 14 of the Convention (2015) (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I), and repeal provisions and practices that allow for the deprivation of liberty of adults and children with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairment;**

(b) **Revise and repeal all discriminatory legal provisions legitimizing the involuntary treatment and deprivation of liberty of persons on the grounds of their psychosocial disability and perceived dangerousness, and ensure that any treatment is always based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned;**

(c) **Take prompt action to release Uyghur and other Muslim minority persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty in vocational education and training centres, and immediately ensure that all disability-related needs of persons with disabilities still in detention are met.**

Indonesia (2022)

34. The Committee is concerned about deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, in particular for persons with psychosocial disabilities or intellectual disabilities.

35. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party repeal all provisions that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, including within Law No. 8 of 2016 on Persons with Disabilities and Law No. 18 of 2014 on Mental Health, and provisions and practices at provincial and district levels.

Japan (2022)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) **Legislation that allows the involuntary commitment in psychiatric hospitals and involuntary treatment of persons with disabilities, based on their perceived or actual impairments or dangerousness, as legitimated by the Act on Mental Health and Welfare for the Mentally Disabled;**

(b) **Lack of safeguards to protect the right to informed consent of persons with disabilities, including vagueness of the definition of informed consent, as regards the hospitalization.**

32. The Committee recalls its Guidelines on article 14 of the Convention (2015) and the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/HRC/40/54/Add.1) and calls upon the State party to:

(a) **Recognise the involuntary hospitalisation of persons with disabilities as discrimination on the grounds of impairment, amounting to the deprivation of liberty, and repeal all legal**

provisions allowing for the deprivation of liberty through involuntary hospitalisation of persons with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairments or dangerousness;

(b) Repeal all legal provisions that legitimize non-consensual psychiatric treatment on the grounds of perceived or actual impairments, and establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with disabilities are not subjected to forced treatment and have access to the same range, quality and standard of health care on equal basis with others;

(c) Ensure safeguards, including advocacy, legal and all other necessary assistance, to protect the right to free and informed consent of all persons with disabilities, regardless their impairment.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

24. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of statistical data on the number of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty and placed in institutional settings;
- (b) The information provided by the State Party for the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, indicating that in 2018, there were 1,010 children with disabilities living in specialized institutions across the country;
- (c) Reports of confinement of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intensive support requirements, at home.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party take note of the Committee's guidelines on article 14 of the Convention (2015) (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I), and:

- (a) Collect data of persons with disabilities deprived of liberty and placed in institutional settings, disaggregated by age, gender, and type of disability, on an annual basis;**
- (b) Repeal all legislation and practices that allow for the deprivation of liberty of adults and children with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairment or that authorizes institutionalization or involuntary hospitalization of persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Prevent the confinement of persons with disabilities within their homes and provide for human rights-based support and community services for all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.**

New Zealand (2022)

25. The Committee welcomes the commitment to repeal and replace the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act of 1992, but is concerned that new mental health legislation may still allow for involuntary detention and compulsory treatment and may not actively involve the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial disabilities through their representative organisations in the development process;

26. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities^[1] and recommends that the State party ensure that new mental health legislation embeds the Convention principles and standards to ensure that there are no provisions that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment or that allow for compulsory treatment, and that the development process actively involves persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial disabilities.

27. The Committee is concerned about:

Legislation that allows for involuntary detention and compulsory treatment on the basis of impairment, including the Substance Addiction (Assessment and Treatment) Act 2017; That The Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003, which includes extensions to compulsory care orders which allows persons with intellectual disabilities to be detained for periods of time exceeding the maximum length of the sentence they would be liable to in the criminal justice system.

28. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

Repeal all provisions that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, including the Substance Addiction (Assessment and Treatment) Act 2017;

Repeal provisions within the Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation) Act 2003 which allow for persons with disabilities to be detained for periods of time exceeding the maximum length of the sentence they would be liable to in the criminal justice system.

Republic of Korea (2022)

31. The Committee remains concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are still subjected to laws that deprive them of their liberty on the basis of impairment, and that there is a lack of information on the measures taken to ensure that those persons are not subjected to arbitrary treatment, including confinement.

32. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all relevant legislative provisions, including the provisions of Korean Civil Act on Adult Guardianship and the Act on Mental Health Promotion and Welfare Services for People with Mental Disorder allowing for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the grounds of impairment and perceived dangerousness to themselves or others, introduce legislation that ensures non-discrimination through, for example, procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities, including during interrogation and detention, explicitly prohibit the forced institutionalization of persons with disabilities on the ground of impairment, and restore the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities to liberty and security of person, on an equal basis with others;

(b) Establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities are not subjected to arbitrary and forced treatment, particularly treatment that results in confinement.

Singapore (2022)

29. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, may be deprived of their liberty on the basis of their impairment.

30. The Committee recalls its Guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all legislative provisions allowing for the involuntary deprivation of liberty of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities on the grounds of their impairment or their perceived dangerousness to themselves or others;

(b) Introduce legislation ensuring non-discrimination in all procedures in connection with the deprivation of liberty, guaranteeing, for example, procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities, including for the preparation of proceedings, during interrogation and for detention-related complaints;

(c) Explicitly prohibit institutionalization of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, and effectively protect their rights to liberty and security of person, on an equal basis with others;

(d) Provide training to health professionals, administrative and judicial officers, law enforcement staff and prison officials on the rights of persons with disabilities and on monitoring mechanisms to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in all facilities depriving persons with disabilities of their liberty.

Hungary (2022)

28. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The discriminatory provisions of Act CLIV of 1997 on health care, which allows for the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of persons with psychosocial disabilities and placement in mental health facilities on the basis of impairment and perceived dangerousness;

(b) The lack of legal safeguards for ensuring the rights to liberty and security of persons in psychiatric institutions, including in forensic psychiatric institutions, in which the detention and medical treatment of persons with disabilities can endure indefinitely, even when the periodic judicial review deems treatment and detention no longer necessary;

(c) The lack of availability and accessibility of human rights-based mental health services across the State party;

(d) The absence of accessibility and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in penitentiary institutions, particularly for deaf persons and women and children with disabilities.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review and repeal all discriminatory legal provisions legitimizing the involuntary treatment and deprivation of liberty of persons on the grounds of their psychosocial disability and perceived dangerousness, and ensure that any treatment is always based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned;

(b) Ensure legal safeguards for the rights to liberty and security of persons in psychiatric institutions, including in forensic psychiatric institutions;

(c) Develop community and human rights-based mental health services and support across the State party;

(d) Guarantee full accessibility and procedural accommodation, including augmentative and alternative modes of communication, Braille and sign language, for all persons with disabilities at penitentiary institutions.

30. The Committee further calls upon the State party to be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities⁵ in relation to the draft additional protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine (Oviedo Convention), and that it oppose its adoption. The State party should implement its obligations under the Oviedo Convention in a manner compatible with the human rights model of disability.

Jamaica (2022)

28. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, are still subjected to laws that deprive them of their liberty on the basis of impairment, and that there is a lack of information on the measures taken to ensure that those persons are not subjected to arbitrary treatment, including confinement. It is also concerned at the lack of monitoring mechanisms to ensure the rights and reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities in correctional facilities.

29. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities⁶ and recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all relevant legislative provisions allowing for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the grounds of impairment and perceived dangerousness to themselves or others, introduce legislation that ensures non-discrimination through, for example, procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities, including during interrogation and detention, explicitly prohibit the forced institutionalization of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and older persons with disabilities, and restore the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities to liberty and security of person, on an equal basis with others;

(b) Establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities are not subjected to arbitrary and forced treatment, particularly treatment that results in confinement;

(c) Provide in its next periodic report statistical data on the number of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and older persons with disabilities who are still hospitalized or institutionalized without their consent;

(d) Provide training to health professionals, law enforcement staff and prison officials on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and on monitoring mechanisms to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in correctional and detention facilities.

⁵ [A/72/55](#), annex.

⁶ [A/72/55](#), annex.

Mexico (2022)

39. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities have frequently been the subject of declarations of non-liability in the context of criminal proceedings, in the absence of procedural safeguards;

(b) The Code of Criminal Procedure maintains non-liability by reason of disability as a concept, and that detention measures for persons with disabilities may exceed those of regular criminal procedures.

40. With reference to its previous concluding observations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Guarantee all due process rights for persons with disabilities in processes leading to deprivation of liberty, in particular in the context of criminal proceedings, whether as indicted persons, victims or witnesses, and provide procedural accommodation, adjustments, counselling and personal assistance in such proceedings;⁷

(b) Provide training for officials in the justice and prison systems on the requirements of the Convention in processes leading to the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities.

Switzerland (2022)

29. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The legal provisions that allow for the involuntary detention and treatment of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and the increase in the number of persons under care-related hospitalization;

(b) The placement of children in institutions by child protection authorities and their placement in psychiatric facilities through adult protection provisions;

(c) The lack of a clear position opposing the draft additional protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review and repeal all legal provisions, policies and practices that allow for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability;

(b) Prevent the placement of children with disabilities in institutions, psychiatric facilities or care-related hospitalization, and cease the application of adult protection provisions for children;

(c) Be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention and the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities,⁸ and oppose the adoption of the draft additional protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine. The State party should implement its obligations under the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine in a manner compatible with the human rights model of disability.

Venezuela (2022)

26. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The amendment of the Criminal Code and the updates in relation to mental health and family issues are still being debated;

(b) Following the closure of psychiatric hospitals and other institutions, the fate of the persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities who left them is unknown;

(c) There is no information available on persons deprived of their liberty on the basis of disability and that there are still reports of police crackdowns and deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

⁷ See the Committee's decision in the case of Arturo Medina Vela (CRPD/C/22/D/32/2015).

⁸ [A/72/55](#), annex.

- (a) Take, as a matter of urgency, the appropriate measures to amend the Criminal Code and mental health legislation to align them with the provisions of the Convention, in close consultation with organizations of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Collect information on persons with disabilities and their situation – whether they live alone, in a family setting or on the streets – following their departure from the institutions that were closed down;**
- (c) Develop, in close consultation with organizations of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, protection programmes for persons who have left institutions, and provide for a strict oversight mechanism that enables the filing of complaints of ill-treatment or violence and includes monitoring, sanctions and measures to afford full redress;**
- (d) Take, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, steps to train police officers with the aim of preventing and punishing involuntary detention, and provide for measures of redress.**

Djibouti (2021)

23. The Committee notes with concern about the discriminatory provisions under the Criminal Code in which persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities are declared “unfit to stand trial”, “unfit to plea”, incapable from criminal prosecution, leading to involuntary detention. The Committee is also concerned about the involuntary detention and forced hospitalization, of persons with disabilities on grounds of their actual or perceived impairment, deemed “dangerous” to themselves or others, alleged need of protection, or consent by a third party.

24. The Committee recalls its guidelines on article 14 (2015) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal provisions of the Criminal Code, specifically part II of chapter II, that allow for the involuntary deprivation of liberty and forced hospitalization of persons with disabilities, on the grounds of perceived or actual impairment, particularly for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt measures to revise and repeal all laws, policies and practices that allow for the involuntary detention and hospitalisation of persons with disabilities, on the basis of perceived or actual impairment, alleged need of protection, care or treatment, or consent by a third party.**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities benefit from due process of law guarantees on an equal basis with others.**

France (2021)

29. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Provisions in the Public Health Code and its amendments allowing forced psychiatric treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities, the deprivation of liberty on grounds of disability and perceived dangerousness, and practices of physical restraints and solitary confinement;**
- (b) Placement in close units without consent, on the grounds of psychosocial disability, including hospitalisations and other inpatient treatment not subject to judicial review, and the 12-day-period between the date of hospitalization and effective control by the liberties and detention judges, resulting into violations of the liberty of a person, and risks of exposures to chemical restraints and overmedication;**
- (c) Overrepresentation of persons with psychosocial disabilities in penitentiary institutions, due to the lack of human rights-based mental-health support in communities, and lack of accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities in penitentiary institutions;**
- (d) Mandatory outpatient treatment within the community treatment orders through the “programme des soins/care program” exempted from judicial review and the risks of involuntary re-hospitalization or losing support in cases of refusal.**

30. The Committee recalls the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/HRC/40/54/Add.1, see para. 86) and calls upon the State party to:

- (a) Repeal all legal provisions allowing for involuntary treatment and restrictions of liberty on the grounds of psychosocial impairment or perceived dangerousness in institutions or community-based settings;**
- (b) Prevent placement in close institutions, including prolonged or undetermined hospitalisations, ensure the exercise of the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities, and develop human rights-based support methods that respect dignity, equality, freedom and autonomy, including peer support;**
- (c) Ensure expeditious review by the liberty and detention judges concerning decisions of involuntary treatment into psychiatric facilities, reducing the 12-day-period-of delay to the shortest period of time;**
- (d) Ensure that persons with disabilities, deprived of their liberty are entitled to accessibility and reasonable accommodation;**
- (e) Eliminate mandatory outpatient treatments and apply the World Health Organization Guidance on community mental health services: Promoting person-centred and rights-based approaches, as recommended by the WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2020-2030, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2021.**

31. The Committee further calls upon the State party to be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and the Committee's guidelines on article 14 of the Convention (2015) (see A/72/55, annex), in relation to the draft additional protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine (Oviedo Convention), and that it oppose its adoption. The State party should implement its obligations under the Oviedo Convention in a manner compatible with the human rights model of disability.

Estonia (2021)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That provisions of the Mental Health Act allow for involuntary treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities and the deprivation of liberty on the grounds of disability and perceived dangerousness, and that provisions of the Social Welfare Act allow restriction of freedom of movement of persons placed in care facilities;**
- (b) Information about facilities for deprivation of liberty of children with "behavioural problems", and the placement of children with intellectual disabilities, and children with psychosocial disabilities in these detention settings;**
- (c) The lack of accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities in penitentiary institutions.**

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review and repeal legal provisions allowing for involuntary deprivation of liberty on the grounds of impairment and perceived dangerousness, and restore the right of persons with psychosocial disabilities to liberty and security of person, on an equal basis with others. The State party should also develop human rights-based mental health provisions, and encourage the self-managed support groups in municipalities;**
- (b) Adopt a plan of action to identify children with disabilities who are currently in institutions for children with "behavioural problems", and deinstitutionalize them on emergency basis. The State party should review the cases of children committed to detention facilities and apply non-custodial measures;**
- (c) Ensure full accessibility and procedural accommodations at all stages of criminal proceedings for all persons with disabilities investigated or prosecuted, including the augmentative and alternative modes of communication and support in decision-making.**

29. The Committee further calls upon the State party to be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and the Committee's guidelines on article 14 of the Convention (2015) (see A/72/55, annex), in relation to the draft additional protocol to the Convention for

the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine (Oviedo Convention), and that it oppose its adoption. The State party should implement its obligations under the Oviedo Convention in a manner compatible with the human rights model of disability.

Albania (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned that the current legislation permits the deprivation of liberty, forced hospitalization and forced treatment of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned about the use of physical restraints, particularly on persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, including at home, and that police authorities have not consulted the respective organizations of persons with disabilities in adopting protocols to ensure the elimination of the use of restraints.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal laws permitting the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, forced treatment, the use of restraints and coercive measures based on a medicalized model of disability. It also recommends that the State party provide effective remedies to persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty on the basis of impairment and that, in close consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, it adopt relevant protocols. The Committee further calls upon the State party to be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and the Committee's guidelines on Article 14 of the Convention (2015) (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I), throughout the regional discussions concerning an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS No 164) (Oviedo Convention).

Australia (2019)

27. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

- (a) Legislative frameworks, policies and practices that result in the arbitrary and indefinite detention and forced treatment of persons with disabilities, and that such frameworks, policies and practices disproportionately affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The ongoing practice of obliging persons with "cognitive and mental impairment" to undergo treatment, including through indefinite detention in psychiatric centres, despite the recommendations contained in the Senate Community Affairs References Committee 2016 report *Indefinite Detention of Persons with Cognitive and Psychiatric Impairment in Australia*;
- (c) The commitment of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to custody, often indefinitely or for terms longer than those imposed in criminal convictions;
- (d) The absence of data on the number of persons found not guilty due to "cognitive or mental health impairment" indefinitely detained and the number of such persons detained on an annual basis;
- (e) The practice of retaining and restraining children with disabilities in adult settings.

28. The Committee, recalling its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex), urges the State party to:

- (a) Repeal any law or policy and cease any practice or custom that enables the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment and that enables forced medical interventions on persons with disabilities, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities;
- (b) Implement the recommendations contained in the Senate Community Affairs References Committee 2016 report *Indefinite Detention of People with Cognitive and Psychiatric Impairment in Australia*;
- (c) Stop committing persons with disabilities to custody and for indefinite terms or for terms longer than those imposed in criminal convictions;
- (d) Collect data on the number of persons indefinitely detained and on the number of such persons detained on an annual basis, disaggregated by the nature of the offence, the length

of the detention, disability, Aboriginal and other origin, sex, age and jurisdiction, with the aim of reviewing their detention;

(e) End the practice of detaining and restraining children with disabilities in any setting.

Ecuador (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned at the continued institutionalization of children and adults with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. It is also concerned at the fact that persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities continue to be subjected to involuntary medication practices, restraints and treatments.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all legal provisions that permit involuntary committal and treatment and that it prohibit committal, forced treatment and the involuntary application of restraints on persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party establish a rigorous oversight mechanism for the prevention of such practices and for the submission of complaints, monitoring, the application of penalties, measures that will afford full redress and measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their legal capacity on an equal footing with others.

El Salvador (2019)

28. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) Legislation such as the Mental Health Act, 2017, and articles 436 and 437 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which allow for the forced medication of, use of physical restraints on and involuntary institutionalization of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;

(b) The Family Code, which allows relatives or guardians of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities to hospitalize them, without the consent of the person concerned, under the presumption of being “mentally ill”;

(c) Lack of sufficient accessibility and individualized accommodations for persons with disabilities in detention centres and police stations.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Immediately adopt measures to repeal or revise all legal provisions in order to prohibit medical treatment and forced institutionalization based on “unfitness to stand trial”;**

(b) **Ensure the dignity, autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities on matters affecting them and establish a mechanism for monitoring detention centres and for the lodging of complaints;**

(c) **Remove barriers preventing physical accessibility and communication accessibility in police stations and detention centres.**

Greece (2019)

21. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory legal provisions, including in Law No. 2071/1992, and the corresponding practice of involuntary hospitalization and deprivation of liberty of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, as highlighted in the Greek Ombudsman’s report of July 2019, and about the use of coercive methods, such as mechanical restraints on persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

22. In line with its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex I), the Committee urges the State party to repeal all laws allowing for the involuntary deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, end the use of forced treatment, restraints and coercive methods, and provide effective remedies for persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty on the basis of impairment.

23. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and consequently oppose the adoption of the draft additional protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine, entitled “The protection of human rights and dignity of persons with mental disorder with regard to involuntary placement and involuntary treatment” in its current form.

India (2019)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The institutionalization of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, including in “mental health care homes”, “custodial care institutions” and psychiatric hospitals, particularly affecting persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, homeless persons with disabilities and persons requiring high levels of support, in the absence of measures to end all forms of institutionalization on the basis of impairment;
- (b) The confinement of persons with intellectual disabilities at home;
- (c) The incarceration of persons reported as “mentally ill” on the basis of impairment and the assumption of being unfit to stand trial.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party, taking account of the guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex), take measures to:

- (a) Repeal provisions of the Mental Health Care Act and the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act that allow for institutionalization on the basis of impairment, and adopt strategies to end all forms of institutionalization, involuntary commitment and segregation on the basis of impairment, and the seclusion of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in all types of institutions;**
- (b) Prevent the confinement of persons with intellectual disabilities within their homes and provide for human rights-based support and community services for all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Ensure the right of persons with psychosocial disabilities to due process and a fair trial in criminal proceedings and end the use of “criminal wards for the insane”.**

Iraq (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Paragraph 105 of the Criminal Code and articles 7 and 8 of Law No. 1 (2005) on mental health provide a legal basis for confining persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in hospitals without their consent, and about the absence of statistical data on the number of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty, on the reasons and legal bases for such deprivation of liberty and on the number of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty in family settings;
- (b) There is limited information on the measures taken by the State party to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities who are deprived of their liberty in detention centres are guaranteed, including the right to reasonable accommodation enshrined in article 15 (6) (a) of Law No. 38 (2013), and whether complaints mechanisms are accessible to them.

28. The Committee recommends that, in line with its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex), the State party:

- (a) Repeal all legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of actual or perceived impairment, further develop recovery-oriented and community-based rehabilitation services for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and establish complaints mechanisms that are accessible to persons with disabilities in cases of violations of their right to liberty and security;**
- (b) Take all steps necessary to ensure that the denial of reasonable accommodation is recognized as discrimination on the basis of disability and ensure the provision of individualized supports and procedural accommodations to persons with disabilities suspected of having committed a crime, including during detention.**

Kuwait (2019)

28. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty, as well as the forced hospitalization, institutionalization and non-consensual treatment, of adults and children with disabilities on grounds of their actual or perceived impairment, including because they are deemed dangerous to themselves or others;
- (b) Persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, being deprived of their liberty in residential and mental health facilities;
- (c) The lack of measures taken to ensure individualized accommodation for persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all laws authorizing the deprivation of liberty, as well as the forced hospitalization, institutionalization and non-consensual treatment, of adults and children with disabilities on grounds of their actual or perceived impairment;**
- (b) Take immediate measures to end the forced deprivation of liberty based on impairment, including in residential and mental health facilities;**
- (c) Take measures to ensure the provision of individualized accommodation to persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty.**

Myanmar (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The legislative provisions allowing for deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities and their involuntary placement in residential care institutions on the grounds of their actual and perceived impairment;
- (b) The lack of procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities suspected of having committed a crime at all stages of the judicial process;
- (c) The lack of statistical data to assess the enjoyment of the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities in the State party, disaggregated by age, gender and disability, on persons with disabilities who are currently hospitalized or institutionalized without their consent.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (A/72/55, annex I):

- (a) Repeal all legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty on the grounds of actual or perceived impairment or that authorizes institutionalization or involuntary hospitalization of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Provide for procedural and gender- and age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities suspected of having committed a crime, at all stages of the judicial process, including interrogation, prosecution, trial and detention;**
- (c) Put in place mandatory guidelines for admission in order to respect the dignity, integrity, will and preferences of persons with disabilities, and to ensure that they are not deprived of their liberty and provide in its next periodic report statistical data, disaggregated by age, gender and disability, on progress over time of the number of persons with disabilities who are still hospitalized or institutionalized without their consent.**

Cuba (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and older persons with disabilities, may be deprived of their liberty based on the concept of "dangerousness" under the Criminal Code (1987) and under Article 36 of the Public Health Act (1983) respectively, without their free and informed consent;
- (b) No statistical data on the number of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and of older persons with disabilities, who are currently hospitalized or institutionalized without their consent, is available.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adhere to by the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (see A/72/55, annex I), repeal all legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty based on actual or perceived impairment, introduce legislation, which ensures non-discrimination, such as through procedural accommodation to persons with disabilities, including during interrogation and detention, and explicitly prohibit forced institutionalization of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and older persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Provide statistical data on the number of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities and of older persons with disabilities, who are hospitalized or institutionalized without their consent, in its next periodic report.**

Niger (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent, including in hospitals, institutions, family settings, and psychiatric institutions, often in inhuman and degrading conditions; and the involuntary and non-consensual commitment of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- (b) The absence of monitoring of the conditions of persons with disabilities in institutions and other places of detention

24. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's guidelines on article 14 (2015):

- (a) Bring its laws and policies into line with article 14 of the Convention by ensuring that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities are not deprived of their liberty on the ground of disability; and guarantee access to justice and remedies for persons with disabilities who have been deprived of their liberty;**
- (b) Protect the rights of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in all mental health facilities, and take measures to improve the quality of care in such facilities;**
- (c) Involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in monitoring of all places where persons with disabilities may be detained and provide training to mental health professionals and law enforcement and prison officials on the rights of persons with disabilities in mental health facilities, prisons and detention centres.**

Norway (2019)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Legal provisions, including in the Mental Health Act, Patients' and the Users' Rights Act and the Health and Care Services Act, allowing for deprivation of liberty and non-consensual treatment and restraint of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- (b) The use of coercion such as restraints, isolation, segregation, involuntary treatment, and other intrusive methods, for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) In line with Guidelines on article 14, repeal all legal provisions allowing for involuntary deprivation of liberty on the basis of perceived or actual impairment, and forced treatment of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disability, and provide effective remedies to persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty on the basis of actual or perceived impairment;**
- (b) End the use of coercion, such as restraints, isolation, segregation, involuntary treatment, and other intrusive methods, for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, including through training of staff, human rights-based and peer-led support initiatives, as well as strengthening procedural guarantees and control;**
- (c) The Committee further calls upon the State party to be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and the Committee's guidelines on Article 14 of the Convention (see A/72/55, annex I), throughout the regional discussions concerning an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS No 164).**

Rwanda (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of perceived or actual impairment, and the involuntary hospitalization and institutionalization of children and adults with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, as is the case in 59 centres listed by the National Council of Persons with Disabilities.

28. In line with its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement legislation that prohibits, under all circumstances, any involuntary confinement of persons with disabilities in the justice system or in mental health facilities on the basis of perceived or actual

impairment. It also recommends that the State party put in place mandatory guidelines of admission to respect the dignity, integrity, will and preference of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and to ensure that they are not deprived of their liberty.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned that the State party's Mental Health Care Act and the Code of Practice for Health-Care Professions allow for the placement of persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and children with disabilities, in habilitation- and residential centers, as well as in institutions. It moreover expresses concern that this legislation allows for their hospitalization, as well as medical treatment without their prior free and informed consent.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's guidelines on article 14 (see A/72/55, annex):

(a) Repeal all legislative provisions, including in the Mental Health Care Act and the Code of Practice for Health-Care Professions, that authorize the institutionalization, hospitalization and involuntary medical treatment of persons with disabilities without their prior free and informed consent;

(b) Adopt measures to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly of children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, are respected in all settings, with a special attention to their right to education;

(c) Involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the monitoring of all places where persons with disabilities may reside and be detained, including habilitation and residential centers, prisons and detention centres, and provide training to health professionals, law enforcement and prison officials on the respect of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Senegal (2019)

25. The committee is concerned about the deprivation of liberty, on the basis of impairment and alleged "mental illness" of persons with disabilities, including children, and particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party take note of Guidelines on article 14 (2015), repeal provisions and practices that allow for the deprivation of liberty of adults and children with disabilities on the basis of impairment, and introduce legal recourse for persons with disabilities at risk of being deprived of their liberty, including through institutionalization.

Spain (2019)

26. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That Article 763 of the Civil Procedure and Organic Law still allows persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities to be subjected to involuntary commitment in institutions where they can be denied of their liberty and subjected to forced medical treatment and mechanical restraint;

(b) That the use of medication is imposed on persons with psychosocial disabilities as criteria to access services of psychosocial support and housing;

(c) The lack of awareness by health-care professionals about the obligations under the Convention, which leads to prejudicially justifying forced institutionalization and mechanical restraint as "therapeutic measures";

(d) The lack of sufficient provisions within the Criminal Procedure Act currently ensuring accessibility, individualised reasonable accommodations and supports for detained persons with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise or repeal all legal provisions, including Article 763 of the Civil Procedure, to prohibit forced institutionalization and treatment on the grounds of disability and to ensure human rights-based mental health provisions;

(b) Repeal the requirement for the use of the psychiatric medication to access psychosocial support and housing;

(c) Provide awareness raising and capacity building training developed in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities for mental health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities and obligations enshrined under the Convention;

(d) Ensure accessibility and procedural accommodations at all stages of criminal proceedings for persons with disabilities investigated or prosecuted, including provisions for their support in decision-making and guarantee their right to defence.

28. The Committee further calls upon the State party to adhere to its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and be guided to the Committee's guidelines on Article 14 of the Convention (see A/72/55, annex I), throughout the regional discussions concerning an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine (Oviedo Convention).

Türkiye (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Legislation including the Civil Code and the Law on the Execution of Penalties and Security Measures allowing for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of presumed dangerousness for treatment, rehabilitation or education purposes and their diversion from the justice system;

(b) The lack of information on legal and administrative review mechanisms for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in relation to institutionalization processes;

(c) Reports of detentions of persons with disabilities without accessible conditions at the police and law-enforcement institutions.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal from its legislation the concept of dangerousness and abolish institutionalization based on the same criterion, taking into account the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (see A/72/55, annex) and repeal exceptions to criminal prosecution and criminal responsibility that result in deprivation of liberty;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, to legal proceedings to appeal their deprivation of liberty;

(c) Ensure that detention facilities, and police and law enforcement institutions are accessible for persons with disabilities.

31. The Committee further calls upon the State party to be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and the Committee's guidelines on Article 14 of the Convention (2015) (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I), throughout the regional discussions concerning an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS No 164) (Oviedo Convention).

Vanuatu (2019)

26. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, are still subjected to laws that deprive them of their liberty and that there is a lack of information on the measures taken to ensure that they are not subject to arbitrary treatment, including confinement.

27. The Committee recalls its guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (see A/72/55, annex I) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all relevant provisions in legislations, including mental health laws, that allow for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairments, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual impairments;

(b) Establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities are not subjected to arbitrary and forced treatment, which results in confinement.

Algeria (2018)

28. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities and the involuntary placement of persons with disabilities in residential care institutions based on their actual or perceived impairment. It is also concerned about the lack of reasonable accommodation or age-appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities suspected of having committed a crime at all stages of the judicial process, particularly during their interrogation and detention.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (see A/72/55, annex I), repeal all legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of actual or perceived impairment or that authorize institutionalization without the free and informed consent of the person, including cases where consent is substituted by a third party. It also recommends that the State party introduce legislation, which provides for reasonable accommodation and/or procedural accommodation to persons with disabilities suspected of having committed a crime, including during interrogation, prosecution, trial and detention.

Bulgaria (2018)

33. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities with restricted legal capacity may still be placed by a court in a specialized institution or under residential care under provisions of Social Assistance Act articles 166, 16 (c) and 16 (d).

34. The Committee urges that the State party amend its Social Assistance Act and withdraw provisions allowing for forced institutionalization, taking into account the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (see Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I).

Malta (2018)

23. The Committee is concerned that some legislation in place is not in line with the Convention, particularly the Mental Health Act (Cap. 525), which allows the involuntary detainment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment of persons with disabilities, on the grounds of psychosocial and intellectual disabilities. It also notes with concern the continued hospitalisation of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities without their consent.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party revise and repeal the legal provisions that legitimise forced internment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment on the grounds of psychosocial and intellectual disability and fully harmonize their provisions with article 14 of the Convention and the Committee's guidelines on article 14 of the Convention (see A/72/55, annex).

Philippines (2018)

28. The Committee is concerned that Rule 101 of the Philippine Rules of Court on Proceedings for the Hospitalization of 'Insane' Persons and the provisions of the Mental Health Act maintaining procedures for involuntary detention on the basis of impairment.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's Guidelines on article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I):

(a) Repeal Rule 101 of the Philippine Rules of Court on Proceedings for the Hospitalization of 'Insane' Persons, conduct review of its Mental Health Act and withdraw provisions that allow for detention in psychiatric hospitals and other types of institutions;

(b) Stop processes aimed at institutionalization of persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals on the basis of actual or perceived impairment.

Poland (2018)

23. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Mental Health Protection Act allowing for involuntary treatment of persons with disabilities and involuntary deprivation of liberty on the grounds of their psychosocial disability, including placement in institutions by their guardians as being considered voluntary;
- (b) Limitations of personal liberty of persons with disabilities living in social care institutions;
- (c) Lack of independent monitoring of public and private care and mental health facilities;
- (d) Lack of reasonable accommodation and access to health care for persons with disabilities in penitentiary.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all legal provisions allowing for involuntary treatment of persons with disabilities and their placement in institutions on the grounds of psychosocial disability;**
- (b) Abolish limitation of personal liberty of persons living in social care institutions;**
- (c) Develop recovery-oriented and community-based rehabilitation services for persons with psychosocial disabilities;**
- (d) Develop monitoring mechanisms for public and private care and mental health facilities;**
- (e) Ensure reasonable accommodation and access to quality health care for all persons with disabilities in penitentiary.**

25. The Committee commends the State party for opposing the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS No 164) (Oviedo Convention), and encourages it to raise concerns and disapproval throughout the regional discussions concerning an Additional Protocol.

South Africa (2018)

26. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The intention of the Government to revise the Older Persons Act (2006) following the amendment of the Mental Health Care Act (2002) with no indication regarding timeframes for these amendments.
- (b) The alarming increase in the number of admissions of persons with disabilities in mental health care institutions, which almost doubled between 2015 and 2017;
- (c) The absence of adequate measures to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities in institutions and other places of detention and the lack of training of staff regarding the rights of persons with disabilities to reasonable accommodation.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Guided by the Committee's guidelines on article 14 of the Convention, repeal all legislation that authorizes forced institutionalization and repeal all laws that allow for deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment;**
- (b) Take effective measures for the de-institutionalisation of persons with disabilities and adopt adequate measures to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, deprived of their liberty in all mental health facilities;**
- (c) Adopt measures to revise the Older Persons Act (2006) and the Mental Health Care Act (2002), to strengthen their alignment with the Convention, including providing clear timeframes for these amendments.**
- (d) Meaningfully involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in monitoring of all places where persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty and provide training to mental health professionals and law enforcement and prison officials to respect the rights of persons with disabilities in mental health facilities, prisons and detention centres.**

North Macedonia (2018)

28. The Committee is concerned about the legal provisions allowing for deprivation of liberty and non-consensual treatment and restraint of persons with psychosocial disabilities in mental health facilities.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with Guidelines on article 14, repeal all legal provisions allowing for involuntary deprivation of liberty on the basis of

impairment, and involuntary treatment of persons with psychosocial disability, further, develop recovery-oriented and community-based rehabilitation services for persons with psychosocial disabilities.

1. The Committee is concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disability deprived of their legal capacity are denied the right to take part in a litigation and to stand as witnesses in procedures before civil courts. Furthermore, it is also concerned about the barriers which persons with disabilities in general face in accessing justice due to lack of:

(a) Procedural accommodation, as well as the use of sign language, Braille, accessible digital formats, Easy Read and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication in all legal proceedings;

(b) Accessibility to justice buildings, courts and tribunals and police stations, for persons with physical disabilities;

(c) Human rights based knowledge on disability of the justice system and law enforcement personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities;

(d) Mechanisms for persons with disabilities to report violence, including the lack of access to justice for children with intellectual disabilities, women with disabilities or those living in institutions;

(e) Legal assistance for persons with disabilities, including legal assistance and procedural accommodation for persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(f) Access to legal professions for persons with disabilities based on presumptions that they are “unfit” for the profession.

2. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee equal and supported access to all judicial processes for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities deprived of their legal capacity. It further recommends to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to justice in practice, and in particular to:

(a) Ensure procedural accommodation, as well as the use of sign language, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication in all legal proceedings;

(b) Ensure that justice buildings, courts and tribunals, and police stations, are accessible for persons with physical disabilities;

(c) Provide regular training to law enforcement and judicial officers about the rights of all persons with disabilities and obligations of the State Party under the Convention;

(d) Ensure effective mechanisms for persons with disabilities to report violence, including crimes on the grounds of hatred, as well as access to justice for children with intellectual disabilities, women with disabilities or those living in institutions;

(e) Ensure universal and free legal assistance for persons with disabilities, having low income particularly, and legal assistance and procedural accommodation for persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(f) Support persons with disabilities to practice legal professions and ensure reasonable accommodation for this purpose;

(g) Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in the implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.²⁶ The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Legislation in place is not in line with the Convention, and particularly that persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities can be declared interdicted, unfit to benefit from regular procedures, and hence deprived of the liberty for unlimited time;

(b) Forced detention on the grounds of disability is permissible, including in the new draft reform of the penal Code and the Code of criminal procedure;

(c) Persons with disabilities suspected of having committed a crime face extended pre-trial detention and are not allowed bail on the ground that they are a danger to themselves and others;

(d) Persons with psychosocial disabilities can be forcibly interned in a psychiatric establishment and receive non-consensual psychiatric treatment, on the grounds of their impairments;

(e) The deinstitutionalization plan under the national health policy of 2014 has not been implemented.

27. The Committee recalls its guidelines on article 14 of the Convention (A/72/55, annex I) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the legal and other measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities accused of an offence are entitled to a fair trial and due process guarantees on an equal basis with others;

(b) Revise and repeal the legal provisions that legitimate forced internment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment on the grounds of disability and ensure that all draft legislation is in line with the Convention;

(c) Carry out research on the impact on the personal security of persons deprived of their liberty who are either hospitalized or detained in prison or other secure settings on the basis of their impairment without their free and informed consent with a view to end this practice;

(d) Expedite the implementation of the deinstitutionalization plan under the national health policy of 2014.

Nepal (2018)

25. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual and/or psycho-social disabilities are allegedly chained or detained in houses or forcibly placed in psychiatric facilities, and that physical examinations, medical treatments and medications are sometimes carried out without the free consent of persons with disabilities as well as reported cases of chaining, torturing and over-dozing of persons with intellectual disabilities in psychiatric treatment facilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party take all legal and other appropriate measures necessary to stop the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairment, and that any examination or treatment of persons with disabilities be undertaken after free and informed consent of the persons concerned, in line with the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, adopted by the Committee at its fourteenth session (17 August-4 September 2015) (see Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), Annex). In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party investigate, prosecute and punish cases of chaining, detention in private homes, and forcible placement and treatment in psychiatric facilities.

Oman (2018)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Impairment-based detention and forced institutionalization of persons with disabilities, especially against persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) The condition of "mental hospitals" currently operating in Oman and the number of patients admitted at the Ibn Sina Hospital without their free and informed consent;

(c) Insufficient monitoring of the conditions of persons with disabilities in institutions and other places of detention and lack of training of staff regarding the rights of persons with disabilities to reasonable accommodation.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Guided by the Committee's guidelines on article 14 (A/72/55, Annex) , repeal all legislation that authorizes institutionalization without the free and informed consent of the person, party, and repeal all laws that allow for deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment;

(b) Ensure due process of law guarantees for all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including access to justice and remedies;

(c) Adopt measures to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, deprived of their liberty in all mental health facilities, and take measures to improve the quality of care therein;

(d) Involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in monitoring of all places where persons with disabilities may be detained and provide training to mental health professionals and law enforcement and prison officials to respect the rights of persons with disabilities in mental health facilities, prisons and detention centres.

Russian Federation (2018)

32. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities, particularly with psychosocial disabilities may still be deprived of their liberty in psychiatric hospitals or other institutions, on the basis of their impairment under provisions of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

33. The Committee urges the State Party to amend its Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure and fully harmonize their provisions with article 14 of the Convention and the Committee's guidelines on article 14 of the Convention (A/72/55, annex I).

Seychelles (2018)

22. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Provisions in the State party's Mental Health Act allowing for detention of persons with psychosocial disabilities on the basis of impairment, and their treatment without consent in psychiatric hospitals;

(b) The placement in secure wards without consent in care institutions and psychiatric hospitals, including in overcrowded secure wards;

(c) The lack of reasonable accommodation, such as hygiene and medical care accommodation, in the system of enforcement of criminal sanctions, and in detention places.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Conduct a review and repeal all legislation providing for involuntary commitment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment of persons with disabilities on the grounds of their actual or perceived impairment under any condition, including alleged risk and dangerousness, and be guided by the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I);**

(b) **Ensure the integrity and security of persons with disabilities, residing in institutions and hospitals, in full respect of their dignity and consent;**

(c) **Provide reasonable accommodation in the system of enforcement of criminal sanctions and places of detention, including provision of suitable health care.**

24. The Committee further calls upon the State party to be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and the Committee's guidelines on Article 14 of the Convention (2015) (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I), throughout the regional discussions concerning an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS No 164) (Oviedo Convention).

Slovenia (2018)

22. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Provisions in the State party's Mental Health Act allowing for detention of persons with psychosocial disabilities on the basis of impairment, and their treatment without consent in psychiatric hospitals;

(b) The placement in secure wards without consent in care institutions and psychiatric hospitals, including in overcrowded secure wards;

(c) The lack of reasonable accommodation, such as hygiene and medical care accommodation, in the system of enforcement of criminal sanctions, and in detention places.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Conduct a review and repeal all legislation providing for involuntary commitment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment of persons with disabilities on the grounds of their actual or perceived impairment under any condition, including alleged risk and dangerousness, and be guided by the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and**

security of persons with disabilities (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I);

(b) Ensure the integrity and security of persons with disabilities, residing in institutions and hospitals, in full respect of their dignity and consent;

(c) Provide reasonable accommodation in the system of enforcement of criminal sanctions and places of detention, including provision of suitable health care.

24. The Committee further calls upon the State party to be guided by its obligations under article 14 of the Convention, and the Committee's guidelines on Article 14 of the Convention (2015) (see report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Supplement No. 55 (A/72/55), annex I), throughout the regional discussions concerning an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine: Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (ETS No 164) (Oviedo Convention).

Sudan (2018)

27. The Committee is concerned about article 49 of the Criminal Code leading to arbitrary institutionalization of persons with disabilities and about the enduring practice of institutionalizing persons with disabilities against their will and for extended periods of time, including in institutions run by traditional healers.

28. Taking into consideration its guidelines on article 14 (2015), the Committee recommends that the State party review article 49 of the Criminal Code to ensure that persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily institutionalized in the context of criminal procedures, and take measures to eradicate the forced institutionalization of persons with disabilities, in particular with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including in institutions run by traditional healers.

Latvia (2017)

24. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Law on Social Services and Social Assistance allows persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to be institutionalized in psychiatric facilities when the necessary psychiatric services are not available in the community;

(b) The legal review of cases of involuntary placement in institutions is ineffective;

(c) Persons residing in institutions may face undue restrictions in relation to their free movement outside such institutions;

(d) Persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who are deprived of their liberty may face restrictions on accessing their personal medical files and medication.

25. The Committee, in accordance with its guidelines on article 14 of the Convention regarding the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (2015), recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all relevant legislation in order to prevent the institutionalization of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and to increase the availability of community-based mental health services;

(b) Repeal the provisions that allow persons with disabilities to be involuntarily committed to mental health institutions and, until as such time that these provisions have been amended, ensure that they have access to a court of law to challenge any such action;

(c) Ensure the free movement of persons residing in institutions;

(d) Ensure access for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who are deprived of their liberty to their personal medical files and medication.

Luxembourg (2017)

28. The Committee is concerned that legislation in place is not in line with the Convention, particularly the 2009 Act on the hospitalization of persons with mental disorders without their consent, which allows the forced internment in a psychiatric establishment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment of persons with disabilities, on the grounds of psychosocial disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities accused of a criminal offence do not have the right to due process but

instead, are subjected to detention in the judicial psychiatric unit within the penitentiary centre (art. 71 of the Penal Code). It is further concerned by the absence of research on the impact on the personal security of persons deprived of their liberty who are either hospitalized or detained in prison, or other secure settings.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Revise and repeal the legal provisions that legitimate forced internment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment on the grounds of disability;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities accused of an offence are entitled to a fair trial and due process guarantees on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Carry out research on the impact on the personal security of persons deprived of their liberty who are either hospitalized or detained in prison or other secure settings without their free and informed consent.**

Montenegro (2017)

28. The Committee notes with concern that the current medical approach to disability permits the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment and provides for involuntary hospitalization and forced institutionalization of children and adults with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. The Committee also notes with concern that, pursuant to article 33 of the Protection and Exercise of the Rights of the Mentally Ill Act, police officers are obliged to deprive a person of liberty based only on the suspicion of “mental illness”. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on any safeguards in this regard and the possibility of challenging such deprivation of liberty.

29. The Committee urges the State party to repeal laws and protocols permitting any form of deprivation of liberty based on impairment or perceived impairment and to provide effective safeguards and remedies to persons with disabilities who have been deprived of their liberty on the basis of impairment.

Morocco (2017)

30. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of liberty, on the basis of impairment and alleged dangerousness, of persons with disabilities, including children, and in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal provisions and practices that allow for the deprivation of liberty of adults with disabilities and children with disabilities on the basis of impairment and introduce legal recourse for persons with disabilities at risk of being deprived of their liberty, including through institutionalization or internment, and to that end be guided by, inter alia, the Committee’s guidelines on article 14 of the Convention.

Panama (2017)

34. The Committee is concerned at the fact that persons with disabilities in the State party, including persons with psychosocial disabilities, continue to be placed in institutions and at the lack of data on this subject.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party protect and safeguard persons with disabilities from institutionalization and explicitly prohibit their institutionalization.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

34. The Committee is concerned that the State party’s legislation provides for involuntary, compulsory treatment and detention both inside and outside hospitals on the basis of actual or perceived impairment.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal legislation and practices that authorize non-consensual involuntary, compulsory treatment and detention of persons with disabilities on the basis of actual or perceived impairment;**
- (b) Take appropriate measures to investigate and eliminate all forms of abuse of persons with disabilities in institutional facilities.**

Armenia (2017)

23. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The legal provisions allowing arbitrary deprivation of liberty, including involuntary hospitalization and forced institutionalization, of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities for lengthy periods of time, sometimes their entire life, and the lack of sufficient safeguards and legal assistance for persons with disabilities who are deprived of their liberty in institutions;
- (b) The overcrowding and poor living and sanitary conditions, including inappropriate nutrition, in places of deprivation of liberty, in particular in residential and penitentiary institutions;
- (c) The lack of reasonable accommodation, including advocacy support, for persons with disabilities in penitentiary institutions.

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal laws and prohibit detention, including involuntary hospitalization and forced institutionalization, as well as non-consensual psychiatric treatment, on the grounds of impairment;**
- (b) Ensure that all places of deprivation of liberty, including residential, psychiatric and penitentiary institutions, maintain accessible and humane living conditions responding to the requirements of all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure access to reasonable accommodation, including advocacy support, for persons with disabilities in penitentiary institutions.**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

26. The Committee is concerned that the current practice permits deprivation of the liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment and provides for involuntary hospitalization and forced institutionalization of children and adults with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

27. The Committee urges the State party to repeal laws permitting deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, forced treatment and the use of restraints and coercive measures based on a medical-based model of disability, and to provide effective remedies to persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty on the basis of impairment.

Canada (2017)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Involuntary detention of persons with psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric institutions on the basis of impairment, across various State party jurisdictions;
- (b) Legislation at the federal, provincial and territorial levels relating to detention of accused persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities who may be found unfit to stand trial, in the context of criminal procedures;
- (c) Information regarding inmates with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities being inappropriately identified as having “behavioural problems” instead of a disability, which limits the provision of the reasonable accommodation and appropriate health care available to them;
- (d) The lack of reasonable accommodation for women with disabilities within the federal prison system, and the adverse effect of their administrative segregation within detention facilities;
- (e) Information about indigenous persons with disabilities and migrants with disabilities, who, along with persons with intellectual and psychosocial impairments, are overrepresented in prisons in the State party.

32. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Review federal, provincial and territorial policies and practices related to involuntary detention with the aim of bringing those policies and practices into compliance with article 14 of the Convention and the respective guidelines;**
- (b) Set up a minimum core obligation across the federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions regarding the right to stand trial for persons with disabilities, with appropriate accommodation during criminal proceedings;**

(c) Ensure access to health services, including psychosocial support, for inmates under the federal jurisdiction on an equal footing with others, on the basis of their free and informed consent;

(d) Adopt and implement guidelines to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities who are detained in prison and/or detention centres, and ensure that women in such centres receive appropriate support and reasonable accommodation;

(e) Work in partnership with the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the provincial human rights commissions in order to assess, and set up measures to address, the situation of indigenous and migrant persons with disabilities in prison.

Cyprus (2017)

37. The Committee is concerned that non-voluntary confinement and treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities remains legal, especially on the grounds of having a “serious mental disorder”, such as being considered dangerous to oneself or to others.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party in line with general comment No. 1 (2014) and the guidelines on article 14 (2015) take the legislative amendments necessary to prohibit all forms of non-voluntary detention and/or treatment on the grounds of impairment or impairment-related assumptions, and further ensure adequate and individualized support to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

Honduras (2017)

35. Al Comité le preocupa la vigencia en el ordenamiento jurídico hondureño de normas sobre salud mental que estipulan la privación de la libertad de personas con discapacidad con base en la presencia real o percibida de una discapacidad psicosocial, como en los hospitales Santa Rosita y Mario Mendoza. Preocupa también al Comité que las personas declaradas inimputables de la comisión de un delito en razón de una deficiencia puedan ser objeto de medidas de seguridad, incluida la detención indefinida. Expresa asimismo su inquietud por la situación de las personas con discapacidad privadas de libertad en las cárceles y otros lugares de detención.

36. El Comité insta al Estado parte a que revise y reforme sus leyes, incluyendo la Ley de Salud Mental y el Código Penal con el objeto de armonizar la legislación con las disposiciones del artículo 14 de la Convención y proteger efectivamente las garantías del debido proceso de las personas con discapacidad, particularmente con discapacidad psicosocial, proporcionando los apoyos que requieran durante los procesos judiciales. El Comité le pide al Estado parte que revise los casos de internamiento en los hospitales Santa Rosita y Mario Mendoza. El Comité insta al Estado parte a que, a través de la Defensoría del Pueblo, proteja judicialmente todos los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, propiciando una debida asistencia jurídica y velando por el cumplimiento de un debido proceso de las personas con discapacidad.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

30. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities can be detained in institutions, such as hospices, rehabilitation, and care centers on the basis of impairment. The Committee is concerned that having a psychosocial and/or intellectual impairment is a reason for not standing trial and being subjected to detention in psychiatric hospitals, in the context of criminal procedures.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal legislation, policies and practices that allow forced institutionalization of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, including for the purpose of psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation or the alleged need of ‘care’; and

(b) Reaffirm the right to a fair trial of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in accordance with the Convention, and end detention on psychiatric hospitals on the basis of impairment.

Jordan (2017)

29. The Committee notes with concern that, pursuant to article 233 (5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Law No. 9 of 1961) and articles 14 and 15 of the Public Health Law (No. 47 of

2008), persons with disabilities may be deprived of their liberty on grounds that they “constitute a danger to themselves or to society” as a result of their impairment.

30. The Committee urges the State party to repeal the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Public Health Law in order to prohibit detention on the grounds of disability, including involuntary placement in hospitals, institutions or prisons, in line with the Committee’s guidelines (2015) on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities (art. 14 of the Convention).

Republic of Moldova (2017)

28. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Legislation in place, particularly Law No. 1402 on mental health is not in line with the Convention and allows the forced internment in a psychiatric establishment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment of persons with disabilities, on the grounds of psychosocial and/or intellectual impairment;

(b) Persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities accused of a criminal offence do not have the right to due process but are instead subjected to a medical coercive measures;

(c) Persons with disabilities are arbitrarily deprived of their liberty and individual autonomy in institutions for lengthy periods of time, sometimes their entire life, on the basis of an actual or perceived impairment.

29. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) **Revise and repeal the legal provisions that authorize forced internment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment on the grounds of impairment;**

(b) **Ensure that persons with disabilities accused of an offence are entitled to a fair trial and due process on an equal basis with others;**

(c) **Take all legal and other measures necessary to stop the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of an actual or perceived impairment.**

Bolivia (2016)

35. The Committee is concerned that due process guarantees are not observed in the State party, especially with regard to persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned that security measures are applied to persons identified in connection with an offence but who have been declared not criminally responsible by reason of “mental disability”.

36. The Committee urges the State party to apply due process guarantees, including the presumption of innocence and the right to a fair trial, to all persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others. It also recommends that the State party review and amend its criminal legislation to eliminate declarations of non-responsibility on grounds of disability and the security measures that are imposed as a result of these declarations.

37. The Committee is concerned that there is no information about the detention of persons with disabilities against their will in the State party.

38. The Committee urges the State party to prohibit detention on grounds of disability, carry out a survey of persons with disabilities who have been placed in confinement by reason of their disability, and subsequently adopt and implement a plan for their deinstitutionalization that includes social alternatives, has an adequate budget, and is monitored by an independent authority in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. In order to implement these recommendations, the Committee recommends that the State party conform to the guidelines on liberty and security of the person (art. 14).

Colombia (2016)

36. The Committee is concerned about the lack of detailed information on the number and situation of persons institutionalized and detained because of their disability. It is also concerned that persons with psychosocial disabilities are deprived of their liberty on the grounds that they require medical treatment and with only the consent of their legal representative.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party explicitly prohibit forced institutionalization on the basis of disability, and that it adopt protocols to guarantee the exercise of the right to free and informed consent of persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee notes with concern that the Criminal Code still provides for the absence of criminal responsibility by reason of an intellectual or psychosocial disability, and that the protective measure of deprivation of liberty is applied without procedural guarantees.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its criminal legislation in line with the Convention, provide reasonable procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities involved in criminal proceedings and guarantee their right, on an equal basis with others, to due process, the presumption of innocence, and legal assistance and qualified defence counsel.

40. The Committee notes with concern that centres of deprivation of liberty for convicted persons are not accessible and do not have specific health and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the fact that detained persons with disabilities do not have access to administrative benefits on an equal basis with others, for example, participation in vocational activities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt an accessibility plan for all centres of deprivation of liberty for persons subject to criminal proceedings, and provide health and rehabilitation services and professional and vocational training for persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party, in implementing these recommendations, follow the guidelines on liberty and security of person (art. 14 of the Convention).

Ethiopia (2016)

31. The Committee is concerned that forced detention on the basis of impairment is allowed. The Committee is concerned that the legislation of the State party allows for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to be declared unfit to stand trial, without due process of law. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities who are declared to be unfit to stand trial are subjected to security measures and, on that account, deprived of their liberty without a time limitation.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal laws permitting deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment and draft new legislation that prohibits that practice. It also recommends that the State party repeal those laws that allow for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to be declared unfit to stand trial, and that it allow that such persons benefit from due process of law guarantees. Likewise, security measures cannot be applied to carry out the deprivation of liberty without proof of guilt. The Committee refers the State party to its guidelines on article 14.

Guatemala (2016)

39. The Committee notes with concern that persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities have frequently been the subject of declarations of non-liability in the context of criminal proceedings, in the absence of procedural safeguards.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the necessary measures to guarantee due process for persons with disabilities in the context of criminal proceedings, whether as indicted persons, victims or witnesses, and to define specific criteria for providing procedural and age-appropriate accommodations during such proceedings. It also recommends setting up training mechanisms for justice officials, prison officers and public officials responsible for law enforcement throughout the country in accordance with the Convention.

41. The Committee notes with concern that, under the Civil Code, persons with disabilities may be deprived of their liberty on grounds of disability.

42. The Committee urges the State party to bring its laws and policies into line with article 14 of the Convention, by ensuring that persons with disabilities are not deprived of their liberty on grounds of disability. The State party is encouraged to refer to the Committee's guidelines on article 14.

Italy (2016)

33. The Committee is concerned about restrictive measures for “socially dangerous” persons, including persons who are deemed a danger to themselves or others.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party carry out legal and policy reform in order to prohibit detention, including involuntary hospitalization and/or treatment, on the grounds of disability, as outlined above, so that laws and policies are harmonized with the Committee’s statement on article 14.

35. The Committee is concerned that the criminal law of the State party allows persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to be declared unfit to plead, without application of the rules of due process for a fair trial. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities who are declared unfit to plead may be subjected to security measures involving forced deprivation of liberty for an indefinite time.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal criminal laws that allow persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to be declared unfit to plead, allowing the full application of the rules of due process for a fair trial. It also recommends that the State party ensure that safety measures do not involve indeterminate deprivations of liberty without proof of guilt.

37. The Committee is concerned about the lack of equal treatment of prisoners with disabilities compared with those without disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation to prisoners with disabilities to ensure their participation in and access to all services and activities, on an equal basis with others, in prisons or other centres of detention.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

27. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That persons are detained involuntarily in specialized institutions on the basis of their impairment and are deprived of their liberty because of a disability, including an intellectual or psychosocial disability;

(b) That persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities accused of an offence are declared unfit to stand trial and not given due process.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all legislation that authorizes institutionalization without the free and informed consent of the person, including in cases where consent is substituted by a third party, and repeal all laws that allow for deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities accused of an offence are entitled to a fair trial and due process of law guarantees, including the presumption of innocence, on an equal basis with others;

(c) Be guided by the Committee’s guidelines on article 14 of the Convention on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the present recommendations.

Uruguay (2016)

33. Al Comité le preocupa la vigencia en el ordenamiento jurídico uruguayo de normas como la Ley 9581 de 1936 sobre salud mental, que estipula la privación de la libertad de personas con discapacidad con base en la presencia real o percibida de una discapacidad psicosocial. Preocupa también al Comité que las personas declaradas inimputables en la comisión de un delito en razón de una deficiencia puedan ser objeto de medidas de seguridad, incluida la detención indefinida. Expresa asimismo su inquietud por la situación de las personas con discapacidad privadas de libertad en centros penitenciarios y otros lugares de detención.

34. El Comité insta al Estado parte a que revise y reforme sus leyes, incluyendo la Ley de salud mental y el Código Penal con el objeto de armonizar la legislación con las disposiciones del artículo 14 y proteger efectivamente las garantías del debido proceso de las personas con discapacidad, particularmente con discapacidad psicosocial o discapacidad intelectual, proporcionando los apoyos que requieran durante los procesos

judiciales. El Comité insta al Estado parte a que, a través de la Defensoría del Pueblo, proteja judicialmente todos los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, propiciando una debida asistencia jurídica y velando por el cumplimiento del debido proceso para las personas con discapacidad. Se recomienda también que el Estado parte adopte medidas para que los centros penitenciarios sean accesibles y se realicen ajustes razonables para las personas con discapacidad.

35. Al Comité le preocupa la situación de las personas con discapacidad institucionalizadas en hospitales psiquiátricos u otro tipo de centros residenciales de larga estadía, por motivo de su discapacidad, sin el consentimiento libre e informado de la persona afectada, y particularmente de niñas y niños con discapacidad en situación de abandono, siendo ésta la razón de su institucionalización.

36. El Comité insta al Estado parte a que prohíba la institucionalización forzada por motivo de la discapacidad y adopte medidas para abolir la práctica de internamiento u hospitalización no consentido. Para el cumplimiento de estas recomendaciones se deberán tener en cuenta las Directrices del Comité sobre el artículo 14 de la Convención.

Chile (2016)

29. Al Comité le preocupa el criterio de “peligrosidad” utilizado para determinar la privación de libertad con base en la presencia real o percibida de una discapacidad psicosocial. Asimismo le preocupa el elevado número de personas declaradas inimputables que son internadas durante períodos prolongados en los hospitales psiquiátricos, en su mayoría en el Hospital Philippe Pinel en Putaendo, y la espera injustificada y prolongada para que las causas de internamiento sean revisadas por un juez, lo cual viola las garantías del debido proceso.

30. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que revise el criterio de peligrosidad que determina el internamiento forzado en centros psiquiátricos. Asimismo le recomienda revisar y reformar su Código Penal con el objeto de proteger efectivamente las garantías del debido proceso de las personas con discapacidad, particularmente con discapacidad psicosocial y/o intelectual, proporcionando los apoyos que requieran durante los procesos judiciales, considerando el género y la edad.

31. Al Comité le preocupa el internamiento de personas en hospitales psiquiátricos u otro tipo de centros residenciales de larga estadía, por motivo de deficiencia, a requerimiento de la familia y sin el consentimiento libre e informado de la persona afectada.

32. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que prohíba la institucionalización forzada por motivo de la discapacidad.

Lithuania (2016)

29. The Committee is concerned that the Law on Mental Health (1995), the draft amendment to the Law on Mental Health Care and the Civil Code of 2000 allow for persons with psychosocial disabilities to undergo involuntary hospitalization and non- consensual treatment and to be subjected to indefinite or temporary restraints.

30. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of statistical data on the non-consensual treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities, including when a guardian or family member consented to the treatment.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Immediately repeal laws permitting deprivation of liberty based on impairment, forced treatment and the use of restraints and seclusion, and enact new legislation, prohibiting those practices, including within the current draft amendment to the Law on Mental Health Care;

(b) Involve organizations representing persons with psychosocial disabilities in the development of new legislation;

(c) Collect and use data to monitor and eliminate all forms of involuntary hospitalization and treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Portugal (2016)

32. The Committee is concerned that the State party’s Criminal Procedure Code declares persons with psychosocial disabilities to be criminally irresponsible, and that their legal

safeguards are not respected in criminal proceedings. Likewise, it is concerned about the internment of persons with disabilities based on the concept of dangerousness, as well as deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability under the Mental Health Law (Law 36/1998 and Law 101/1999).

33. The Committee requests that the State party, in accordance with the Convention and the Committee guidelines on article 14 (2015),:

(a) Review its criminal law in order to ensure all persons with disabilities enjoy equal due process guarantees, including the presumption of innocence and the right to a fair trial, on equal basis with others, by providing procedural and reasonable accommodations and access to information and communication at the request of legal and/or administrative proceedings concerning deprivation of liberty; and,

(b) Remove from its criminal law the dangerousness criterion and the preventive and security measures linked with that, in cases where a person with psychosocial disability is accused of a criminal offence, eliminate the possibility of deprivation of liberty under this criterion, and repeal provisions of the Mental Health Law which permit deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability.

Serbia (2016)

25. The Committee is concerned that the Law on the Protection of Persons with Mental Disabilities permits the deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment and provides for involuntary hospitalization and forced institutionalization of children and adults with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

26. The Committee urges the State party to repeal laws, including the law on the protection of persons with mental disabilities, and prohibit impairment-based detention of children and adults with disabilities, including involuntary hospitalization and forced institutionalization, and ensure that all relevant legislation and policies in this area are in line with the Convention as interpreted in the Committee's guidelines on art. 14. It should also accelerate deinstitutionalization in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and the development of support services in the community.

Slovakia (2016)

43. The Committee is concerned about legislation that allows for the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of their impairment. It is also concerned about the situation experienced by persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities who appear to be involved in the commission of crimes.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal provisions allowing for involuntary hospitalization under the Health Care Act and imposition of institutional forensic treatment under the Criminal Code. It also recommends that the State party apply the rules of due process to all persons with disabilities, according to the Committee's guidelines on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities.

Thailand (2016)

29. The Committee is concerned that national laws provide for involuntary detention on the basis of impairment. It is also concerned about the lack of information on the safeguards and guarantees in place in the criminal justice system for persons with disabilities who are declared unfit to stand trial, the detention of persons based on that declaration and the application of security measures, often for an indefinite period of time.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all legislation that authorizes institutionalization on the basis of impairment without the free and informed consent of the person, including cases where consent is substituted by a third party. It also recommends that the declaration of unfitness to stand trial be removed from the criminal justice system and that the State party review the procedures used to penalize persons with disabilities when they commit criminal offences in order to ensure due process guarantees for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, for example, the presumption of innocence and the rights to defence and to a fair trial.

Uganda (2016)

26. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, according to the provisions of the 1971 Trial on Indictments Act and article 23 (1) (f) of the Constitution.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all constitutional and legal provisions that provide for forced detention on the basis of impairment and involuntary institutionalization of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Repeal legislative and other provisions that allow for detention of persons with disabilities, and permit indefinite postponement of criminal proceedings while ordering incarceration which unduly discriminate against persons with disabilities and do not allow for fair trial standards on an equal basis with others.**

Brazil (2015)

28. The Committee is concerned at reports of the arbitrary deprivation of liberty and involuntary treatment of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, including situations where it is assumed that persons with disabilities are dangerous to themselves or others on the basis of a diagnosis of impairment.

29. The Committee recommends the State party to take measures, including the repeal of relevant legal provisions, to abolish the practice of involuntary commitment or hospitalization prohibit forced medical treatment, in particular, psychiatric treatments, on the basis of impairment and provide sufficient community-based alternatives.

30. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities who are deemed not liable for the commission of a crime on the basis of impairment may be subject to security measures, including indefinite detention. The Committee is also concerned about arbitrary detentions that may amount to inhuman and degrading treatment or torture. It is further concerned about the situation of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty in prisons and other places of detention, which are severely overcrowded and where psychical and psychological ill-treatment of inmates becomes a norm, as stated by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment at the end of his official visit to Brazil in August 2015.

31. The Committee recommends the State party to:

- (a) Abolish security measures that involve the arbitrary detention of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment and implement alternative measures that are consistent with articles 14 and 19 of the Convention; and**
- (b) Ensure that penitentiary facilities are accessible and provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.**

European Union (2015)

40. The Committee is concerned about the involuntary detention of persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals or other institutions on the basis of actual or perceived impairment.

41. The Committee recommends that the European Union take all possible measures to ensure the liberty and security of all persons with all types of disabilities in line with the Convention and the Committee's Guidelines on article 14 (2015).

Gabon (2015)

32. The Committee is concerned about the involuntary detention of persons in specialised institutions on the basis of their impairment as well as the deprivation of liberty based on disability, including psychosocial disability.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all legislation that authorises institutionalisation without the free and informed consent of the person, including cases where consent is substituted by a third party, and repeal laws that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability.

34. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about persons with disabilities who are allegedly involved in crimes and about the application of the rule of law in such cases.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, are guaranteed the same

substantive and procedural guarantees as others in the context of criminal proceedings, including the presumption of innocence and the right to a fair trial.

Kenya (2015)

27. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities can be detained on the basis of actual or perceived impairment, alleged danger of persons to themselves or to others and alleged need of concealment and/or treatment which is incompatible with the Convention. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities who are considered of “unsound mind” and/or “insane” can be subjected to deprivation of liberty and that they are not entitled to the same guarantees as other persons in the criminal procedures.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend legislation to prohibit involuntary placement in particular, to repeal provisions of the Mental Health Act (1989), amend Person Deprived of Liberty Act 2015 which allows detention for purposes of psychiatry treatment and ensure that new legislation is fully compatible with article 14 of the Convention in all cases; and

(b) Repeal the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code Section 166 concerning the declaration of “insanity” and reaffirm the right to fair trial of persons with disabilities in accordance with the paradigm of the Convention.

Mauritius (2015)

25. The Committee is concerned that the legislation of the State party provides for the involuntary hospitalization and institutionalization of persons with disabilities, including children on the basis of their impairments or because they are deemed to represent a danger for themselves and for the society, and that no data is available in this respect.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party amend legislation to prohibit involuntary placement and promote alternative measures in line with the Convention.

Qatar (2015)

27. The Committee is concerned about the involuntary detention of persons in specialised institutions on the basis of their impairment as well as the deprivation of liberty based on disability, including intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned that persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities accused of an offence are declared unfit to stand trial and not given due process. It is also concerned that victims of crimes who are persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities may be temporarily placed in institutions while their case is being resolved.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all legislation that authorises institutionalisation without the free and informed consent of the person, including cases where consent is substituted by a third party, and repeal all laws that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability. It also recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities accused of an offence are entitled to the provision of procedural accommodations and a fair trial and due process guarantees on an equal basis with others, including the presumption of innocence.

Ukraine (2015)

30. The Committee notes with concern that the State party’s law “On psychiatric assistance” allows for non-consensual institutionalization and treatment of persons based on their impairments. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that despite the improvements in the State party’s Penal Code from April 2014, the challenges in relation to access to hygiene products, medical and technical facilities for persons with disabilities in penitentiary institutions still remain.

31. The Committee urges the State party to repeal laws that allow for deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment. The Committee also recommends that the State party take measures to implement its legislation providing for reasonable accommodation in prisons in order not to aggravate incarceration conditions based on disability.

Cook Islands (2015)

27. The Committee is concerned about the deprivation of liberty of persons with psychosocial disabilities, and their removal to medical facilities in New Zealand. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned with the lack of provision of reasonable accommodation to prisoners with disabilities

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all legislation to prohibit detention on the grounds of disability, including involuntary placement in hospitals, institutions, or prisons;

(b) Ensure provision of reasonable accommodation to prisoners with disabilities.

Croatia (2015)

19. The Committee is concerned that people with disabilities are subjected to involuntary detention and admission in institutions on the basis of their impairment. Of particular concern is the practice of detaining involuntarily people with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities.

20. The Committee recommends repealing legal provisions which permit involuntary commitment on the basis of impairment and that laws, including the Act on Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders, are aligned with the Convention.

21. The Committee is concerned that there is a lack of information about people with disabilities allegedly involved in crimes and about the application of the rule of law in these cases.

22. The Committee recommends the State party to review procedures and practices related to investigation, prosecution, and treatment of persons with disabilities committing criminal offences. It is recommended to examine whether the general safeguards and legal standards of criminal justice, i.e. the presumption of innocence, the right to fair trial apply. The Committee's statement on article 14 of the Convention is recommended as guidelines in this regard.

Czech Republic (2015)

26. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities may still be deprived of their liberty on basis of their disability under provisions of the Act on Social Services, the Health Services Act, the Act on Special Judicial Procedures, the Criminal Code and the Civil Procedure Code.

27. The Committee urges the State party to amend aforementioned legislations and fully harmonize their provisions with provisions of article 14 of the Convention. As a guideline it is recommended to take a recent statement of the Committee on article 14 into account.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a policy to initiate a structural review of the procedures used to sanction persons with disabilities when they commit criminal offences. The system should comply with the general safeguards and guarantees established for all persons accused of a crime in the criminal justice system, inter alia, the presumption of innocence, and the right to defence and to a fair trial. The Committee also recommends the application of reasonable accommodation in prisons in order not to aggravate incarceration conditions based on disability.

Dominican Republic (2015)

26. The Committee is concerned that persons with psychosocial disabilities are being institutionalized in the Padre Billini Centre without their free and informed consent.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a mechanism to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly psychosocial disabilities, can give their free and informed consent on placement in psychiatric centres.

28. The Committee notes with concern the absence of procedural safeguards for persons with psychosocial disabilities in criminal proceedings. It is also concerned that the internment of persons with disabilities is based on the concept of dangerousness.

29. The Committee calls on the State party to:

(a) Review its criminal law in order to ensure that all persons with disabilities have guarantees of due process, on an equal basis with others, and are provided with the

necessary reasonable accommodation and access to information and communication at the various stages of administrative and judicial proceedings for deprivation of liberty;
(b) Remove from its criminal law the concept of dangerousness in cases where a person with psychosocial disabilities is accused of a crime, as well as the deprivation of liberty based on the same criterion.

Germany (2015)

29. The Committee is concerned about the widespread practice of involuntary placement in institutions of persons with psychosocial disabilities, the lack of protection of their privacy and the lack of available data on their situation.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party take all the immediate necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to:

(a) Amend legislation to prohibit involuntary placement and promote alternative measures that are in keeping with articles 14, 19 and 22 of the Convention;

(b) Implement an independent inquiry using a human rights-based review of psychiatric services for persons with disabilities, their privacy, and the collection of relevant data.

31. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information about persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system that have been declared unfit to stand trial, the detention of persons based on that declaration, and the application of safety measures, often for an indefinite period of time.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Initiate a structural review of the procedures used to penalize persons with disabilities when they commit criminal offences;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to due process guarantees established for all persons accused of a crime in the criminal justice system, inter alia, the presumption of innocence, the right to defence and to a fair trial;

(c) Ensure reasonable accommodation in places of detention.

Mongolia (2015)

25. The Committee is concerned that there are insufficient legal safeguards, other than references to Constitution, to ensure persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are protected from forced hospitalization and institutionalization. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on people with disabilities allegedly involved in crimes, and whether the rules of due process apply in these cases.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a policy to initiate a structural review of the procedures used to sanction persons with disabilities when they commit criminal offences. The system should comply with the general safeguards and guarantees established for all persons accused of a crime in the criminal justice system, inter alia, the presumption of innocence, and the right to defence and to a fair trial. The Committee also recommends the application of reasonable accommodation in prisons in order not to aggravate incarceration conditions for persons with disabilities.

Turkmenistan (2015)

29. The Committee is concerned that there is no available data on persons with disabilities who are involuntarily placed on psychiatric facilities. It is also concerned that these orders are reported generally based on the alleged "dangerousness" of the person with disabilities, partly based on the concept of insanity.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal the laws that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability and potential "dangerousness", with a view to prohibiting disability-based forced detention of children and adults with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that the general safeguards and guarantees established for all persons accused of a crime in the criminal justice system, inter alia, the presumption of innocence, and the right to defence and to a fair trial as well as reasonable accommodation in prisons are provided for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

New Zealand (2014)

29. The Committee is concerned that the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 has been criticized for its lack of human rights principles.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party take all the immediate necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to ensure that no one is detained against their will in any medical facility on the basis of actual or perceived disability. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that all mental health services are provided on the basis of the free and informed consent of the person concerned, in accordance with the Convention. The Committee further recommends that the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 be amended to comply with the Convention.

31. The Committee notes that the State party continues to allow the use of seclusion and restraints in psychiatric hospitals. Although there has been a decline in this practice, the situation is not satisfactory.

32. The Committee recommends that immediate steps be taken to eliminate the use of seclusion and restraints in medical facilities.

33. The Committee is concerned that the criminal justice system in New Zealand includes conditions in which a person with disabilities can be declared “unfit to stand trial” and on that basis can be deprived of liberty. The system does not recognize that a person with disabilities should only be deprived of liberty when found guilty of a crime, after criminal procedure has been followed, with all the safeguards and guarantees applicable to everyone.

34. The Committee recommends that the State Party review the criminal justice system to ensure that criminal procedure is followed in accordance with all the safeguards and guarantees that are applicable to non-disabled persons, and that deprivation of liberty should be applied as a matter of last resort and when other diversion programmes, including restorative justice, are insufficient to deter future crime. The Committee also recommends that the State Party ensure that reasonable accommodation in prison settings operates in respect of persons with disabilities.

Denmark (2014)

34. The Committee is concerned at the distinction made by the State party between punishment and treatment, according to which persons considered “unfit to stand trial” on account of their impairment are not punished but are sentenced to treatment. Treatment is a social control sanction and should be replaced by formal criminal sanctions for offenders whose involvement in crime has been determined. The procedure applied when determining whether a person should be sentenced to treatment is not in accordance with the safeguards that a criminal procedure should have if it may result in a sanction being imposed on a person. Sentencing a person to treatment is therefore incompatible with article 14.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a policy to initiate a structural review of the procedures used to sanction persons with disabilities when they commit criminal offences. The system should comply with the general safeguards and guarantees established for all persons accused of a crime in the criminal justice system, inter alia, the presumption of innocence, and the right to defence and to a fair trial.

36. The Committee is concerned that the Psychiatric Act allows for compulsory hospitalization or treatment in a medical facility in respect of a person with mental health impairments, against her or his will, if the person is considered to be a danger to herself or himself or to others, which amounts to a deprivation of liberty or security on the basis of disability, contrary to article 14 of the Convention.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures, including revision of the Psychiatric Act, to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy the right to liberty and security of person. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that no one will be detained in any facility on the basis of actual or perceived disability.

Republic of Korea (2014)

25. The Committee is concerned that the existing legal provisions in the Mental Health Act, as well as the draft amendment to the Act, allow for deprivation of liberty on the basis of

disability. It is also concerned about the high rate of institutionalization, including long-term institutionalization, of persons with psychosocial disabilities without their free and informed consent.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the existing legal provisions allowing for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability, including a psychosocial or intellectual disability, and adopt measures to ensure that health-care services, including all mental health care services, are based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned. The Committee also recommends that until the law is amended, all cases of deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities in hospitals and specialized institutions be reviewed and that the review include a possibility of appeal.

27. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the safeguards and guarantees in force to ensure persons with disabilities who are declared unfit to stand trial the right to a fair trial in the Republic of Korea. The Committee notes the information provided by the State on the provision of legal aid for such persons and the rendering of not-guilty verdicts; however, no information was provided on the actual measures the Republic of Korea applies as sanctions for those persons considered unfit to stand trial.

28. The Committee recommends the establishment of procedural accommodations that ensure fair trial and due process guarantees for persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the declaration of unfitness to stand trial be removed from the criminal justice system in order to allow due process for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Belgium (2014)

25. The Committee is concerned that the Act on mental health adopted in 1990 allows for the involuntary hospitalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal laws providing for the involuntary hospitalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities on the basis of their disability.

27. The Committee is concerned that the new Act on the Confinement of Persons, adopted in May 2014, which governs safety measures applicable to persons who have been deprived of legal capacity, is not in conformity with the Convention. The measures are forms of social punishment that are adopted not on the basis of the principle of proportionality, but rather in response to a person's perceived "dangerous" state. The procedure used to put in place safety measures for persons who have been deprived of legal capacity is not in accordance with the procedural guarantees established in international human rights law, such as, inter alia, the presumption of innocence, the right to a defence and the right to a fair trial.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the Act of May 2014 to remove the system of safety measures applicable to persons with disabilities who have been deprived of legal capacity. Persons with disabilities who have committed a crime should be tried under the ordinary criminal procedure, on an equal basis with others and with the same guarantees, although with specific procedural adjustments to ensure their equal participation in the criminal justice system.

29. The Committee also recommends that the State party should guarantee the right to reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities who are detained in prison; ensure their access to health care on an equal footing with others, on the basis of their free and informed consent, and to the same level of health care as that provided in society at large; establish an independent formal complaints mechanism accessible to all persons detained in prisons or in forensic institutions; and repeal extrajudicial intervention programmes that involuntarily commit individuals to mental health establishments or force them to register with the mental health services. The provision of these services should be based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned.

Ecuador (2014)

28. The Committee is concerned that the State party considers that certain persons with disabilities, specifically those who have been abandoned and classified as "serious and

chronic cases of oligophrenia”, remain institutionalized and do not have the necessary support to live in the community. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has not taken action to guarantee due process for persons with disabilities accused of having committed an offence. It is also concerned that declaring persons with disabilities unfit to stand trial is a pretext for applying security measures involving their indefinite deprivation of liberty and that they are not entitled to the same guarantees as other persons in the criminal justice system.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Draw up a comprehensive deinstitutionalization plan for persons currently in the Julio Endara Psychiatric Hospital that ensures their personal safety and provides them with the guarantees enabling them to exercise their right to be included in the community. The comprehensive plan must include actions to guarantee the accommodation, food and personal assistance services they require to ensure their full inclusion; (b) Refrain from declaring persons with disabilities unfit to stand trial when they are accused of an offence so that they are entitled to due process, on an equal basis with others, and that the general guarantees of criminal law and procedure are observed; (c) Eliminate the security measures that involve forced medical and psychiatric treatment in institutions and promote alternative measures that are in keeping with articles 14 and 19 of the Convention; (d) Ensure that all mental health services are delivered with the free and informed consent of the person concerned.

Mexico (2014)

27. The Committee notes with concern that persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities have frequently been the subject of declarations of non-liability in the context of criminal proceedings, in the absence of procedural safeguards. It is also concerned that the reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure maintains non-liability by reason of disability as a concept in the legal system.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee due process for persons with disabilities in the context of criminal proceedings, whether as indicted persons, victims or witnesses, and define specific criteria for making reasonable accommodations during such proceedings; (b) Promote training mechanisms for justice and prison officials in accordance with the Convention’s legal paradigm.

29. The Committee is concerned that Mexican legislation authorizes deprivation of liberty in the case of persons with intellectual and psychological disabilities, on the ground of their disability; in particular, that provision is made for their confinement in psychiatric institutions in the context of medical or psychiatric treatment.

30. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Eliminate security measures that mandate medical and psychiatric inpatient treatment and promote alternatives that comply with articles 14 and 19 of the Convention; (b) Repeal legislation permitting detention on grounds of disability and ensure that all mental health services are provided based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned.

Sweden (2014)

35. The Committee is concerned that Swedish law allows for a person to be confined against his or her will in a medical facility if he or she has a psychosocial disability and is considered to be a danger to himself or herself or to others. The Committee is further concerned that the law also allows for compulsory psychiatric care in medical institutions or within the community.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party take all the immediate necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to ensure that no one is detained against their will in any medical facility on the basis of actual or perceived disability. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that all mental health services are provided with the free and informed consent of the person concerned. It recommends that the State allocate more financial resources to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities

who require a high level of support, in order to ensure that there are sufficient community-based outpatient services to support persons with disabilities.

Azerbaijan (2014)

28. The Committee is concerned that the law permits the deprivation of liberty based on disability and provides for involuntary hospitalisation and forced institutionalisation of children and adults with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. The Committee is particularly concerned at reports of poor health care in such places.

29. The Committee urges the State party to repeal laws and prohibit disability based detention of children and adults with disabilities including involuntary hospitalisation and forced institutionalisation and ensure that all relevant legislation and policies in this area are in line with the Convention. It should also develop support services in the community and accelerate deinstitutionalisation strategies based on the human rights model of disability in consultation with DPOs.

30. The Committee is concerned at reports of poor living conditions of persons with disabilities in certain places of deprivation of liberty.

31. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that all places of deprivation of liberty, particularly prisons, maintain accessible and humane living conditions in line with the Convention. In this regard, the State party should ensure that monitoring bodies such as the Office of the Ombudsman and the National Preventive Mechanism have sufficient resources and unimpeded access to all places of deprivation of liberty in the State party.

Costa Rica (2014)

29. The Committee is concerned about the situation of persons with disabilities who have been institutionalized on grounds of their disability and women and children with disabilities who are in a situation of abandonment or abuse, and the fact that their disability is the reason for their institutionalization.

30. The Committee calls on the State party to implement strategies to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities and to protect them from violence, abuse and ill-treatment of any kind through ongoing monitoring by the Ombudsman's Office or other independent human rights monitoring mechanism.

Australia (2013)

31. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, who are deemed unfit to stand trial due to an intellectual or psychosocial disability can be detained indefinitely in prisons or psychiatric facilities without being convicted of a crime, and for periods that can significantly exceed the maximum period of custodial sentence for the offence. It is equally concerned that persons with disabilities are over-represented in both the prison and juvenile justice systems, in particular women, children and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party, as a matter of urgency:

(a) Ends the unwarranted use of prisons for the management of un-convicted persons with disabilities, with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities, by establishing legislative, administrative and support frameworks that comply with the Convention;

(b) Establishes mandatory guidelines and practice to ensure that persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system are provided with appropriate supports and accommodation;

(c) Reviews its laws that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability, including psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and repeal provisions that authorize involuntary internment linked to an apparent or diagnosed disability.

33. The Committee is further concerned that under Australian law, a person can be subjected to medical interventions against his or her will, if the person is deemed to be incapable of making or communicating a decision about treatment.

34. The Committee recommends that Australia should repeal all legislation that authorises medical interventions without free and informed consent of the persons with disabilities concerned, and legal provisions that authorize commitment of individuals to detention in

mental health services, or the imposition of compulsory treatment either in institutions or in the community via Community Treatment Orders (CTOs).

Austria (2013)

29. The Committee is deeply concerned that Austrian laws allow for a person to be confined against his or her will in a psychiatric institution where they have a psychosocial disability and it is forecast that they might endanger themselves or other persons. The Committee is of the opinion that the legislation is in conflict with article 14 of the Convention because it allows a person to be deprived of their liberty on the basis of their actual or perceived disability.

30. The Committee urges the State Party to take all necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to ensure that no one is detained against their will in any kind of mental health facility. It urges the State party to develop deinstitutionalization strategies based on the human rights model of disability.

31. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure and that all mental health services are provided based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned. It recommends that the State allocate more financial resources to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities who require a high level of support, in order to ensure that there are sufficient community based outpatient services to support persons with disabilities.

El Salvador (2013)

31. The Committee is concerned that disability constitutes grounds for deprivation of liberty in the State party. The Committee regrets the lack of information about the situation of persons with psychosocial or intellectual impairments who are held in psychiatric centres and other institutions and about legal remedies available to challenge involuntary institutionalization. The Committee is concerned at the lack of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities held in prisons and other detention centres.

32. The Committee calls on the State party to abolish the rules that allow for deprivation of liberty on grounds of disability, give persons with disabilities the ability to hurt themselves or others and mandate care or treatment. It urges the State party to define adequate health-care procedures, such as making psychological care contingent upon the free and informed consent of the concerned party. The Committee calls on the State party to establish a mechanism to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities in prisons and other detention centres and to set up a legal framework for the provision of reasonable accommodation that preserves their dignity.

Paraguay (2013)

33. The Committee regrets the lack of information on persons with disabilities who have been committed to institutions against their will, or on the procedures that make involuntary committal possible.

34. The Committee urges the State party to have an independent human rights mechanism gather information on persons with disabilities in institutions, oversee and monitor the situation of persons with disabilities who have been placed in institutions and launch a procedure for their reintegration into society and the community.

35. The Committee notes with concern that the State party is adopting measures on the deprivation of liberty on grounds of disability, such as committal of children, women and men with disabilities to homes or psychiatric hospitals without free and informed consent and for lengthy periods of time. Specifically, the Committee is concerned at the measures the State party is adopting to reinforce the model of deprivation of liberty on grounds of disability, as in the Albino Luis and Pequeño Cotelengo homes.

36. The Committee urges the State party to revise its procedures on committal on grounds of disability in order to ensure that persons with disabilities who are subject to those procedures are able to fully exercise their legal capacity as provided in the Convention. It also urges the State party to institute a broad strategy, including a programme to provide support in decision-making, for the inclusion of homeless persons with disabilities in the community, particularly those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

Argentina (2012)

23. The Committee notes with concern that involuntary long-term committal is still common in the State party, despite the fact that deinstitutionalization strategies have been adopted and the National Mental Health Act (Act No. 26.657) is based on the human rights model of disability.

24. The Committee urges the State party to implement the deinstitutionalization strategies that it has adopted in an effective manner and to develop and implement mental health plans based on the human rights model of disability, along with effective measures to promote the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities.

25. The Committee is concerned that, when a person with a psychosocial or intellectual disability is declared to be exempt from criminal responsibility in criminal proceedings, due process guarantees are not upheld and the person is immediately deprived of his or her liberty without even having been shown to be linked to the event in question.

26. The Committee requests the State party to modify its federal and provincial criminal laws so that decisions regarding the application of security measures to persons found to be exempt from criminal responsibility are taken only after due process guarantees concerning the right to a defence and the right to the assistance of a lawyer, including any adjustments in the proceedings that may be necessary in order to guarantee the exercise of such rights, have been upheld.

China (2012)

25. The Committee is concerned that the deprivation of liberty on the grounds of disability is allowed in the state party, and that involuntary civil commitment is perceived as a tool to maintain the public order. In this context, the Committee finds it disturbing that many persons with actual or perceived impairments are involuntarily committed to psychiatric institutions for various reasons, such as being petitioners. In addition, the Committee is concerned that many persons who indeed live with intellectual and psychosocial impairments and require a high level of support lack the adequate resources for their medical and social care and are thus permanently confined at home.

26. The Committee recommends the abolishment of the practice of involuntary civil commitment based on actual or perceived impairment. In addition, the Committee asks the state party to allocate more financial resources to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities who require a high level of support, in order to ensure social support and medical treatment outside their own home when necessary.

Hungary (2012)

27. The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party is dedicated to undertaking measures to provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities that are deprived of their liberty. It also notes with appreciation that “personal liberty is assured by making use of the services voluntarily” (paragraph 87 of the State party’s report: CRPD/C/HUN/1). However, the Committee is concerned about the situation faced by persons under guardianship, where the decision of institutional care is made by the guardian instead of the person him/herself, and guardians are authorised to give consent to mental health care services on behalf of their ward. The Committee further regrets that disability, in some cases, can be the ground for detention.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party review provisions in legislation that allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability, including mental, psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and adopt measures to ensure that health care services, including all mental health care services, are based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned.

Peru (2012)

28. The Committee notes with concern that article 11 of the General Health Law No. 26842 permits involuntary detention for people with “mental health problems”, defined to include people with psychosocial disabilities as well as persons with a “perceived disability” (persons with a drug or alcohol dependence).

29. The Committee calls upon the State party to eliminate Law 29737 which modifies article 11 of the General Health Law, in order to prohibit the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability, including psychosocial, intellectual or perceived disability.

Spain (2011)

35. The Committee notes that Act 26/2011 allows a period of one year following its entry into force for the presentation of a bill to govern the scope and interpretation of article 12 of the Convention. The Committee is further concerned that no measures have been taken to replace substitute decision-making by supported decision-making in the exercise of legal capacity.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party review the laws allowing for guardianship and trusteeship, and take action to develop laws and policies to replace regimes of substitute decision-making by supported decision-making, which respects the person's autonomy, will and preferences. It further recommends that training be provided on this issue for all relevant public officials and other stakeholders.

Tunisia (2010)

24. With reference to article 14 of the Convention, the Committee is concerned that having a disability, including an intellectual or psychosocial disability, can constitute a basis for the deprivation of liberty under current legislation.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal legislative provisions which allow for the deprivation of liberty on the basis of disability, including a psychosocial or intellectual disability. The Committee further recommends that until new legislation is in place, all cases of persons with disabilities who are deprived of their liberty in hospitals and specialized institutions be reviewed, and that the review include the possibility of appeal.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 15 CRPD
(Freedom of torture or cruel,
inhuman or degrading treatment or
punishment)*

September 2025

Article 15 - Freedom of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

1. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his or her free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

2. States Parties shall take all effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, from being subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra(2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)

Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)

Haiti (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Croatia (2015)

Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Hungary (2012)
Peru (2012)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 15 on Mauritius (2024), Cuba, Rwanda, Vanuatu, Algeria, Philippines, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nepal, Oman, Canada, Cyprus, Lithuania, Portugal, Mauritius, Cook Islands, Mongolia, Belgium, Ecuador, New Zealand, Spain and Tunisia.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

27. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities in detention are subjected to degrading treatment, including solitary confinement for perceived disobedience or “non-productivity”, denial of access to medical care and basic necessities, and confinement in conditions incompatible with human dignity, or have acquired secondary disabilities due to their conditions of detention;
- (b) Credible reports indicate that medical and scientific experiments are conducted on persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Take effective measures to prevent instances of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities in all settings, including by ensuring full compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and end practices such as solitary confinement for perceived disobedience or “non-productivity”;**
- (b) Prohibit all medical and scientific experiments on persons with disabilities.**

Finland (2025)

28. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The prevalence and use of coercion, forced treatment and restrictive measures against children and adults with disabilities in psychiatric institutions, residential institutions, aged care facilities, prisons, early childhood and primary education;
- (b) That oversight, monitoring and reporting of harmful practices, such as forced treatment, restrictive practices and impairment-based detention are not sufficiently accessible for persons with disabilities, do not provide sufficient legal remedies, and are often not well known to persons with disabilities.

29. Recalling its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, take all legislative, administrative and judicial measures necessary to:

- (a) Prohibit the use of coercion, forced treatment and restrictive practices against children and adults with disabilities in psychiatric institutions, residential institutions, aged care facilities, prisons, early childhood and primary education; and establish alternative non-coercive, age-appropriate support measures that respect the will, preference, dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, and provide training to all medical and non-medical staff on these measures;**
- (b) Strengthen the oversight, monitoring and reporting of the National Preventive Mechanism to identify and address harmful practices, such as forced treatment, restrictive practices and impairment-based detention that are lawful or regulated through domestic law, but which do not meet the standards and principles of the Convention.**

Kiribati (2025)

27. The Committee is concerned about the absence of explicit safeguards to protect persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, from forced medical treatment in health facilities or in the community and about the lack of independent monitoring of facilities and community treatment orders, and the absence of accessible complaint and redress mechanisms.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Explicitly prohibit forced medical treatment, including community treatment orders of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Establish an accessible monitoring and complaint mechanism with sufficient financial, human and technical resources to ensure persons with disabilities are not subjected to forced confinement and treatment, including in the home or community, and to investigate and

sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Maldives (2025)

29. The Committee is concerned at reports of the use of restrictive practices, coercion or forced treatment on persons with disabilities, as well as the lack of complaint mechanisms to report these practices and obtain redress, in particular for persons with disabilities who are still in institutions or deprived of their liberty.

30. Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Monitor, investigate, document and remedy any allegations of the use of restrictive practices, as well as coercion or forced treatment to persons with disabilities, in particular in the Home for People with Special Needs in Guraidhoo (HPSN), as well as in schools, medical facilities, in interactions with the police and at home;

(b) Establish a competent and effective legal complaint mechanism procedure with sufficient financial, human and technical resources accessible to all persons with disabilities and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, including in police custody, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.

Canada (2025)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, despite commitments made by the State Party at its fourth cycle Universal Periodic Review;

(b) Structured Intervention Units (SIUs) that perpetuate solitary confinement conditions, disproportionately affecting prisoners with psychosocial disabilities who are predominantly Indigenous, Black and from other racialized groups, the wide discretion of Correctional Service Canada (CSC) in the use of SIUs, and ongoing concerns from the SIU Implementation Advisory Panel and the Office of the Correctional Investigator over many years without substantive improvements;

(c) The significantly high prevalence of women with psychosocial disabilities, in particular Indigenous women with psychosocial disabilities, in women's prisons who are placed in maximum security and highly restrictive environments in higher rates, often leading to chronic self-injurious or suicidal behaviour;

(d) The prevalence of seclusion, restraint and restrictive practices in residential institutions, psychiatric institutions, hospitals, prisons, and schools; the focus on authorisation rather than elimination in seclusion and restraint policies and guidelines; and the provisions in the British Columbia Mental Health Act that authorise staff to discipline involuntary mental health patients;

(e) The absence of an independent monitoring and oversight mechanism for the mental health system

30. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Accelerate efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to designate a disability inclusive and accessible National Preventive Mechanism to ensure independent oversight and monitoring of all places of detention;

(b) Address the concerns and implement the recommendations of the SIU Implementation Advisory Panel and the Office of the Correctional Investigator, and ensure the provision of culturally appropriate, gender and age specific mental health supports within correctional facilities;

- (c) Address the pre-conditions that result in the high prevalence of women with psychosocial disabilities, in particular Indigenous women with psychosocial disabilities, being placed in maximum security and highly restrictive environments in prisons;
- (d) Establish a nationally consistent legislative and policy framework for the elimination, of seclusion, restraint and restrictive practices in residential institutions, psychiatric institutions, hospitals, prisons, and schools and repeal the provisions in the BC Mental Health Act that authorize staff to discipline involuntary mental health patients;
- (e) Designate an independent monitoring and oversight mechanisms for the mental health system based on the principles and standards of the Convention.

Dominican Republic (2025)

27. The Committee is concerned about, the insufficient measures to ensure compliance with the legal framework that prohibits the administration of medical treatment without the consent of the person with disabilities and the lack of accessible procedures for filing complaints and obtaining redress. The committee is particularly concerned that there are no inclusive and accessible national mechanisms to protect persons with disabilities in particular persons with psychosocial disability from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment including protection from using chemical or/and physical restraints.

28. Recalling its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, take effective measures to ensure full compliance with the legal framework prohibiting the administration of medical treatment without the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities, including by strengthening oversight mechanisms, enforcing accountability for violations, and providing training for healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities as well as establish effective and inclusive national mechanisms to protect persons with disabilities from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment in particular in the psychiatric facilities, and promote accessible, independent, and effective procedures for persons with disabilities to file complaints and obtaining redress.

European Union (2025)

40. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Forced treatment of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and of autistic children in institutions across Member States, including the use of physical and pharmacological restraints, solitary confinement, forced electro-convulsive therapy and other coercive practices;
- (b) EU funding of research that de facto does not require that persons with disabilities involved are provided with the support necessary to give their personal, free and fully informed consent;
- (c) The lack of mechanisms to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities in EU external action.

41. Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the European Union, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Develop initiatives and concrete actions as part of the second half of the Disability Strategy to align EU policy and standards for the psychiatric treatment of persons with disabilities with the Convention, and enact an absolute ban on all forced psychiatric interventions;
- (b) Ensure that EU funded research involving persons with disabilities does not allow surrogate decision-making, and explicitly require their personal, free and fully informed consent. Adopt guidelines for the provision of such consent, including from deaf persons and persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (c) Establish mechanisms to prevent forced treatment of persons with disabilities that may amount to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Palau (2025)

27. The Committee observes with concern the lack of information on the measures taken to eliminate seclusion, psychical, chemical and mechanical restraints and other forms of ill treatment in all settings, such as family settings, psychiatric institutions, hospitals, prisons and educational services, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

28. Recalling its Guidelines on denationalization, including in emergencies, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt the necessary measures for the protection of all persons with disabilities from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in all settings, including in justice, education, health, psychosocial and aged care facilities;

(b) Ensure that the complaint procedure is accessible to all persons with disabilities still in institutions and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.

Tuvalu (2025)

27. The Committee is concerned about the use of restrictive practices, coercion or forced treatment on persons with disabilities, including older persons in family homes and children with disabilities at schools, as well as the lack of complaint mechanisms to report these practices and obtain redress.

28. Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Monitor, investigate, document and remedy any allegations of the use of restrictive practices, as well as coercion or forced treatment to persons with disabilities, including in schools, medical facilities, in interactions with the police and at home;

(b) Establish a competent and effective legal complaint mechanism procedure with sufficient financial, human and technical resources accessible to all persons with disabilities and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, including in police custody, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.

Viet Nam (2025)

29. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Despite recommendations from treaty bodies such as the Committee against Torture, which has expressed grave concern over allegations of widespread use of torture and other ill-treatment, particularly during pretrial detention, these practices continue, causing death or disability to those affected;

(b) There is a lack of mechanisms for submitting complaints of torture or other ill-treatment against persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, as well as indigenous persons with disabilities, despite the State party's ratification of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

(c) The absence of disaggregated data on torture and other ill-treatment of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities and children with disabilities.

30. Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure compliance with the recommendations of the Committee against Torture by establishing a strict evaluation mechanism to prevent all acts of torture or other ill-

treatment, particularly towards individuals in prison, and implement restorative justice actions for them;

(b) Ensure the wide dissemination of laws among the general population and persons with disabilities and their organizations, raising awareness about the mandatory nature of laws against ill-treatment and torture, as well as the penalties for non-compliance.

(c) Collect disaggregated data on torture and other ill-treatment of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities and children with disabilities.

Belarus (2024)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of comprehensive provisions in the current legislation to specifically criminalize cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of persons and the disregard to adhering to the legislation on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in correctional and psychiatric facilities;

(b) The high rates of gender-based violence, sexual assault and forced hospitalizations encountered by women with disabilities, particularly those who are human rights defenders or political activists;

(c) Reports of incidents of violence and intimidation against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community including persons with disabilities, and the lack of adequate investigation and accountability measures on such cases;

(d) The lack of provision of access to independent national or international observers, to all places of deprivation of liberty in the country, including the psychiatric institutions;

(e) The lack of investigation and accountability measures, in relation to the conduct of law enforcement officials, whose involvement in torture are categorized administratively, as merely “exceeding professional competences”, and the gaps in information on the number and status of persons with disabilities in this situation, as well as the barriers related to access to justice for the victims of such cases, who seek to make complaints on these practices.

30. Recalling the concluding observations adopted by Committee against torture, in 2018 (CAT/C/BLR/CO/5), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Undertake reforms in the legislation with a comprehensive definitional scope to ensure protection of persons with disabilities against any form of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;

(b) Adopt measures in the legislative framework, which takes into consideration the disability, as an aggravating circumstance;

(c) Establish a mechanism and system to monitor the institutions comprising persons with disabilities, and allow the access of independent national and international observers and persons with disabilities, also to address complaints, their follow-ups, identify and prescribe punitive measures to perpetrators, and impart restorative justice for the victims including for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community;

(d) Adopt laws to prevent and investigate effectively the practices of torture, violence and intimidation by law enforcement officers including police, provide sanctions for involvement in such practices while ensuring adequate measures for access to justice and restorative justice for the victims with disabilities in regard to such cases.

Belgium (2024)

30. The Committee welcomes the establishment within the Federal Institute for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (FIRM) of a mechanism for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. However, it is concerned:

(a) That restraints, coercive measures and isolation of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, are still legal under domestic law and are often used as a punitive technique or because of a lack of personnel or overcrowding in closed or semi-closed living arrangements;

(b) That the practical implementation of the preventive mechanism's visits to places where persons are deprived of their liberty, including institutions for persons with disabilities, psychiatric institutions and nursing homes, to prevent torture and other inhuman treatment, is not provided for at the regional level.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Unequivocally prohibit all forms of coercive measures on persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Devise an action plan on the practical execution of visits by the Preventive Mechanism FIRM of persons with disabilities in places where they are deprived of their liberty, including at the regional level, and in collaboration with Unia and the Flanders Human Rights Institute to enable the Preventive Mechanism to monitor all places of detention in the State party, in accordance with the standards set out by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture in its General Comment on the definition and scope of places of detention, and raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities with all staff, including police personnel, that work with persons with disabilities;

Benin (2024)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of ill-treatment against persons with disabilities in psychiatric institutions, including the use of chemical restraints and electroshock methods as forms of "treatment";

(b) The lack of information about measures to redress persons with disabilities who are survivors of torture and ill-treatment in the context of institutionalization;

(c) The underreporting and lack of information about the prosecution and conviction of perpetrators in cases of ill-treatment against persons with disabilities living in institutions;

(d) The lack of information on the national commission of human rights of Benin work on cases of ill-treatment against persons with disabilities living in institutions or in detention.

30. Recalling its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergency situations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Prohibit and end the use of physical and chemical restraints, seclusion and other restrictive practices in all residential institutions, including in penitentiaries, psychoneurological social services and psychiatric facilities;

(b) Establish accessible mechanisms to provide persons with disabilities who are still living in institutions with redress, including compensation and rehabilitation, and age- and gender-appropriate support and counselling;

(c) Strengthen accessible complaint mechanisms that are confidential for persons with disabilities who are still in institutions, provide persons with disabilities with information in accessible formats about complaint mechanisms and ensure the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the independent monitoring of institutions;

(d) Vigorously investigate, prosecute and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities and impose appropriate sanctions.

Burkina Faso (2024)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The conditions of detention in Burkina Faso's prisons and other places of detention, which are characterized by overcrowding, hunger, multifaceted violence between prisoners, ill-treatment, physical violence and sexual abuse, inadequate social assistance and health care and lack of reasonable accommodation for detainees with disabilities, in particular for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) The use of physical and chemical restraints and the administration of treatment in establishments where persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty are placed;

(c) The lack of operationalization of the National Observatory for the Prevention of Torture and Other Related Practices established under article 20 of the Act on the Prevention and Punishment of Torture and Related Practices;

(d) The revision of the Act on the Prevention and Punishment of Torture and Related Practices, planned but yet to be implemented, in order to designate the National Human Rights Commission as the national body for the prevention of torture, with persons with disabilities taken into account in the national mechanism for the prevention of torture.

31. Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the Committee recommends that:

(a) Act No. 010-2017/AN of 10 April 2017 on the prison system in Burkina Faso and practice be reviewed and guided by the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) to take into account the situation of persons with disabilities in terms of detention, in particular by guaranteeing reasonable accommodation for detainees with disabilities;

(b) The National Human Rights Commission be given expanded powers to house the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and that it be allocated the necessary funds to carry out its monitoring mission and take into account persons with disabilities.

Denmark (2024)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence and increasing use of coercion, forced treatment and restrictive practices in the State party, including physical and chemical restraints against children and adults with disabilities in social care and psychiatric institutions;

(b) Insufficient and ineffective oversight mechanisms across Denmark for children and adults with disabilities in places of detention, social care and psychiatric institutions, and a lack of implementation of recommendations from existing oversight mechanisms, including the national preventive mechanism.

46. Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, take all legislative, administrative and judicial measures necessary:

(a) To prohibit the use of coercion, forced treatment and restrictive practices for children and adults with disabilities still in places of detention, social care and psychiatric institutions in the Kingdom of Denmark, establish alternative non-coercive, age-appropriate support measures that respect the will and preference, dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, and provide training to all medical and non-medical staff on these measures;

(b) To establish robust oversight mechanisms and strengthen existing oversight mechanisms across the Kingdom of Denmark to ensure regular inspections of places of detention, social care and psychiatric institutions, ensure regular public reporting to parliament and establish mechanisms to facilitate prompt implementation of recommendations.

Ghana (2024)

30. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Reports of alleged torture and ill-treatment faced by persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in health facilities and psychiatric hospitals, where they face deplorable conditions such as chemical and mechanical restraints as well as coercive treatment. The current Law on Persons with Disabilities (Law 715) does not fully comply with Article 15 of the Convention;

(b) The weak enforcement of existing anti-torture legislation;

(c) Children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are still being segregated in institutions, where they are subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and shackled for periods ranging from days and weeks to months and years.

31. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Ensure that forced treatment on the grounds of disability is fully prohibited in law and in practice and amend the Law on Persons with Disabilities (Law 715) to fully comply with Article 15 of the Convention, ensuring robust protection against torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment for all persons with disabilities in all settings;

(b) Improve the enforcement of existing anti-torture legislation by providing comprehensive training for law enforcement and judicial personnel on disability rights and the severe impacts of torture and ill-treatment. Implement strict penalties for violations to deter abuse and ensure accountability;

(c) Establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture as required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture;

(d) Prevent ill treatment of children and adults with disabilities in institutions, including mental health facilities, and amend the relevant legislation and the Social Protection Policy 2015 to incorporate provisions that provide for deinstitutionalization for persons with disabilities, and introduce foster families and community-based support.

Netherlands (2024)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The effect of the interpretative declaration to art. 15 of the Convention and the exceptions for unique situations in national legislation, which contain the risk of subjecting persons with disabilities to medical or scientific experimentation without their consent;

(b) The use of forced medical procedures and treatment, such as non-consensual administration of medication or electroconvulsive therapy, on persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals and social care institutions, as well as the continued use of solitary confinement in care facilities and reports of the use of tasers by law enforcement officers in mental health institutions, despite motions banning such use;

(c) The dependency of many persons with disabilities on care providers as an intermediate party to file a complaint;

(d) Reports that insufficient measures have been taken by the State party to address the concerns expressed by the Committee against Torture regarding the treatment of children in institutional settings for young people, and reports from organizations of persons with disabilities of abuse and violence in closed youth care facilities like the ZIKOS-institutions.

36. Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Withdraw the interpretative declaration to Article 15 of the Convention and amend national legislation to unequivocally prohibit any medical or scientific experimentation on persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent;

(b) Eliminate in law, policy and practice all forms of forced medical procedures and treatment; cease the use of solitary confinement in care facilities, and develop and implement alternative measures; enforce the ban on the use of tasers by law enforcement officers in mental health institutions, and ensure that actions by law enforcement in institutions are strictly regulated and monitored;

(c) Establish independent and accessible complaint mechanisms that allow persons with disabilities to file complaints directly, without reliance on care providers, and ensure that all complaints are thoroughly investigated and addressed;

(d) Cease placement of children in closed care institutions, closely monitor existing institutions and end operation of all closed youth care facilities; ensure that alternative community-based care and support options are available and accessible.

Ukraine (2024)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistent violation of rights of persons with disabilities in places of detention and the lack of effective mechanisms for the prevention and investigation of these cases. It is also concerned about the lack of comprehensive policies ensuring accessibility in detention facilities;
- (b) Cases of violations of the rights of women and children with disabilities segregated in institutions, including mistreatment, coercions, invasive gynaecological examinations, as well as cases of forced medication.

31. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Ensure the compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities in detention places, and investigate all allegations of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as per the Convention against Torture and its additional protocol, ensuring that victims of these violations receive comprehensive reparations;**
- (b) In close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, establish mechanisms for the periodic evaluation of institutions housing persons with disabilities, to completely stop coercions, including ensuring that those affected can file complaints, refer perpetrators to the justice system, and provide comprehensive reparations to victims.**

Azerbaijan (2024)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reports of ill treatment against persons with disabilities in psychiatric institutions, including the use of chemical restraints and electroshock methods as forms of "treatment";
- (b) Lack of information about measures to redress persons with disabilities survivors of torture and ill treatment in the context of institutionalization;
- (c) The underreporting and lack of information about prosecution and conviction of perpetrators of cases of ill treatment against persons with disabilities living in institutions.

36. Recalling its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergency situations (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Prohibit and end the use of physical and chemical restraints, seclusion and other restrictive practices in all residential institutions, including in penitentiaries, psycho-neurological social services and psychiatric facilities;**
- (b) Establish accessible mechanisms to provide persons with disabilities living in institutions with redress, including compensation and rehabilitation, and age- and gender-appropriate support and counselling;**
- (c) Strengthen accessible, confidential complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities in institutions, provide persons with disabilities with information in accessible formats about complaint mechanisms and ensure involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in independent monitoring of institutions;**
- (d) Vigorously investigate suspected perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, and impose appropriate sanctions.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

30. The Committee is deeply concerned that:

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

- (a) A number of prisoners of conscience who are persons with disabilities have been subjected to torture during interrogation and while in prisons and have been denied access and accommodations to enable them to access and receive available basic care services.
- (b) The lack of a transparent, safe and accessible mechanism for persons with disabilities to report, verify and investigate cases of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party should:

- (a) Conduct a transparent and independent investigation into reported cases of torture against prisoners and detainees with disabilities through an impartial commission with the participation of independent experts, including experts with disabilities, publish the results of the investigation and take legal action against those found guilty of committing torture or cruel or inhuman treatment.**
- (b) Establish an independent and transparent mechanism for reporting cases of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and provide accessibility, accommodation and accessible formats to enable persons with disabilities to access it independently and safely.**

Costa Rica (2024)

27. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La falta de leyes y medidas para proteger a las personas con discapacidad de los tratamientos médicos sin consentimiento libre e informado, incluso la esterilización y los abortos forzados;
- b) La falta de información sobre las medidas tomadas para prevenir la tortura u otros tratos o penas crueles, inhumanos o degradantes contra personas con discapacidad en instituciones y centros psiquiátricos, y sobre los mecanismos de denuncia para quienes son víctimas de tales prácticas;
- c) La falta de datos estadísticos oficiales y actualizados relativos a personas con discapacidad privadas de libertad, desglosados por lugar de detención y tasa de ocupación y, la falta de información sobre los mecanismos de evaluación y monitoreo para prevenir agresiones y violencia sexual en los centros de detención.

28. Con base en las Directrices sobre Desinstitucionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia (2022), el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Adoptar las medidas necesarias para garantizar que ninguna persona con discapacidad sea sometida a torturas o tratos o penas crueles, inhumanos o degradantes, incluidos los tratamientos médicos sin consentimiento libre e informado, en particular la esterilización y los abortos forzados; y asegure de que los procedimientos de denuncia sean accesibles a todas las personas con discapacidad y que se investigue y sancione a los autores de prácticas que puedan constituir actos de tortura o tratos o penas crueles, inhumanos o degradantes contra personas con discapacidad, imponiendo sanciones proporcionales;**
- b) Asegurar que el Mecanismo Nacional de Prevención de la Tortura supervise regularmente los centros psiquiátricos y que las autoridades competentes eliminen prácticas violatorias como sujeciones a las personas con discapacidad, y garanticen a las víctimas de tortura y malos tratos acceso a mecanismos de denuncia;**
- c) Aportar en el próximo informe periódico datos estadísticos oficiales y actualizados relativos a personas con discapacidad privadas de libertad desglosados por lugar de detención y tasa de ocupación, informaciones sobre los mecanismos de evaluación y monitoreo para prevenir agresiones y violencia sexual en los centros de detención, y mecanismos de denuncia que incluyan seguimiento, resarcimiento y castigo a los perpetradores.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reports of ill treatment of persons with disabilities in places of detention, partly due to a lack of accessible sanitary facilities, including toilette and shower facilities, low quality of food, and a lack of access to health care, including rehabilitation;
- (b) Medical treatment of persons with disabilities in special social service centres without their free and informed consent, and coercive mental health treatment by court orders issued to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who were declared to be unfit to stand trial (CRPD/C/KAZ/1, para. 229);
- (c) The lack of access to information and communication technologies of persons with disabilities in special social service centres, the prohibition to be in contact with relatives, including parents, deteriorating sanitary standards, surveillance and lack of measures to protect privacy;
- (d) The risks of gender-based violence for women and girls with disabilities in residential institutions, including physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse, forced abortion and forced sterilization;
- (e) Reports of children with disabilities, in day-care centres and in special social service centres for children, being subjected to psychological, physical and sexual abuse and labour exploitation, physical restraints, including strait-jackets, psychotropic drugs to sedate, and being sent to psychiatric hospitals to control behaviour and seclusion;
- (f) Absence of mechanisms to report abuse and violence and submit complaints in cases of ill treatment and limited information about available reparation and redress for persons subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

34. Recalling its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergency situations (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty are held in conditions that comply with international standards, in particular the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, ensure accessibility, including to sanitary facilities, and provide sufficient access to health services and food quality in places of detention;**
- (b) Recognize in law the right to not be subjected to medical treatment without free and informed consent and the right to refuse treatment, and introduce protocols and accessible information on the right not to be subjected to medical or scientific experimentation without giving free and informed consent, and apply these rules also to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who were declared to be unfit to stand trial;**
- (c) Prohibit and end the use of physical and chemical restraints, seclusion and other restrictive practices in special social service centres;**
- (d) Accelerate measures to protect women with disabilities in institutions from all forms of gender-based violence, including forced abortion and forced sterilization, in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2019);**
- (e) Strengthen monitoring of all facilities and programs including institutions for persons with disabilities to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse. Ensure effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in these monitoring processes;**
- (f) Take immediate measures to end all forms of violence against children with disabilities in residential and day care institutions, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted; reinforce systematic and independent monitoring of institutions where children with disabilities live, and adopt a comprehensive plan for the prevention of human rights violations against children, and the provision of redress, including compensation and rehabilitation, and age- and gender-appropriate support and counselling for the victims;**
- (g) Introduce accessible, confidential complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities who are victims of ill-treatment and violence, and strengthen the capacity of the national preventive mechanism at the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights by providing human, technical and financial resources.**
- (h) Vigorously investigate suspected perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, and impose appropriate sanctions.**

Nicaragua (2024)

28. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) Que no se cumple con lo establecido en el artículo 486 del Código Penal que tipifica el delito de tortura y existan numerosos casos de tortura y malos tratos en centros penitenciarios y comisarías documentados por diversos mecanismos internacionales y organizaciones no gubernamentales y se ignora si personas con discapacidad se encuentran en estas condiciones;
- b) La falta de datos estadísticos oficiales y actualizados relativos a la población encarcelada, desglosados por lugar de detención y tasa de ocupación y, en consecuencia, cuantas personas con discapacidad han sido sometidas a detenciones por motivos políticos;
- c) Las denuncias de agresiones y violencia sexual en los centros de detención, con una incidencia particularmente elevada en el caso de las mujeres detenidas y se desconoce cuántas de estas son mujeres con discapacidad;
- d) Los tratos crueles, a los que se somete a las personas con discapacidad en sus hogares, sobre todo a aquellas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, quienes son encerrados y aislados, enfrentan encadenamiento, violencia física, maltrato verbal y expulsión del hogar junto con la ausencia de mecanismos creados para investigar las violaciones de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en sus hogares;
- e) Que no se ha tomado en cuenta la propuesta de ley presentada al Parlamento por las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en 2022 para evitar este tipo de violencia en el hogar.

29. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:**

- a) Implementar lo establecido en el Artículo 486 del Código Penal sobre delito de tortura e investigar los numerosos casos de tortura y malos tratos en centros penitenciarios y comisarías documentados por diversos mecanismos internacionales y organizaciones no gubernamentales;**
- b) Establecer datos actualizados sobre cuantas personas con discapacidad hay en detención y cuantas han sido sometidas a detenciones por motivos políticos;**
- c) Establecer un mecanismo de evaluación y monitoreo para prevenir agresiones y violencia sexual en los centros de detención y establecer cuantas personas, especialmente mujeres con discapacidad han sido sometidas a estas agresiones; implementar mecanismos de denuncia que incluyan seguimiento, resarcimiento y castigo a los perpetradores;**
- d) Reforzar las medidas para prevenir y combatir todas las formas de violencia contra los niños, niñas y las mujeres con discapacidad, en particular, en el hogar, tanto en zonas urbanas como rurales, estableciendo mecanismos para que las víctimas puedan presentar quejas, su seguimiento y castigo a los perpetradores;**
- e) Considerar la propuesta de ley para prevenir los casos de violencia en el hogar hacia personas con discapacidad con el objetivo de promulgarla a la brevedad.**

Sweden (2024)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The prevalent use of coercion and restrictive practices, and the application of ECT and medical treatments without consent in group homes, special housing and all forms of institutions for children and adults with disabilities, including psychiatric institutions;
- (b) The lack of effective oversight mechanisms for children and adults with disabilities in places of detention, social care institutions, group homes and privately managed facilities, and the lack of implementation of recommendations from existing oversight mechanisms, including the National Preventive Mechanism.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations take all necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to:

- (a) Prohibit the use of coercion and restrictive practices, and the application of ECT and medical treatments without consent for children and adults with disabilities in group homes, special housing and all forms of institutions, including psychiatric institutions, and establish alternative non-coercive, age-appropriate support measures, and provide training in these measures for all staff;**
- (b) Strengthen existing oversight mechanisms to ensure regular inspections of places of detention, social care institutions, group homes and privately managed facilities, ensure regular public reporting to the Parliament and establish mechanisms to facilitate prompt implementation of recommendations.**

Zambia (2024)

29. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the enactment of the draft Bill criminalizing torture has been pending since 2017;**
- (b) About the occurrence of involuntary admission, seclusion, physical, chemical and mechanical restraints and other forms of ill-treatment in family settings, psychiatric institutions, religious institutions, hospitals, prisons and educational services, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as reports of widespread and systemic patterns of brutality, including against persons with disabilities, in police custody.**

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the enactment of the Bill to criminalize torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;**
- (b) Establish a competent and effective legal complaint mechanism procedure with sufficient financial, human and technical resources accessible to all persons with disabilities and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, including in police custody, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.**

Andorra(2023)

31. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The legislation allowing that, persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities, can be subjected to forced treatment, coercive measures, and forced medication in psychiatric interventions and institutions;**
- (b) The lack of information on measures taken to prevent torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities and concerning complaint mechanisms for those who are victims of these practices.**

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal legislation permitting forced treatment, including coercive measures and forced medication, and adopt protocols to ensure free and informed consent concerning medical or scientific interventions;**
- (b) Take measures to prevent and prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of persons with disabilities, including involuntary medical treatment, as well as establish a complaint mechanism accessible to persons with disabilities in institutions, investigate and sanction perpetrators of these practices, and provide redress for victims.**

Austria (2023)

35. The Committee notes the absolute prohibition of net beds, but it is concerned about:

- (a) The legal permissibility and continued use of seclusion, physical and chemical restraints and other restrictive practices on persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including children with disabilities, in places of detention;**

(b) Insufficient support measures for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including access to mental health support and services, and a lack of qualified staff in places of detention.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) End the use of seclusion, physical and chemical restraints and other restrictive practices in places of detention;

(b) Provide sufficient support measures, including mental health support, and qualified staff in places of detention, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

37. The Committee is concerned about the continued performance of sex-altering surgery on intersex children.

38. The Committee recommends the State party enact a legal ban on all non-live-saving sex-altering medical intervention on intersex children.

Germany (2023)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The use of physical and chemical restraints, seclusion, and other harmful practices, particularly in care and integration assistance facilities and other institutions, psychiatric institutions, and forensic psychiatric care;

(b) The lack of oversight and monitoring of care and integration assistance facilities and other institutions, psychiatric institutions, and forensic psychiatric care and the use of restraints, seclusion and other harmful practices;

(c) The lack of independent complaints and redress mechanisms to address harmful and forced practices perpetrated in care and integration assistance facilities and other institutions, psychiatric institutions, and forensic psychiatric care.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to:

(a) Prohibit the use of physical and chemical restraints, seclusion and other harmful practices in all institutional settings;

(b) Establish independent monitoring bodies across in all Länder jurisdictions to provide regular oversight of all institutional facilities and to collect and analyse data on the use of forced treatment and coercive practices, and adequately resource existing monitoring mechanisms, including the National Agency for the Prevention of Torture and the Institute for Human Rights in order to strengthen their mandates;

(c) Establish an independent complaints mechanism, accessible to all persons with disabilities in all settings, to receive complaints as well as investigate and sanction institutions and perpetrators of harmful and forced practices, and to support victims by providing legal advice, accessible information, counselling and redress, including compensation and rehabilitation.

Israel (2023)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of coercive measures, including chemical and physical restraints and solitary confinement on persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Reports of ill-treatment, sexual violence, the use of cage beds, use of psychiatric medication, and deaths of persons with intellectual disabilities in institutions, particularly in hostels, border residencies, including the Bnei Zion and Beit Dafna residential facilities and the lack of measures to provide reparations for survivors of violence and ill-treatment;

(c) Persons with disabilities under guardianship not being protected by the legal requirement to ensure free consent concerning medical or scientific experimentation.

36. Recalling its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Prohibit and end the use of coercive measures against persons with disabilities in all detention settings, including prisons, large residential facilities, group homes, shared accommodation, day care centres and special environments and ensure human treatment and dignity for persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) Implement the recommendations of the Judge (Ret.) Sulamit Dotan Commission report² and phase out institutionalization on the basis of impairment and close all residential facilities in the State party, including the so-called 'Meonot', (large, full-care extensive residential facilities), 'Hostels' (group homes for approximately 24 persons) and 'shared accommodation' and provide persons with disabilities still living in institutions with emergency assistance to enable them to leave residential facilities;
- (c) Provide remedies and reparations for persons with disabilities who are survivors of violence and ill treatment in Bnei Zion and Beit Dafna residential facilities and all other institutions in the State party;
- (d) Establish procedures to ensure that persons with disabilities under guardianship express their free and informed personal consent concerning medical treatment and medical or scientific experimentation, with appropriate accessible information and support for decision-making.

Malawi (2023)

31. The Committee is concerned about the absence of measures to prevent and protect persons with disabilities from the risks of torture and ill treatment in detention facilities, including in psychiatric hospitals and of accountability and remedies available for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the risks of persons with disabilities to corporal punishment in the context of prison-wide searches and collective disciplinary punishments.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as recommended during the State party's universal periodic review, in 2020 and supported by the State party (A/HRC/46/7, see para. 125);
- (b) Enact legislation to prohibit torture and ill treatment in all detention settings including residential institutions for children and adults with disabilities and orphanages, and recognise them as criminal offenses, including treatments and interventions such as the non-consensual administration of drugs, chemical or physical restraints, isolation, solitary confinement, non-consensual medical, scientific, medical or social experimentation, behaviour modification, growth attenuation therapy, and ensure that penalties for torture are commensurate with the gravity of the conduct;
- (c) Recognize in legislation the right to free and informed consent to medical treatment, and the right to refuse treatment, and introduce protocols and accessible information to express freely consent concerning medical or scientific experimentation;
- (d) Raise awareness in the community, medical health care professionals about freedom from torture ill treatment and provide for counselling in the community that support persons with disabilities and their families who are subjected to all forms of torture;
- (e) Introduce in its legislation measures to ensure that acts of ill-treatment or torture are investigated that perpetrators are prosecuted, and that persons with disabilities subjected to such acts receive fair and adequate compensation, reparation and rehabilitation.

Mauritania (2023)

27. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That despite the existing legal provisions, such as Law 2015/033 on combating torture and slavery, de facto moratorium on the death penalty and corporate punishment, the State party's

² Commission to Examine and Build Management and Operation Protocols for Out-Of-Home Residential Facilities for Persons with Disabilities.

Criminal Code still contains provisions authorizing public stoning to death, whipping and amputation, which could be used by the courts, and the persistence of practice of slavery;

(b)At the imposition by the State party of corporal punishment against persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities;

(c)That despite the existing the State party's commitment to eliminate female genital mutilation, this practice still persists, particularly in wilayas.

28. With reference to recommendations previously made by the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/MRT/CO/2, para.34) and the Committee in the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/MRT/CO/3-5, para.25), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Repeal all provisions permitting public stoning to death, whipping and amputation and strengthen the application of the national legislation, policies and practices that prohibits torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment of persons with disabilities, and eliminate all forms of slavery;

(b)Abolish corporal punishment against persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, without any exceptions, in all settings;

(c)Strengthen the implementation of the national legislation and the National Action Plan on the voluntary abandonment of female genital mutilation in wilayas, to eliminate this practice, and strengthen its awareness raising campaigns, trainings and programmes, involving community and religious leaders and the media, government officials, the public and families.

Mongolia (2023)

31.The Committee is concerned that the Law on persons with disabilities does not provide for a mechanism to protect persons with disabilities from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It is also concerned about the continuous occurrence of seclusion, psychical, chemical and mechanical restraints, arbitrary treatment and other forms of ill-treatment in various settings, particularly for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

32.The Committee recommends that the State party immediately put an end to physical restraints and the involuntary use of medications, and:

(a)Adopt the necessary measures for the protection of all persons with disabilities from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in all settings, including in justice, education, health, psychosocial and aged care facilities. It further recommends that organizations of persons with disabilities are effectively consulted and involved in this process;

(b)Ensure that the complaint procedure is accessible to all persons with disabilities, and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.

Paraguay (2023)

29.El Comité observa con preocupación:

a)Los tratamientos involuntarios a los que se somete a las personas con discapacidad en el hospital psiquiátrico, incluyendo el aislamiento, la sujeción mecánica, la medicación forzada, la terapia electroconvulsiva, los encierros en celdas individuales y salas de aislamiento y que no exista una legislación que lo prohíba;

b)La carencia de mecanismos accesibles de denuncia e investigación de tratamientos involuntarios, hospitalizaciones prolongadas y malos tratos en los hospitales psiquiátricos, así como la impunidad en estos casos y la ausencia de reparaciones a las víctimas;

c)El incumplimiento de las recomendaciones emitidas en el estudio diagnóstico sobre la situación de las condiciones de vida de las personas privadas de libertad con discapacidad física y/o psicosocial, publicadas por el Mecanismo Nacional de Prevención de la Tortura.

30. Con base en las Directrices sobre Desinstitucionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia (2022), el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Prohibir explícitamente, en la legislación, el aislamiento, la sujeción mecánica, la medicación forzada, la terapia electroconvulsiva, los encierros en celdas individuales y salas de aislamiento, así como los tratamientos forzados en situaciones de crisis;

b) Establecer mecanismos accesibles de denuncia e investigación para que las personas con discapacidad en instituciones puedan denunciar los tratos crueles, inhumanos o degradantes, contar con asistencia jurídica, recursos efectivos, reparaciones para las víctimas y asegurar la sanción de los autores;

c) En coordinación con el Mecanismo Nacional de Prevención de la Tortura, establecer monitoreo constante de las condiciones de las personas privadas de libertad con discapacidad física y/o psicosocial, incluyendo en los sitios de segregación, en hospitales psiquiátricos y hogares de albergue e informar sobre el avance del cumplimiento de las recomendaciones de dicho mecanismo.

Angola (2023)

25. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That involuntary or forced admission is still allowed upon decision from a medical board and therefore persons with disabilities, and in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities, are still subjected to forced treatment;
- (b) That despite the National Police's authority to investigate, address and resolve grievances at the local and national level, this body has not considered that forced treatment of any type amounts to torture.

26. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Review all relevant legislation, policies and practices that allow for forced treatment;**
- (b) Ensure that all persons with disabilities still in institutions have access to procedures to handle complaints relating to forced treatment;**
- (c) Ensure that the National Police effectively investigate all suspected cases of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or torture, including those resulting from forced treatment of persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Prosecute and, where relevant, punish those responsible of acts amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed against persons with disabilities.**

Argentina (2023)

31. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) Los tratamientos involuntarios a los que se somete a las personas con discapacidad en los hospitales psiquiátricos, incluyendo el aislamiento, la sujeción mecánica, la psicocirugía, la medicación forzada y la terapia electroconvulsiva, y la legislación que legitima esas prácticas;
- b) El limitado alcance de los órganos de revisión nacional y local creados por la Ley Nacional de Salud Mental para investigar las violaciones de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad sometidas a tratamientos forzosos u hospitalizaciones prolongadas;
- c) La falta de mecanismos accesibles de denuncia de tratamientos involuntarios y los malos tratos en los hospitales psiquiátricos y de asistencia jurídica, la impunidad en estos casos y la ausencia de reparaciones a las víctimas.

32. **Con base en las Directrices sobre Desinstitucionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia (2022), el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:**

- a) Prohibir cualquier medida coercitiva impuesta a personas con discapacidad y eliminar las disposiciones jurídicas que las legitiman, incluyendo el aislamiento, la sujeción mecánica y farmacológica, la psicocirugía, la medicación forzada, la inyección psicofarmacológica de efecto prolongado, la terapia electroconvulsiva, así como los tratamientos forzados en situaciones de crisis;**
- b) Fortalecer el monitoreo constante de las condiciones de privación de libertad de las personas con discapacidad, en coordinación con los órganos de revisión nacional y local creados por la Ley Nacional de Salud Mental y, en articulación con el Comité Nacional para la Prevención de la Tortura;**
- c) Disponer de mecanismos accesibles para denunciar los tratos crueles, inhumanos o degradantes en los hospitales psiquiátricos, así como de asistencia jurídica, recursos efectivos, reparaciones para las víctimas, y asegurar la sanción de los autores.**

Georgia (2023)

31. The Committee is deeply concerned about:

- (a) Domestic legislation allowing forced psychiatric treatment and restrictive measures based on doctors' decisions;
- (b) Information about inhumane or degrading treatment particularly of persons with psychosocial and persons with intellectual disabilities, including mechanical and chemical restraints, isolation, seclusion, forced medication, neglect, physical abuse and sexual violence in psychiatric interventions and in institutions.

32. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Repeal all legislation permitting forced treatment, particularly provisions in the Law on Mental Health, prohibit forced treatment, and establish measures to enable persons with disabilities to oppose medical, including mental health, treatment;**
- (b) Adopt measures to prevent and prohibit torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of persons with disabilities, including involuntary medical treatment, establish a complaints mechanism accessible to persons with disabilities in all institutional settings, and provide legal remedies and redress;**
- (c) Adopt measures to ensure that acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including involuntary medical treatment, of persons with disabilities are investigated and, where appropriate, perpetrators are prosecuted.**

Peru (2023)

30. Al Comité le preocupa profundamente que se sigan aplicando medidas coercitivas, como la inmovilización, el aislamiento, la medicación forzosa, la terapia electroconvulsiva, la reclusión y contención física o farmacológica a personas con discapacidad, en particular a personas con discapacidad psicosocial o intelectual, sin su consentimiento informado en instituciones psiquiátricas, y que la Secretaría de Salud no cuente con mecanismos de supervisión y vigilancia de dichos tratos o penas crueles, inhumanos o degradantes, así como el débil monitoreo por parte del Mecanismo contra la Tortura.

31. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente de manera inmediata las medidas contempladas en la Ley de Salud Mental que prohíben tratamientos coercitivos, incluyendo el aislamiento, la terapia electroconvulsiva y la aplicación de drogas psicotrópicas sin consentimiento. Además, que modifique dicha ley para que prohíba explícitamente todas las prácticas restrictivas como las sujeciones físicas, mecánicas y farmacológicas. Adicionalmente, que fortalezca los mecanismos existentes para la supervisión y monitoreo de las instituciones públicas y privadas de salud mental.

Togo (2023)

31. The Committee is concerned about the occurrence of seclusion, physical, chemical and mechanical restraints and other forms of ill-treatment in family settings, psychiatric institutions, religious institutions, hospitals, prisons and educational services, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt the necessary measures for the protection of all persons with disabilities from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in all settings, including in justice, education, health, psychosocial and aged care facilities. It further recommends that organizations of persons with disabilities are effectively consulted and actively involved in this process;

(b) Ensure that the complaint procedure is accessible to all persons with disabilities still in institutions, and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.

(a) Review the Law on Social Protection of persons with disabilities to bring its full conformity with the Convention and ensure that it includes sufficient budgetary and other measures, as well as awareness-raising activities to promote understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;

Tunisia (2023)

25. The Committee is concerned that coercive treatment as well as Chemical and/or mechanical restraint, particularly for persons with psychosocial disabilities which amounts to torture especially in psychiatric facilities is still allowed and therefore in practice.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the protection in law and in practice of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities, from all forms of torture including coercive treatment, Chemical and/or mechanical restraints of any type both at home and in psychiatric facilities;**
- (b) Establish an accessible mechanism to protect persons with disabilities and their families from torture and to provide effective redress.**

Bangladesh (2022)

31. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Reported cases of torture and custodial deaths of persons with disabilities in institutions and the absence of information and disaggregated data, by age and sex, on the issue and on the provision of protection measures, enforceable remedies, accessible services, including shelters, and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities and their families who have been victims of such torture, including persons with disabilities belonging to minorities, migrant workers and refugees with disabilities;**
- (b) The lack of measures adopted to sanction perpetrators of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including corporal punishment against children with disabilities, and the lack of mechanisms to monitor implementation of sanctions.**

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take concrete measures to prevent cases of torture and custodial deaths of persons with disabilities in institutions, collect disaggregated data by age and sex on the issue and establish accessible complaint mechanisms, enforceable remedies, accessible services, and shelters. Additionally, provide information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities and their families who have been victims of such torture, including persons with disabilities belonging to minorities, migrant workers and refugees with disabilities;**
- (b) Establish mechanisms to sanction perpetrators of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including corporal punishment against children with disabilities, and ensure monitoring mechanisms for implementation of sanctions.**

China (2022)

34. The Committee notes with concern the use of forced medical procedures and treatment, chemical, physical and mechanical restraints, isolation and seclusion in prisons, residential care facilities and psychiatric institutions. It is further concerned about various reports alleging the use of coercive measures on persons with disabilities in institutions, in particular shackling of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement the provisions of the Mental Health Law (2012) prohibiting medical experiments from being conducted without the informed consent of persons with disabilities and further prevent any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities in residential and psychiatric institutions and ensure access to justice and reparations for victims, including through the establishment of an accessible complaints procedure;**
- (b) Explicitly prohibit in law and in practice the use of corporal punishment in all circumstances.**

Hong Kong

69. The Committee is concerned about the reports of persons with disabilities being subjected to police brutality during public demonstrations, arbitrary arrest and detention following public demonstrations, and ill-treatment in detention, including denial of urgent medical treatment. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on procedures in place for conducting independent investigations of violations of the rights of persons with disabilities

in relation to their participation in public demonstrations, and about insufficient effective safeguards and sanctions.

70. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong SAR, China establish an independent commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of police brutality against persons with disabilities who participated in public demonstrations; and ensures that persons with disabilities whose rights were violated following their participation in public demonstrations receive adequate support and compensation, including rehabilitation.

Indonesia (2022)

36. The Committee is gravely concerned about:

- (a) The prolonged use of harmful and forced practices against persons with psychosocial disabilities such as shackling, seclusion and restraints, and their continued widespread use in families, the community and in government and privately run social care institutions;
- (b) The prevalence of systemic violence, including sexual violence, neglect, cruel and degrading treatment in social care institutions and faith-healing centres, including the removal of children from mothers with psychosocial disabilities and the lack of complaints and redress mechanisms.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Prohibit the use of shackling, seclusion and all forms of restraints in all settings, including within families and in social care institutions, and develop and promote non-coercive, community-based mental health supports and services;**
- (b) Establish an independent monitoring, safeguards and complaints mechanism that is accessible to all persons with disabilities in all settings, to receive complaints, investigate and sanction institutions, centres and perpetrators of harmful and forced practices, violence, neglect, cruel and degrading treatment.**

Japan (2022)

33. The Committee observes with concern the:

- (a) Forced treatment, including seclusion, physical and chemical restraints, forced medication, forced cognitive and electroconvulsive therapies, of persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals, and legislation legitimating such practices, including the Act on Medical Care and Treatment for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Cases Under the Condition of Insanity;
- (b) Lack of scope and independency of the psychiatric review boards for ensuring the prevention of and the reporting on forced and ill-treatment in psychiatric hospitals;
- (c) Lack of independent monitoring systems to investigate violations of the rights of persons with disabilities who receive forced treatment or are long-term hospitalized, and lack of complaint and appeal mechanisms in psychiatric hospitals.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Abolish all legal provisions, legitimating forced treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities and leading to their ill-treatment, and ensure, that any intervention, as regards persons with psychosocial disabilities, is based on human rights and obligations under the Convention;**
- (b) Establish, in cooperation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, an effective independent monitoring mechanism for the prevention of and reporting on any forms of forced and ill-treatment of persons with disabilities in psychiatric settings;**
- (c) Set up accessible mechanisms to report cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in psychiatric hospitals, establish effective remedies for victims, and ensure the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

26. The Committee is concerned that legislation, including the Law No.57 on Persons with Disabilities, lacks special provisions and measures to guarantee persons with disabilities the freedom from torture and inhuman treatment, as well as to combat harmful practices against them.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legal provisions and concrete administrative measures to protect persons with disabilities from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including protocols to ensure free consent concerning medical treatment;
- (b) Ensure that the complaint procedure is accessible to all persons with disabilities, investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, such as restraints, isolation, forced medication and sterilization, and electroconvulsive therapy.

New Zealand (2022)

29. The Committee is seriously concerned about the continued, and in some cases prolonged, use of solitary confinement, seclusion, physical and chemical restraints and other restrictive practices on persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in places of detention.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate action to eliminate the use of solitary confinement, seclusion, physical and chemical restraints and other restrictive practices in places of detention.

Republic of Korea (2022)

33. The Committee remains concerned about the continuous occurrence of seclusion, psychical, chemical and mechanical restraints and other forms of ill-treatment in family settings, psychiatric institutions, hospitals, prisons and educational services, particularly for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

34. The Committee urges the State party to immediately put an end to the use of psychotropic medications, physical restraints and:

- (a) Adopt the necessary measures for the protection of all persons with disabilities from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in all settings, including in justice, education, health, psychosocial and aged care facilities. It further recommends that organizations of persons with disabilities are effectively consulted and involved in this process;
- (b) Ensure that the complaint procedure is accessible to all persons with disabilities still in institutions, and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.

Singapore (2022)

31. The Committee is concerned about reports of inhuman or degrading treatment of persons with disabilities, including the use of electroshock therapy, restraints, isolation, seclusion, humiliation, forced medication in psychiatric facilities, on the basis of the perceived dangerousness to themselves or to others. It is also concerned at the imposition of corporal punishment against persons with disabilities by the State party.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Abolish all legislation, policies and practices that allow torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, such as the use of electroshock therapy, restraints or isolation, or that allow medication without their free, informed and personal consent, on the basis of their impairment;
- (b) Abolish corporal punishment against persons with disabilities, without exceptions;
- (c) Ensure effective, accessible remedies to all persons with disabilities, including to persons with disabilities in institutions, whose rights against torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are violated, ensure expeditious and independent investigations of such violations, provide redress and sanction the perpetrators.

Hungary (2022)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reports of solitary confinement, mechanical and chemical restraints, forced medication and other forms of ill-treatment of persons with disabilities in residential and psychiatric institutions;

(b) The practice of placing children with psychosocial disabilities in isolation as a form of punishment.

32. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Prevent any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities in residential and psychiatric institutions and ensure access to justice and reparations for victims, including through the establishment of an accessible complaints procedure;

(b) End the placement of children with psychosocial disabilities in isolation and other types of punishment.

Jamaica (2022)

30. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That involuntary or forced admission is still allowed, and therefore persons with disabilities, and in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities, are still subjected to forced confinement and treatment;

(b) That despite the establishment by the Ministry of Health and Wellness of a Client Complaint Mechanism with a capacity to investigate, address and resolve grievances at the local and national level, this body has not considered that forced treatment of any type amounts to torture.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review its legislation, policies and practices that allow all forms of involuntary confinement and forced treatment;

(b) Review the regulations of the Client Complaint Mechanism to ensure that the complaint procedure is accessible to all persons with disabilities still in institutions, and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.

Mexico (2022)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) A lack of measures to identify and prevent all forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities, including gender-based violence, in particular obstetric violence, when accessing sexual and reproductive health services;

(b) The omission of a specific reference to women with disabilities in the General Act to Ensure Women a Life Free of Violence, to measures ensuring accessibility and to procedural accommodations women with disabilities may require to access justice and protective measures on an equal basis with others;

(c) The limited availability of accessible shelters for women with disabilities who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies for persons with disabilities facing violence, including gender-based violence.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reinforce the implementation of existing legislative and policy measures to prevent all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence, and to provide effective remedies and redress to victims, both inside and outside of institutions; and amend the General Act to Ensure Women a Life Free of Violence to establish specific standards to support women with disabilities, including support systems that include personal assistance;

(b) Periodically compile disaggregated data on the situation of women and children with disabilities in respect of violence, exploitation and abuse, both inside and outside of public and private institutions;

(c) Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are established and that the facilities and services provided therein are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities;

(d) Create an independent monitor and oversight mechanism, adhering to article 16 (3) of the Convention, with the involvement and full participation of persons with disabilities and

their representative organizations, to effectively monitor and supervise public and private institutions, and publish its findings.

Switzerland (2022)

31. The Committee notes with concern the use of forced medical procedures and treatment, chemical, physical and mechanical restraints, isolation and seclusion in prisons, residential care facilities and psychiatric institutions.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Eliminate in law, policy and practice all forms of forced medical procedures and treatment, and the use of chemical, physical and mechanical restraints, isolation and seclusion;

(b) Ensure that the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture has sufficient human, technical and financial resources and monitoring mechanisms based on Convention standards and principles, and that it actively involves persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

Venezuela (2022)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of specific provisions in the State party's legislation to prevent, investigate and punish violence, neglect and abuse in respect of persons with disabilities in institutions, in the home or in public spaces, and the lack of monitoring, redress and disaggregated data, particularly in respect of women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, who are often exposed to harassment, abuse and acts of sexual and other types of violence;

(b) Reports of violence against children with disabilities and the fact that corporal punishment against such children is tolerated.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all measures necessary to ensure that gender and disability are mainstreamed in legislation on the prevention of violence; the reform of mental health legislation is essential in this connection;

(b) Strengthen existing mechanisms and protocols by incorporating specific measures to prevent, eliminate, monitor, penalize and provide redress for all forms of violence, exploitation or abuse against persons with disabilities, including those who remain in or have left institutions, in the home or in public spaces;

(c) Establish a system for collecting data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, on complaints of violence and abuse committed against persons with disabilities and gather information on related preventive, protective, monitoring and reparative measures;

(d) Intensify its efforts to prevent and eliminate violence and corporal punishment against children in general and against children with disabilities in particular.

Djibouti (2021)

25. The Committee observes with concern the continued practice of female genital mutilation against girls and women with disabilities, despite the legal prohibition under the Criminal Code. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information on the measures taken to eliminate seclusion, physical, chemical and mechanical restraints and other forms of ill treatment in all settings, such as family settings, psychiatric institutions, hospitals, prisons and educational services, particularly for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, including in rural areas, from torture and cruel and inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, particularly female genital mutilation, and provide adequate and free or affordable quality legal advice, quality counselling and compensation to victims;

(b) Strengthen the role and mandate of the National Human Rights Commission in the prevention of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and establish a complaint procedure accessible to all persons with disabilities and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading

treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.

France (2021)

32. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The lack of mechanisms to ensure free and informed consent of persons with psychosocial disabilities, especially those under guardianship;
- (b) The inhuman and degrading conditions of custodial measures, and at residential and mental health facilities, practices of solitary confinement, seclusion, chemical and mechanical restraints in residential and mental health facilities, including on children and autistic persons;
- (c) Information about forced medications and the so-called "intensive treatment" within units the Units for Difficult Ill-Persons, and practices, including overmedication, and electroconvulsive therapy;
- (d) That children with psychosocial disabilities and autistic children are particularly affected by medical-based therapies and overmedication;
- (e) The lack of access to the records on practices of physical restraints and solitary confinement.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enforce mechanisms to prevent all forms of ill-treatment, including independent monitoring and judicial review, as well as introducing the human right-based standards in mental health legislation;**
- (b) Establish mechanisms for reporting cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and redress and remedy measures for victims, and the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators;**
- (c) Eliminate the practice of intensive treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities and the "Units for Difficult Ill-Persons";**
- (d) Take measures to protect children with disabilities who are still in institutions from overmedication and ill-treatment and reinforce independent monitoring of institutions;**
- (e) Establish mandatory recording and oversight of records of medical practices in mental health settings and other medico-social and care settings.**

Estonia (2021)

30. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Practices of involuntary internment and treatment of persons with disabilities, in mental health settings;
- (b) Information indicating that persons with disabilities, particularly, persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with psychosocial disabilities are exposed to seclusion, solitary confinement, mechanical, physical and chemical restraints, forced medication and other forms of ill treatment in psychiatric settings, residential care and penitentiary facilities.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the right of persons with disabilities to make autonomous decisions based on free and informed consent, including through supported decision-making mechanisms concerning any type of medical treatment, and legally recognize involuntary treatment on the basis of disability as a violation of the right of persons with disabilities to be free from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;**
- (b) Strengthen the role of the National Preventative Mechanism for the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment to include measures to prevent and eliminate solitary confinement and the use of pharmacological therapeutic treatment, any means of restraint on the basis of disability in all settings, including in psychiatric, residential care and penitentiary facilities;**
- (c) Set up a complaint procedure accessible for all persons with disabilities still in institutions, and investigate and sanction perpetrators of practices that may amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities, imposing sanctions proportional to the conduct.**

Albania (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are subjected to involuntary commitment and treatment procedures. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on undertaken visits and procedures in place for conducting independent investigations of violations of the rights of persons with disabilities in institutions (see CRPD/C/ALB/1, para. 101) and about the lack of effective safeguards and sanctions. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of a mechanism mandated to monitor psychiatric institutions or other residential facilities where persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective legal and administrative measures to prohibit and prevent the practices of involuntary commitment or hospitalization, forced medical treatment and, in particular, forced psychiatric treatment on the basis of impairment. It also recommends that the State party establish an independent mechanism to monitor residential centres for persons with disabilities, including centres where children with disabilities may still reside, in order to prevent, and offer protection from acts that may constitute torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Australia (2019)

29. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

- (a) Legislation, policies and practices that permit the use of psychotropic medications, physical restraints and seclusion under the guise of “behaviour modification” and restrictive practices against persons with disabilities, including children, in any setting, including in justice, education, health, psychosocial and aged care facilities;
- (b) The reported abuse of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities by fellow prisoners and prison staff, the use of prolonged solitary confinement, particularly of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and the lack of safe and accessible channels for making complaints;
- (c) The lack of engagement with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, regarding the designation and establishment of a disability-inclusive national preventive mechanism.

30. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Establish a nationally consistent legislative and administrative framework for the protection of all persons with disabilities, including children, from the use of psychotropic medications, physical restraints and seclusion under the guise of “behaviour modification” and the elimination of restrictive practices, including corporal punishment, in all settings, including the home;
- (b) Introduce policies and measures to protect persons with disabilities, including young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from abuse by fellow prisoners and prison staff and ensure that persons with disabilities cannot be held in solitary confinement;
- (c) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities can effectively engage in the establishment and work of the national preventive mechanism.

El Salvador (2019)

30. The Committee is deeply concerned that legislation in the State party continues to allow ill-treatment and the use of physical restraints, electric shocks and drug sedation on persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent in psychiatric and other institutions.

31. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention and taking into account target 16.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Amend the Mental Health Law and mental health policies to prohibit corporal punishment, isolation, restraint measures and anti-seizure therapies and eliminate any cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of persons with disabilities;

(b) Establish an independent monitoring mechanism, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to investigate, monitor and receive complaints of ill-treatment, and apply sanctions for the conducting of any practice without the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities.

Greece (2019)

24. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Overcrowding and instances of unrecorded injuries of persons with disabilities in psychiatric facilities, and the lack of information on legal safeguards and monitoring mechanisms in relation to care and treatment for persons with disabilities in facilities of any kind;

(b) The absence of a framework to provide the necessary specific measures and individualized support to prisoners and detainees with disabilities to satisfy their daily requirements in conditions ensuring respect for their dignity;

(c) Reception and detention conditions for persons with disabilities who are refugees, asylum seekers or persons in refugee-like situations (see also CAT/C/GRC/CO/7, paras. 20–21), including detention conditions pending removal to the country of origin under Law No. 3907/2011.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to ensure that the living conditions of persons with disabilities in institutions and facilities of any kind, including reception and detention centres for refugees, asylum seekers and persons in refugee-like situations, respect the dignity of persons with disabilities and comply with the provisions of article 15 of the Convention. It also recommends that the State party provide specific measures and individualized support to prisoners and detainees with disabilities to meet their daily requirements. It further recommends that the State party reinforce and implement safeguards against and mechanisms for monitoring ill-treatment in institutions and facilities where persons with disabilities are held, ensuring, inter alia, that injuries sustained by persons with disabilities in such institutions and facilities are systemically recorded and brought to the attention of the competent monitoring authorities.

India (2019)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The practice of the “two-finger test” in the prosecution of cases of sexual violence, including rape;

(b) The fact that sanctions against ill-treatment in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act cover only certain forms of ill-treatment and require the intention to humiliate (sect. 92 (a));

(c) The prevalence of inherent forms of violence and ill-treatment in institutions, particularly affecting children with disabilities, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and women with disabilities, including physical and chemical restraints, forced medication, coercion, physical abuse, humiliation, electroconvulsive therapy, shackling, forced labour and corporal punishment, including in childcare facilities;

(d) The absence of measures to prevent and ensure the freedom of persons with disabilities from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to prevent and stop all forms of ill-treatment against persons with disabilities, including by:

(a) Ensuring that the prohibition of the “two-finger test” is enforced and that sanctions are applied when it is performed, and that accountability mechanisms are implemented in the justice system. The State party should ensure implementation of the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/IND/CO/4-5, para. 11 (e)) about standard procedures for the police on gender-sensitive investigations and treatment of victims and of witnesses;

- (b) Promptly ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto;
- (c) Establishing accessible complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities in institutions, ensuring oversight by, inter alia, the National Human Rights Commission and state commissions of all places where persons with disabilities are institutionalized, and setting up a task force to collect data about cases of torture and ill-treatment, with the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities;
- (d) Ensuring that all forms of ill-treatment of persons with disabilities constitute criminal offences in line with the definition of torture in international law, that cases of torture and ill-treatment are investigated, prosecuted and the perpetrators sanctioned, and that redress is provided for persons with disabilities who are subjected to ill-treatment.

Iraq (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of steps taken by the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- (b) The absence of information on preventive measures taken, on complaints mechanisms accessible to persons with disabilities and measures taken to support persons with disabilities who have become exposed to torture or ill-treatment;
- (c) Corporal punishment being regarded as legal under article 41 (1) of the Criminal Code when it involves the corporal punishment of women by their husbands or of children by their parents or teachers, albeit “within certain limits prescribed by law or by custom”;
- (d) The physicians’ code of conduct (1985) providing an exception to the prohibition of medical experimentation for the purpose of scientific research.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a national preventive mechanism with a mandate to monitor institutions and other places of detention;
- (b) Establish monitoring mechanisms to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in all settings where persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty, including psychiatric hospitals, prisons, hospices, rehabilitation centres and care homes and also establish a complaints mechanism accessible to persons with disabilities; that it investigate any such cases; that it prosecute and sanction perpetrators of torture or ill-treatment; and that it support victims by providing legal advice, information in accessible formats, counselling and redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;
- (c) Amend or repeal article 41 (1) of the Criminal Code, enact legislation to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings and enforce the prohibition of violence and torture enshrined in articles 29 (4) and 37 (1) (c) of the Constitution and articles 333 and 421 of the Criminal Code;
- (d) Amend the physicians’ code of conduct (1985) and ensure that persons with disabilities give their free and informed consent prior to being involved in any medical or scientific research.

Kuwait (2019)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of measures to prevent the torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities, including non-consensual medical treatment in detention and corporal punishment in all settings;
- (b) Conditions of detention of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with disabilities awaiting execution, that amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- (c) Living conditions in residential and mental health facilities resulting from the lack of accessibility and individualized accommodations;
- (d) The absence of data on any complaints of the torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings, ensure that persons with disabilities receive medical treatment on the basis of their free and informed consent and train mental health professionals, law enforcement and prison officials on respecting the rights of persons with disabilities in mental health facilities, prisons and detention centres;
- (b) Guarantee that the conditions of detention of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with disabilities awaiting execution, respect the inherent dignity of those detained;
- (c) Establish an independent mechanism, involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, to monitor all places where persons with disabilities may be deprived of their liberty;
- (d) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to independent, accessible and available complaints mechanisms, effectively investigate cases of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities, prosecute and punish those responsible and systematically collect data on such cases.

Niger (2019)

25. The Committee is concerned about the continued practice of female genital mutilation among girls and women with disabilities and the lack of measures to prevent cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities, including medical experimentation without the person's free and informed consent.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities from torture and other cruel and inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, including female genital mutilation; and provide legal advice, counselling and compensation to victims;
- (b) Protect persons with disabilities from medical experimentation and ensure that the conduct of such experimentation is conditional on their free and informed consent;
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities through their representative organisations are consulted in the development of a strategy for the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2006).

Norway (2019)

25. The Committee notes that the State party is assessing the use of electroconvulsive treatment. It is concerned that:

- (a) Involuntary administration of electroconvulsive treatment is permitted;
- (b) Persons with disabilities do not receive sufficient and accessible information to inform their decisions and about the possibilities to lodge complaints in cases of forced treatment and the fear of retribution if they do so.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Prohibit the forced administration of intrusive and irreversible treatments, such as electroconvulsive therapy;
- (b) Establish clear and effective procedural guarantees for persons with disabilities, including provisions in law for supported decision-making and effective complaint mechanisms, and ensure persons with disabilities' effective access to legal advice, including free legal aid, as well as obligatory and accessible information about their rights.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) Abuse, violence and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons and children with disabilities, including through corporal punishment in homes, schools, day-care centres and alternative care settings;
- (b) The Basic Law of Governance preventing the monitoring of the rights of children with disabilities in private homes;
- (c) Legal provisions allowing for the research on a person without his or her prior free and informed consent, especially of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legislation that prohibits all forms of violence and corporal punishment in all settings, including in homes, schools, day-care centres and alternative care settings, train medical and research personnel on the human rights-based approach to disability and investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of such acts;**
- (b) Amend the Basic Law of Governance to allow for the monitoring of the rights of children with disabilities in private homes;**
- (c) Repeal all legal provisions, including in the Ethics of Scientific Research on Living Creatures Act, allowing for the research, medical and / or scientific experimentation on a person with disabilities without his or her prior, free and informed consent.**

Senegal (2019)

27. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reported instances of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment against persons with disabilities, particularly against persons with albinism and autistic persons;**
- (b) The lack of accessible community-based services for persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities exposed to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and the lack of sanctions against perpetrators.**

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legal provisions and concrete administrative measures to protect persons with disabilities, particularly children and women with disabilities, persons with albinism and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;**
- (b) Adopt measures aimed at supporting victims, through providing legal advice, information in accessible formats, counselling, and redress, including compensation and rehabilitation.**

Spain (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned that the Patient Autonomy Law article 9 and article 763 Law1/2000 of Civil Procedure allow the use of measures of physical, mechanical and chemical restraint against persons with psychosocial disabilities, which include, among others, forced medication, overmedication, electroconvulsive therapy or other treatment and commitment without free and informed consent. The Committee is further concerned about reports of the intentional misuse of forced consent as informed consent, in practice, in the State Party. The Committee is also concerned that people with disabilities in institutions, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities, are at risk of subject to humiliating or ill treatment. Finally, the Committee is concerned by the absence of an independent human rights-based mechanism for monitoring mental health facilities in the State party.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Eliminate the use of forms of restraint for reasons related to disability in all settings;**
- (b) Ensure free and informed consent in all procedures and stages of the mental health system;**
- (c) Take immediate actions to eliminate any cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities;**
- (d) With the equal and active participation of representative organisations of persons with psychosocial disabilities, establish an independent human rights-based mechanism for monitoring mental health facilities and services in all Autonomous Communities.**

Türkiye (2019)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of information about measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and prevent abuse and involuntary admission into psychiatric hospitals, residential facilities, or other institutions;**
- (b) Insufficient accommodations available for persons with disabilities in prisons and reports of ill treatment against persons with disabilities therein, and the limited access to remedies in case of ill treatment and risks of reprisals;**

(c) The lack of information about monitoring of residential facilities to prevent ill treatment and the restrictions to the monitoring by civil society organizations of persons with disabilities deprived of liberty;

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures to prevent cases of solitary confinement, seclusion, physical, chemical or mechanical restraints, electro-convulsive therapy, and any other involuntary treatment of persons with disabilities in institutions, and investigate and impose criminal and administrative sanctions to perpetrators;

(b) Take measures to provide persons with disabilities with individualized accommodations and accessibility in prisons, ensuring awareness raising and training of personnel working in mental health facilities and prisons about the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure access for persons with disabilities to legal aid and an attorney during custodial interrogation, adopt a protocol and establish a mechanism to prevent and address reprisals against persons with disabilities in cases of ill treatment, and systematically collect information about measures taken for protecting victims;

(c) Ensure transparency and effectiveness of the existing monitoring mechanisms of detention and residential facilities, the publication of their findings, and collect information about measures taken to address cases of ill treatment and establish and disseminate information in accessible formats, about complaint mechanisms and remedies available, and ensure access of independent monitoring by civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

Bulgaria (2018)

35. The Committee is concerned about the reported ill treatment of persons with disabilities in institutions, including isolation, which may amount to torture, and cruel and degrading treatment.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party prevent further ill treatment of persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities in institutions, and ensure that persons exposed to ill-treatment have access to complaint, and that persons exposed to torture and ill-treatment are entitled to and provided with redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation.

Malta (2018)

25. The Committee notes with concern the legal provisions in the Mental Health Act (Cap. 525) that allow for the use of restraints and seclusion against persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, which may amount to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It is also concerned that organizations of persons with disabilities are not systematically involved in the two National Preventive Mechanisms designed by the State party to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate steps to review and repeal existing legislation, specifically the provisions of the Mental Health Act (Cap. 525) that allow for the use of restraint and seclusion in case of 'mental disorder'. It also calls on the State party to ensure the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Poland (2018)

26. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

(a) Data on persons with disabilities in detention places and on their needs related to their disabilities;

(b) Legal obligations for reasonable accommodation, as well as therapeutic and rehabilitation support, necessary medical treatment and lack of capacity of personnel in places of detention, leading to the degrading treatment of persons with disabilities, including overcrowded wards, coercion and overmedication.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Collect data on persons with disabilities in detention and perform research on their situation and needs;
- (b) Enact legal obligations and allocate relevant funding for reasonable accommodation, as well as therapeutic and rehabilitation support, necessary medical treatment and mandatory capacity-building training of personnel in places of detention, explicitly defining and prohibiting the degrading treatment of persons with disabilities.

South Africa (2018)

28. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The high number of unregulated and unsupervised institutions housing persons with disabilities leading to disasters such as the Esidimeni tragedy that resulted in the death of more than 140 persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The lack of concrete measures, including complaint mechanisms, to prevent abuse and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and children with disabilities in the home, school and community settings; the lack of accessible community-based services for persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence.
- (c) The increasing incidence of corporal punishment of children with disabilities in the State party with insufficient awareness about complaint mechanisms and support services for children with disabilities exposed to these crimes, and lack of disaggregated data on investigation, prosecutions and disciplinary sanctions against perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment.

29. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Adopt legal provisions and concrete administrative measures to protect persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and adopt measures aimed at supporting victims, through providing legal advice, information in accessible formats, counselling, and redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;
- (b) Ensure that perpetrators of these crimes are brought to justice and punished with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of these crimes and collect data on investigation, prosecutions and disciplinary sanctions against perpetrators of abuse and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, of persons with disabilities, including children in home, education and community settings;
- (c) Empower the National Human Rights Commission as the national independent monitoring mechanism to monitor all institutions and settings in which persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty, in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture;
- (d) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism with the mandate to monitor institutions and other places of detention.

Haiti (2018)

28. The Committee is concerned about the situation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children, who are abandoned and placed in long-stay residential centres or private care homes on the grounds of their disability, without the free and informed consent of the person concerned, where they are subject to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, such as being chained.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party prohibit all forms of coercive practices against adults and children with disabilities, including physical restraints and isolation, particularly against persons living in long-stay residential centres or private care homes or are otherwise deprived of their liberty. It also recommends the establishment of an independent mechanism to monitor residential centres for persons with disabilities, including centres for children with disabilities and private homes, in order to prevent, and

offer protection from, acts that may constitute torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Russian Federation (2018)

34. The Committee notes with concern the reported ill treatment of persons with disabilities in institutions which may amount to torture, and cruel and degrading treatment. The Committee is furthermore concerned about the reported use of drugs to “control sexual behaviour” of persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and/or psycho-social disabilities.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons exposed to ill-treatment have access to complaint mechanisms and that victims of torture and ill-treatment are entitled to and provided with redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation. The Committee further recommends that the State party review its legislation in relation to forcible administration of drugs in institutions.

Seychelles (2018)

25. The Committee is concerned at the reported cases of excessive use of force against persons in psychiatric institutions by judicial police officers and medical staff. It is also concerned about the use of electro-convulsive therapy on persons with disabilities. It is further concerned about the limited capacity of the national preventive mechanism, exercised by the Human Rights Ombudsman, to effectively address allegations of torture and ill treatment against persons with disabilities in institutions.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party eliminate the use of seclusions or physical, chemical or mechanical restraints and any other non-consensual medical treatments in all medical facilities, in particular psychiatric hospitals that may amount to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also recommends that the State party ensure that independent authorities and organisations of persons with disabilities have access to monitor all facilities, including the Forensic Psychiatric Unit, and develop criteria for gender-sensitive and age-appropriate monitoring activities. It further recommends that the State party investigate all allegations of torture and ill treatment in psychiatric institutions and prosecute perpetrators. The State party should provide fair and adequate compensation, reparation and rehabilitation measures for persons with disabilities who have been subjected to acts of torture and ill treatment. The Committee further recommends that the State party strengthen the capacity and provides adequate human, technical and financial resources to the national preventive mechanism by the Human Rights Ombudsman to effectively address allegations of torture and ill treatment against persons with disabilities in institutions.

Slovenia (2018)

25. The Committee is concerned at the reported cases of excessive use of force against persons in psychiatric institutions by judicial police officers and medical staff. It is also concerned about the use of electro-convulsive therapy on persons with disabilities. It is further concerned about the limited capacity of the national preventive mechanism, exercised by the Human Rights Ombudsman, to effectively address allegations of torture and ill treatment against persons with disabilities in institutions.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party eliminate the use of seclusions or physical, chemical or mechanical restraints and any other non-consensual medical treatments in all medical facilities, in particular psychiatric hospitals that may amount to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also recommends that the State party ensure that independent authorities and organisations of persons with disabilities have access to monitor all facilities, including the Forensic Psychiatric Unit, and develop criteria for gender-sensitive and age-appropriate monitoring activities. It further recommends that the State party investigate all allegations of torture and ill treatment in psychiatric institutions and prosecute perpetrators. The State party should provide fair and adequate compensation, reparation and rehabilitation measures for persons with disabilities who have been subjected to acts of torture and ill treatment. The Committee further

recommends that the State party strengthen the capacity and provides adequate human, technical and financial resources to the national preventive mechanism by the Human Rights Ombudsman to effectively address allegations of torture and ill treatment against persons with disabilities in institutions.

Sudan (2018)

29. The Committee is concerned about persons with disabilities being subjected to involuntary medical treatment, including by non-certified traditional healers, and continuing to be physically restrained, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to:

- (a) Ensure that medical treatment is carried out with the free, prior and informed consent of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Train medical personnel on the human rights-based approach to disability;**
- (c) Prohibit treatment by non-certified traditional healers;**
- (d) Stop persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from being physically restrained.**

31. The Committee is concerned that female genital mutilation is still not criminalized in the State party and the lack of information regarding women and girls with disabilities in the national strategy 2008-2018 to prevent female genital mutilation and other awareness-raising initiatives.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to criminalize female genital mutilation and, to include women and girls with disabilities in all measures to fight and prevent the practice.

Latvia (2017)

26. The Committee is concerned that involuntary treatment is legally permitted by the Medical Treatment Law and Regulation No. 453 of the Cabinet of Ministers.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal legislative provisions that allow forced treatment and ensure that decisions relating to a person's physical or mental integrity can only be taken with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned.

Luxembourg (2017)

30. The Committee is concerned about legal provisions that allow for the use of restraints against persons with disabilities in psychiatric institutions, which may amount to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It is also concerned that the competence of the mediator, as the mechanism of protection for the rights of persons with disabilities, does not extend to private institutions.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate steps to eliminate the use of restraints in medical facilities that may amount to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to ensure that independent authorities have the competence to monitor all facilities and programmes serving persons with disabilities, including private hospitals and mental health facilities, and communal homes.

Montenegro (2017)

30. The Committee notes with concern that article 43 of the Protection and Exercise of the Rights of the Mentally Ill Act allows for force, restraining and isolation of persons with an intellectual and/or psychosocial disability. It is concerned about reports according to which force has been used against persons with disabilities who refuse to take medication in psychiatric hospitals.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party make the necessary legislative amendments and take effective measures to prohibit the practice of involuntary commitment or hospitalization, forced medical and/or forced psychiatric treatment, chemical or physical restraining, coercive measures and isolation, which amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and ensure that any use of these practices, treatments and methods by staff is adequately prosecuted and sanctioned. In this

regard, the Committee also recommends that the State party carry out independent, regular and unannounced checks on institutions.

Morocco (2017)

32. The Committee is concerned about the absence of measures to prevent, in practice, abuse of, violence against and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities, including the conduct of medical procedures and experimentation on a person without his or her free and informed consent, and corporal punishment in the home and in alternative care and day-care settings.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legal provisions and concrete administrative measures to protect persons with disabilities, in particular women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and adopt measures aimed at supporting such victims through the provision of legal advice, counselling, compensation and redress;

(b) Adopt concrete measures to ensure in practice that persons with disabilities are not subjected to medical procedures and experimentation without their free and informed consent;

(c) Empower the National Human Rights Council, as the national preventive mechanism, to monitor all settings in which persons with disabilities may be deprived of their liberty, in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Panama (2017)

36. The Committee is concerned that, although the State party has various legal instruments that deal with the prevention of torture, none of them specifically covers the situation of persons with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned that persons with disabilities are administered treatment without their free and informed consent.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party expressly prohibit practices deemed to be disciplinary or corrective against persons with psychosocial disabilities who are living in public or private psychiatric centres or are otherwise deprived of their liberty. It also recommends that the State party adopt protocols to guarantee that persons with disabilities may exercise their right to free and informed consent in connection with any type of treatment.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

36. The Committee is concerned about the continued use of physical, mechanical and chemical restraint, including the use of Taser guns and similar weapons, on persons with disabilities, which affects persons with psychosocial disabilities in prisons, the youth justice system, health-care and education settings, as well as practices of segregation and seclusion. The Committee is deeply concerned that these measures disproportionately affect black and other persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities. It is also concerned about the absence of a unified strategy in the State party to review these practices. The Committee is further concerned at the occurrence of non-consensual electroconvulsive therapy across the devolved governments and particularly in Northern Ireland, and about excessive antipsychotic medication in England and Wales.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt appropriate measures to eradicate the use of restraint for reasons related to disability within all settings and prevent the use of Taser guns against persons with disabilities, as well as practices of segregation and isolation that may amount to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment;

(b) Set up strategies, in collaboration with monitoring authorities and national human rights institutions, in order to identify and prevent the use of restraint for children and young persons with disabilities;

(c) Implement the outstanding recommendations contained in the February 2015 report of the inquiry by the Equality and Human Rights Commission entitled “Preventing Deaths in Detention of Adults with Mental Health Conditions”;

(d) Prohibit any use of non-consensual electroconvulsive therapy on the basis of any form of impairment, in all regions, ensure that safeguards are based on the human rights model and are not limited to medical criteria, and work through appropriate authorities to ensure monitoring of this development, particularly in Northern Ireland.

Armenia (2017)

25. The Committee is concerned about the inhuman and degrading treatment of persons with disabilities in institutions, including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in specialized institutions, perpetrated by staff members, caregivers and other residents, as well as about neglect and the use of physical restraints as means of treatment and punishment. It is also concerned about the inefficiency and inadequacy of complaints systems and the lack of monitoring of institutions.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized, in particular children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, from coercive, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and prohibit all forms of such treatment. It also recommends that the State party develop an effective investigation and monitoring system to prevent all forms of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of persons with disabilities in institutions, and to ensure the prompt investigation of such cases.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

28. The Committee is concerned that despite the Ombudsman’s recommendations and the establishment of the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture and other Inhumane or Humiliating Treatment or Punishment of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is a lack of information about the protocols prohibiting the use of coercive measures, including physical, mechanical and chemical restraints, excessive antipsychotic therapy and the prolonged isolation of adults and children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. According to the Committee against Torture (see CAT/C/BIH/CO/2-5, para. 8), the State party has not provided a comprehensive, systematic and harmonized approach to handling cases involving victims of torture and civilian war victims.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective legal and administrative measures to prohibit the practices of involuntary commitment or hospitalization, and forced medical treatment and, in particular, forced psychiatric treatment on the basis of impairment, and that it provide sufficient community-based alternatives. It also recommends that the State party revise the current legislation in relation to survivors of torture and sexual violence, with special attention to providing appropriate compensation and access to effective remedies, and that it consider revising the way in which burden of proof is currently applied.

Honduras (2017)

37. Al Comité le preocupa la situación de las personas con discapacidad institucionalizadas en hospitales psiquiátricos u otro tipo de centros residenciales de larga estadía por motivo de su discapacidad sin el consentimiento libre e informado, como reportado en los hospitales Santa Rosita y Mario Mendoza, y particularmente de niñas y niños con discapacidad en situación de abandono, y que sea esta la razón de su institucionalización.

38. El Comité urge al Estado parte a que prohíba la institucionalización forzada por motivo de discapacidad y adopte medidas para abolir la práctica de internamiento u hospitalización no consentida. Además, le recomienda el establecimiento de un mecanismo independiente que supervise los centros de internamiento de personas con discapacidad, incluidos los centros donde se encuentran niños y niñas con discapacidad, a fin de ofrecer prevención y protección contra actos que puedan considerarse como tortura y otros tratos y penas crueles, inhumanos o degradantes.

39. Al Comité le preocupa que no se destinen suficientes recursos para la prevención y el monitoreo de casos de tortura u otros tratamientos considerados crueles, inhumanos o degradantes dentro de los centros donde se encuentran personas con discapacidad privadas de la libertad.

40. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que garantice suficientes recursos humanos y económicos para las funciones de prevención y protección contra la tortura. También recomienda que el Estado parte adopte medidas para capacitar y formar a todo el personal que trabaja dentro de estos centros de privación de libertad con el fin de garantizar el respeto de los derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities in cases of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment particularly in residential institutions or psychiatric hospitals;
- (b) The enforcement of mutilation as a form of criminal sentence, and the stigmatization against persons who have impairment as a consequence of such punishment; and,
- (c) The absence of measures to protect persons with disabilities against obligatory medical or scientific research/experimentation.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a mechanism to file complaints against all forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and a monitoring mechanism to prevent torture in all settings where persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty;**
- (b) Enact legislation to prohibit all corporal punishment of children with disabilities and to protect them from such practice;**
- (c) Provide explicit guidelines for judges in order to replace the punishment of mutilation for other type of penalties, and combat stigma against persons with physical impairments due to mutilation; and**
- (d) Introduce the requirement of and protocols to ensure free and informed consent of persons with disabilities concerning scientific research.**

Jordan (2017)

31. The Committee notes with concern the reported ill-treatment of persons with disabilities in “shelters”, including cases of physical and psychological abuse, which amounts to torture and cruel and degrading treatment. The Committee is concerned about the reported practice of “protective custody” as a measure to protect women with disabilities from violence by restricting their liberty of movement.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that:

- (a) Investigations are launched into reported cases of cruel and degrading treatment of persons with disabilities in “shelters”, with a view to establishing administrative and criminal responsibility;**
- (b) Persons exposed to torture and ill-treatment have access to independent complaint mechanisms and that victims are legally entitled to and provided with redress and adequate compensation and rehabilitation;**
- (c) Replace “protective custody” with effective measures for protecting women with disabilities from violence while respecting their liberty of movement.**

Republic of Moldova (2017)

30. The Committee is concerned about the inhuman and degrading treatment of persons with disabilities in institutions perpetrated by staff members, caregivers or other residents, including acts of neglect and the use of chemical and physical restraints, solitary confinement and forced medication as punishment. It is also concerned about the inefficiency and inadequacy of complaints systems, delays in investigations and lack of monitoring of institutions.

31. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized from forced, inhuman or degrading treatment or

punishment and to prohibit all such acts. It recommends that the State party develop an effective investigation and monitoring system to prevent all forms of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities in institutions, and to ensure the prompt investigation of such cases.

Bolivia (2016)

39. The Committee is concerned that the Torture Prevention Service does not have a mandate to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities who are institutionalized against their will or, in particular, information on acts that could be deemed torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment committed against persons with disabilities.

40. The Committee urges the State party to broaden the powers of the Torture Prevention Service to include the monitoring of facilities where persons with disabilities are held and to put in place an effective mechanism for preventive action and protection and defence of the rights of persons with disabilities who are institutionalized.

Colombia (2016)

42. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and that there are no national mechanisms to prevent or protect against torture, or legislation establishing as separate offences specific forms of torture committed against persons with disabilities.

43. The Committee urges the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention and to establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture, whose mandate should include monitoring of institutions for the seclusion or internment of persons with disabilities, including psychiatric hospitals and long-term residential centres, within its mandate.

Ethiopia (2016)

33. The Committee is deeply concerned by reports of the use of coercive measures, including physical restraint and seclusion, of adults and children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and that corporal punishment is lawful at home.

34. The Committee urges the State party to prohibit all forms of coercive treatments against adults and children with disabilities, including physical restraint and isolation, which are considered to be cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the use of corporal punishment.

Guatemala (2016)

43. The Committee is concerned that the steps being taken by the State party, in response to the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/GTM/CO/5-6), to separate convicted prisoners and persons with disabilities in mental health hospitals, closed institutions and prisons, and the implementation of the precautionary measures requested by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for persons with disabilities at the Federico Mora National Mental Health Hospital, do not adequately protect persons with disabilities and are not in line with the Convention.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party duly implement the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/GTM/CO/5-6) and the precautionary measures requested by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with regard to the Federico Mora National Mental Health Hospital, in accordance with the principles and obligations set out in the Convention and these concluding observations. It also recommends establishing an independent mechanism for the monitoring of closed institutions for persons with disabilities, including those for children with disabilities, in order to prevent and protect against acts that could be considered torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Italy (2016)

39. The Committee is concerned about medical experimentation on persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal as a matter of urgency all laws that allow legal guardians to consent to medical experimentation on behalf of persons with disabilities.

41. The Committee is concerned that the remit of the mandate of the national preventive mechanism does not extend to psychiatric institutions or other residential facilities for persons with disabilities where they are deprived of their liberty.

42. The Committee recommends that the national preventive mechanism immediately visit and report on the situation in psychiatric institutions or other residential facilities for persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

29. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Federal Act No. 10 of 2008 on medical liability and other laws allow guardians or legal representatives to consent to medical research or experiments on behalf of persons with disabilities;

(b) Corporal punishment remains lawful in alternative care settings, at home, in day care establishments and as a sentence for committing a crime and that it is not explicitly prohibited in private schools;

(c) Parents have the right to “chastise” their children, including children with disabilities;

(d) There is a lack of information on how corporal punishment affects persons with disabilities in all settings, including migrant workers, especially domestic migrant workers.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Repeal all laws, including Federal Act No. 10 of 2008, allowing guardians or legal representatives to consent to medical research or experiments on behalf of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings;**

(c) **Provide information in its next periodic report on measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, including migrant workers with disabilities, from corporal punishment.**

Uruguay (2016)

37. Al Comité le preocupa que no se destinen suficientes recursos para la prevención y el monitoreo de casos de tortura u otros tratamientos considerados crueles, inhumanos o degradantes dentro de los centros donde se encuentran personas con discapacidad privadas de la libertad.

38. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que garantice suficientes recursos humanos y económicos para fortalecer las funciones del mecanismo de prevención y protección contra la tortura. También recomienda que el Estado parte adopte medidas para capacitar y formar a todo el personal que trabaja dentro de estos centros de privación de libertad con el fin de garantizar el respeto de los derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad.

Chile (2016)

33. El Comité se encuentra profundamente preocupado por las evidencias de que en el Estado parte se lleven a cabo prácticas tales como: psicocirugías, tratamientos electroconvulsivos, aislamientos prolongados en celdas sin calefacción ni servicios básicos, contenciones físicas y otros tratamientos considerados crueles, inhumanos o degradantes, con el único propósito de “disciplinar” o “corregir conductas desviadas”, a personas con discapacidad psicosocial.

34. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte la prohibición explícita de prácticas consideradas “disciplinarias” o “correctivas” contra las personas con discapacidad psicosocial internadas en centros psiquiátricos públicos y privados u otros de privación de libertad. Asimismo, solicita que se inicien procesos de investigación sobre los hechos denunciados, con el fin de establecer las responsabilidades administrativas y penales correspondientes. Igualmente solicita que se anule la Regulación Exenta 656 del Ministerio de Salud (2002), se revise el mandato de la Comisión Nacional de Protección de los Derechos de las Personas con Enfermedades Mentales y se asegure que la Comisión ejerza funciones de prevención y protección de tales derechos, en línea con la Convención.

35. El Comité observa la ausencia de protocolos policiales y de las fuerzas de seguridad sobre el trato de las personas con discapacidad, lo cual ha resultado en violaciones a sus derechos e incluso fallecimientos como consecuencia del abuso o la negligencia.

36. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que investigue los casos denunciados de maltrato físico, que constituyen tratos crueles, inhumanos y degradantes y violaciones de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad por parte de carabineros y otras fuerzas de seguridad, establezca las responsabilidades administrativas y penales, y adoptar protocolos de atención que garanticen el pleno respeto de los derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad considerando su diversidad.

37. Al Comité le preocupa la ausencia de un mecanismo nacional para la prevención de la tortura y de otros mecanismos de supervisión de centros de privación de libertad que monitoreen la situación de los derechos humanos de las personas internas.

38. El Comité solicita al Estado parte la creación del mecanismo nacional para la prevención de la tortura en cumplimiento de la ratificación del Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención contra la Tortura y Otros Tratos o Penas Crueles, Inhumanos o Degradantes, y que dentro de su mandato se contemple la supervisión por visitas a los centros psiquiátricos y albergues de larga estadía de personas con discapacidad. Mientras se crea tal mecanismo, el Comité urge al Estado parte a realizar visitas de supervisión a dichos centros de privación de libertad por parte de autoridades independientes, tales como jueces o el Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos.

Serbia (2016)

27. The Committee is concerned about reports of the use of coercive measures including physical and chemical restraints as well as excessive antipsychotic therapy, and prolonged isolation of adults and children with psychosocial and with intellectual disabilities, considered as cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, despite reports and recommendations by the national prevention mechanism for the prevention of torture.

28. The Committee urges the State Party to prohibit all forms of coercive treatments against adults and children with disabilities, including physical and chemical restraints as well as excessive antipsychotic therapy and isolation considered to be cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments, as recommended by the national preventive mechanism against torture, and it calls upon the State Party to initiate administrative and criminal investigations on the reported cases in order to establish the respective responsibilities.

Slovakia (2016)

45. The Committee is deeply concerned about inhuman or degrading treatment through the use of physical, mechanical and chemical restraints, and the use of isolation and seclusion for persons with psychosocial disabilities.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately discontinue these practices and reform laws and policies which allow for such practices to take place.

Thailand (2016)

31. The Committee is concerned about reports of inhuman or degrading involuntary treatment of persons with disabilities, including the use of electroshock therapy, restraints, isolation and seclusion, on the basis of the perceived dangerousness to themselves or others on impairment.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective and appropriate measures, including those of a legislative nature, to prevent inhuman or degrading medical treatment on the basis of actual or perceived impairment.

Uganda (2016)

28. The Committee is concerned about the information on inhumane and cruel forced medical treatments, physical and chemical restraints, as well as isolation faced by persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, in psychiatric hospitals. It is also concerned about the absence of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are enabled to provide their free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

It is further concerned about the absence of monitoring by the Uganda Human Rights Commission of centres where persons with disabilities have been deprived of their liberty.

29. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Investigate cases of physical ill-treatment, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and adopt protocols that guarantee full respect of the human rights of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Review and revise the Mental Health Act to ensure compliance with the Convention and ensure that the current Mental Health Bill, 2014, is in compliance with the Convention;**
- (c) Ban forced hospitalization and forced treatment and other non- consensual practices;**
- (d) Strengthen the legal mandate and the funding of the Uganda Human Rights Commission to enable it to discharge its mandate of monitoring the centres where persons with disabilities remain deprived of their liberty.**

Brazil (2015)

28. The Committee is concerned at reports of the arbitrary deprivation of liberty and involuntary treatment of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, including situations where it is assumed that persons with disabilities are dangerous to themselves or others on the basis of a diagnosis of impairment.

29. The Committee recommends the State party to take measures, including the repeal of relevant legal provisions, to abolish the practice of involuntary commitment or hospitalization prohibit forced medical treatment, in particular, psychiatric treatments, on the basis of impairment and provide sufficient community-based alternatives.

30. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities who are deemed not liable for the commission of a crime on the basis of impairment may be subject to security measures, including indefinite detention. The Committee is also concerned about arbitrary detentions that may amount to inhuman and degrading treatment or torture. It is further concerned about the situation of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty in prisons and other places of detention, which are severely overcrowded and where psychical and psychological ill-treatment of inmates becomes a norm, as stated by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment at the end of his official visit to Brazil in August 2015.

31. The Committee recommends the State party to:

- (a) Abolish security measures that involve the arbitrary detention of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment and implement alternative measures that are consistent with articles 14 and 19 of the Convention; and**
- (b) Ensure that penitentiary facilities are accessible and provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.**

European Union (2015)

42. The Committee is concerned that research funded by the European Union is not accompanied by ethics guidelines which ensure that all persons with disabilities involved in such research are enabled to give informed consent.

43. The Committee recommends that the European Union review its ethics guidelines on research in this regard and especially set good practice examples by developing consent forms in accessible and easy-to-read formats, and prevent substituted decision-making in this area.

Gabon (2015)

36. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not adopted a definition of torture, including mental torture, or explicitly criminalised torture, in the Criminal Code.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a definition of torture, including mental torture, and that it ensure that all relevant mechanisms and programs incorporate the absolute prevention of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities.

Kenya (2015)

29. The Committee is concerned about the information on forced medical treatments, physical and chemical restraints, as well as isolation faced by persons with disabilities in

psychiatric hospitals. It is also concerned about the absence of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are enabled to provide their free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a mechanism on the prevention of torture, considering in particular the protection of persons with disabilities;

(b) Provide support to persons with disabilities including providing information in accessible formats in order to be able to give free and informed consent in relation to medical treatment and scientific experimentation; and

(c) Train health professionals on rights of persons with disabilities specifically on the right to free and informed consent.

Qatar (2015)

29. The Committee is concerned that corporal punishment remains lawful and by the lack of information on how this affects persons with disabilities in all settings, including in alternative care settings, at home, at schools and as a sentence for crime.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party enact a prohibition of all corporal punishment and that it implement the recommendations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/QAT/CO/2 para. 12 and 19) insofar as they relate to persons with disabilities. It also requests that the State party provide information in this regard in its next periodic report.

Ukraine (2015)

32. The Committee is concerned about the various forms of abuse, including those that can amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities, particularly boys and girls in condition of institutionalization.

33. The Committee recommends that the State Party evaluate the impact and effectiveness of its training programs for the prevention and absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment according to the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/UKR/CO/6-PARA 18 (e)). These training programs should incorporate, explicitly, the prevention of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities.

Croatia (2015)

23. The Committee is concerned about the hard situation in a significant number of social care institutions and psychiatric facilities where persons with disabilities, mostly women, have to live under degrading and overcrowded conditions for the rest of their lives. It is concerned about the frequent use of involuntary treatment and restraint measures as well as other forms of degrading treatment. The Committee is concerned that these laws do not sufficiently protect persons with disabilities against violence in institutions and involuntary and degrading treatment.

24. The Committee urgently recommends that immediate steps are taken to address the hard situations in institutions, to end involuntary treatment and stop the use of restraint measures. It is further suggested that the respective legislation is brought into alignment with the Convention. The Committee further recommends the investigation and prosecution of all human rights violations.

Czech Republic (2015)

29. The Committee notes with concern the practice of surgical castration of persons with disabilities deprived of liberty as a form of punishment.

30. The Committee urges the State party to cease with the practice of surgical castration and any kind of forced treatment of persons with disabilities deprived of liberty as a form of punishment.

31. The Committee is deeply concerned that, mechanical and chemical restraints, which may amount to torture, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, are a common practice in psychiatric institutions.

32. The Committee urges State Party to immediately ban and prohibit the practice of the use of mechanical and chemical restraints of persons with psychosocial disabilities in

psychiatric hospitals, and to strengthen monitoring and inspection of those facilities to prevent such practices.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons deprived of liberty have access to independent monitoring and complaint mechanisms and that victims of torture and ill-treatment are entitled to and provided with redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation.

Dominican Republic (2015)

30. The Committee is concerned at the existence of forced medical treatment, and particularly of forced psychiatric treatment that may constitute torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

31. The Committee recommends that the State explicitly prohibit medical treatment, particularly psychiatric treatment, administered without the free and informed consent of the person with disabilities concerned; it also recommends the establishment of an independent mechanism to monitor internment centres for persons with disabilities in order to prevent and offer protection from acts that may constitute torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Germany (2015)

33. The Committee is deeply concerned that the State party does not recognize the use of physical and chemical restraints, solitary confinement and other harmful practices, as acts of torture. It is further concerned by the use of physical and chemical restraints, in particular for persons with psychosocial disabilities in institutions and older persons in residential care.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) carry out a review with a view to formally abolishing all the practices regarded as acts of torture;

(b) Prohibit the use of physical and chemical restraints in older persons' care settings and institutions for persons with disabilities;

(c) Consider compensation for the victims of such practices.

Turkmenistan (2015)

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of data on persons with disabilities who are subjected to compulsory medical treatment by court orders. It is also concerned that persons under guardianship may be subjected to medical experimentation without their individual free and informed consent.

32. The Committee encourages the State party to repeal all legislation that authorizes compulsory medical treatment, medical experimentation included, without the free and informed consent of the person.

Denmark (2014)

38. The Committee is deeply concerned at the number of cases of coercive treatment of persons admitted to psychiatric institutions, and at the methods used in the coercive and involuntary treatment of persons with disabilities in psychiatric institutions, in particular the use of straps or belts for more than 48 hours, the use of chemical restraints, or the reportedly frequent application of involuntary electroconvulsive therapy.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its laws and regulations in order to abolish the use of physical, chemical, and other medical non-consensual measures, with regard to persons with psychosocial disabilities in institutions. It particularly recommends that the State party provide training on treatment in accordance with the Convention to medical professionals and personnel in care institutions and other similar institutions on preventing torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Republic of Korea (2014)

29. The Committee is concerned that, in psychiatric hospitals, persons with psychosocial disabilities are subjected to acts considered cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including solitary confinement, constant beating, restraint and excessive drug treatment.

30. The Committee urges the State party to abolish forced treatment that subjects persons with disabilities to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment. As long as institutionalization continues, the Committee urges the State party to protect persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals from violence, abuse and ill-treatment of any kind through the establishment of effective external independent monitoring mechanisms that ensure the representation of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Mexico (2014)

31. The Committee finds alarming the fact that human rights violations, such as physical restraint and placement in isolation, are committed against persons with disabilities interned in psychiatric hospitals and may even amount to acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. It is also concerned that the mechanisms designated for the prevention of such situations do not offer effective remedies.

32. The Committee urges the State party to initiate administrative and criminal investigation processes, with a view to punishing the perpetrators of practises that violate the rights of persons with disabilities living in institutions. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish the use of physical restraint and isolation in institutions for persons with disabilities. It also requests the Government to strengthen the national torture prevention mechanism by providing it with sufficient funds, trained staff and guaranteed independence in the exercise of its functions.

Sweden (2014)

37. The Committee is deeply concerned at the reported number of cases relating to the use of electroconvulsive therapy and at its possible use as a compulsory treatment. The Committee is also concerned at reports that such treatment is performed more often on women.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish the use of non-consensual practices with regard to persons with psychosocial disabilities in medical institutions. It further recommends that the State party provide training to medical professionals and personnel in care and other similar institutions on the prevention of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as provided for under the Convention.

39. The Committee is concerned about the methods used in coercive and involuntary treatment of boys and girls with disabilities in mental health care settings, in particular the use of straps or belts and the use of seclusion, as reported by the Ombudsman for Children in Sweden.

40. The Committee urges the State party to implement the recommendations of the Ombudsmen for Children in relation to boys and girls with disabilities in mental health care settings.

Azerbaijan (2014)

28. The Committee is concerned that the law permits the deprivation of liberty based on disability and provides for involuntary hospitalisation and forced institutionalisation of children and adults with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. The Committee is particularly concerned at reports of poor health care in such places.

29. The Committee urges the State party to repeal laws and prohibit disability based detention of children and adults with disabilities including involuntary hospitalisation and forced institutionalisation and ensure that all relevant legislation and policies in this area are in line with the Convention. It should also develop support services in the community and accelerate deinstitutionalisation strategies based on the human rights model of disability in consultation with DPOs.

30. The Committee is concerned at reports of poor living conditions of persons with disabilities in certain places of deprivation of liberty.

31. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that all places of deprivation of liberty, particularly prisons, maintain accessible and humane living conditions in line with the Convention. In this regard, the State party should ensure that monitoring bodies such as

the Office of the Ombudsman and the National Preventive Mechanism have sufficient resources and unimpeded access to all places of deprivation of liberty in the State party.

Costa Rica (2014)

31. The Committee deeply regrets the progress made in the adoption of Bill No. 17777 on Biomedical Research, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on second reading in April 2014 and authorizes the guardians of persons declared legally incapable to make decisions concerning their participation in scientific experimentation and research without their free and informed consent.

32. The Committee calls on the State party to withdraw Bill No. 17777 on Biomedical Research from the legislative agenda as a matter of urgency.

33. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are forcibly interned in psychiatric institutions and are subjected to acts considered cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

34. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the national mechanism for the prevention of torture monitors psychiatric institutions on an ongoing basis and that the competent authorities eliminate practices involving forced internment on grounds of disability. In addition, as long as institutionalization continues, the State party should ensure that the clinical treatments administered to interned persons fully respect their dignity and human rights.

Australia (2013)

35. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual impairment or psychosocial disability, are subjected to unregulated behaviour modification or restrictive practices such as chemical, mechanical and physical restraint and seclusion, in environments including schools, mental health facilities and hospitals.

36. The Committee recommends the State party to take immediate steps to end such practices including by establishing an independent national preventative mechanism to monitor places of detention including mental health facilities, special schools, hospitals, disability justice centres and prisons, to ensure that persons with disabilities including those with psychosocial disabilities are not subjected to intrusive medical interventions.

Austria (2013)

32. The Committee notes with concern the continued use of net beds and other forms of non-consensual practices in the State party's psychiatric hospitals and institutions where people with intellectual, mental and psychosocial disabilities are confined.

33. The State party should abolish the use of net beds, restraints and other non-consensual practices used against persons with intellectual, mental and psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric hospitals and institutions. It is further recommended that the State party should continue to provide training to medical professionals and personnel in the care and other similar institutions on the prevention of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as provided by the Convention.

El Salvador (2013)

33. The Committee notes with concern that there is no legal requirement to obtain the prior, free and informed consent of persons with disabilities regarding psychiatric procedures. It is also concerned at the lack of a mechanism overseeing the conditions of persons with disabilities being treated in psychiatric institutions, including children, and the lack of measures to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in such institutions and to punish perpetrators.

34. The Committee urges the adoption of legislation and other effective measures for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities in psychiatric or other institutions. Specifically, the Committee recommends that the State party prohibit and prevent the practice of conducting medical or scientific experiments on persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent, and that it establish a mechanism to oversee psychiatric and other institutions.

Paraguay (2013)

37. The Committee takes note with satisfaction of the creation of the national mechanism for prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the State party. It is nevertheless concerned at the scant progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in particular with regard to persons with psychosocial disabilities interned in Tacumbú prison.

38. The Committee recommends that the mandate of the State party's national prevention mechanism include oversight of psychiatric hospitals and homes and the detention conditions of persons with psychosocial disabilities in such establishments, paying particular attention to Tacumbú prison. It also asks the State party to encourage the transfer of persons with psychosocial disabilities to social rehabilitation centres and their inclusion in the life of the community.

Argentina (2012)

27. The Committee notes with concern that Senate approval of the bill that would create a national mechanism for the prevention of torture has been delayed.

28. The Committee urges the State party to immediately approve the bill on the creation of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture so that institutionalized persons with disabilities can be monitored and protected from actions that may constitute acts of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

China (2012)

27. For those involuntarily committed persons with actual or perceived intellectual and psychosocial impairments, the Committee is concerned that the "correctional therapy" offered at psychiatric institutions represents an inhuman and degrading treatment. Further, the Committee is concerned that not all medical experimentation without free and informed consent is prohibited by Chinese law.

28. The Committee urges that the state party cease its policy of subjecting persons with actual or perceived impairments to such therapies and abstains from involuntarily committing them to institutions. Further it urges the state party to abolish laws which allow for medical experimentation on persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent.

Hungary (2012)

29. The Committee is concerned that Act CLIV of 1997 on Healthcare provides for a legal framework for subjecting persons with disabilities whose legal capacity is restricted to medical experimentation without their free and informed consent, as consent may be given by their legal guardians. The Committee also notes with concern that there is no independent medical examination body mandated to examine alleged victims of torture and guarantee respect for human dignity during the conduct of medical examinations, as stated by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/HUN/CO/5).

30. The Committee urges the State party to amend Act CLIV on Healthcare and abolish its provisions that provide a legal framework for subjecting persons with disabilities with restricted legal capacity to medical experimentation without their free and informed consent. The Committee recommends the State party to implement the recommendation made by the Human Rights Committee in 2010 (CCPR/C/HUN/CO/5) to "establish an independent medical examination body mandated to examine alleged victims of torture and guarantee respect for human dignity during the conduct of medical examinations."

Peru (2012)

30. The Committee is concerned at consistent reports of the use of continuous forcible medication, including neuroleptics, and poor material conditions in psychiatric institutions, such as the hospital Larco Herrera, where some persons have been institutionalized for more than ten years without appropriate rehabilitation services.

31. The Committee urges the State party to promptly investigate the allegations of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, or punishment in psychiatric institutions, to thoroughly review the legality of the placement of patients in these institutions, as well as to establish voluntary mental health treatment services, in order to allow the persons with disabilities to be included in the community and release them from the institutions.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

Article 16 CRPD

*(Freedom from exploitation, violence
and abuse)*

September 2025

Article 16 - Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

1. *States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.*
2. *States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.*
3. *In order to prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, States Parties shall ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities.*
4. *States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including through the provision of protection services. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.*
5. *States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted*

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Finland (2025)
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Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
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Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
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Cuba (2019)
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Norway (2019)
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Saudi Arabia (2019)
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Vanuatu (2019)
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Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
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Italy (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)

Lithuania (2016)
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Belgium (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Hungary (2012)
Tunisia (2010)

There are no recommendations on Azerbaijan (2014), Peru and Spain.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

29. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities are subjected to violence, abuse, physical punishments and physical or chemical restraints for failing to meet forced labour quotas or based on their disabilities, including in prison facilities and upon return from abroad;
- (b) There is a lack of accessible and safe avenues for reporting exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence, insufficient independent monitoring of places of detention, and inadequate victim support, legal aid, and rehabilitation services, particularly for women and girls with disabilities;
- (c) The State Party does not keep strict records of compliance and monitoring of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women, which stipulates that no one shall commit an act of abducting, trafficking, raping or gang raping a woman.

30. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Criminalise and effectively prosecute all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including forced labour, physical punishment, and abuse in detention facilities;**
- (b) Establish accessible, independent complaint and reporting mechanisms in all settings, ensure regular monitoring of detention facilities by independent bodies including organisations of persons with disabilities, and provide adequate victim support, legal aid and rehabilitation services;**
- (c) Establish a monitoring and oversight mechanism with the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities, authorised to receive and follow up on complaints of exploitation, violence or abuse, including sexual abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, that statistics are available, and that restorative justice is provided to victims.**

Finland (2025)

30. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The prevalence of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in institutions, the community and the family home, in particular against women with disabilities and children with disabilities;
- (b) Insufficient actions to address violence experienced by women and girls with disabilities within plans to address gender-based violence;
- (c) The inaccessibility and negative attitudes within victim support services and shelters, including the lack of knowledge concerning responding to the specific and unique forms of exploitation, violence and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities.

31. Recalling General Comment No. 3 on women and girls with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Develop and implement comprehensive violence prevention and response strategies across the State Party, including culture-, gender-, age-, disability specific measures, access to justice measures and the establishment of accessible culture-, gender, age-appropriate and disability inclusive support and rehabilitation and covering institutions, the community and the family home.**
- (b) Transpose the EU Directive on Combating Violence against Women into national law and policy, and substantially strengthen the intersectional components and specific measures taken to address the situation of women and girls with disabilities in implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;**
- (c) Ensure that all its strategies and programmes on violence prevention are disability inclusive, ensure the accessibility of all victim support services and shelters, carry out**

capacity building to recognise and respond to the specific forms of exploitation, violence and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities.

Kiribati (2025)

29. The Committee positively notes the Te Rau N Te Mwenga (Family Peace) Act 2014 and its Implementation Plan 2017 and other policy and programs to protect against exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence. However, it is concerned that these mechanisms are not fully inclusive or accessible to persons with disabilities, including the absence of accessible shelters, counselling and complaint mechanisms, and limited community awareness and training of police, health and social service personnel in addressing cases of violence against persons with disabilities.

30. Recalling its statement of 25 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take a coordinated approach to address all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence by ensuring the Implementation Plan for the Family Peace Act and other violence prevention mechanisms and the National Disability Policy and Action Plan act together and contain measures to address inaccessible shelters, counselling and complaint mechanisms, limited community awareness and training of police, health and social service personnel.

Maldives (2025)

31. The Committee is concerned about the exploitation, violence and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities, in particular about reports of gender-based violence women and girls with disabilities, and the practice of ruqia, as well as about the lack of accessible shelters and complaint mechanisms available in outer islands.

32. Recalling its statement of 25 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, including acts committed under ruqia practice, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, including older women, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities who are confined to their family homes, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;

(b) Ensure that the Plans of actions related to Domestic Violence Prevention Act (2012) and other relevant legislation and policies, guarantee the accessibility and inclusiveness of persons with disabilities to the mechanisms for reporting, preventing and protecting from exploitation, violence and abuse, including domestic violence;

(c) Provide training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, religious community, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

Canada (2025)

31. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly Indigenous women and girls with disabilities, in both family and institutional settings, and the lack of accessible women's shelters and services for victim-survivors with disabilities of gender-based violence.

32. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of women with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

(a) Ensure that issues and concerns of women and girls with disabilities are integral to the implementation of the Final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls;

(b) Ensure that audits of accessibility of shelters are conducted regularly as part of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan and the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence and result in comprehensive measures to address gaps in accessible and culturally appropriate shelters and services for victim-survivors with disabilities of gender-based violence.

Dominican Republic (2025)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports about trafficking in persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, who are victims of exploitation through begging and of forced unions with the aims of servitude from girls and adolescents with disabilities;

(b) Insufficient measures to identify and prevent all forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities, including structural and systemic violence in all settings and gender-based violence;

(c) The lack of specific data on cases of violence and abuse perpetrated against persons with disabilities in all settings, and the failure to collect and publish such data, disaggregated by sex and age, including data on the number of prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed on perpetrators.

30. Recalling its statement of 25 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Investigate the situation of persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, who are forced to beg or forced into servitude, and take effective measures to protect them from exploitation, violence and abuse and ensure that perpetrators are sanctioned;

(b) Reinforce the implementation of existing legislative and policy measures to prevent all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence, and provide effective remedies and redress to victims;

(c) Establish a comprehensive system to collect and monitor data on all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including data disaggregated by gender, age, impairment and other relevant factors, and conduct comprehensive disability-inclusive research.

European Union (2025)

42. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Persons with disabilities are at heightened risk of violence and abuse, in particular women, older persons, LGBTIQ+ persons and children with disabilities, and persons with disabilities living in closed settings;

(b) The Directive on combating violence against women does not explicitly prohibit rape, forced sterilisation and sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence;

(c) Access to specialized services for victims with disabilities of gender-based violence is insufficient and that there are no specific protection mechanisms for deaf women and girls accessing services or reporting abuse;

(d) There is no systematic monitoring of institutional settings.

43. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the European Union:

(a) Explicitly prohibit rape, forced sterilization and sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence against persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, are closely consulted and actively involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the Istanbul Convention, the Directive on combating violence against women, and of the Anti-Trafficking Directive;

(c) Combat violence and abuse of children and adults with disabilities in institutional settings, including in psychiatric facilities, and provide funds for the establishment of independent monitoring of such settings.

Palau (2025)

29. The Committee notes the establishment of Legal Protection against Violence Framework and the reopening of Victims of Crimes Office in 2022. However, it is concerned that these mechanisms are not fully accessible for persons with disabilities, and about the lack of awareness among the general population and particularly among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse.

30. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, especially those who are institutionalized, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent and fully accessible complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;

(b) Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

Tuvalu (2025)

29. The Committee is concerned about the gender-based violence experienced by women and girls with disabilities, as well as reports of exploitation, violence and abuse of children and older persons with disabilities.

30. Recalling its statement of 25 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, including older women, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities who are confined to their family homes, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) Ensure that the Plans of actions related to Tuvalu Family Protection and Domestic Violence, guarantee the accessibility and inclusiveness of persons with disabilities to the mechanisms for reporting, preventing and protecting from exploitation, violence and abuse, including domestic violence;**
- (c) Ensure that draft Policy for the protection of all children in Education Institutions addresses accessibility and reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities;**
- (d) Provide training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, church groups, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.**

Viet Nam (2025)

31. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Women and girls with disabilities face higher risks of gender-based violence and have limited access to protective services, shelters, and legal recourse to address violence and discrimination;
- (b) Information indicating that the risk of abuse, especially sexual abuse, for children with disabilities is three to four times higher than for children without disabilities, and even higher for children with hearing and visual impairments and those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and there is a lack of timely detection of cases of violence, abuse, and exploitation of children with disabilities, as provided in the 2016 Children's Act, along with poor monitoring and evaluation, and insufficient mechanisms for reporting these violations
- (c) The absence of specific data on violence, neglect and abuse against persons with disabilities makes it impossible to fully understand the magnitude of the problem and the measures required to prevent, punish, and apply restorative justice;
- (d) While Article 14 of the Law on Persons with Disabilities prohibits neglect and abuse, there are no clear mechanisms for monitoring compliance or holding caregivers accountable for neglect or abuse their follow-up, sanctions, and restorative actions;
- (e) Limitations in both legislation and enforcement practices, as well as specific regulations, fail to adequately address gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and there are insufficient communication methods to educate and raise awareness on prevention and protection;
- (f) While women with disabilities receive timely support from local authorities when gender-based violence occurs, they often do not know where to go or which support agency is responsible;
- (g) Social work centres in the country lack physical accessibility, access to information and communication, including through digital means, and personnel trained to attend to persons with disabilities.

32. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the national strategy against gender-based violence includes specific policies to prevent and combat gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including accessible mechanisms for the submission of complaints, implementation across local and central levels, provide accessible support services, shelters, and legal assistance for victims/survivors;**
- (b) Reform the Children's Act of 2016 to specifically include preventative measures for violence against children with disabilities, including indigenous children with disabilities, case detection, mechanisms for the submission of complaints, follow-up, sanctions, and justice for the victims;**
- (c) Establish actions for the collection of data disaggregated by age, sex, and type of disability on violence faced by persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities;**
- (d) Amend Article 14 of the Law on Persons with Disabilities to include supervision and monitoring mechanisms for the abuse and abandonment of persons with disabilities, hold those responsible accountable, and establish restorative actions for the victims;**
- (e) Guarantee the establishment of education and awareness-raising programmes on violence prevention for all women and girls with disabilities, in accessible formats, modes, and media;**
- (f) Strengthen training for local authorities to learn about and detect gender-based violence early, and ensure wide dissemination among organizations of persons with disabilities on local support agencies that offer physical accessibility, effective communication and information, and trained personnel;**
- (g) Ensure that social work centres are established nationwide, providing physical, informational, and communication accessibility, including by digital means, along with personnel trained to serve persons with disabilities;**

Belarus (2024)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of provisions in national policy and legislation of the State party with effective measures, specifically to prevent and protect women and children with disabilities from discrimination, violence, sexual abuse and bullying;**
- (b) The lack of availability of "Crisis" rooms for some "categories" of persons with disabilities, and the insufficiency of staff with the required trainings to provide support for women and girls with disabilities victims of violence;**
- (c) The low level of awareness on forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence among persons with disabilities and their rights of remedy.**

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the national legislation in regard to the rights of children, to incorporate and strengthen measures in the prevention of bullying, sexual abuse and violence against children with disabilities.**
- (b) Adopt national legislation to prevent violence, as well as protect and provide remedy for the victims including persons with disabilities, prosecuting the perpetrators, ensuring justice to the victims with the support of inclusive rehabilitation and services that respond to the**

requirements of the women and children with disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities;

(c) Provide wide access to legal aid and information, training and awareness-raising initiatives to the aid workers or staff, as well as budgets earmarked for the prevention and protection from violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(d) Implement measures expeditiously, to make the “Crisis” rooms accessible for all victims of violence with disabilities;

(e) Raise awareness among women with disabilities, including women with intellectual disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities, about the various forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, their right to be free from these forms of violence and the complaint procedures for reporting cases of gender-based violence.

Belgium (2024)

32. The Committee takes note that the national action plan to combat gender-based violence (2021-2025) also addresses gender-based violence against persons with disabilities. It is nevertheless concerned:

(a) That there is a widespread lack of awareness among women and girls with disabilities about complaint and redress mechanisms in cases of gender-based violence;

(b) That accessibility of support measures, sexual-assault centres (SAC) and emergency shelters for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence is not guaranteed;

(c) About reports of retaliatory measures, such as being expelled from institutions, without providing the support necessary to live independently in the community, being used against women and girls with disabilities who lodge complaints.

33. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities , the Committee recommends the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

(a) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, are provided with accessible information on how to avoid, recognize and report cases of violence, including gender-based violence, and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaints mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;

(b) Ensure that services for victims of gender-based violence, including support and sexual assault centres (SAC) and emergency shelters, are accessible to women and girls with disabilities, including through accessible buildings and facilities, accessible information and communication, and the provision of disability-related supports and assistance;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, who are victims of violence in residential institutions, are protected from any retaliatory countermeasures for lodging complaints.

Benin (2024)

31. The Committee is concerned by the lack of information about the application in practice of the provisions of Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that prohibit exploitation, violence and abuse directed at persons with disabilities and statistical data on the beneficiaries of the counselling centers and toll free numbers . The Committee also notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness among the general population, including among persons with disabilities, of measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy to address all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;
- (b) The absence of measures and resources to ensure the effective implementation of existing national legislation, policies and strategies to protect all persons with disabilities in all contexts from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse;
- (c) The lack of resources allocated to combat gender-based violence against women with disabilities and the lack of services and accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, particularly in rural areas;
- (d) That children with disabilities are exposed to higher rates of violence and bullying than other children and that information and statistical data on violence against children with disabilities and related complaints are not available;
- (e) The inadequate training of persons with disabilities, support persons, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all steps necessary to raise awareness about measures to protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, including older women, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities who are still institutionalized;**
- (b) Ensure that services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, including support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible physically and in terms of information and communication, and that the required support is provided;**
- (c) Ensure that fast track courts, gender-based violence centres and other institutions implementing programmes to address gender-based violence are fully accessible to persons with disabilities in terms of the built environment, information and communications technologies and training of staff;**
- (d) Take effective measures to ensure that children with disabilities are adequately protected from bullying, exploitation, violence and abuse in schools and care institutions, and that perpetrators are punished;**
- (e) Ensure that persons with disabilities and support persons have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases of violence, including gender-based violence and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaints mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress.**

Burkina Faso (2024)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reported cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of children with disabilities, including corporal punishment at home, at school and in institutions, as well as exploitation through forced begging;
- (b) 42 children with disabilities, including nine girls, identified in eight provinces (Kossi, Comoé, Bam, Kadiogo) who have been subjected to violence and abuses;
- (c) The situation of ill-treatment of persons with disabilities particularly the isolation, confinement and shackling of which they are sometimes victims at home;

(d) Information indicating violations of the rights of persons with disabilities in private and public rehabilitation centres.

33. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities , and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends to:

(a) Adopt effective legislation and measures to ensure that children with disabilities are adequately protected from violence, abuse, and exploitation including through forced begging, that perpetrators are punished; promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing through awareness-raising campaigns and training programmes in accessible formats; and enforce the provisions of the 2018 Criminal Code which prohibits and punishes all forms of corporal punishment, exploitation, violence and abuse, including domestic violence, sexual violence, school violence and neglect against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in and/or wandering the streets;

(b) Adopt effective legislation and criminalize unlawful restraint and confinement of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Ensure that all facilities, residential care, psychiatric institutions, public and private rehabilitation centers are subjected to independent monitoring in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, through the involvement of civil society organizations, including disability rights-based organizations, in order to prevent exploitation and abuse of and violence against persons with disabilities.

Denmark (2024)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of many forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities in institutions, including social care and psychiatric institutions, particularly the prevalence of gender-based violence and the high incidence of sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities in institutions;

(b) The lack of accessible shelters and accessible procedures to obtain or retain services for persons with disabilities, including personal assistance, while residing in shelters, for all persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities;

(c) The inadequate implementation of the legal and policy frameworks to prevent and respond to exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence and abuse, across the Kingdom of Denmark.

48. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, including Indigenous women and girls with disabilities:

(a) Further develop and implement comprehensive and effective violence prevention and response action plans across the Kingdom of Denmark that are underpinned by the principles and standards of the Convention, including through measures for law and policy reform and development, the inclusion of culture, gender and age specific requirements, responses that address all forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities in all settings, including in institutions, community awareness-raising strategies, access to justice, and the establishment of accessible culture, gender and age appropriate supports and rehabilitation;

(b) Render the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence applicable in the Faroe Islands;

(c) Ensure that the mandates of monitoring and oversight mechanisms across the Kingdom of Denmark, including the national preventive mechanism, extend to all forms of detention and institutional settings where children and adults with disabilities are detained or reside.

Ghana (2024)

32. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Domestic Violence Act 2007 (Act 732) failed to adequately address the unique challenges that persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, face;

(b) Laws and policies in the State Party related to violence lack to address disability or persons with albinism, including domestic violence and accessible services and the need for trained personnel for women and girls with disabilities;

(c) Persons with disabilities who experience violence and abuse lack access to effective recovery services;

(d) There is lack of specific programs to protect children with disabilities including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, with autism and albinism from discrimination, exclusion, violence, abuse, corporal punishment, and neglect by teachers, peers and family members, violence at home, on the street or in institutions including actions to prevent the use of derogatory language.

33. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Review the 2023 - 2032 National Gender Policy to ensure that it explicitly addresses women and girls with disabilities, including those with intellectual and or psychosocial disabilities and those with albinism, and that it also prevents domestic violence and that it has mechanisms for women and girls with disabilities to file complaints, and that such complains are followed up including providing restorative justice for victims and sanctions for perpetrators;

(b) Remove barriers within the justice system, such as the requirement to pay for medical forms confirming abuse;

(c) Ensure persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls who experience gender-based violence have access to recovery services;

(d) Expedite the passage of amendments to the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560) and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 (Act 653) to align them with the Convention to protect children with disabilities including children with intellectual and or psychosocial disabilities.

Mauritius (2024)

27. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The annual statistics provided by the State party on the number of cases of violence against persons with disabilities registered by the police and the courts may not reflect the actual situation, resulting in part from the lack of effective awareness among the general population and persons with disabilities about the reporting mechanisms and measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

(b) Shelters largely remain inaccessible for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, who are victims of violence;

(c) There is insufficient information about whether the Family Welfare and Protection Officers and Enforcement Officers effectively carry out assessments and independent monitoring in all shelters and institutions, irrespective of their license status, and whether allegations are effectively investigated.

28. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Elaborate a policy to prevent and reduce violence against persons with disabilities, and establish a system for the regular collection, analysis and publication of statistical data on complaints regarding violence and exploitation against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence, in all settings such as in the family, workplace, schools and institutions. The system should include prosecution and conviction rates and information about sentences for perpetrators and reparations, including compensation, for victims/survivors;

(b) Raise awareness about the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse and ensure that they are provided with accessible information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases of violence, exploitation and abuse and about available complaint mechanisms and remedies, including compensation and rehabilitation;

(c) Ensure that services and shelters for persons with disabilities who are victims of violence, particularly women and girls with disabilities, are accessible physically and in terms of information and communication, with disability-inclusive protocols in place;

(d) Ensure that there is independent, effective and regular monitoring and oversight of all shelters, facilities, institutions and programmes that provide services to persons with disabilities, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, and ensure that cases are effectively investigated and resolved.

Netherlands (2024)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient protection of students with disabilities through the Policy vision on the promotion and protection of sexual health in schools and the lacking accessibility of it;

(b) The significant number of persons with disabilities who have experienced sexual violence and the high risk of violence and abuse for women and girls with disabilities, both in public and in private spheres, and about reports that women and girls with disabilities who are victims of sexual violence cannot access the Sexual Assault Center (Centrum Seksueel Geweld), the Domestic Violence Advice and Reporting Center (Veilig Thuis), or numerous shelters for women, as well as the lack of accessible information about sexual violence and victim support services;

(c) The lack of comprehensive data collection, research and monitoring on the prevalence and nature of violence, including sexual abuse, against persons with disabilities, including women, children, older persons, as well as migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities;

(d) The lack of an action plan to implement the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention).

38. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close

consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Review its policy and measures for the promotion and protection of sexual health in school settings and ensure full accessibility and early identification of violence and abuse against students with disabilities;
- (b) Implement comprehensive and targeted measures to prevent and address sexual violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, including suitably equipped and accessible support services for survivors; guarantee that women and girls with disabilities who are victims of sexual violence can access the centres and shelters for women; Ensure accessibility of such centres and shelters and of information on sexual violence, victim support services and reporting mechanisms;
- (c) Establish a comprehensive data collection system and monitoring mechanisms to gather disaggregated data on all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including intersectional data on gender, age, type of disability, and other relevant factors, and conduct comprehensive disability-inclusive research;
- (d) Develop an action plan to implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), specifically addressing the requirements of women and girls with disabilities.

Ukraine (2024)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The increased cases of gender-based violence and domestic violence, and trafficking of women and girls with disabilities –particularly for those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities–, as well as the increase of women and girls who have acquired impairment during the conflict;
- (b) The prevalence of exploitation, violence and abuse against children and adults with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, as well as the increase of gender-based violence and heightened risk of sexual violence and trafficking;
- (c) The lack of accessible complaints mechanisms and places of refuge for persons with disabilities, and that shelters are not accessible either physically or in terms of information and communication, particularly for women and girls with disabilities;
- (d) The lack of disability perspective in projects and programs to avoid and sanction gender-based violence;
- (e) The lack of comprehensive data and information on complaint mechanisms for victims.

33. The Committee recalls its previous recommendations (CRPD/C/UKR/CO/1, paras.12 and 33), its Statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Investigate cases of gender-based violence and implement gender-intersectional policies to address these cases, providing comprehensive attention to all, including women who have acquired impairment in the context of the armed conflict;
- (b) Investigate and implement measures to prevent, punish and redress the increase in domestic violence, exploitation, abuse and trafficking;
- (c) Establish adequate mechanisms so that persons with disabilities, especially women and children facing violence of any kind, have access to immediate protection and support services, and to file complaints, including resources for follow-up and restorative measures;
- (d) Ensure that projects and programs against gender-based violence include a human rights approach to disability;
- (e) Implement the necessary actions to collect disaggregated data on cases of violence against women and children with disabilities;

(f) Ensure compliance with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Azerbaijan (2024)

37. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Information about prevailing forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence, trafficking in persons, physical, sexual psychological and economic violence;
- (b) That the definition of rape in the Criminal Code is still based on the use of force or threat by the perpetrator rather than lack of consent, the absence of legislation specifically criminalizing marital rape, and the practice of the “corroboration rule”, whereby the testimony of a witness is required in addition to a victim’s testimony in cases of rape, which leads to additional obstacles for women and girls with disabilities to access to justice in cases of sexual violence;
- (c) The absence of disaggregated data about cases of violence against persons with disabilities, including in the family, the workplace, schools, and in institutions;
- (d) Lack of information about complaint mechanisms concerning cases of violence against persons with disabilities and on how persons with disabilities are informed about mechanisms to report violence;
- (e) Reports about lack of accessible support for persons with disabilities who are victims of violence, in particular affecting women and girls with disabilities’ effective access to referral and support available in cases of violence including gender-based violence.

38. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the adoption of amendments to its Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence with the aim to include specific requirements of women and girls with disabilities, including those internally displaced persons and in refugee-like situations, and ensure that the action plan on combatting domestic violence for 2025-2029 provides for appropriate support for women and girls with disabilities subjected to gender-based violence;**
- (b) Incorporate in its legislation a definition of rape based on lack of consent that covers any non-consensual sexual act and takes into account all aggravating circumstances, in line with international human rights standards, criminalize marital rape, and adopt legal procedural guidelines for the repeal of the “corroboration rule” in rape cases, including in relation to women with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that data collection systems inform policies to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse against persons with disabilities, and that it is disaggregated by age, sex, gender, disability, ethnicity, migrant status, refugee status, and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator;**
- (d) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, have information in accessible formats about how to prevent, recognize and report cases of violence and about available complaint mechanisms and remedies, including compensation and rehabilitation;**
- (e) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, have access to support available for victims of violence, including shelters and that support measures address the diversity of persons with disabilities and their particular requirements.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

32. The Committee is deeply concerned about the lack of:

- (a) An inclusive national strategy to prevent and protect against all forms of violence.

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

(b) Measures to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities from violence in the Protection from Domestic Violence Act No. 17 of 2015

(c) Information on and response to cases of violence against persons with disabilities.

(d) Inclusive services and programmes to prevent and protect against violence and rehabilitate survivors.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate measures to:

(a) Develop a comprehensive and inclusive national strategy for persons with disabilities to prevent and protect against all forms of violence, in close consultation and with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations

(b) Review the Protection from Domestic Violence Act and the Penal Code and include provisions to ensure that physical and verbal violence and bullying against persons with disabilities are criminalised.

(c) Collect information and data on cases of domestic, institutional and other violence against persons with disabilities and actions taken against them.

(d) Providing accessibility and accommodation in programmes and services for prevention, protection from violence, rehabilitation of survivors and training of personnel to communicate effectively with persons with disabilities.

(e) Develop specialised training for persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, on violence prevention and reporting.

Costa Rica (2024)

29. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) Las medidas insuficientes para identificar y prevenir todas las formas de violencia contra los niños y los adultos con discapacidad, con especial atención a la violencia estructural y sistemática, en todos los entornos, incluida la violencia de género, en particular la violencia obstétrica cuando se utilizan los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva;

b) La falta de datos específicos sobre casos de violencia y abuso contra personas con discapacidad, donde se recopilan y publican los datos desglosados por sexo y edad, sobre violencia y abuso contra personas con discapacidad en todos los entornos, incluido el número de procesamiento, condenas y sentencias impuestas a los perpetradores.

30. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte:

a) Refuerce la aplicación de las medidas legislativas y políticas existentes para prevenir todas las formas de violencia contra las personas con discapacidad, incluida la violencia de género, y proporcionar recursos y reparaciones eficaces a las víctimas, tanto en las instituciones como fuera de ellas;

b) Establecer un sistema de recopilación de datos cuantitativos sobre las manifestaciones de violencia contra las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, en el que se disponga de datos, desglosados por sexo y edad, sobre la violencia y el abuso contra las personas con discapacidad en todos los entornos, incluido el número de procesamiento, condenas y sentencias impuestas a los perpetradores.

Kazakhstan (2024)

35. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That legislation and policies for the protection against violence, abuse and exploitation lack measures to specifically protect persons with disabilities;

(b) The absence of measures to prevent violence and exploitation against persons with disabilities in all settings, including in the family and in institutions and accessible support services for victims of violence;

(c) Information about corporal punishment of children with disabilities;

(d) The overall lack of information about violence faced by young persons with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual

disabilities, and the low number of complaints about violence and abuse against persons with disabilities.

36. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in legislation, including in the law on prevention of domestic violence, the health care law and the criminal code, and in policies and strategies for combatting violence, abuse and exploitation, and provide effective protection from violence, abuse and exploitation to all persons with disabilities in private and public spheres;

(b) Design and implement a comprehensive strategy with a clear timeframe, indicators and adequate funding for the protection of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with disabilities in institutions and children with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse, addressing prevention, early recovery, legal remedies including compensation and reparation, and access to psychosocial support and accessible shelters for victims in emergencies;

(c) Prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings, including in schools, day-care facilities and other institutional settings;

(d) Provide persons with disabilities with information about their legal protection against violence, establish accessible reporting mechanisms and referral systems for cases of violence, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, and strengthen the capacity of families of persons with disabilities, support personnel, staff of the crisis centres, and law enforcement officers to recognize and report all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

Nicaragua (2024)

30. Al Comité le preocupa que:

a) Durante el periodo 2018-2019 predominó la práctica de agresiones físicas en las personas detenidas y que desde el 2019 hasta la actualidad se han incorporado las agresiones psicológicas, las técnicas de aislamiento prolongado y la sobreexposición sensorial, y que se desconoce cuántas personas con discapacidad han sido sometidas a dichas agresiones;

b) Desde el 2015 existe violencia y campañas de colonización en el norte del país, en contra de poblaciones indígenas y que se desconoce cuántas personas indígenas con discapacidad se han visto afectadas;

c) Se ha documentado una grave situación de violencia sexual contra niñas y adolescentes en el Estado parte, así como de intimidación física, pornografía infantil y acto sexual con adolescentes mediante pago, maltrato infantil, proxenetismo, rufianería y trata de personas con fines de esclavitud, explotación sexual y que se desconoce cuántas de estas agresiones se dieron en contra de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad;

d) Se tiene información de que uno de los componentes más repetitivos en las condiciones de detención a mujeres es el uso de violencia sexual y violencias basadas en género, incluyendo amenazas de muerte o de quitarles a sus hijos, privación de medicamentos y otros insumos de aseo necesarios, trabajos forzosos, desnudez forzosa, amenaza de violación, abuso sexual y violación;

e) Que la Ley Integral contra la Violencia hacia las Mujeres (Ley 779), no sea interseccional, al no especificar sobre mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, personas LGBT, mujeres indígenas con discapacidad, que no contemple el delito de tráfico de personas y que priorice la mediación en casos de violencia contra las mujeres.

31. En consonancia con las metas 5.1, 5.2 y 5.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y su Declaración del 24 de noviembre de 2021 en la que pide que se adopten medidas para eliminar la violencia de género contra las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, en consulta estrecha y colaboración activa con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan:

- a) Establezca un mecanismo de monitoreo, con base en el Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención contra la Tortura, especialmente de las personas con discapacidad, en los lugares de detención para evitar agresiones físicas, psicológicas, técnicas de aislamiento prolongado, sobreexposición sensorial o cualquier otra práctica considerada como tortura por la legislación internacional en las personas detenidas, documentando cuantas personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres han sido sometidas a estas prácticas;
- b) Tome acciones urgentes para evitar que las personas indígenas con discapacidad sean afectadas por explotación, violencia y abuso;
- c) Implemente medidas para prevenir que las mujeres en general y las mujeres con discapacidad en particular sean víctimas de violencia sexual, incluyendo el establecimiento de un mecanismo de quejas, su seguimiento, castigo a los perpetradores y resarcimiento a las víctimas;
- d) Establezca protocolos con enfoque de género y discapacidad en las instituciones de detención para prevenir y sancionar la violencia basada en género;
- e) Reforme la Ley 779 para incluir el delito de tráfico de mujeres, que especifique a mujeres y niñas con discapacidad y mujeres indígenas con discapacidad, las personas con discapacidad LGBT, que elimine el requisito de la mediación y priorice al enjuiciamiento en los casos de violencia de género contra las mujeres.

Sweden (2024)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The prevalence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against children and adults with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities;
- (b) The directives to the government inquiry into special residential homes omitting explicit reference to the Convention;
- (c) That persons with disabilities who are subjected to violence in institutional settings are not recognised as victims of crime.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive and effective violence prevention and response strategy in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence that responds to gender- and age-specific requirements to address all forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities in all settings, including in institutions, and take measures to ensure access to justice, gender- and age-appropriate supports and rehabilitation;**
- (b) Take immediate action to ensure the government inquiry into special residential homes is explicitly underpinned by the standards and principles of the Convention, along with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention on Human Rights;**
- (c) Take all legislative, administrative, and policy measures to ensure that children and adults with disabilities who are subjected to violence in institutional settings, including compulsory care are recognised as victims of crime to ensure reporting, investigation and prosecution on an equal basis with others.**

Zambia (2024)

31. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness among the general population, including among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

- (b) The absence of sufficient measures and resources to ensure the effective implementation of existing national legislation, policies and strategies to protect all persons with disabilities in all contexts against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse;
- (c) The lack of resources allocated to combat gender-based violence against women with disabilities, as well as lack of services and accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in particular in rural areas;
- (d) That children with disabilities are exposed to higher rates of violence and bullying than other children and about the limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against children with disabilities and related complaints;
- (e) Reported cases of violence against persons with albinism;
- (f) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, including older women, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities who are institutionalized, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) Ensure that services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, including support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible physically, and in terms of information and communication and the required support is provided;**
- (c) Ensure that fast track courts, gender-based violence centres and other institutions implementing anti gender-based violence programmes are fully accessible to persons with disabilities in terms of the built environment, ICTs and training of staff;**
- (d) Take effective measures to ensure that children with disabilities are adequately protected from bullying, exploitation, violence and abuse in schools and institutions of care, , and that perpetrators are punished;**
- (e) Take specific legal, political and administrative measures designed to protect persons with albinism and to punish those who seek to exploit and abuse them;**
- (f) Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.**

[Andorra \(2023\)](#)

33. The Committee notes that Law 1/2015 to eradicate gender-based violence and domestic violence establishes that information must be accessible for persons with disabilities, and that the Immediate Action Protocol in cases of abuse against children and adolescents provides special attention to children and adolescents with disabilities. Nevertheless, it is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive strategy to prevent, address, and punish all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in particular, women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;
- (b) The limited information concerning support services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, including those provided by the Service for Victims of Gender-Based Violence;

(c)The absence of disaggregated data by disability on gender-based violence against women with disabilities and regarding violence against children with disabilities.

34. With reference to the Committee's statement of 24 November 2021, in which it called for action to be taken to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and recalling targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent, address, and punish exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, ensuring that they have information about how to report these cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, including rehabilitation;

(b) Ensure that services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, including the Service for Victims of Gender-Based Violence and emergency accommodation, are accessible physically and in terms of information and communication and that required support is provided;

(c) Collect data on gender-based violence against women with disabilities and regarding violence against children with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, nationality and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

[Austria \(2023\)](#)

39. The Committee notes the expanded protection of victims of domestic violence in the Violence Protection Act 2019, but it is concerned about the high rates of violence against persons with disabilities, particularly of persons with disabilities in institutions, of women and girls with disabilities, and of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, as evinced by a study of the Federal Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection, published in 2019, the wide-spread lack of concepts promoting sexual self-determination, violence prevention concepts, standard reporting procedures with effective remedies and shortages in qualified staff in institutions.

40. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, develop measures to address the high rate of violence against persons with disabilities in institutional settings, such as concepts promoting sexual self-determination, violence prevention concepts and accessible standard reporting procedures with effective remedies, and provide sufficient qualified staff. Recalling its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the Committee further recommends the State party dismantle institutional settings, and provide to persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, adequate support for living in the community, with recovery community support services and redress.

[Germany \(2023\)](#)

35. The Committee is deeply concerned about:

(a) The high rates of all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, and the lack of a comprehensive and effective violence prevention and response strategy to protect against violence in all public and private settings;

(b) The lack of purview of the Protection Against Violence Act to cover all forms of violence experienced by persons with disabilities in all institutional settings, in particular for women and girls with disabilities.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, in particular organisations of women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive and effective violence prevention and response strategy in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), which responds to gender and age specific requirements, ensures that all shelters, refuges and counselling centres are accessible and widely available, and establishes independent monitoring bodies with complaints and redress mechanisms;**
- (b) Undertake legislative and policy reform to ensure protection against all forms of violence and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities in all institutional settings, in particular for women and girls with disabilities.**

Israel (2023)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of disaggregated data about violence, exploitation and abuse against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence, and the lack of accessible information about specific programmes to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse;
- (b) Violence protection measures that remove persons with disabilities from home and place them in institutions;
- (c) The lack of power of the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities to investigate complaints concerning violence and ill-treatment of persons with disabilities, including those in institutions;
- (d) Reports indicating the incidence of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities in the occupied territories, including in Gaza, Area C and East Jerusalem, including intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, exploitation and forced marriage and the limited access to redress.

38. Recalling the Committee's statement of 24 November 2021 on the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and recalling targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Collect disaggregated data about violence, exploitation and abuse against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence to inform public policies and programmes for the prevention of violence, including physical, psychological, financial, intimate partner violence, trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation, violence and abuse;**
- (b) Repeal provisions and practices concerning placement in institutions as a protective measure and adopt measures to effectively protect persons with disabilities from violence, in close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organisations of women and girls with disabilities;**
- (c) Provide the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities with powers to investigate complaints concerning violence against persons with disabilities and ensure independent monitoring of all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention;**
- (d) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities in the occupied territories have access to redress, including to psychosocial support, legal counselling, assistance and services during emergencies, such as in-person services responding to gender-based violence.**

Malawi (2023)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Cases of violence, neglect and abuse against persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism in the family, schools and in the community, and that current legislation, including the Disability Act of 2012, the Penal Code and the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2006, and the National Action Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence 2021 lack provisions to combat all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;
- (b) The prevalence of sexual violence, including sexual abuse and harassment against women and girls with disabilities, affecting girls with intellectual disabilities and with psychosocial

disabilities in special schools, in absence of investigations, prosecutions and redress for survivors of violence;

(c) That legislation criminalizing unlawful sexual activities, in particular the Penal Code and programmes to address gender-based violence, such as the National Action Plan to combat Gender Based Violence (2016) and the National Guidelines on Provision of Services to Physical and Sexual Violence, 2015 do not contain specific mechanisms for supporting women and girls with disabilities;

(d) The lack of accessibility, including sign language interpretation and reasonable accommodation of Victim Support Units in the police stations and shelters for victims of violence and the underfunding of these units;

(e) Information about girls with disabilities and children with intellectual disabilities who are subjected to begging, including by their guardians and in absence of a dignified opportunity for self-realization.

34. Recalling its statement of 24 November 2021, in which it called for action to be taken to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and recalling targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that legislation criminalizing, protecting against and preventing all forms of violence, abuse and neglect include persons with disabilities, and harmful practices affecting them. The State party should introduce remedies for victims, redress and reparations, including appropriate compensation, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive psychosocial rehabilitation for survivors of violence;

(b) Set-up a process to expeditiously investigate cases of sexual abuse against children with disabilities in special schools and in other settings, hold perpetrators accountable and raise awareness among parents, school personnel and the community about the gravity of these conducts. The State party should adopt reparations for children affected by acts of violence, consider the immediate closure of special education settings and mandate the Malawi Human Rights Commission with the task to conduct periodic monitoring of all facilities and programmes designed for persons with disabilities, including special schools and institutions where cases of violence against children with disabilities have been reported.

(c) Ensure that legislation and programmes adopted for the recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, include women and girls with disabilities, and provide them with guidance for identification of instances of violence, and accessible forms and protocols to submit complaints in cases of violence and abuse;

(d) Allocate resources for strengthening Victim Support Units and shelters for victims of violence, in particular to ensure physical accessibility, accessibility to information, disability-inclusive protocols to address requirements, interviews and the situation of persons with disabilities seeking support;

(e) Adopt a national strategy to combat violence and all forms of exploitation against persons with disabilities in private and public spheres, including begging. This strategy should i) encompass actions to prevent all forms of violence, information in accessible formats, ii) strengthen support available for survivors of violence, including counselling and psychosocial rehabilitation, iii) prioritize the development of social support services and community networks for preventing and combating poverty and deprivation.

Mauritania (2023)

29. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of awareness among the general population, including among persons with disabilities, about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

(b) The lack of sufficient measures to ensure the effective implementation of the national legislation, policies and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in all settings, particularly older persons with disabilities, women and children with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with albinism,

refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants with disabilities from trafficking and all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse;

(c) Reported cases of exploitation, against children with disabilities through forced begging.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take effective measures to raise awareness about the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse and ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases of violence, exploitation and abuse; and ensure that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, including counselling;

(b) Strengthen the implementation of the national legislation, policies and strategies to protect persons with disabilities in all settings, particularly older persons with disabilities, women and children with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, persons with albinism, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants with disabilities from trafficking and all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse;

(c) Take effective measures to ensure that children with disabilities are adequately protected from exploitation, violence and abuse, including exploitation through forced begging, and that perpetrators are sanctioned.

[Mongolia \(2023\)](#)

33. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of awareness among the general population and particularly among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, including trafficking, and violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

(b) The lack of specific measures to protect persons with disabilities, in particular all women and girls with disabilities disability against all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, in particular women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disability;

(c) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, including trafficking, and violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and those who are institutionalized, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;

(b) Adopt appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse and ensure that services for women and girls with disabilities victims of gender based violence, including support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible and the required support is provided;

(c) Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

[Paraguay \(2023\)](#)

31. Al Comité le preocupa:

- a) El estancamiento en la implementación de las líneas de acción del Área/eje 14 Protección contra la explotación, la Violencia y el Abuso de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las indígenas, las mujeres y niños;
- b) La falta de accesibilidad en albergues destinados a víctimas de explotación, violencia y abuso;
- c) La carencia de medidas de protección establecidas en favor de personas con discapacidad que son colocadas en situación de mendicidad por parte de organizaciones delictivas;
- d) La falta de información sobre las denuncias por hechos de violencia contra las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad ingresados en el sistema judicial y reportar los mismos al Sistema Unificado y Estandarizado de justicia.

32. En consonancia con las metas 5.1, 5.2 y 5.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y su Declaración del 24 de noviembre de 2021 en la que pide que se adopten medidas para eliminar la violencia de género contra las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Reforzar las acciones para el avance de las líneas de acción del Área/eje 14 sobre protección contra la explotación, la violencia y el abuso, particularmente de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las personas indígenas, las mujeres y niños con discapacidad;
- b) Garantizar el acceso a albergues accesibles y con personal capacitado para las personas con discapacidad víctimas de explotación, violencia y abuso;
- c) Acatar las anteriores observaciones finales (CRPD/C/PRY/CO/1, párrafo 42), y tomar acciones urgentes para prevenir que las personas con discapacidad vivan en condiciones de abandono, sean víctimas de trata y/o sean obligadas a la mendicidad por organizaciones delictivas, así como establecer las medidas de investigación y penalización pertinentes;
- d) Recopilar información sobre las denuncias presentadas por mujeres y niñas con discapacidad víctimas de violencia, tanto en el hogar como en escuelas o instituciones, sobre su seguimiento, medidas de sanción y de reparación, tanto en zonas rurales como urbanas y fortalecer el Sistema Unificado y Estandarizado para que funcione como un sistema unificado, coordinado y coherente de obtención de datos sobre la violencia contra mujeres y niñas con discapacidad.

Angola (2023)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness amongst the general population and particularly amongst persons with disabilities about measures in place for their protection from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against those persons, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;
- (b) The limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against persons with disabilities and related complaints submitted relating to such violence;
- (c) The lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (d) The inadequate training of the staff, caregivers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and those who are institutionalized, raise awareness about measures in place for their protection from exploitation, violence and abuse, and ensure that those persons have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, and ensure that those who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to effective remedies, such as restorative justice, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) Ensure that data collected on violence against persons with disabilities disaggregate cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and take measures to ensure access to support services for those who are victims of gender-based violence, including through appropriate funding;**
- (c) Take necessary measures to ensure the funding and support for shelters for victims of violence, and to ensure that the facilities and services provided therein are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls;**
- (d) Ensure that health professionals and law enforcement officers are trained to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence and offer such training for their families and caregivers.**

Argentina (2023)

33. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) La Ley 26.485 sobre la Protección Integral para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra las Mujeres, el Plan Nacional de Acción contra las Violencias por Motivos de Género 2020-2022 y el Programa de Fortalecimiento para Dispositivos Territoriales de Protección Integral de Personas en Contexto de Violencia por Motivos de Género no incorporan la perspectiva de discapacidad;
- b) La escasa protección de las niñas, los niños y las mujeres con discapacidad, en particular de quienes se encuentran en instituciones, frente a la violencia sexual y a los malos tratos;
- c) Las barreras que enfrentan para acceder a la justicia las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad que experimentan violencia basada en género, entre otras cosas, instalaciones, información, refugios y mecanismos de denuncia inaccesibles, órdenes de protección inefectivas, así como falta de asistencia jurídica, apoyos y ajustes de procedimiento;
- d) El alcance limitado de la línea telefónica 144 y del Programa Nacional Acompañar, y la incompatibilidad de este Programa dirigido a mujeres y personas LGBTQI+ en situación de violencia de género con la percepción de pensiones no contributivas;
- e) La información dispersa sobre casos de violencia contra personas con discapacidad, incluyendo en instituciones.

34. En consonancia con las metas 5.1, 5.2 y 5.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y su Declaración del 24 de noviembre de 2021 en la que pide que se adopten medidas para

eliminar la violencia de género contra las mujeres y las niñas con discapacidad, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Incorporar la perspectiva de discapacidad en la legislación y políticas relativas a la prevención y abordaje de la violencia basada en género;
- b) Reforzar las medidas para prevenir y combatir todas las formas de violencia contra los niños, niñas y las mujeres con discapacidad, en particular, en instituciones;
- c) Intensificar esfuerzos para eliminar las barreras que enfrentan las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad víctimas de violencia basada en género para acceder a la justicia, garantizando la accesibilidad en instalaciones, mecanismos de información y denuncia, refugios, así como la efectividad de las órdenes de protección, el asesoramiento jurídico y psicológico gratuito, la asistencia económica, la rehabilitación, ajustes de procedimiento y otros servicios de apoyo;
- d) Ampliar el alcance efectivo de la línea telefónica 144 y del Programa Acompañar en todas las jurisdicciones, en particular en las zonas rurales, y compatibilizar este Programa con las pensiones no contributivas;
- e) Contar con un registro integrado y desagregado respecto al número de casos denunciados, investigaciones, procesamientos y condenas en casos de violencia contra personas con discapacidad, incluyendo en instituciones, y la reparación proporcionada a las víctimas.

Georgia (2023)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of specific frameworks to prevent and address gender-based violence against women with disabilities, including different forms of abuse and harassment;
- (b) Limited scope of actions to detect cases of gender-based violence against women, particularly sexual violence and affecting women with intellectual disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) Insufficient referral programmes and measures to provide persons with disabilities who have been exposed to violence with access to physical and psychosocial rehabilitation;
- (d) Reports of corporal punishment, abuse and domestic violence particularly affecting children with disabilities in rural areas and autistic children.

34. With reference to the Committee's statement issued on 24 November 2021 calling for action to be taken to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and recalling targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy for guaranteeing women and girls with disabilities' protection against all forms of gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly organizations of women and girls with disabilities;
- (b) Disseminate accessible information among women with disabilities, including women with intellectual disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities, about different forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and their right to be free from these forms of violence, and about complaint procedures concerning gender-based violence;
- (c) Ensure that referral programmes and psychosocial support are available and accessible for women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence. The Committee recommends the State party address the situation of women and girls with disabilities in implementing the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in its concluding observations to Georgia (CEDAW/C/GEO/6) concerning gender-based violence against women;
- (d) Enact legislation to ban all corporal punishment, abuse and domestic violence, particularly regarding children with disabilities living in poverty and autistic children.

Peru (2023)

32. Al Comité le preocupa profundamente:

- a) La violencia que se produce en los centros de rehabilitación y terapia, muchos de ellos privados, donde las niñas y los niños autistas son sometidos a "curas" y "tratamientos" como la privación de sueño, dietas extremas, colocación de cabeza en barriles y uso de camisas de fuerza;
- b) La violencia ejercida contra las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad especialmente en las zonas remotas y rurales y especialmente a las de grupos indígenas;
- c) Las muertes que han sucedido en instituciones, incluyendo en los hospitales psiquiátricos y que no se ha realizado una investigación criminal exhaustiva.

33. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

- a) **Fortalezca su estrategia de supervisión sistemática y el mecanismo de evaluación de los centros de rehabilitación y terapia públicos y privados, así como de los proveedores de servicios a personas con discapacidad, para garantizar la protección de la integridad personal de los niños con discapacidad, incluyendo sanciones y cierres permanentes de los centros y otros proveedores de servicios que persistan en dicho trato degradante;**
- b) **Establezca un mecanismo de seguimiento para detectar, prevenir y sancionar la violencia contra las niñas y mujeres con discapacidad especialmente las de grupos indígenas en áreas remotas y rurales;**
- c) **Garantice la investigación criminal exhaustiva, el castigo a los responsables y la justicia restaurativa para los familiares de las víctimas de muertes en instituciones, incluyendo en hospitales psiquiátricos.**

Togo (2023)

33. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness among the general population, including among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;
- (b) That children with disabilities are exposed to higher rates of violence than other children and about the limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against children with disabilities and related complaints;
- (c) The lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (d) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, including older women, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities who are institutionalized, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) **Develop and implement a plan of action to eliminate all forms of violence and abuse against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment, within and outside of institutions and collect disaggregated data in order to ensure effective implementation and monitoring;**
- (c) **Ensure that services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, including support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible physically, and in terms of information and communication and the required support is provided;**
- (d) **Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize**

all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

Tunisia (2023)

27. The Committee is concerned by the omission of provisions on the elimination of violence against women with disabilities, including the omission of conjugal violence in the Law No. 2017-58 of August 11, 2017 which is on the elimination of violence against women. It is also concerned by the absence of accessible data on the number of reclamations and cases of violence against women with disabilities. It is further concerned that the hotline to report cases of violence against women provided by the Ministry of Family, Women and Children is not accessible to women who are deaf or hard of hearing or deafblind while the staff who respond are not trained to work with women with disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party, with the meaningful involvement and active participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

- (a) Amend the law 58-2008, of, to include provisions on the elimination of violence against women with disabilities, notably in “violence conjugal”;**
- (b) Ensure data on violence against women, disaggregated by women with disabilities who are victims of violence, especially women, girls and children;**
- (c) Establish a reporting mechanism for cases of violence against women with disabilities; Set up without delay training for all the professionals involve in violence against women, to work with persons with disabilities, in particular about their rights and the specific care they need.**

Bangladesh (2022)

(a) Adopt concrete measures to provide protection for persons with disabilities subjected to exploitation, violence and abuse, particularly older women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including by constituting accessible shelters.

(b) Introduce mechanisms for effective complaints, sanctions, remedies and redress for victims and establish an independent mechanism to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, with the mandate to monitor facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, and provide them with adequate resources to make them functional and effective;

(c) Adopt concrete and effective measures to ensure that children with disabilities are protected from all forms of violence, abuse and harmful practices, particularly begging;

China (2022)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities victims of domestic violence, trafficking and forced marriage;

(b) The lack of a rigorous evidence base and comprehensive data on the prevalence of exploitation, violence and abuse against all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities victims of domestic violence, trafficking and forced marriage;

(c) The absence of effective measures for remedies such as compensation, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of violence, particularly women and girls with disabilities.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary steps to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including:

(a) In keeping with the recommendation made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, following its consideration of the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of China (CEDAW/C/CHN/CO/7-8), systematically monitor and collect disaggregated data on the locations and prevalence of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities victims of domestic violence, trafficking and forced marriage;

- (b) Strengthen measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against persons with disabilities;
- (c) Ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to confidential mechanisms for reporting violence; that reports of exploitation, violence and abuse are promptly investigated; that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished; and that appropriate remedies are provided to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including accessible shelters, gender- and age-sensitive physical and psychological recovery support, and rehabilitation;
- (d) Revise the Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women with a view to including a disability perspective and addressing the specific risks of gender-based violence and the barriers to protection faced by women and girls with disabilities.

Indonesia (2022)

38. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The existence of practices related to exploitation, forced labour and trafficking of persons with disabilities, such as being traded as beggars, drug couriers, or low paid workers;
- (b) The high levels of exploitation, violence and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities, in particular women and children with disabilities, and the lack of accessible victim support services, protective and complaints mechanisms and effective remedies;
- (c) The ineffective application of the law on sexual violence due to the limited definition of rape and the lack of prohibition of marital rape in the Penal Code, the fact that the Penal Code does not reflect the experience of women and girls with disabilities and the lack of resources and financial aid to conduct forensic reports and DNA testing;
- (d) The lack of information and disaggregated data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities, including in relation to complaints.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement measures to prevent and punish exploitation, forced labour and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation of persons with disabilities, including being traded as beggars, drug couriers and low paid workers;**
- (b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy, in close consultation with persons with disabilities, to prevent and respond to all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including specific gender and age-appropriate measures, an accessible independent complaint mechanism and appropriate remedies, and accessible victim support services;**
- (c) Amend the Penal Code to prohibit marital rape and to reflect broader definitions of rape that recognise the experience of women and girls with disabilities, and ensure resources and financial aid for forensic reports and DNA testing;**
- (d) Ensure robust disaggregated data is collected on violence against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres.**

Japan (2022)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reported sexual violence and domestic violence against children and women with disabilities, in particular, persons with intellectual or psychosocial or sensory disabilities, and those placed in institutional settings, and the lack of their protection against sexual violence and remedies for them;
- (b) Lack of scope and effectiveness of the Persons with Disabilities Act on the Prevention of Abuse of Persons with Disabilities and Support for Caregivers, precluding the prevention of, the reporting and investigation on violence against persons with disabilities, including children and women with disabilities, in educational, medical and criminal justice settings;
- (c) Lack of accessible support services for victims, accessible information and reporting mechanisms, including independent reporting systems in residential institutions, and the lack of expertise, accessibility and reasonable accommodations, in the judicial processes related to sexual violence;

(d) Absence of representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities in the “Study Group on Criminal Law Related to Sexual Crimes”, established by the Ministry of Justice in 2020, regarding sexual crimes against children and persons with disabilities.

36. In line with its statement issued on 24 November 2021 calling to take action to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, now, and with targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Carry-out the fact-finding investigation on sexual violence and domestic violence against girls and women with disabilities and strengthen measures for combating all forms of violence against children and women with disabilities, providing them with accessible information about the complaint and redress mechanisms available to them, and ensuring that these acts are promptly investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and that remedies are provided for victims;

(b) Review the Act on the Prevention of Persons with Disabilities and Support for Caregivers for extending the scope of prevention of violence against persons with disabilities in all settings, and for establishing measures to investigate violence and abuse against persons with disabilities and to their remedy;

(c) Develop strategies at all levels to ensure the accessibility of victim support services, information on support services and reporting mechanisms, including in residential institutions, and to provide professional development programmes for the relevant judicial and administrative officers on the human rights model of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodations, in the judicial processes;

(d) Ensure the meaningful participation of representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities in the “Study Group on Criminal Law Related to Sexual Crimes”.

Lao People’s Democratic Republic (2022)

28. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of provisions on disability-sensitive referral systems, recovery services and facilities, reintegration, accessible information, and education on exploitation, violence and abuse under Law No. 56 on preventing and combating violence against women and children;

(b) The absence of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

(c) The lack of information and statistical data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related complaints submitted by them;

(d) The insufficient resources of the Centre for Counselling and Protection of Women and Children, as well as the lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies and redress for persons with disabilities facing violence;

(e) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

29. In line with its statement issued on 24 November 2021 calling for action to be taken immediately to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and with targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that legislation and policies to prevent and combat all forms of violence include persons with disabilities, including the Law No. 56 on preventing and combating violence against women and children;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, women and girls belonging to ethnic and religious groups, persons affected by leprosy and victims of unexploded ordnance, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that victims of exploitation,

violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies;

(c) Collect data on violence against persons with disabilities, identifying gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and ensure budget allocations and access to support services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence;

(d) Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are accessible to persons with disabilities and provide the necessary resources to the Centre for Counselling and Protection of Women and Children;

(e) Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

New Zealand (2022)

28. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of provisions on disability-sensitive referral systems, recovery services and facilities, reintegration, accessible information, and education on exploitation, violence, and abuse under the Law No.56 on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Children;

(b) The absence of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

(c) The lack of information and statistical data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related complaints submitted by them;

(d) The insufficient resources of the Centre for Counselling and Protection of Women and Children, as well as the lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies and redress for persons with disabilities facing violence;

(e) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

29. In line with its statement [issued on 24 November 2021] calling to take action to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, now, and with targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that legislation and policies to prevent and combat all forms of violence include persons with disabilities, including the Law No.56 on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Children;

(b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, women and girls belonging to ethnic and religious groups, persons affected by leprosy and victims of unexploded ordnance, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies;

(c) Collect data on violence against persons with disabilities, identifying gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and ensure budget allocations and access to support services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence;

(d) Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are accessible to persons with disabilities and provide the necessary resources to the Centre for Counselling and Protection of Women and Children;

(e) Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize

all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

Republic of Korea (2022)

35. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness among the general population and in particular among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy to combat all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;
- (b) That children with disabilities are exposed to higher rates of violence than other children and about the limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against children with disabilities and related complaints;
- (c) The lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (d) The inadequate training of the staff, caregivers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities and those who are institutionalized, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;**
- (b) Develop and implement a plan of action to eliminate all forms of violence and abuse against children with disabilities within and outside of institutions and collect disaggregated data in order to ensure effective implementation and monitoring;**
- (c) Ensure that services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, such as support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible and that the required support is provided;**
- (d) Provide ongoing training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.**

Singapore (2022)

33. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness among the general population including among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;
- (b) The lack of specific measures to protect all women and girls with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual disabilities and women and girls with psychosocial disabilities, against all forms of gender-based violence, the lack of accessible shelters for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as the limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related offenses.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take effective measures to raise awareness about the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially persons with**

psychosocial disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions, ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases violence, exploitation and abuse, and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, including rehabilitation;

(b)Collect data on violence, exploitation and abuse against persons with disabilities to identify all instances of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and ensure budget allocations and access to support services and shelters for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse.

Hungary (2022)

33.The Committee is concerned about:

(a)The systematic abuse, including sexual abuse, mistreatment and neglect of persons with disabilities, particularly of children with disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, as a result of the perpetuation of institutional forms of care for persons with disabilities;

(b)The lack of independent monitoring of residential care and psychiatric institutions;

(c)The lack of well-defined investigation methods and procedures for combating hate crimes against persons with disabilities;

(d)The lack of accessibility and required accommodations for women with disabilities in services for victims of domestic violence;

(e)Insufficient consideration of the recommendations raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2020 on cases of child sexual abuse and maltreatment of children with disabilities in institutional care.

34.The Committee, recalling targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a)Develop a comprehensive strategy and legal safeguards to prevent and combat all forms of violence and exploitation against persons with disabilities, including by repealing section 126 (9) of the decree of the Ministry of Public Welfare 15/1998 (IV. 30) on the tasks and operational conditions of child welfare and child protection services and professionals providing personal care in order to abolish the use of isolation rooms for children with psychosocial disabilities in institutions for children;

(b)Ensure that all facilities, residential care and psychiatric institutions are subjected to independent monitoring in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, through the involvement of civil society organizations, including disability rights-based organizations, in order to prevent exploitation and abuse of and violence against persons with disabilities;

(c)Establish well-defined investigation methods, protocols and procedures for combating hate crimes against persons with disabilities;

(d)Ensure that all services for girls and women with disabilities who are survivors of domestic violence, including support centres and emergency shelters, are accessible and the required support is provided;

(e)Ratify the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence adopted by the Council of Europe, with the aim of ensuring the necessary protection of the rights of women with disabilities, including access to support services and redress for victims of violence;

(f)Ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2020.

Jamaica (2022)

32.The Committee notes with concern:

(a)The lack of awareness among the general population and particularly among persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in the family, at school and in the workplace;

- (b)The limited availability of information and statistical data regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related complaints submitted by them;
- (c)The lack of accessible shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;
- (d)Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

33.The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a)Take all necessary steps to raise awareness about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse targeting persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and those who are institutionalized, and ensure that persons with disabilities have information about how to avoid, recognize and report cases and that persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;
- (b)Ensure that data collected on violence against persons with disabilities identifies all instances of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and also ensure budget allocations and access to support services for women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence;
- (c)Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are established and that the National Shelter Strategy (2018), which guides the development of a nationwide system of safe spaces for victims and survivors, includes a requirement to ensure that facilities and services provided are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and children;
- (d)Provide continuous training for the families of persons with disabilities and for their caregivers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

Mexico (2022)

43.The Committee is concerned about:

- (a)A lack of measures to identify and prevent all forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities, including gender-based violence, in particular obstetric violence, when accessing sexual and reproductive health services;
- (b)The omission of a specific reference to women with disabilities in the General Act to Ensure Women a Life Free of Violence, to measures ensuring accessibility and to procedural accommodations women with disabilities may require to access justice and protective measures on an equal basis with others;
- (c)The limited availability of accessible shelters for women with disabilities who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies for persons with disabilities facing violence, including gender-based violence.

44.The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a)Reinforce the implementation of existing legislative and policy measures to prevent all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including gender-based violence, and to provide effective remedies and redress to victims, both inside and outside of institutions; and amend the General Act to Ensure Women a Life Free of Violence to establish specific standards to support women with disabilities, including support systems that include personal assistance;
- (b)Periodically compile disaggregated data on the situation of women and children with disabilities in respect of violence, exploitation and abuse, both inside and outside of public and private institutions;
- (c)Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are established and that the facilities and services provided therein are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities;

(d) Create an independent monitor and oversight mechanism, adhering to article 16 (3) of the Convention, with the involvement and full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, to effectively monitor and supervise public and private institutions, and publish its findings.

Switzerland (2022)

33. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The reported high incidence of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including in institutions, and in particular against women and children with disabilities;

(b) The lack of a rigorous evidence base and comprehensive data on the prevalence of exploitation, violence and abuse against all persons with disabilities, including older women, children and refugees with disabilities; and the omission of women with disabilities from the prevalence study on violence against women and domestic violence under the 2030 Gender Equality Strategy and its action plan;

(c) The lack of accessible victim support services, the lack of accessible information on support services and reporting mechanisms, the lack of accessible reporting mechanisms, including independent reporting systems in institutions, and the lack of expertise, accessibility and reasonable accommodation provided by judicial authorities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence, including stigmatization and stereotypes, against persons with disabilities and provide them with accessible, age-appropriate information about forms of violence and about the complaints and redress mechanisms available to them;

(b) Develop a robust evidence base on exploitation, violence and abuse against adults and children with disabilities, including through comprehensive disability-inclusive research and prevalence studies, and include women and girls with disabilities in the prevalence study on violence against women and domestic violence;

(c) Develop strategies at the federal and cantonal levels to ensure the accessibility of victim support services, information on support services and reporting mechanisms, to ensure the accessibility and independence of reporting mechanisms, including in institutions, and to provide professional development programmes for the relevant judicial and administrative officers on the human rights model of disability, accessibility and reasonable accommodation;

(d) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, including older women, children and refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in institutions, have access to confidential mechanisms for reporting violence, that reports of exploitation, violence and abuse, including in institutions, are promptly investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and that remedies are provided for victims of violence, including redress, reparations and recovery.

Venezuela (2022)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of specific provisions in the State party's legislation to prevent, investigate and punish violence, neglect and abuse in respect of persons with disabilities in institutions, in the home or in public spaces, and the lack of monitoring, redress and disaggregated data, particularly in respect of women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, who are often exposed to harassment, abuse and acts of sexual and other types of violence;

(b) Reports of violence against children with disabilities and the fact that corporal punishment against such children is tolerated.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all measures necessary to ensure that gender and disability are mainstreamed in legislation on the prevention of violence; the reform of mental health legislation is essential in this connection;

(b) Strengthen existing mechanisms and protocols by incorporating specific measures to prevent, eliminate, monitor, penalize and provide redress for all forms of violence,

exploitation or abuse against persons with disabilities, including those who remain in or have left institutions, in the home or in public spaces;

(c) Establish a system for collecting data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, on complaints of violence and abuse committed against persons with disabilities and gather information on related preventive, protective, monitoring and reparative measures;

(d) Intensify its efforts to prevent and eliminate violence and corporal punishment against children in general and against children with disabilities in particular.

Djibouti (2021)

27. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of sufficient measures to ensure the effective implementation of Act No. 66/AN/719/8th L (2020) and Act no. 133/AN/16/7 L (2016) to protect persons with disabilities in all settings, particularly older persons with disabilities, women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from trafficking and all forms of violence, abuse and harmful practices, and the absence of measures for compensation and accessible services for their rehabilitation and social integration;

(b) The lack of mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly refugees and migrants with disabilities, persons with albinism, and persons with disabilities fleeing armed conflicts.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, particularly older persons with disabilities, women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from trafficking and all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and harmful practices, and to establish mechanisms for redress, compensation and accessible services for their rehabilitation and social integration;

(b) Establish a complaint mechanism to ensure the investigation and prosecution of cases of trafficking and exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities and conduct capacity-building programmes for law enforcement officials on the identification and response to abuse and violence victims of disabilities.

France (2021)

34. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Violence against persons with disabilities in residential and mental health facilities, including humiliation and sexual abuse, and in families;

(b) That women with disabilities are at a higher risk of harassment, gender-based violence, including sexual violence;

(c) Complex reporting mechanisms for persons with disabilities facing ill treatment in residential and mental health facilities, fear of reprisals by applicants, the rejection of complaints about abuse, in absence of redress and remedy measures.

35. The Committee, recalling the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), and the Sustainable Development Goal 5, targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5, recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy to prevent violence and abuse in residential and mental health facilities, including through development of mechanisms for reporting violence against persons with disabilities in all settings;

(b) Strengthen measures to prevent and protect women and girls with disabilities against gender-based violence, ensuring sustainability of these measures and periodic monitoring;

(c) Adopt measures to ensure access to justice and remedies for victims of violence, and redress including reparations and rehabilitation in the community, support for social inclusion, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished.

Estonia (2021)

32. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive strategy against all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in all settings, including in family, school, and the workplace;

(b)The absence of disaggregated information about gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and the lack of a gender-based and disability perspective concerning support measures for women and girls with disabilities, including psychosocial support and legal counselling for them;

(c)The lack of information concerning all instances of exploitation and violence in all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities;

(d)The absence of information about measures to enforce the prohibition of corporal punishment against children with disabilities in all settings.

33.The Committee, recalling the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), and targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party:

(a)Adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent and combat all forms of violence and exploitation against persons with disabilities, and ensure that the Violence Prevention Plan and other related violence prevention programmes explicitly include persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities still in institutions, women with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons with disabilities, providing support for victims, and sanctions of perpetrators. The State party should strengthen measures to combat disability stigma and stereotypes, and provide persons with disabilities with accessible information about all forms of violence, complaint mechanisms, and redress available for them;

(b)Ensure that data collection on violence against persons with disabilities, identifies all instances of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, in the private and public spheres, and ensure budget allocations and access to support services for women and girls with disabilities victims of gender-based violence;

(c)Ensure that all private and public residential care, psychiatric and penitentiary facilities are subject to independent monitoring, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, and ensure involvement of civil society organizations in independent monitoring mechanisms;

(d)Ensure that the prohibition of corporal punishment is adequately monitored and enforced in all settings, including schools, including in relation to children with disabilities and that positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child rearing and discipline are promoted through awareness campaigns and training programmes, and in accessible formats.

Albania (2019)

31.The Committee notes with concern reports of violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially in institutions, and about the absence of effective measures for remedies, such as compensation, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of violence, particularly children and women with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information on the concrete results of the implementation of the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations enacted in 2018 as well as about the lack of availability of comprehensive data and statistics of persons with disabilities victims of violence, sexual violence and abuse or multiple discrimination.

32.The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary steps to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, both inside and outside of institutions. The Committee further recommends that the State party:

(a)Revise the current monitoring and inspection procedures of social care homes and psychiatric institutions to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, and particularly of children and women with disabilities;

(b)Ensure that persons deprived of liberty have access to independent complaints mechanisms and that appropriate remedies are provided to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;

(c)Ensure the implementation of the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations, ensuring a disability perspective and addressing the specific risks of gender-based violence and the barriers to protection faced by women and girls with disabilities.

Australia (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of additional oversight, complaint and redress mechanisms needed for persons with disabilities who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, older persons with disabilities and, particularly, women with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of resources and redress mechanisms available to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Persons with Disabilities;
- (c) The non-implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Australian Human Rights Commission *A Future without Violence*;
- (d) The lack of an explicit reference to women and girls with disabilities in the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022;
- (e) Insufficient expertise and structural barriers within services dealing with domestic violence, sexual assault and related crises to adequately support women and girls with disabilities;
- (f) The fact that the instruments to collect data on violence against women and girls with disabilities are limited in both number and scope.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a national accessible oversight, complaint and redress mechanism for persons with disabilities who have experienced violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in all settings, including all those not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and, particularly, older women with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure adequate resources and a redress mechanism for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Persons with Disabilities;**
- (c) Implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Australian Human Rights Commission *A Future without Violence*;**
- (d) Ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022, beyond project-based programmes and activities;**
- (e) Ensure gender- and age-sensitive services to address gender-based violence that are inclusive and accessible to all women and girls with disabilities and ensure that staff are adequately trained;**
- (f) Address the methodological restrictions in data-collection instruments used to capture data on violence against women and girls with disabilities.**

Ecuador (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned because:

- (a) Ecuadorian law lacks specific provisions for the prevention of gender-based violence, neglect and abuse directed at persons with disabilities that take into account multiple and intersectional discrimination, especially such discrimination against girls and women with psychological or intellectual disabilities, Montubio persons, indigenous persons, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities in the public and private institutional and other spheres;
- (b) Persons with disabilities who are still living in institutions, particularly women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, continue to be exposed to harassment, abuse and acts of sexual and other types of violence;
- (c) Ecuadorian law does not explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children, including children with disabilities, in all settings;
- (d) No data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnic origin are available on cases and complaints of violence or abuse committed in the public and private spheres against persons with disabilities, especially girls and women, and there is a lack of information on preventive, case management, protective and reparative measures, including sanctions.

32. Taking into account the recommendation made in paragraph 32 of its concluding observations on the State party's initial report (CRPD/C/ECU/CO/1), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt all necessary measures, and review those measures already in place, to ensure that gender and disability are mainstreamed in its legislation on the prevention of violence and reinforce existing mechanisms and protocols by incorporating specific measures for preventing, eliminating, monitoring, penalizing and providing redress for all forms of violence, exploitation or abuse of persons with disabilities, especially children, women and older adults with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, indigenous persons, migrants and refugees, persons of African descent and persons in poverty and persons living in rural areas who have disabilities;**
- (b) Guarantee full access for all girls and women with disabilities to assistance programmes for victims of gender-based violence, including shelters that ensure the accessibility of the physical environment and of information and communications and that are staffed by trained personnel;**
- (c) Introduce legislation that explicitly prohibits the corporal punishment of children, especially indigenous children with disabilities, both in the home and in shelters, in line with targets 5.2 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (d) Compile data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and ethnic origin, on complaints of violence and abuse committed in the public and private spheres against persons with disabilities and on preventive, protective, follow-up and reparative measures.**

El Salvador (2019)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistence of violence against persons with disabilities, especially sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, at home and in institutions, violence against older persons with disabilities, persons of African descent with disabilities, and persons with disabilities living in conditions of hardship in rural or remote areas;**
- (b) Insufficient rehabilitation services and ineffective complaint and redress mechanisms for persons with disabilities who are victims of violence, as well as a lack of protection against reprisals against persons with disabilities who are victims of violence and of human and organ trafficking which may arise from filing complaints against the perpetrators;**
- (c) Ineffective preventive measures taken against trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs;**
- (d) A lack of data on cases of sexual and gender-based violence against persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals, detention facilities and in the home, and on complaints reported and cases decided on trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs.**

33. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, and taking into account target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, take measures to:

- (a) Protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, in the home and in institutions, older persons with disabilities, persons of African descent with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and persons with disabilities living in conditions of hardship in rural or remote areas, from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence;**
- (b) Provide rehabilitation services, including emergency shelter and medical and psychological assistance, and effective complaint and redress mechanisms, including protection against reprisals arising from filing complaints against perpetrators, to persons with disabilities who are victims of violence and of human and organ trafficking;**
- (c) Prevent trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs, by, inter alia, providing gender-sensitive training on preventing and identifying trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs to public officials, including the National Civil Police, the judiciary and health and social workers;**
- (d) Collect data, disaggregated by age, sex, form of violence and disability, on victims of violence against persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals, detention facilities and in the home, and on the number of complaints reported and cases decided on trafficking in persons with disabilities and in organs.**

Greece (2019)

26. The Committee is concerned that there are insufficient measures to detect, prevent and combat domestic violence against and sexual exploitation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party implement an effective framework to prevent violence, particularly domestic violence and sexual exploitation, against persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party provide specific training to law enforcement authorities, medical personnel and social workers on methods to detect and address violence against and sexual exploitation of persons with disabilities. The Committee further recommends that the State party develop an action plan to implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, with a special focus on women and children with disabilities.

India (2019)

34. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) All forms of violence against children and adults with disabilities, including gender-based violence against women and girls, particularly physical, sexual and psychological violence, harassment, financial exploitation and abuse, trafficking, kidnapping, neglect and corporal punishment and other forms of violent punishment in all settings;

(b) The lack of measures to identify, prevent and combat all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including the delay in enforcing legislative provisions to tackle such violence;

(c) The lack of disaggregated statistical data in the National Crime Records Bureau on cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including violence inflicted by intimate partners;

(d) The limited availability of accessible shelters for women with disabilities who are victims of violence, and the lack of effective remedies and redress for persons with disabilities facing violence, including rehabilitation and compensation.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement national and state strategies to identify, prevent, combat and end all forms of violence against persons with disabilities, including against women, girls and boys with disabilities. This process should involve organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly of women with disabilities, in adopting measures to identify instances of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Ensure the prompt implementation of the legal remedies to address the situation of women and girls with disabilities facing gender-based violence against women that are included in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (2015) and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005);

(c) Ensure that the National Crime Records Bureau collects data disaggregated by gender, age, place of residence, relationship with perpetrator and disability in cases of violence and exploitation, including gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities and violence inflicted by intimate partners;

(d) Ensure remedies for violence, including sexual violence, accessible complaint mechanisms and access to justice for persons with disabilities, including those who reside in institutions;

(e) Ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention, and that civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, are involved in oversight activities.

Iraq (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of violence against persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, including gender-based violence, and the absence of information on criminal

prosecutions and convictions of the perpetrators of such acts and on redress mechanisms for the victims;

(b) The lack of statistical data on monitoring visits undertaken by the High Commission for Human Rights, the Commission for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs and special units of the Ministry of Health in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention and on the measures taken to address potential protection gaps identified through such monitoring;

(c) The lack of information on mainstreaming the disability perspective in legislation, policies and programmes to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Investigate promptly and effectively incidents of violence against persons with disabilities, prosecute suspects, duly sanction perpetrators and provide victims with effective redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;

(b) Strengthen the mechanisms for independently monitoring all facilities and programmes for persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention, particularly with regard to data collection and the documentation of protection gaps and the ways in which they are being addressed;

(c) Ensure that any legislative and policy measures taken by the State party to prevent violence, exploitation and abuse, such as the operation of a hotline for cases of domestic violence, are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Kuwait (2019)

32. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

(a) A law specifically prohibiting domestic and sexual violence, including marital rape;

(b) Measures to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including an independent mechanism for monitoring facilities and programmes for persons with disabilities;

(c) Training on preventing, identifying and addressing violence against persons with disabilities;

(d) Complaints of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including in private settings, which does not necessarily mean that such phenomena do not occur;

(e) Data on the protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the legislative measures necessary to prohibit domestic and sexual violence, to criminalize acts of domestic and sexual violence, including marital rape, to prosecute those responsible and to end practices that force victims to marry their perpetrators;

(b) Establish an independent monitoring mechanism, involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, to monitor all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, including institutions;

(c) Provide training to persons with disabilities, their families, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse and on seeking redress;

(d) Establish independent, accessible and available complaints mechanisms and hotlines, effectively investigate cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, prosecute and punish those responsible and strengthen the collection of data on violence against persons with disabilities;

(e) Ensure the provision, including in institutions, of inclusive victim support services that are sensitive to the age, gender and disability of the victim.

Myanmar (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Delays to the adoption of the draft law on the prevention of violence against women;

(b) The lack of specific legislation, policies and programmes to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual or

psychosocial disabilities, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence and corporal punishment;

(c) The inadequate services for the physical and psychological recovery and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, who are survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse;

(d) The absence of effective measures for identifying, investigating and prosecuting cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities and the lack of disaggregated data on related reports, investigations and prosecutions in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite the adoption of the draft law on the prevention of violence against women and ensure its full compliance with article 16 of the Convention so as to tackle gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence and corporal punishment;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities who are survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse are provided with effective redress, including compensation and comprehensive protection, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration services, and ensure that victims have access to age- and gender- appropriate reporting channels that respect their privacy;

(d) Promptly conduct investigations into cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, prosecute suspects, duly sanction perpetrators, and collect disaggregated data on abuse, exploitation and violence against persons with disabilities, and on the outcomes of related complaints.

31. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have become victims of conflict-related violence and that conflict related violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, has led to physical, psychosocial and other disabilities, disproportionately affecting a large number of Rohingya women and girls. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of investigation of the serious rights violations and prosecution of the perpetrators. It is furthermore concerned about the lack of support and services to persons with disabilities who are survivors of conflict related violence.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party promptly investigate and prosecute security personnel, including senior officials, for serious international crimes, crimes against humanity, war crimes and conflict-related violence, taking into consideration the findings of the United Nations fact finding mission on Myanmar (A/HRC/39/64) . The Committee further recommends that the State party cooperate with the governments of countries in the region, UN entities and other international and national partners to provide all necessary specialized, inclusive, accessible and gender- and age- appropriate support and services to persons with disabilities who are survivors of conflict related violence.

Cuba (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of awareness by the general population and persons with disabilities about measures for the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse;

(b) Reports of incidence of reprisals against persons willing to provide information in legal proceedings as witnesses in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of the rights of persons with disabilities;

(c) The limited information and statistical data available regarding violence against women and girls with disabilities and related complaints submitted by them;

(d) The lack shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence, including women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all necessary steps to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities or intellectual disabilities and

those who are institutionalized without their consent, and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to independent complaint mechanisms and appropriate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;

(b)Ensure protection of any individuals testifying in cases concerning exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(c)Create a mechanism to gather disaggregated data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, in consultation with organizations of women with disabilities, particularly with regard to violence against women and girls with disabilities;

(d)Ensure that shelters for victims of violence are established and that the services provided there are accessible to persons with disabilities

Niger (2019)

27.The Committee is concerned about:

(a)Violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; domestic violence, gender based violence, sexual violence against women, girls and children with disabilities in institutions; and the absence of measures for compensation, and accessible services for their recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration;

(b)The lack of training of families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials, regarding exploitation, violence and abuse, against persons with disabilities, particularly women, children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;

(c)The lack of disaggregated data on violence and abuse committed in hospitals, particularly psychiatric institutions, and places of detention.

28.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Ensure that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities victims of gender based violence and abuse, have access to complaint mechanisms and compensation, and to services and information including hotlines, shelters, victim support services, counselling; and sanction the perpetrators;

(b)Provide training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials regarding exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, and communicate and work effectively with the victims;

(c)Set up an independent mechanism to prevent violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly against persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and monitor facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities in line with article 16.3 of the Convention.

Norway (2019)

27.The Committee is concerned about:

(a)The absence of training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognising all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(b)Cases of violence, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation against persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, that often go unreported and without reparation and the lack of specific measures to protect women and girls with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities from gender-based violence;

(c)A high number of persons with disabilities who are subjected to bullying, hate speech and hate crimes, which are often neither identified nor investigated as hate crimes.

28.The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to:

(a)Provide regular training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officers on recognising all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse;

(b)Conduct investigations into all allegations of violence and abuse, including sexual abuse, of persons with disabilities, especially gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and impose appropriate sanctions, and that victims have access to services and information, complaint mechanisms and reparation and ensure that

victims have access to immediate protection and support services including mainstream services and shelter facilities, without discrimination, including individualized supports to prevent the denial of reasonable accommodation;

(c)Take all measures necessary to prevent persons with disabilities from being subjected to bullying, hate speech and hate crimes and ensure that the law enforcement and judicial system identify, investigate and sanction the hate crimes against persons with disabilities.

Rwanda (2019)

29.The Committee is concerned about prevailing violence, abuse and neglect against persons with disabilities, particularly women and children, and those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, within health care and corrective institutions. It is also concerned about the lack of effective measures to prevent violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in homes, institutions, communities and refugee camps where persons with disabilities live, and measures to monitor such prevention measures. It is also concerned about:

(a)The lack of effective protection and support services for persons with disabilities who are victims of exploitation, violence or abuse;

(b)The absence of concrete data on cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(c)The lack of dedicated mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(d)The lack of a direct ban on corporal punishment of children with disabilities in all settings.

30.The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly women and children. It recommends that the State party ensure that members of the police, judiciary, health and social services receive regular and mandatory training on the prevention of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party:

(a)Adopt effective measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, who are victims of violence have access to accessible services and information, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services, consultation and counselling;

(b)Collect and publish data, disaggregated by sex and age, on violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in all settings, including the number of prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed on the perpetrators;

(c)Establish accessible and inclusive complaints mechanisms that have a mandate to, inter alia, provide compensation and impose sanctions against perpetrators, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention;

(d)Enact and enforce legislation which explicitly prohibits all corporal punishment of children, however light, in all settings, including the home and in institutions in accordance to target 16.2 on ending violence against children in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

29.The Committee is concerned at:

(a)The absence of complaints of cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of adults and children with disabilities, which may point to insufficient knowledge among the population, particularly women, children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and those who are living in institutions, about their rights and the available measures to complain about discrimination;

(b)The absence of independent legal aid preventing the effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in institutions;

(c)Inadequate services for the physical and psychological recovery and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party implement the recommendations issued by the Saudi Human Rights Commission after visits made to detention centers, and that it:

- (a) Raise awareness on available complaint mechanisms and hotlines among persons and children with disabilities, including those living in institutions, guarantee the accessibility and availability of these mechanisms and effectively investigate, prosecute and punish cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly of women, children and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and those who are living in institutions;
- (b) Guarantee the access of persons with disabilities victims of exploitation, violence and abuse in institutions to independent and accessible legal aid;
- (c) Reinforce efforts to ensure the access of persons with disabilities victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including in habilitation and residential centers, day-care centers and family homes, to age-, gender- and disability-sensitive physical, cognitive and psychological protection, recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration services;
- (d) Collect disaggregated data and statistics on abuse, exploitation and violence against persons with disabilities, and on the outcomes of related complaints

Senegal (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of specific legislation, policies and programmes to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, persons with albinism and children with disabilities from all forms of violence, abuse and economic exploitation;
- (b) The lack of accessible information on access to counselling, redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;
- (c) The lack of mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities as well as lack of disaggregated data on related reports, investigations and prosecutions in line with article 16, paragraph 3.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism from all forms of violence and abuse, including corporal punishment;**
- (b) Promptly conduct investigations into incidences of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, prosecute suspects and duly sanction perpetrators and ensure that victims are provided with effective redress, including compensation and rehabilitation, and ensure that child victims have access to age- appropriate reporting channels which respect privacy, physical and psychological rehabilitation and health services, including mental health services;**
- (c) Expedite the implementation of article 16, paragraph 3, and Act No. 2005-02 of 25 April 2005 on trafficking in persons.**

Spain (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Persons with disabilities still living in institutions, and in particular women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are exposed to higher risks of humiliation, abuse and violence including sexual violence;
- (b) The absence of concrete data, disaggregated by sex and age, on cases of violence and abuse committed in hospitals, particularly psychiatric hospitals, and places of detention;
- (c) Women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence, are in some cases excluded from support programmes due to the lack of accessibility of shelters and that a diagnosis of “mental impairment” may be considered as a criteria for denial of support services;

(d)The overall lack of a strategy to prevent and detect cases of gender-based violence for mental health services;

(e)The lack of official records and data on the situations of violence and discrimination to which persons with disabilities, particularly women, are exposed to in both the public and private spheres, including in the workplace and in specialized mental health institutions.

32.In light of the State party's efforts to end the institutionalisation of persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Take all possible measures to ensure that institutions currently operating in the State party ensure safety and dignity for all persons with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen the mechanisms and protocols already in place to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, and to monitor, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities;

(c)Ensure full access for all women with disabilities to assistance programs, including accessible shelters for victims of gender-based violence, and remove all eligibility criteria that may deny access to support services for women with psychosocial disabilities;

(d)Mainstream a gender perspective in policies related to mental health services and implement strategies aimed at prevention, detection and appropriate interventions in cases of gender-based violence;

(e)Collect data on and monitor the situation of violence and discrimination to which all women with disabilities are exposed, both in the public and private sphere, including in the workplace and in mental health services.

Türkiye (2019)

34. The Committee is concerned about:

(a)The absence of a strategy to identify situations of heightened risk of abuse and to address cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly in the family, residential facilities, and schools;

(b)The limited accessibility of shelters in particular the 'violence prevention and monitoring centers' by women with disabilities at risk or victims of different forms of gender-based violence;

(c)The lack of public and available information on the monitoring mechanism of the Ombudsman office (KDK) on institutions and its reports on findings as well as by the monitoring activities conducted by the Provincial Directorates, the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services, and the National Human Rights and Equality Institution.

35.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Release regular information about gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, promote awareness raising and training from peers and from organizations of women with disabilities about situations of risk and violence, and allow the establishment of community networks that provide women and girls with disabilities with reporting mechanisms of violence that complement the 'Women support mobile application'. The State party should adopt clear legal and administrative safeguards and non-discriminatory measures to address all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including sexual violence, and domestic violence;

(b)Increase human, technical and financial resources allocated for accessibility of shelters and, in consultation with civil society organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities, improve information available, identify remaining attitudinal, procedural and physical barriers to accessibility of shelters by women and girls with disabilities at risk or victims of different forms of gender-based violence;

(c)Ensure the functional, structural and financial independence of the National Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey, and that its duties as the national mechanism for the prevention of torture cover monitoring and prevention of torture in psychiatric hospitals and any other institution where persons with disabilities reside, in line with the provisions of article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Vanuatu (2019)

28. The Committee is concerned at the incidence of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially women and children, both in the home and in the community. In particular, it is concerned that:

- (a) The Family Protection Act, which is the legislative framework to protect victims of domestic violence, including persons with disabilities, is not aligned with the Convention;
- (b) The abuse and violence against children with disabilities, including corporal punishment;
- (c) Complaints mechanisms are inaccessible;
- (d) There is no mechanism for monitoring cases of violence against persons with disabilities and that the State party's intervention to domestic violence against persons with disabilities largely depends on the Vanuatu Women's Centre;
- (e) Violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are not properly investigated and that the perpetrators are not punished, including the fact that sexual abuse against women with disabilities, especially women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities is dealt with through reconciliation in their village, which imposes a fine as a sanction against a perpetrator.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the Family Protection Act (2008) in line with the Convention and improve protection of persons with disabilities from violence and abuse against them;**
- (b) Protect children with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse, including through expediting the enactment of the Child Protection Bill, ensuring it is in line with the Convention to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings;**
- (c) Establish accessible mechanisms for persons with disabilities to report violence and abuse against them and ensure that they know where to seek assistance;**
- (d) Strengthen the capacity of the Vanuatu Women's Centre, as well as the Authorised Persons and Registered Counsellors under the Family Protection Act (2008) to protect and provide support to persons with disabilities and effectively monitor situations of persons who are victims of violence, particularly women;**
- (e) Adopt measures to increase the capacity of the Family Protection Unit in the Police to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular against women and girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.**

Algeria (2018)

30. The Committee is concerned about the absence of complaints of cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of adults and children with disabilities, which does not necessarily mean that such cases do not occur. It is also concerned that:

- (a) There is no independent mechanism to investigate and monitor cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities still living in institutions;
- (b) Persons with disabilities still living in institutions do not have access to independent legal aid and are not offered alternative independent living services in the community;
- (c) Services for the physical and psychological recovery of survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse are not always accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party increase measures to ensure the accessibility and availability of complaint and mechanisms and raise awareness among persons with disabilities, including children. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish an independent mechanism to investigate and combat exploitation and violence against persons with disabilities still living in institutions, in particular women and girls and persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Introduce policy measures to allow persons with disabilities still living in institutions to access independent and accessible free legal advice and counseling to assert their rights and adopt measures to ensure the right of all persons with disabilities to independent living, support and inclusion in the community;**

- (c) Adopt additional measures to ensure that all services for the physical and psychological recovery of survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse, including temporary shelters, are accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls;**
- (d) Increase efforts to ensure recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration, empowerment and independence of persons with disabilities, survivors of exploitation, violence and abuse.**

Bulgaria (2018)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information on measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, especially women, girls and boys with disabilities, and persons still placed in institutions, from all forms of violence and abuse, and lack of disaggregated data;
- (b) The lack of sufficient coverage and accessible shelters and services for rehabilitation of women and girls with disabilities exposed to gender-based violence against women;
- (c) Risks of violence and abuse that persons with disabilities still face, and that some past instances of violence that resulted in death of persons with disabilities have not yet been properly investigated and perpetrators processed.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, especially women, girls and boys with disabilities, and persons still placed in institutions, exposed to violence.**
- (b) Allocate human, technical and financial resources to improve accessibility of shelters and provide rehabilitation services for women and girls with disabilities exposed to gender-based violence against women;**
- (c) Intensify its efforts to protect all persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, including by conducting effective official investigations in all cases of alleged violence and abuse, and establishing working groups to give priority to the prosecution of cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, and conviction of perpetrators;**
- (d) Strengthen the mechanisms for independent monitoring of all facilities and programmes for persons with disabilities, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention.**

Malta (2018)

27. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, are subject to violence and abuse, including domestic violence, and that laws in this regard, including the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act (Cap. 581), lack a disability perspective and monitoring mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home, especially where cases are not reported;
- (b) Shelters for persons exposed to violence are not fully accessible, including a lack of information in accessible formats and care for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, in the shelters.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act (Cap. 581) to ensure that it has a disability perspective, to enact other relevant legislation, such as the planned Protection of Vulnerable Older Persons and Adult Persons with Disability Bill, and to ensure that the perpetrators of violence and abuse are prosecuted and given penalties commensurate to the gravity of their acts, if found guilty;**
- (b) Ensure the availability of accessible and inclusive support services for the psychological and physical recovery of persons with disabilities subjected to violence.**

Philippines (2018)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The high level of violence against children with disabilities in family and schools, in particular reports of children subject to restraint in their homes, and the information about the cases of deaf girls and boys with disabilities victims of sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault by male teachers or principals in public and private schools, in absence of criminal prosecutions and conviction of perpetrators and redress mechanisms for victims;

- (b)The information about violence, including sexual violence against persons with disabilities who live in the streets;
- (c)The information about risks of trafficking faced by women with disabilities and violence on the Internet.

31.The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a)Intensify its efforts to address domestic violence and abuse, including sexual exploitation of women and children with disabilities in the private sphere and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to independent complaints mechanisms and appropriate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation;**
- (b)Adopt mechanisms to monitor all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities with the aim to prevent violence, especially sexual violence against persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention;**
- (c)Ensure that any strategies for the prevention of trafficking take into account and address the particular risks of women and girls with disabilities to different forms of trafficking and exploitation, and ensure that information and awareness raising concerning trafficking is provided in accessible formats and cover all urban and rural areas of the country.**

Poland (2018)

28.The Committee is concerned about:

- (a)Accounts of violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities in care and psychiatric institutions, especially of women with intellectual disabilities;
- (b)Underreporting of violence against persons with disabilities in all settings, and the lack of disaggregated statistics on violence against them;
- (c)The lack of specific protection measures, including legal and psychosocial assistance for women with disabilities at risk of domestic, institutional violence and violence in public spaces and at work.

29.The Committee recommends to:

- (a)Implement legislative and practical measures, including independent human rights-based monitoring, to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized and to eliminate any risk of violence or abuse;**
- (b)Develop mechanisms for reporting violence against persons with disabilities in all settings, as well as to ensure disaggregated data collection on this issue;**
- (c)Develop legal obligations and specific measures for protection of persons with disabilities victims of violence, including accessible communication hotlines as well as services for their psychological and physical recovery, especially for women with disabilities.**

South Africa (2018)

30.The Committee notes with concern:

- (a)The lack of legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and children with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse, including corporal punishment, and the lack of accessible and age-friendly information on access to counselling, redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;
- (b)The lack of dedicated mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities as well as lack of disaggregated data on related reports, investigations and prosecutions in line with article 16, paragraph 3.

31.The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a)Adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and children with disabilities from all forms of violence and abuse, including corporal punishment, as well as expedite the implementation of article 16, paragraph 3, and the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (2013);**

(b) Investigate promptly and effectively incidents of violence against persons with disabilities, prosecute suspects and duly sanction perpetrators and that victims are provided with effective redress, including compensation and rehabilitation, and ensure that child victims have access to child-friendly reporting channels, physical and psychological rehabilitation and health services, including mental health services;

(c) Raise awareness about the 24-hour Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (GBVC), aimed at providing support and counselling to persons with disabilities and their families exposed to gender-based violence, and ensure its accessibility and the provision of accessible information and victim support services in all parts of the State party, in particular for women and children with disabilities.

North Macedonia (2018)

30. The Committee is concerned that the Law on Prevention and Protection against Domestic Violence is not explicit on the prohibition of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the shelter centres for victims of family violence, including their services, are not accessible to persons with disabilities.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to:

(a) Review the existing legislations and policies to incorporate remedies and sanctions that prevent all forms of violence, abuse and ill-treatment, in public and the private spheres against persons with disabilities, in particular women, girls and children with psychosocial disabilities and or children with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Train shelter personnel and workers on the human rights-based approach to disability;

(c) Ensure that shelters centres for victims of violence and their services are accessible to persons with disability;

(d) Conduct investigations into all allegations of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, and suspicious causes of deaths of residents in institutions.

Haiti (2018)

30. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities, particularly women and children face intersectional discrimination, abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence, especially sexual assault and violence in institutions and in post-earthquake camps. It is particularly concerned by:

(a) The absence of laws on protection from violence with a disability perspective and of monitoring mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home;

(b) The lack of redress or compensation for victims, the inaccessibility of shelters for victims of domestic violence and insufficiency of health, psychosocial and legal services;

(c) Inadequate training of the staff, carers and families of persons with disabilities, health personnel and law enforcement officials to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, particularly with respect to children with disabilities who are orphans and engaged in domestic work;

(d) The absence of concrete data, disaggregated by sex and age, of cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, particularly regarding women and children;

(e) The absence of measures to protect and offer support to victims of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities in all contexts.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and develop a strategy with targeted time frames and adequate funding to provide security, health and safety for women and children with disabilities in post-earthquake camps. In particular, it recommends that the State party:

(a) Enact legislation, including monitoring mechanisms, to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home of persons with disabilities, especially for women and children with disabilities;

(b) Ensure the availability of accessible and inclusive support services to those subjected to violence, including police reporting, independent complaints mechanisms, accessible shelters and other support services, and that all reported cases of abuse or violence are

appropriately investigated, victims are legally entitled to and provided with redress and adequate compensation and perpetrators are prosecuted;

(c) Provide continuous training to families of persons with disabilities, their careers, health professionals and law enforcement officers to enable them to recognize all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and better communicate and work with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence;

(d) Collect and publish data on intersectional discrimination, abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence including sexual violence towards women and children with disabilities and follow-up with national anti-violence initiatives, in close collaboration with persons with disabilities and their organizations, in order to design appropriate policy responses;

(e) Implement effective mechanisms to ensure that women and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence and abuse are protected and that they can benefit from medical care, psychological support and legal services to ensure their rehabilitation and their reintegration;

(f) In accordance with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, take measures to end all forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities in both public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other exploitation.

Nepal (2018)

27. The Committee is concerned about the absence of any monitoring mechanism to collect disaggregated data on prosecution of cases of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities; in particular data on the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and women with disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse both within and outside the home.

Oman (2018)

31. The Committee is concerned about insufficient measures to prevent abuse and violence against persons with disabilities in the home, institutions, alternative care and day care settings, that corporal punishment of children is widespread in the State party and that there is insufficient awareness about complaint mechanisms and support services for victims.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement legislation, policies and programmes to protect all persons with disabilities, in particular women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and children with disabilities from all forms of abuse and violence, including corporal punishment, in particular by stepping-up implementation of the national strategy for protecting children from all types of abuse s, and adopting the draft Regulations to the Child Act on female genital mutilation;

(b) Raise awareness about the telephone hotline to report cases of abuse, neglect and violence, and ensure that the e-service complaint mechanism is accessible and inclusive, raise-awareness about the complaint mechanism to persons with disabilities and their families, and ensure the provision of accessible information and victim support services in all parts of the State party, in particular for women and children with disabilities;

(c) Ensure that all cases in which persons with disabilities are exposed to abuse and violence, in particular children, are reported and fully investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and appropriately punished and that victims are provided with effective redress, including compensation and rehabilitation;

(d) Ensure regular training on preventing and addressing violence against persons with disabilities for all relevant authorities and other stakeholders, including law enforcement officials, judges, social workers, health professionals and teachers, as well as promote positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child-rearing and discipline as an alternative to corporal punishment, and expand parenting education programmes and support for families with children with disabilities.

Russian Federation (2018)

36. The Committee is concerned about the reported physical and psychological violence against persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psycho-social disabilities, including autistic persons, and children, with the use of physical and chemical restraints of such persons in institutions.

37. The Committee recommends that the State Party collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, especially women, boys and girls with disabilities, including those placed in institutions, who are exposed to violence and calls upon the State party to intensify efforts to protect all persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse. It also recommends that the State party investigate the reports of maltreatment and abuse of persons with disabilities, in particular children in institutions and bring those responsible for such maltreatment and abuse to justice.

Seychelles (2018)

27. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) Allegations of physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in family and in institutional settings;
- (b) The reported lack of measures of protection and redress to victims of violence, and the absence of sanctions against perpetrators;
- (c) The reported lack of monitoring and investigations in order to determine the causes of death of persons with disabilities in institutions and the absence of information on prosecutions on suspicion of criminal offenses and/or abandonment.

28. The Committee, in line with the commitment made by the State party in the Universal Periodic Review of Slovenia in 2014 (see A/HRC/28/15), and recalling the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see CEDAW/C/SVN/CO/5-6, paras. 19 and 20) recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy to prevent all forms of violence, abuse and ill-treatment, in public and private spheres against persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities. The State party should ensure that such strategy includes information in Easy Read and other accessible formats, and awareness-raising for persons with disabilities and their families;
- (b) Provide persons with disabilities with early warning mechanisms that allow them to identify and report any situation of risk of violence, abuse and neglect. The State party should establish an expedite procedure to respond on allegations of violence by persons with disabilities and adopt preventive measures that are gender-sensitive and age-appropriate;
- (c) Ensure that women and girls with disabilities who are exposed to violence can access the network of shelters and crisis centres as well as legal, medical and psychological assistance, effective remedies and adequate compensation;
- (d) Ensure an investigation of all allegations of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, expedite the investigation of suspicious causes of deaths of residents of institutions; providing redress to victims and sanction perpetrators. The State party should collect statistical data on the number of prosecutions and convictions and the sentences imposed on perpetrators.

Slovenia (2018)

27. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) Allegations of physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in family and in institutional settings;
- (b) The reported lack of measures of protection and redress to victims of violence, and the absence of sanctions against perpetrators;
- (c) The reported lack of monitoring and investigations in order to determine the causes of death of persons with disabilities in institutions and the absence of information on prosecutions on suspicion of criminal offenses and/or abandonment.

28. The Committee, in line with the commitment made by the State party in the Universal Periodic Review of Slovenia in 2014 (see A/HRC/28/15), and recalling the recommendations

made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see CEDAW/C/SVN/CO/5-6, paras. 19 and 20) recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy to prevent all forms of violence, abuse and ill-treatment, in public and private spheres against persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities. The State party should ensure that such strategy includes information in Easy Read and other accessible formats, and awareness-raising for persons with disabilities and their families;
- (b) Provide persons with disabilities with early warning mechanisms that allow them to identify and report any situation of risk of violence, abuse and neglect. The State party should establish an expedite procedure to respond on allegations of violence by persons with disabilities and adopt preventive measures that are gender-sensitive and age-appropriate;
- (c) Ensure that women and girls with disabilities who are exposed to violence can access the network of shelters and crisis centres as well as legal, medical and psychological assistance, effective remedies and adequate compensation;
- (d) Ensure an investigation of all allegations of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, expedite the investigation of suspicious causes of deaths of residents of institutions; providing redress to victims and sanction perpetrators. The State party should collect statistical data on the number of prosecutions and convictions and the sentences imposed on perpetrators.

Sudan (2018)

33. The Committee is concerned about the absence of information on the investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of cases of violence against persons with disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party duly record, investigate, prosecute and sanction cases of violence against persons with disabilities throughout the criminal and judicial processes.

Latvia (2017)

28. The Committee is concerned by:

- (a) The high number of deaths occurring in residential institutions of adults with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and the lack of, first, information regarding any investigations that have been conducted to establish the cause of death and, second, prosecutions for criminal acts;
- (b) Allegations of violence and abuse, including sexual violence, of persons with disabilities living in institutions;
- (c) The excessive use of neuroleptic medication, poor living conditions, including insufficient nutrition, and limited meaningful activities in institutions.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promptly investigate all cases of death occurring in residential institutions for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including allegations of violence and abuse, ensuring that the perpetrators of criminal acts are prosecuted and sanctioned;
- (b) Provide regular and mandatory training to staff working in institutions on the prevention of violence against, and abuse of, persons with disabilities;
- (c) Ensure independent human rights-based monitoring of all residential institutions in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Luxembourg (2017)

32. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, may be subject to violence and abuse, including domestic violence, and that laws in this regard, including the Domestic Violence Act of 2003, lack a disability perspective and lack monitoring mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home;
- (b) In cases of suspected abuse or violence, persons with disabilities receiving inpatient care in hospitals are not guaranteed legal protection through legal representation;
- (c) Statistical data of persons with disabilities victims of violence, sexual abuse or multiple discrimination is lacking.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Domestic Violence Act 2003 to ensure it has a disability perspective;**
- (b) Enact legislation, including monitoring mechanisms, to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home of persons with disabilities, especially for women and children with disabilities. It encourages the State party to expedite the ratification of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention);**
- (c) Collect and publish disaggregated statistics on violence;**
- (d) Ensure that all reported cases of abuse or violence are appropriately investigated, and perpetrators are prosecuted, and that all persons with disabilities receiving inpatient care in hospitals are guaranteed legal representation;**
- (e) Ensure that members of the police, judiciary, health and social services receive regular and mandatory training on the prevention of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities;**
- (f) Ensure the availability of accessible and inclusive support services to those subjected to violence, including police reporting, complaints mechanisms, shelters and other support measures;**
- (g) Ensure the effective, independent human rights-based monitoring of all remaining residential institutions.**

Montenegro (2017)

32. The Committee notes with concern that violence against persons with disabilities, particularly women and children, is prevalent and that effective measures to prevent violence, including sexual violence, in all settings and to monitor violence prevention, is lacking. It notes with concern that:

- (a) Relevant professional groups, such as social workers, teaching staff, medical staff and members of the judiciary, are insufficiently trained in the prevention of violence against persons with disabilities;**
- (b) The State party does not collect and publish any data on violence against persons with disabilities.**

33. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the availability of accessible, effective and independent monitoring of facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, and of complaint mechanisms, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention, to enable the authorities to identify, investigate and prosecute all cases of violence against persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish accessible and anonymous services for persons with disabilities who are experiencing violence, whether inside or outside the home, such as shelters, victim support services, hotlines and complaint mechanisms, including at the local level, and include therein a gender and a child rights perspective;**
- (b) Provide training for all relevant professionals, particularly police officers, justice personnel, prison staff, social workers and health professionals, to ensure protection from and prevention of exploitation and abuse of and violence against persons with disabilities. The training should include effective reporting measures with a view to ensuring that persons who are exposed to violence are taken seriously and that investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators are conducted effectively to prevent recurrence;**
- (c) Conduct research and set up a system of collection and publication of data and statistics on violence against persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, type of violence and the setting of the act of violence.**

Morocco (2017)

34. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, including the forcible use of children with disabilities in begging, and the rape of women, girls and children with disabilities in institutions, and about the absence of effective measures for compensation for and rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of violence, particularly women and girls with disabilities;**

(b) The absence of training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, especially involving orphans, including in the labour market;

(c) The absence of concrete data, disaggregated by sex and age, on cases of violence and abuse committed in hospitals, particularly psychiatric hospitals, and places of detention, including on budgetary allocations aimed at making those institutions functional.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt concrete and effective measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence and children with disabilities who are victims of ill-treatment, have access to services and information, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services, consultation and counselling, and to complaint mechanisms that have a mandate to, among other things, provide compensation and impose sanctions against perpetrators;

(b) Provide training for families, caregivers, health personnel and law enforcement officials on recognizing all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, and communicate and work effectively with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence;

(c) Set up an independent mechanism to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities; monitor, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities; and provide requisite budgetary allocations to ensure that such facilities and programmes are functional and effective.

Panama (2017)

38. The Committee is concerned at the incidence of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in the State party, especially women, children, Afrodescendants and indigenous persons. It is also concerned that so-called “safe havens” are used for long periods of time and thus come to resemble institutional settings.

39. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary steps to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, both inside and outside of the home. In addition, it recommends that the State party adopt measures to prevent so-called “safe havens” from being turned into institutions and becoming yet another barrier to the achievement of independent living by persons with disabilities and to their inclusion in society.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

38. The Committee is concerned about abuse, ill-treatment, sexual violence and exploitation of women, children, intersex persons and elderly persons with disabilities, and the insufficient measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities. It is also concerned at reports of cases of disability hate crime, in the absence of consistent data collection and differences in legal provisions for sentencing different types of hate crime, particularly in England and Wales.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, and in line with target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Establish measures to ensure equal access to justice and to safeguard persons with disabilities, particularly women, children, intersex persons and elderly persons with disabilities from abuse, ill-treatment, sexual violence and exploitation;

(b) Define comprehensively the offence of disability hate crime, and ensure appropriate prosecutions and convictions;

(c) Ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Armenia (2017)

27. The Committee is concerned about the high incidence of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, including reported cases of neglect resulting in the death of

children and adults with disabilities. It is further concerned about the labour and sexual exploitation of persons with disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party take legislative and practical measures to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized and prevent and combat neglect, violence, abuse and exploitation. It also recommends that the State party investigate cases of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities, prosecute perpetrators and provide the staff of institutions with regular and mandatory training sessions on the prevention of such violence, abuse and exploitation. It also recommends that the State party ensure effective and independent human rights-based monitoring of all residential and specialized institutions in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

30. The Committee is concerned about the lack of data on effective measures to prevent violence against persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and violence against children with disabilities, including sexual violence, in all settings, and about the lack of mechanisms for making complaints against perpetrators and legal remedies.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the monitoring and inspection of social care homes and psychiatric institutions to prevent violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, and children with disabilities, in particular those still living therein. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that persons deprived of liberty have access to independent complaints mechanisms and that it provide appropriate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation.

Canada (2017)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Different forms of violence against women and girls with disabilities, in particular indigenous women and women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;
- (b) Violence and abuse, including sexual violence, against children with disabilities, and the lack of mechanisms to access justice, remedies and redress;
- (c) The lack of information about measures to prevent violence against persons with disabilities in family settings and against persons living in institutions.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the federal strategy against gender-based violence includes provisions for medical, legal and social work interventions to address gender-based violence against women with disabilities;
- (b) Strengthen support and services for parents of children with disabilities in order to prevent abuse and violence;
- (c) Set up a mechanism to monitor federal-, provincial- and territorial-level facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Cyprus (2017)

39. The Committee is concerned about the insufficiency of legal provisions and accessible mechanisms to detect, report, prevent and combat all forms of violence, including sexual violence in private and public spheres against persons with disabilities, including children.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen and implement legislation and provide for accessible monitoring and reporting mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat all forms of violence, including sexual violence, against persons with disabilities in all settings, including all types of institutions, with a particular focus on women and children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party ensure capacity-building among employees within the judiciary, police, health and social sectors to ensure accessible and inclusive support services, including confidential complaint mechanisms, as well as shelters and other support measures. The Committee furthermore recommends that the State party, without further delay, ratify and implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention).

Honduras (2017)

41. Al Comité le preocupan los casos de maltrato físico y/o psicológico, violencia sexual y/o explotación y abuso cometidos contra las personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres, niños y niñas, afrohondureños e indígenas, incluyendo la explotación a través de la mendicidad, así como la ausencia de medidas para su protección, recuperación y reparación de daños. Le preocupa también que los casos de estas personas no se investiguen debidamente y que, en consecuencia, los autores de tales hechos permanezcan en la impunidad.

42. El Comité recomienda que se adopten todas las medidas necesarias para prevenir y proteger a todas las personas con discapacidad de la explotación, la violencia y el abuso, incluyendo la explotación a través de la mendicidad, así como para asegurar la debida recuperación de las víctimas en entornos adecuados para ellas. Asimismo, recomienda investigar debidamente todos los casos de explotación, violencia y abuso cometidos contra personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres, niños y niñas, afrohondureños e indígenas, a fin de garantizar que sean detectados, investigados y, en su caso, juzgados.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

34. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information about measures to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of information about prosecutions and convictions in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities; and
- (c) The absence of remedies and redress for all persons with disabilities who have faced any form of exploitation, violence and abuse, including psychosocial counselling, reparations, and compensation.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation, violence, and abuse against persons with disabilities, including through early identification of instances of exploitation, and specific risks of gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities;**
- (b) Strengthen its efforts aimed at ensuring that religious leaders participate in strategies to prevent any form of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Introduce guidelines for private non-governmental organizations about how to file complaints in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities;**
- (d) Set-up a comprehensive data collection system on cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnic background, and type of impairment; and**
- (e) Enforce article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Code and ensure prosecutions and convictions in cases of violence against persons with disabilities. Provide early recovery, legal remedies, counselling and accessible services for victims.**

Jordan (2017)

33. The Committee is concerned that articles 8 and 62 of the Criminal Code (Law No. 16 of 1960), which refers to “discipline and what is permitted by law and allowed by customs”, may in practice be used to justify acts of violence against women, girls and boys with disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:^[1]_[SEP]

- (a) Repeal articles 8 and 62 of the Criminal Code to fully prohibit corporal punishment;**
- (b) Mainstream a disability-rights perspective in the work of the National Taskforce on Protection against Family Violence of 2016 and in the new draft law on protection against family violence.**

Republic of Moldova (2017)

32. The Committee is concerned by reported cases of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, including cases of neglect resulting in the deaths of children and adults with disabilities and cases of gender-based violence against women with disabilities.

33. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Implement legislative and practical measures, which take into account gender and age considerations, to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized and to eliminate any risk of neglect, violence or abuse;

(b) Ensure that all reported cases are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted;

(c) Provide regular and mandatory training to staff in institutions on the prevention of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure effective, independent human rights-based monitoring of all residential institutions.

Bolivia (2016)

41. The Committee is concerned that current legislation to combat violence does not recognize the specific forms of violence against persons with disabilities. It is further concerned that:

(a) There is a shortage of information on the situation with regard to violence against women and children with disabilities, and no records of acts of violence against them;

(b) There are no measures in place to prevent exploitation of persons with disabilities through begging, and no programmes for the rescue and compensation of victims;

(c) The lack of accessibility of programmes and institutions intended to provide protection against violence, exploitation and abuse.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation against violence to include the disability, gender and age perspectives. It also recommends that the State party adopt a due diligence framework of social and penal measures to combat exploitation of persons with disabilities through begging, and that it set up and maintain accessible programmes for the rescue, redress and comprehensive rehabilitation of victims; measures should include social protection, access to justice with a gender and age focus, and psychosocial support.

Colombia (2016)

44. The Committee is concerned at the high levels of violence caused by the armed conflict, which have significantly affected women and girls with disabilities, including civilians and former combatants, displaced women with disabilities, and victims of the conflict, for instance, as a result of anti-personnel mines or paramilitary activity, particularly in rural and remote areas. It is particularly concerned that such acts are tried in military courts.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Identify women and girls with disabilities, both civilians and former combatants, who were the victims of sexual violence during the conflict;

(b) Investigate and initiate proceedings in civilian courts to determine the criminal liability of the military and self-defence groups in cases of sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities during the armed conflict and in the period of transition towards peace;

(c) Give priority to programmes for preventing, eliminating and recovering from violence against women and girls with disabilities in conflict areas, as well as the return of displaced populations.

Ethiopia (2016)

35. The Committee is concerned about ineffective reporting and complaints mechanisms in which the testimony of persons with disabilities who are subjected to violence is not considered reliable and therefore not admissible, and about the lack of implementation of provisions that address violence, exploitation and abuse against persons with disabilities.

36. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities against violence, exploitation and abuse, particularly women and girls, by:

- (a) Adopting a due diligence framework to combat impunity in cases of violence;
- (b) Establishing inclusive and accessible victim support services, including accessible hotlines, shelters and reporting and complaints mechanisms that accept their testimonies;
- (c) Introducing awareness-raising and training for, inter alia, police, health professionals and social workers on supporting persons with disabilities who are subjected to violence;
- (d) Collecting information disaggregated by gender, age and disability, among other factors, with the necessary budget allocation.

Guatemala (2016)

45. The Committee is deeply concerned that many persons with disabilities, especially women and children, frequently fall victim to exploitation, violence and abuse and that there are no measures for their protection, rehabilitation or compensation. It is also concerned that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse committed against such persons, especially within the family or in institutions, are not properly investigated and that the perpetrators therefore go unpunished.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party redouble its efforts and adopt a due diligence framework and all the necessary measures in its laws and policies to protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse and to ensure the proper recovery of victims in an appropriate environment. It also recommends the inclusive and accessible provision of support for victims, the implementation of a complaint mechanism and the provision of training for police, the judiciary, social workers and health professionals. In addition, the Committee urges the State party to investigate properly all instances of exploitation, violence and abuse committed against persons with disabilities, particularly against women and children, in order to ensure that they are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted. Lastly, the Committee requests the State party to periodically compile data and statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities in respect of violence, exploitation and abuse, including information on trafficking, incest and femicide.

47. The Committee is concerned by the lack of protocols for the registration of orphanages, hospitals, prisons, shelters and other public or private residential centres for persons with disabilities and the monitoring of conditions there.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party set up an independent monitoring mechanism, in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention, to register and oversee conditions in residential institutions for persons with disabilities.

Italy (2016)

43. The Committee is concerned at the lack of legal provisions and monitoring mechanisms to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party enact legislation, including monitoring mechanisms, to detect, prevent and combat violence within and outside the home of persons with disabilities, especially for women and children with disabilities, and that it produce an action plan to implement the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), which specifically address women and girls with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party ensure that members of the police, judiciary, health and social services receive training, and the availability to those subjected to violence of accessible and inclusive support services, including police reporting, complaints mechanisms, shelters and other support measures.

Uruguay (2016)

39. El Comité nota con preocupación la insuficiente implementación de las medidas previstas para eliminar la violencia contra las mujeres con discapacidad en las políticas del Estado parte sobre discapacidad. Además, le preocupa que otras personas con discapacidad, especialmente los niños y niñas y las personas que viven en instituciones, no cuenten con los suficientes mecanismos de protección contra la violencia y el abuso.

40. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que redoble esfuerzos y adopte todas las medidas necesarias en su legislación y en sus políticas para garantizar la prevención y protección a todas las personas con discapacidad de la explotación, la violencia y el abuso, así como para

asegurar la debida recuperación de las víctimas en entornos adecuados para ellas. Además, el Comité le insta a investigar debidamente todos los casos de explotación, violencia y abuso cometidos contra personas con discapacidad en el Estado parte, -fundamentalmente contra mujeres, niños y niñas- a fin de garantizar que todos los casos sean detectados, investigados y, en su caso, juzgados. Por último, el Comité solicita al Estado parte la recopilación periódica de datos y estadísticas sobre la situación de las personas con discapacidad ante la violencia, la explotación y el abuso.

41. Al Comité le preocupa la ausencia de protocolos para llevar registro, control y supervisión de las condiciones en que operan las instituciones donde viven personas con discapacidad.

42. El Comité insta al Estado parte a establecer el mecanismo independiente de seguimiento de acuerdo con el artículo 16, párrafo 3 de la Convención, que registre, controle y supervise las condiciones en que opera cualquier centro donde vivan personas con discapacidad.

Chile (2016)

39. Al Comité le preocupa que la legislación y las políticas de prevención y protección contra la violencia no incluyan a las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad. Particularmente le preocupa la ausencia del enfoque diferencial dados los mayores riesgos a los que se enfrentan por su situación de discapacidad, de violencia sexual, incesto, maltrato físico y verbal, abandono y negligencia. También preocupa al Comité que no se cuente con un mecanismo independiente de protección y supervisión, ni con registros de los casos de violencia.

40. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que incluya a mujeres, niñas, niños y personas mayores con discapacidad en las políticas de protección contra la violencia, que consideren el enfoque de género, discapacidad y edad. Asimismo, solicita la designación de un mecanismo independiente de supervisión que también registre los casos denunciados y lleve a cabo monitoreo de los prestadores de servicios.

Lithuania (2016)

32. The Committee is concerned about reported violence and unwarranted restriction of freedom of movement, including isolation, as a form of punishment in social care and psychiatric institutions.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Improve monitoring and inspection of social care homes and psychiatric institutions to prevent violence against and abuse of residents with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that persons deprived of their liberty have access to independent complaints mechanisms;

(c) Provide adequate remedies to victims of abuse, such as redress and adequate compensation, including rehabilitation.

34. The Committee is concerned by:

(a) The high number of reports of women, boys and girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities facing violence and abuse, including sexual abuse, at institutions and at home;

(b) The lack of targeted measures such as the provision of accessible victim support services, including shelters and complaints and reporting mechanisms;

(c) The absence of independent monitoring authorities assigned to comply with article 16 (3) of the Convention;

(d) The lack of statistical data on exploitation, violence, trafficking and abuse in homes, schools, institutions, hospitals and prisons disaggregated by, among others, sex, age and disability.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, against violence, exploitation and abuse, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/4), by establishing inclusive and accessible victim support services, including accessible hotlines, shelters and complaints and reporting mechanisms. The Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen awareness-raising efforts

and the training of police officers, health professionals and social workers, among others, with a view to supporting persons with disabilities who have been affected by violence.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and allocate sufficient funds to awareness-raising measures, that it collect disaggregated data and that it designate independent authorities to monitor services and facilities.

Portugal (2016)

34. The Committee notes with concern that despite State party legislation and the measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, and especially women and children, from exploitation, violence and abuse, these have not been sufficient.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, explicitly include the disability perspective in its legislation, strategies and programmes to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse, including the Law on domestic violence (Law 112/2009), and step up intensifying measures to protect persons with disabilities, and especially women and children, including the continuation of police training, prosecutors and judges in the implementation of a due diligence framework.

Slovakia (2016)

47. The Committee is concerned that measures to protect persons with disabilities from violence both within and outside the home are insufficient.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that legislation and policies on the protection of persons from violence incorporate specific references to persons with disabilities, including accessible reporting, victim support services and complaints mechanisms, and specialized training for the police, judges and prosecutors. It also recommends that the State party ensure that due diligence is applied in all cases of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly women, girls, boys and older persons.

Thailand (2016)

33. The Committee is concerned about the situation of persons with disabilities living in poverty, who are often at risk of exploitation and abuse, including begging and human trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation. It is also concerned about violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, particularly girls and women with disabilities, and regrets the absence of a disability perspective in policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a strategy for the protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, from violence, abuse and exploitation, inside and outside the home environment. It also recommends that the State party take the measures necessary to prevent persons with disabilities from exploitation through begging and human trafficking and to strengthen the general perception of the importance of human dignity. It further recommends that the State party guarantee that all persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, have access to justice when they have been subjected to violence, abuse or exploitation.

Uganda (2016)

30. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in particular the higher risk of women, girls and boys with disabilities, including deaf-blind women and children, of facing physical and sexual violence both in family settings and in institutions;
- (b) Abandonment, malnutrition and exploitation through the use of children with disabilities for begging;
- (c) The lack of accessibility of information and services available for women with disabilities, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services and complaints mechanisms;
- (d) The absence of mechanisms for monitoring institutions where persons with disabilities have been placed.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to ensure that women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence have access to both accessible services and information, including hotlines, shelters, victim support services and complaint mechanisms;**
- (b) Implement legislation and a due diligence framework to combat impunity concerning violence, exploitation and abuse through the opening of investigations and providing for sanctions for perpetrators as well as redress for victims of violence;**
- (c) Provide training to the police, judiciary, health professionals and other interlocutors to communicate and work effectively with persons with disabilities who are victims of violence;**
- (d) Set up an independent mechanism to monitor the conditions in all facilities designed to serve persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention.**

Brazil (2015)

32. The Committee is concerned at the lack of dedicated mechanisms for identifying, investigating and prosecuting instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities. The Committee also regrets the lack of disaggregated data on reports, investigations and prosecutions of abuse, exploitation and violence against women, men, girls and boys with disabilities.

33. The Committee recommends the State party to ensure the availability of accessible, effective and independent monitoring of facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities, and complaint mechanisms in alignment with article 16(3) to ensure that authorities can identify, investigate and prosecute all cases of violence against persons with disabilities. It also recommends to ensure that the Public Ministry and the attorney offices for persons with disabilities investigate cases related to violence and exploitation of persons with disabilities by allocating the necessary human, technical and financial resources. The Committee recommends that the State party collect disaggregated data and statistics on reports by persons with disabilities of abuse, exploitation and violence, and their outcomes.

European Union (2015)

44. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially women, girls and boys, and older persons with disabilities are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation, especially in institutional settings.

45. The Committee recommends that the European Union take necessary measures to mainstream disability in all legislation, policies and strategies for combatting violence, abuse and exploitation, and to provide effective protection from violence, abuse and exploitation to all persons with all types of disabilities inside and outside of the home.

Gabon (2015)

38. The Committee is concerned that there is no law on violence against women, and women and girls with disabilities are not included in the process of consultation regarding proposed legislation on the matter and that frequently they are considered not to be credible witnesses by families, communities and the authorities leading to low reporting and investigation rates. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of accessible services for persons with disabilities experiencing violence, the lack of training of interlocutors working with those experiencing violence to raise their awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities, and the reluctance by authorities to open investigations and prosecutions, which lead to impunity of perpetrators.

39. The Committee recommends drafting and adopting new legislation on violence against women in line with (CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/6, para. 11), which specifically addresses women and girls with disabilities, and includes them in the consultation and drafting process. Furthermore, the Committee recommends establishing accessible services for persons with disabilities experiencing violence, such as shelters, victim support services, hotlines and complaint mechanisms including in rural areas. It also recommends the training of police, justice personnel, staff providing custodial care in prison or other places of detention, social workers, health professionals and other interlocutors to ensure protection from and prevention of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities including on

effective reporting channels with a view to ensuring that all interlocutors take victims seriously and provide support when requested, and that investigations, prosecutions and sanctioning of perpetrators are conducted effectively to prevent recurrence .

Kenya (2015)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Cases of violence and abuse against persons with disabilities in particular the higher risk of women, girls and boys with disabilities to face physical and sexual violence both in family settings and in institutions;
- (b) Exploitation of children with disabilities through begging, particularly in urban areas; and
- (c) The limited coverage of Gender Violence Recovery Centers and the lack of information on accessibility of women with disabilities to temporary shelters.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Design and implement a strategy with adequate funding for the protection of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse. Such strategy must include prevention, early recovery, legal remedies including compensation and reparation, and accessible services and counselling for victims;**
- (b) Set up an independent mechanism to monitor the conditions in all facilities designed to serve persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Convention;**
- (c) Take the necessary measures to prevent children with disabilities from falling into exploitation by begging and create programmes at national, county and municipal levels for their rehabilitation, recovery and inclusion in family and community life; and**
- (d) Ensure that Gender Violence Recovery Centers are established throughout the country and that are accessible for women with disabilities, and collect information about women with disabilities who have been benefited from the services at such centers.**

Mauritius (2015)

27. The Committee is concerned that limited measures have been taken to prevent and combat violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, especially sexual abuse of children with disability, which takes place, including within the family. The Committee is also concerned about reports indicating abuse and neglect of boys and girls placed in some NGO-run institutions. The Committee is further concerned that persons with disabilities who are subjected of violence and especially boys and girls hardly get any help to escape abusive situations and that the abuse does not lead up to prosecution.

28. The Committee urges the State party to take urgent measures to prevent violence against women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, to protect those who are subjected to violence and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. The State party should in particular:

- (a) Provide fully funded, accessible helplines and shelters for persons with disabilities who experience violence, whether inside or outside the home;**
- (b) Provide specific training for all respective personnel to detect and report violence against persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities, who are subjected to violence, have access to effective remedies and receive all the necessary support for their mental and physical recovery.**

Qatar (2015)

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

- (a) A specific law criminalizing domestic violence, which often goes unreported;
- (b) A disability perspective in policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation;
- (c) Data on the protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, from exploitation, violence and abuse.

32. The Committee reiterates the recommendations by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/QAT/CO/1, para. 24) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a comprehensive domestic violence protection system, as envisaged in the National Development Strategy 2011-2016 and adopt specific legislation to criminalize all**

forms of violence against women and girls, mainstreaming the rights and needs of women and girls with disabilities therein, including through consulting with their representative organizations;

(b) Develop policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation, mainstream the disability perspective within it and step up measures to protect persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, from exploitation, violence and abuse;

(c) Guarantee the provision of accessible information and victim support services that are sufficient in number and location and accessible, in particular for women and girls with disabilities;

(d) Collect data on violence against persons with disabilities, especially women and conduct research on the issue.

Ukraine (2015)

32. The Committee is concerned about the various forms of abuse, including those that can amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities, particularly boys and girls in condition of institutionalization.

33. The Committee recommends that the State Party evaluate the impact and effectiveness of its training programs for the prevention and absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment according to the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/UKR/CO/6-PARA 18 (e)). These training programs should incorporate, explicitly, the prevention of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against persons with disabilities.

Cook Islands (2015)

29. The Committee is concerned that current legislation regarding domestic violence uses derogatory language, and does not ensure women and girls with disabilities are protected on an equal basis with others. It is also concerned that it does not provide accessible helplines or shelters, or training for health professionals, counsellors and police unit personnel to work with women and girls with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Provide fully funded, accessible helplines and shelters for women with disabilities who experience violence both inside and outside the home.**

(b) **Provide specific training to health professionals, counsellors and personnel working in the Police Family Violence Unit to work with women and girls with disabilities victims of violence.**

31. The Committee is concerned that current law authorises the use of force against children with disabilities 'by way of correction'.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party replace laws to prohibit all corporal punishment so children with disabilities are legally protected from all punitive assault including in the home.

33. The Committee is concerned about the lack of safeguards to prevent financial and psychological abuse of persons with disabilities by their "caregivers" as well as the lack of resources available to provide support services to persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce appropriate caregiver training, safeguards and monitoring to prevent abuse of the Disability Allowance by "caregivers"; as well as the provision of resources for professional and accessible information and services for victims of violence and abuse, especially in remote areas.

Croatia

25. The Committee is concerned that mainstream services for victims of violence are not generally accessible to persons with disabilities, and that in particular women, girls and boys with disabilities are left unprotected. It is also concerned that, with the exception of the State Commission for the Protection of Persons with Mental Disorders, there is no independent monitoring mechanism in line with article 16 (3) for programmes and facilities serving persons with disabilities.

26. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream services aimed at the protection of persons with disabilities from violence and that it make such services fully accessible. Furthermore, monitoring mechanisms should be developed in line with article 16 (3) of the Convention.

Czech Republic (2015)

34. The Committee notes with concern the lack of disability perspective in policies for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation and lack of data on protection of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse.

35. The Committee urges the State party to mainstream disability perspective in the existing policies and to step up measures to protect persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse, including the safe and supportive community-based service, by collecting data on violence against persons with disabilities and conducting research on the issue.

Dominican Republic (2015)

32. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on trafficking in persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, who are victims of exploitation through begging, and at the lack of information concerning incest. It is also concerned at the fact that women and girls with disabilities have little physical access to, or information and communication about, mechanisms for protection against all forms of physical, sexual, economic and other violence, including in shelters. The Committee is likewise concerned at the lack of an independent monitoring mechanism to protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Investigate the situation of persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, who are abandoned and/or begging, and take the necessary measures for their rehabilitation, recovery and inclusion in family and community life;

(b) Design and implement mechanisms for the protection of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, from exploitation, violence and abuse, particularly incest, by ensuring that they have access to information and communication, to mechanisms for submitting complaints and recording such violations of their rights, and to shelters and measures for psychosocial recovery and reintegration into the community;

(c) Appoint an independent authority to promote the protection of persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in accordance with article 16, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

Germany (2015)

35. The Committee is concerned about the lack of: a) The appointment of an independent monitoring authority to investigate violence and abuse of persons with disabilities both in and outside institutions where they face increased risks; b) Independent complaint mechanisms inside institutions; c) permanent State funding to protect women against violence.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party provide a comprehensive and effective strategy with adequate funding to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are effectively protected against violence in all public and private settings. It also recommends that the State party immediately establish or designate an independent body or bodies in accordance with Article 16 para. 3 and ensure independent complaint handling in institutions.

Mongolia (2015)

27. The Committee is concerned about information in the State party pointing to the high rates of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, and the lack of protection mechanisms against these human rights violations.

28. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(a) Make protection mechanisms, including shelters and legal redress, accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, who face exploitation, violence and abuse; and

(b) Appoint an independent authority to monitor and protect persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in accordance with article 16.3 of the Convention.

Turkmenistan (2015)

33. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient measures to prevent violence against person with disabilities in all settings, and protect the victims, in particular women and children with disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the availability and accessibility of effective independent monitoring and complaint mechanisms in order to help the authorities to investigate and prosecute all cases of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular women and children;

(b) Collect disaggregated data on cases of violence against persons with disabilities, in particular in institutions;

(c) Provide accessible shelters, hotlines and information for victims of violence and abuse, and training for law enforcement officers and the judiciary.

New Zealand (2014)

35. The Committee notes the programmes under the Domestic Violence Act 2013 to assist persons with disabilities who suffer violence – especially women, girls and boys with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned that it is unclear whether the Act protects persons with disabilities experiencing abuse in home-care/live-in support situations, and whether the definition of a domestic relationship includes relationships between persons with disabilities and other resident service users, their caregivers, and other support staff.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen these programmes and initiatives to protect persons with disabilities, especially those living in institutions, from violence and harm, and that it ensure that a system is put in place to detect and respond effectively to cases of abuse. It also recommends that the State Party ensure that legislation, policy and practice relating to domestic violence covers persons with disabilities in the domestic situations that they encounter.

Denmark (2014)

40. The Committee is concerned at reports showing the level of abuse, exploitation and violence, including domestic violence, to which various categories of persons with disabilities are being exposed, and at the limited number of shelters accessible to victims of such acts, as well as the lack of training of police and other interlocutors. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of available disaggregated data on the reports of abuse, exploitation and violence by persons with disabilities, and on their outcomes.

41. The Committee recommends that the Governments of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland ensure that violence and abuse against all persons with disabilities is duly reported and investigated; that the necessary support for victims is available, including accessible hotlines, shelters, services and complaints mechanisms; and that the issue is addressed in national training courses for personnel working in health and medical care, schools, the police force and the judiciary. The Committee also recommends that the Governments collect disaggregated data and statistics on the reports of abuse, exploitation and violence by persons with disabilities, and on their outcomes.

Republic of Korea (2014)

31. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities continue to face violence, abuse and exploitation, including forced labour. It is also concerned about the failure of the State party to punish the perpetrators and provide reparation to the victims, and about the absence of shelters for persons with disabilities other than those who are victims of sexual and domestic violence.

32. The Committee urges the State party to investigate all cases of violence, exploitation and abuse experienced by persons with disabilities both inside and outside institutional settings; to ensure that the perpetrators are punished and the victims receive reparation; and to provide accessible shelters for persons with disabilities who are victims. The Committee recommends, in particular, that the State party strengthen its investigations into the

incidents of forced labour of persons with disabilities and provide the victims with adequate protection.

Belgium (2014)

30. The Committee is concerned about the lack of protection for women, children and girls with disabilities against violence and abuse. It is also concerned about the absence of protocols to register, monitor and track the conditions in institutions that care for persons with disabilities, particularly those that care for older persons with disabilities.

31. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of domestic or institutional violence against women, children and girls with disabilities. It also calls for the drafting and introduction of protocols to register, monitor and track the conditions in institutions that care for persons with disabilities, particularly those that care for older persons with disabilities.

Ecuador (2014)

30. The Committee is concerned about: (a) The high level of pregnancy among adolescents and young people aged between 12 and 19 years, according to the most recent population and housing census of 2010, and the fact that the age at which most women with disabilities reportedly had their first child was between 15 and 19 years old, which is indicative of a high incidence of sexual abuse of women with disabilities, particularly with intellectual disabilities; (b) The absence of appropriate mechanisms to detect situations of violence against persons with disabilities, especially women with intellectual disabilities, both within families and in institutions for persons with disabilities; (c) The fact that specific mechanisms have not yet been established for the effective social inclusion of and prevention of violence against children and adolescents with disabilities living in institutions, where they can remain until the age of 18. Enclosed spaces are likely to give rise to situations of violence towards, and the neglect and abuse of, children and adolescents.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Launch a training programme on the sexual and reproductive rights of persons with disabilities, targeted specifically at women with intellectual disabilities, their families and the professionals who provide services in the various State institutions; (b) Carry out institutional reforms and training programmes for professionals in the police and justice sectors so that they are able to detect situations of abuse and violence against persons with disabilities and to conduct investigations with the necessary procedural accommodations to ensure that criminal behaviour is punished; (c) As programmes are being developed to guarantee the right of children with disabilities to live in the community, establish mechanisms for the systematic monitoring, by independent bodies, in accordance with article 16, paragraph 3, of the Convention, of the living conditions of such children in institutions, with the aim of preventing situations of abuse and violence.

Mexico (2014)

33. The Committee notes that women and girls with disabilities, especially those from indigenous communities, are often the victims of violence and abuse and do not have access to effective protection or reparation measures.

34. The Committee urges the State party to implement existing legislative and policy measures to prevent violence against women and girls with disabilities and to provide protection and reparation to those who fall victim to it. The Committee requests the State party to periodically compile data and statistics on the situation of women and girls with disabilities in respect of violence, exploitation and abuse, including femicide.

35. The Committee is concerned at the lack of protection against violence and abuse for children with disabilities. It is further concerned by the absence of protocols for the registration of shelters and other residential centres for children with disabilities and the oversight of conditions there.

36. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Take steps to prevent and eliminate all forms of domestic or institutional violence against children with disabilities;

(b)Duly investigate cases of violence and abuse against children with disabilities in order to avoid the impunity of perpetrators;

(c)Set up an independent oversight mechanism, in line with article 16, paragraph 3, of the Convention, to register and oversee conditions in shelters and other residential centres for children with disabilities.

Sweden (2014)

41. The Committee is concerned at reports showing the level of violence to which women with disabilities are being exposed, and at the low percentage of shelters accessible to persons with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that violence and abuse against girls, boys and women with disabilities are identified; that necessary support is available; and that the issue is addressed in national training courses for personnel working in health and medical care, schools, the police force and the judiciary.

Costa Rica (2014)

35. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures and protocols to protect women and girls with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse.

36. The Committee calls on the State party to ensure that women and children with disabilities are able to access protection mechanisms, such as temporary shelters and therapies to aid recovery from violence, abuse and exploitation, in an autonomous manner, and that these mechanisms are fully accessible. It also calls for the establishment of a system of indicators of violence, abuse and exploitation of persons with disabilities that takes account of gender and age.

Australia (2013)

37. The Committee is concerned at reports of high rates of violence perpetrated against women and girls living in institutions and other segregated settings.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party orders investigation, without delay, into situations of violence, exploitation and abuse experienced by women and girls with disabilities in institutional settings, and to take appropriate measures on the findings.

Austria (2013)

34. The Committee commends the Austrian Ombudsman Board for the work done to investigate allegations of mistreatment in institutional settings. However, the Committee remains concerned at reports of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party take further measures to ensure protection of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse.

El Salvador (2013)

35. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The lack of official records of cases of exploitation, violence and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially children and women, and of preventive measures in both institutions and family settings;

(b) The lack of protocols on handling women with disabilities who are victims or witnesses in trials for exploitation, violence or abuse;

(c) The recourse to institutionalization as the main option envisaged by the State party for the restoration of rights in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse;

(d) The lack of an express ban on corporal punishment of children with disabilities;

(e) The exploitation of persons with disabilities, especially children, for the purpose of begging.

36. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To adopt legislation to prevent, investigate and punish exploitation, violence and abuse involving persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on women and children;

(b) To set up protocols for and training in the investigation of cases of violence against persons with disabilities;

- (c) To follow up on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/SLV/CO/3-4) regarding the express prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment and ensure that the prohibition includes practices in institutions for children with disabilities;
- (d) To follow up on the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to El Salvador following the consideration of its report regarding the need to take a comprehensive approach to violence against women and girls (CEDAW/C/SLV/CO/7, para. 24);
- (e) To adopt measures to prevent the exploitation of children with disabilities for the purpose of begging and establish programmes to promote their integration in society and their right to live in the community.

Paraguay (2013)

39. The Committee regrets that offences of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are still not visible because judicial bodies do not keep systematic records of cases.

40. The Committee urges the State party to institute a comprehensive strategy, incorporating the gender perspective and in consultation with disabled persons' organizations, to prevent and punish exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, and social rehabilitation and reintegration programmes aiming at the full enjoyment and exercise of their human rights; it also urges judicial bodies to become involved in that strategy. The Committee asks the State party to include in its next periodic report information on complaints and decisions on behalf of persons with disabilities who are victims of offences of this kind.

41. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not provided information on the number of persons with disabilities who are neglected, and whether they are victims of exploitation, human trafficking or abuse.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party look closely at the situation of persons with disabilities who are neglected or the victims of trafficking and take the necessary steps to protect them, including alternative housing for those who have been neglected or are making a living by begging. It also urges the creation of reception centres where victims of trafficking in persons can obtain psychosocial care and legal assistance.

43. The Committee is concerned at reports from various sources — as acknowledged by the authorities of the State party who took part in the interactive dialogue — that criminal gangs in Paraguay are exploiting persons with disabilities by making them beg.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Set up a special investigation unit within the competent law-enforcement bodies to find out how these gangs operate;
- (b) Take steps to protect the victims and place them in rehabilitation programmes, with the required support and reasonable accommodation, so that they can exercise their labour rights;
- (c) Take criminal proceedings against those responsible for the exploitation and impose the appropriate penalties.

Argentina (2012)

29. The Committee notes with concern that neither Act No. 26.485 on comprehensive protection and the prevention, punishment and elimination of violence against women nor Act No. 26.061 on the comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents takes account of the specific situation of women with disabilities and children with disabilities, respectively. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of protection against violence and abuse for institutionalized persons with disabilities.

30. The Committee urges the State party to guarantee protection for women with disabilities and children with disabilities in, respectively, the revised versions of Act No. 26.485 and Act No. 26.061 and their implementing regulations. It also urges the State party to incorporate a disability perspective into policies and programmes developed on the basis of these acts. In addition, it recommends that the State party draw up appropriate guidelines for the

prevention of violence against persons with disabilities who are institutionalized. The Committee also recommends that the State party collect data and information on violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, paying particular attention to women, children and persons who are institutionalized. To that end, the State party should, inter alia, establish institutional mechanisms for the early detection of situations in which violence may occur, diligently investigate allegations of violent acts and make any adjustments in procedures that may be needed so that victims can testify and those responsible can be prosecuted.

China (2012)

29. The Committee is deeply troubled by the reported incidents of abduction and forced labour of thousands of persons with intellectual disabilities, especially children, such as the occurrence of slave labour in Shanxi and Henan.

30. The Committee strongly urges the state party to continue investigating these incidents and prosecute the perpetrators. It also asks the state party to implement comprehensive measures to prevent further abductions of persons with intellectual disabilities and provide remedies to the victims, by including data collection on the prevalence of exploitation, abuse and violence against persons with disabilities.

Hong-Kong

65. The Committee is concerned about the incidents of women and girls with intellectual disabilities being subjected to sexual violence.

66. The Committee suggests that Hong Kong, China, continue investigating these incidents and prosecute the perpetrators and all those responsible. It also recommends that sex education be taught to children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and that the law enforcement personnel be trained on handling violence against women and girls with disabilities.

67. In addition, while the Committee does not consider shelter workshops as a good way to implement the CRPD, it also finds the daily allowance for persons with disabilities in Shelter Workshops to be too low and bordering exploitation.

68. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China, enact legislation to raise the daily allowance for persons with disabilities in shelter workshops, so as to prevent their exploitation.

Macao

90. The Committee is concerned about the heightened risk of violence against women and girls with disabilities in becoming victims of domestic violence and abuse.

91. The Committee recommends that services as well as information are made accessible to these victims. It specifically encourages the state party to set up a complaint mechanism and conduct mandatory training for the police force regarding this issue.

Hungary (2012)

31. The Committee appreciates that the State party has taken measures to provide some specific disability-related provisions in its legislation and policies for prevention of exploitation, violence and abuse. It, however, is concerned that women, men, girls and boys with disabilities continue to face violence, abuse and exploitation.

32. The Committee recommends the State party to take effective measures to ensure protection of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, in accordance with the Convention, amongst others, the establishment of protocols for the early detection of violence, above all in institutional settings, procedural accommodation to gather testimonies of victims, and prosecution of those persons responsible, as well as redress for victims. It also recommends the State party to ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive and accessible.

Tunisia (2010)

26. The Committee expresses concern at the situation of violence that women and children with disabilities might face.

27. The Committee encourages the State party to include women and girls with disabilities in the National Strategy for the prevention of violence in the family and society, and to adopt comprehensive measures for them to have access to immediate protection, shelter and legal aid. It requests the State party to conduct awareness campaigns and develop educational programmes on the greater vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities with respect to violence and abuse.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 17 CRPD
(Protecting the integrity of the
person)*

September 2025

Article 17 - Protecting the integrity of the person

Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)

Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
India (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Poland (2018)
Philippines (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Luxembourg (2017)

Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)

Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
New Zealand (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Argentina (2012)
Spain (2011)
Tunisia (2010)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 17 on Burkina Faso (2024), Mauritania, Paraguay, Senegal, Algeria, Bulgaria, Malta, Nepal, Seychelles, Slovenia, Latvia, Armenia, Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Austria, Paraguay, China, Peru, Jamaica, Macao, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

31. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) According to credible information, women with disabilities are subjected to forced abortions and forced sterilizations;
- (b) Legislation does not prohibit coercive medical practices such as forced treatment, or the use of physical and chemical restraints, nor does it provide adequate safeguards to protect the physical and mental integrity of persons with disabilities.

32. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Enact and enforce legal provisions prohibiting forced abortion and forced sterilization, and establish accessible complaints mechanisms for victims;**
- (b) Introduce and enforce a legal ban on coercive medical practices such as forced treatment, physical and chemical restraints, and establish independent monitoring, including by organisations of persons with disabilities, to safeguard the physical and mental integrity of persons with disabilities and to prevent such violations.**

Finland (2025)

32. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the State Party retains section 2 of Act No. 283/1970 on Sterilisation, as well as laws and policies that allow for abortion and contraception without the free and informed personal consent of women and girls with disabilities;
- (b) That despite Finland's leadership role in the adoption of the Human Rights Council resolution, "Combating Discrimination, Violence, and Harmful Practices against Intersex Persons", there are insufficient measures to protect intersex children from unnecessary and deferable medical interventions.

33. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities and intersex persons through their representative organisations:

- (a) Repeal section 2 of Act No. 283/1970 on Sterilisation, and take all legislative, policy and administrative measures to prohibit sterilisation, abortion and contraception without the free and informed personal consent of persons with disabilities and to provide effective remedies for victims of forced sterilisation, abortion and contraception;**
- (b) Adopt and implement a legislative and policy framework to explicitly prohibit the performance of medically unnecessary and deferable interventions, including surgical, hormonal or other medical procedures on intersex minors, and provide criminal, civil and administrative remedies, healthcare and psychosocial support for intersex persons who have been subjected to intersex genital mutilation.**

Kiribati (2025)

31. The Committee is concerned about the limited data on the practice of forced sterilisation and contraception within the State Party, including at the family level, and the absence of legal and policy measures to protect against forced sterilisation and forced contraception.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct research, including in the outer islands and at the family level to examine the prevalence of forced sterilisation and contraception and the situations in which it occurs, and take all necessary legislative and policy measures to prohibit such practices.

Maldives (2025)

33. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About the prevalence of forced treatment of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The lack of criminalization of the practice of female genital mutilation;

(c) The absence of an independent mechanism to monitor and prevent cases of coercion, forced treatment, forced sterilization, and forced abortion, nor mechanisms for the submission of complaints, follow-up, the punishment of perpetrators, or redress for victims.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures to ensure, in all situations, the protection of the integrity of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to ensure that medical interventions and treatment are carried out with the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities;

(b) Amend the Penal Code to explicitly prohibit forced sterilization and female genital mutilations, in particular women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and thoroughly investigate allegations of forced sterilization, female genital mutilations, and forced abortion and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and that proper redress is provided to the victims/survivors;

(c) Establish an independent monitoring body to investigate cases of medical coercion, forced treatment, or violation of bodily autonomy, ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to effective remedies and accountability mechanisms.

Canada (2025)

33. The Committee is concerned about the historical and ongoing practice of forced and coerced sterilization of persons with disabilities, including Indigenous, Black and racialised women and girls with disabilities, intersex children, and institutionalised persons.

34. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Take all legislative, policy and administrative measures to prohibit sterilisation procedures and contraceptive measures performed on persons with disabilities without their free, informed and personal consent;

(b) Urgently implement the recommendations of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights to end forced or coerced sterilisation and ensure redress, justice, and support for survivors.

Dominican Republic (2025)

31. The Committee is concerned about reported instances of non-consensual sterilization of women and girls with disabilities upon the request of a family member or at the initiative of health personnel.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure the enforcement of its laws and guarantee the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities in relation to sterilization and ensure that restorative justice measures are provided for women who have been sterilized without their consent and that the perpetrators of these practices are investigated and duly punished.

European Union (2025)

44. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including women and children with disabilities are exposed to harmful, invasive and irreversible forms of treatment, including forced sterilization, abortion and contraception.

45. The Committee recommends that the European Union ensure persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, are not subjected to involuntary harmful, invasive and irreversible treatment, such as forced sterilization, abortion and contraception, and that any form of treatment of persons with disabilities is based on their personal, free and fully informed consent.

Palau (2025)

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of clarity concerning the scope of legislation to protect persons with disabilities from being subjected to treatment without their free and informed consent, including forced sterilization and abortion.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures to ensure, in all situations, the protection of the integrity of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to ensure that medical interventions and treatments are carried out with the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities;

(b) Establish mechanisms to monitor health care facilities in order to protect persons with disabilities, particularly, women and girls with disabilities from forced interventions and ensure that mechanisms providing protection against forced abortion and sterilization are effective and accessible.

Tuvalu (2025)

31. The Committee is concerned about the possibility under the Mental Treatment Act to keep a person with disability until discharged under the directions of the medical officer in charge of for care and treatment without any reference to safeguards.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures to ensure, in all situations, the protection of the integrity of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to ensure that medical interventions and treatment are carried out with the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities;

(b) Ensure the collection of data about persons with disabilities under the directions of medical officers for care and treatment, to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities, as well as provide a complaint and redress mechanisms to persons with disabilities.

Viet Nam (2025)

33. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Vietnamese law requires consent for medical procedures, but it is unclear how this applies to persons with disabilities, especially those under guardianship, as there is no clear legal framework to ensure that persons with disabilities can make their own medical decisions;

(b) There is no explicit mention of supported decision-making mechanisms in medical settings, leaving persons with disabilities vulnerable to substitute decision-making (guardianship) rather than enabling them to exercise their autonomy;

(c) Women and girls with disabilities remain vulnerable to sexual and reproductive health and rights violations, including forced sterilization and abortion, despite penalties for these practices;

(d) Persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are at risk of involuntary detention or forced medication in psychiatric settings, with unclear safeguards in place to protect their rights and bodily integrity;

(e) While there are penalties for forced sterilization or abortion, these may not be sufficient deterrents, and there is no clear independent oversight mechanism to monitor medical procedures involving persons with disabilities;

(f) There is no independent mechanism for evaluating segregation centres in order to prevent cases of coercion, forced treatment, sterilizations, and abortions without consent, nor mechanisms for the submission of complaints, follow-up, punishment of perpetrators, and restitution for victims.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen safeguards to ensure that persons with disabilities, especially those under guardianship, can exercise their right to informed consent for medical treatments, including by providing accessible information and support to make decisions about their healthcare;
- (b) Introduce legal provisions to replace substitute decision-making with supported decision-making frameworks, ensuring that persons with disabilities maintain control over their healthcare decisions and are supported in making informed choices;
- (c) Take comprehensive steps to prevent women with disabilities to undergo forced sterilization and forced abortion, including awareness-raising campaigns, stronger enforcement of laws, and the establishment of effective mechanisms to monitor and report such violations;
- (d) Ensure that persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are not subjected to forced medication in psychiatric facilities, and establish clear legal safeguards to protect their bodily integrity and autonomy in mental health care settings;
- (e) Strengthen legal enforcement against medical professionals or institutions that violate the bodily integrity of persons with disabilities, including by increasing penalties for forced medical procedures and ensuring accountability for violations;
- (f) Establish an independent monitoring body to investigate cases of medical coercion, forced treatments, or violations of bodily autonomy, ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to effective remedies and accountability mechanisms.

Belarus (2024)

33. The Committee is concerned about women and girls with psychosocial disabilities who continue to be non-consensually sterilized under the Law on Psychiatric Assistance Provision. It is also concerned about lack of protection against forced abortion.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party urgently amend the Psychiatric Protection Act, to prohibit forced sterilizations and forced abortion against women and girls with disabilities, including those held in prisons and psychiatric hospitals or asylums.

Belgium (2024)

34. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) At reports that women with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, residing in collective living centres or placed in facilities and institutions, are often required to undergo sterilisation procedures and forced to use contraception, and that if their consent is obtained, it is often without proper information;
- (b) About the lack of data on the use of forced sterilization and forced contraception on persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities;
- (c) That, despite the adoption of the 'Resolution for recognising the right to bodily integrity of intersex minors' in February 2021, there is, as of yet, no legislative framework in place specifically prohibiting unnecessary medical interventions, particularly 'normalisation' surgery and hormone treatments of intersex persons, particularly minor intersex persons, without their full and informed personal consent.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with the human rights model of disability and the joint statement by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as the General Comment No. 3 on women and girls with disabilities, and the Istanbul Convention, and in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities through their representative organisations;

- (a) Take all legislative, policy and administrative measures to ensure that the use of sterilisation and contraception by all women and girls with disabilities, in all settings, is based on their free and informed personal consent, respecting the dignity and autonomy of women and girls with disabilities, and that institutions or facilities do not require undergoing sterilisation or using contraceptives on their residents as a precondition for being accepted in the institution;
- (b) Collect data, disaggregated by race, sex, gender, age, impairment, region and other relevant criteria, to allow an accurate estimation of the number of persons who have undergone sterilization or contraception without their free and informed personal consent, and in particular evaluate whether these practices are increasing or decreasing and where they are occurring;
- (c) Expedite the adoption and implementation of legislative frameworks covering the whole area of the State party that would explicitly prohibit the performance of medically unnecessary and irreversible medical interventions, including surgical, hormonal or other medical procedures on intersex minors, and would provide criminal, civil and administrative remedies, health care and psychosocial support for intersex persons who were subjected to intersex genital mutilation.

Benin (2024)

33. The Committee is concerned by the lack of information and statistical data on the implementation of the legal protection of the integrity of persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned by:

- (a) The use of forced electroconvulsive therapy within the treatment methods for persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The lack of specific provisions to prohibit forced sterilization of and forced abortions performed on women and girls with disabilities on the basis of third-party consent, in particular women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures to ensure the protection of the integrity of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in all situations, and to ensure that medical interventions and treatment are carried out only with the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities themselves;
- (b) Specifically prohibit forced sterilization of and forced abortions performed on women and girls with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

Denmark (2024)

49. The Committee is concerned that legal and policy frameworks across the Kingdom of Denmark allow for sterilisation, contraception and abortion procedures on women and girls with disabilities under guardianship without their personal consent, including under the sections 109 and 110 of the Health Act.

50. The Committee recommends that legal and policy frameworks across the Kingdom of Denmark are amended to prohibit sterilisation, contraception and abortion procedures on all women and girls with disabilities without their informed, free, and personal consent.

51. The Committee is concerned that insufficient support is being provided to women with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities in institutions, to participate in all aspects of the IUD Inquiry in Greenland and to seek redress, and that the inquiry only examines the issue up until 1991.

52. The Committee recommends that reasonable accommodation and disability specific supports are provided to women with disabilities, including women with disabilities in institutions, to participate in all aspects of the IUD Inquiry in Greenland and to seek redress, and that the inquiry is extended until the present day.

Ghana (2024)

34. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The mistreatment received as a result of cultural and religious practices which consider persons with disabilities, especially persons with albinism, as a curse, resulting in isolation , desertion and inhumane treatment such as chaining and abuse in prayer camps;
- (b) Existence of harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, which include women and girls with disabilities.

35. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Effectively address female genital mutilation both in law and in practice, including women and girls with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party take into account article 17 of the Convention while implementing target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (b) Launch public education campaigns to change harmful cultural and religious beliefs about disabilities, particularly targeting the mistreatment of individuals with albinism and psychosocial disabilities and Promote awareness of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities to prevent their inhumane treatment and protect them from exile, death threats, and abuse in prayer camps.**

Mauritius (2024)

29. The Committee is concerned of reports that women and girls with disabilities continue to be subjected to forced sterilization and abortion.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party thoroughly investigate allegations of forced sterilization and abortion, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and that proper redress is provided for the victims/survivors.

Netherlands (2024)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Information on possible treatment and counselling by medical experts still being based on the medical model of disability, for example concerning intersex children as well as the information provided to pregnant women undergoing prenatal screening;
- (b) The reports of non-consensual, unnecessary and irreversible medical interventions and treatment performed on intersex persons, including during infancy and childhood, including sterilization and castration, hormone treatment and genital surgery often performed under the age of 12;
- (c) Reports of legal provisions and practices that allow for forced contraception of women with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that counselling and information services in areas relating to disability, namely for intersex parents and their families and for pregnant women undergoing prenatal screening, are based on the human rights model rather than the medical model of disability;**
- (b) Adopt clear legislative provisions that explicitly prohibit the performance of unnecessary and irreversible medical interventions, including surgical, hormonal or other medical procedures, on intersex infants and children; provide adequate counselling and support for families of intersex children; and provide health care and psychosocial support to intersex persons who have been subjected to intersex genital mutilation;**

(c) Repeal legal provisions and practices, if any, that allow for forced contraception of persons with disabilities, ensuring that any decision related to contraception is based on the free and informed consent of the individuals concerned.

Ukraine (2024)

34. The Committee notes the 2017 legal amendments that abolished forced sterilization, including of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. However, it remains concerned about the administration of contraceptives without consent to women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities residents in long-term care facilities, including by coercion and threats.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party implement mechanisms to immediately stop the forced contraception of persons with disabilities and that it opens investigations into these cases, sanctions perpetrators and provides victims with comprehensive reparations.

Azerbaijan (2024)

39. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information concerning measures to address the impact of harmful practices, including child marriage, forced sterilization and forced abortion on persons with disabilities, and in particular on persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure the prompt enactment of legislation to prohibit child marriage and include persons with disabilities in awareness raising initiatives including public campaigns to prevent child marriage;

(b) Review with the aim to repeal legislation, including mental health legislation that allows for sterilization of persons with disabilities, in particular of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, on the basis of third-party consent.

Bahrain (2024)¹

34. The Committee is deeply concerned about the lack of information on:

(a) Practices of forced sterilisation and abortion on the basis of disability, especially in residential care institutions, and the measures taken to prevent such practices; (b) Forced treatment and the use of physical and chemical restraints and electric shocks in mental health hospitals.

(b) Forced treatment and the use of physical and chemical restraints and electric shocks in mental health hospitals, especially in light of the legislative vacuum that exists to guarantee the rights of users of mental health services.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party

(a) Collect information and data on cases of forced sterilisation and abortion committed against persons with disabilities and indicate what action has been taken

(b) Explicitly criminalise forced sterilisation and abortion on the basis of disability in national legislation

(c) Prohibit forced treatment and placement in the mental health sector and prohibit the use of physical and chemical restraints and electric shocks.

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

Costa Rica (2024)

31. El Comité nota con preocupación:

- a) Los casos de mujeres con discapacidad que han sido sometidas a esterilización sin su consentimiento libre e informado y a tratamientos forzados;
- b) El procedimiento judicial ante el Juzgado de Familia con relación a la esterilización de personas con discapacidad “necesaria e indispensable”.

32. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) **La adopción de medidas para garantizar el consentimiento libre e informado de las personas con discapacidad con relación a tratamientos y eliminar la esterilización, forzada así como la implementación de medidas de justicia restaurativa para las mujeres que hayan sido esterilizadas sin su consentimiento, e que se investigue a los autores de estas prácticas, imponiendo sanciones proporcionadas.;**
- b) **Eliminar la competencia del Tribunal de Familia para ordenar esterilizaciones sin el consentimiento personal, libre e informado de la persona con discapacidad.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

37. The Committee is concerned by reports about the infliction of forced contraception, forced sterilization and forced abortion on persons with disabilities, in particular on persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

38. **Recalling the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/KAZ/CO/5, para. 26), the Committee recommends that the State party abolish legislation and administrative orders allowing or prescribing forced sterilization, forced abortion and forced contraception of persons with disabilities, and that it enact legislation guaranteeing accountability and appropriate reparation, and implement it.**

Nicaragua (2024)

32. El Comité nota que el artículo 36 de la Constitución contempla que “toda persona tiene derecho a que se le respete su integridad física, psíquica y moral”, sin embargo, preocupa al Comité:

- a) Las restricciones al acceso a la interrupción voluntaria del embarazo, especialmente para las víctimas de violencia sexual, incluidas las niñas y se desconozca cuantas de estas son personas con discapacidad;
- b) La información recibida sobre mujeres con discapacidad auditiva de la Costa Caribe que fueron sometidas a procedimientos de esterilización sin su consentimiento durante su adolescencia;
- c) La información recibida sobre casos de personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial que, a la muerte de sus padres, son despojados de su vivienda por otros familiares, a pesar de haber heredado dicha vivienda.

33. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, en consulta estrecha y colaboración activa con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan:**

- a) **Analice y reforme la legislación para que en los casos de violencia sexual se permita a las mujeres en general y a las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad en particular, tener acceso a la opción de interrumpir su embarazo, por medio de métodos seguros, así como la instauración de programas gubernamentales que las apoyen, evitando su revictimización;**
- b) **Investigue cuántas mujeres con discapacidad fueron esterilizadas sin su consentimiento, ofrecerles justicia restaurativa y castigar a los responsables de los actos;**
- c) **Implemente programas sociales para asegurar que las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial que han heredado viviendas no sean despojadas de ellas por parte de otros familiares.**

Sweden (2024)

39. The Committee is concerned about the unnecessary, invasive or irreversible medical interventions that modify sex characteristics of intersex children.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party closely consult and actively involve representative organizations of intersex persons to ensure comprehensive protection for intersex children from unnecessary, invasive or irreversible medical interventions that modify sex characteristics.

Zambia (2024)

33. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the use of forced electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) among the treatment methods for persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(b) The lack of specific provisions to prohibit forced sterilisation and abortion of women and girls with disabilities, women and girls with intellectual disabilities and/or cerebral palsy;

(c) Attacks and violation of the physical integrity of persons with albinism.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures to ensure, in all situations, the protection of the integrity of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to ensure that medical interventions and treatment are carried out with the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Put in place measures to specifically prohibit forced sterilisation and abortion of women and girls with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual disabilities and/or cerebral palsy;**

(c) **Take all necessary measures to protect the integrity of persons with Albinism and adopt the African Union's Regional Action Plan on Albinism.**

Andorra (2023)

35. The Committee notes that Act No. 40/2014, article 14, modifies article 116(2) of Act 9/2005 (Criminal Code), sanctioning forced sterilization, and that the discriminatory motive of disability is an aggravating circumstance. It is concerned, however, about the following:

(a) Women and girls with disabilities, in particular, women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities could be subjected to forced sterilization or other forced interventions at the request of third parties, including family members or guardians;

(b) The absence of a monitoring mechanism to prevent cases of forced sterilization and other types of surgery for which consent has not been obtained, in particular, in psychiatric hospitals and institutions.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt legislative and other measures necessary to protect the integrity of persons with disabilities in all settings, ensuring that all medical treatment and interventions are done on the basis of the free and informed consent of the concerned person, as well as prevent and eliminate harmful practices against women and girls with disabilities;**

(b) **Establish an independent monitoring mechanism to assess the situation of persons with disabilities in institutions to prevent, detect and, where appropriate, punish and provide redress in cases of forced sterilizations, forced abortions, forced contraception or any other forced medical treatment.**

Austria (2023)

41. The Committee is concerned about reports stating that:

(a) Sterilizations of women and girls with disabilities without their consent, apparently outside the confines of §§ 253-255 ABGB, have taken place in the State party;

(b) Contraceptives are administered to women and girls with disabilities without their consent or even their knowledge, particularly in institutions.

42. The Committee recommends the State party:

- (a)Strictly enforce the prohibition of sterilization in § 255 ABGB, provide accessible information on sexual self-determination, collect data on performed sterilizations in the State party, disaggregated by sex, gender, age, procedure followed and place of the intervention, and train medical personnel on the requirements of the law;**
- (b)Explicitly ban the use of medical measures to inhibit procreation on persons with disabilities without their personal consent, and enforce it.**

Germany (2023)

37.The Committee is concerned about:

- (a)The continued occurrence of forced and coerced sterilisation of women and girls with disabilities;**
- (b)The practice of forced and coerced contraception and associated harmful side-effects and forced and coerced abortions in institutional facilities.**

38.The Committee recommends that the State Party take all necessary legislative, administrative and judicial measures to:

- (a)Prohibit sterilisation of women and girls with disabilities without their free and informed consent, including sterilisation based on substitute consent or court decisions;**
- (b)Prohibit all forms of contraception and abortion without the free and informed consent of the individual concerned, including coercive practices.**

39.The Committee is concerned that the Act on the Protection of Children with Variations in Sex Development of 2021 does not provide comprehensive protection for all intersex children from invasive or irreversible medical procedures that modify sex characteristics.

40.The Committee recommends that the State Party closely consult and actively involve representative organisations of intersex persons to review and amend the Act on the Protection of Children with Variations in Sex Development 2021 to ensure comprehensive protection for intersex children from invasive or irreversible medical procedures that modify sex characteristics unless necessary to avoid serious, urgent, and irreparable harm.

Israel (2023)

39.The Committee is concerned about cases of forced sterilization performed on persons with disabilities, and medically unnecessary and irreversible surgery and interventions on intersex children, and the lack of measures to ensure accountability and reparations.

40.The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a)Prohibit sterilisation without the free and informed personal consent of the person concerned;**
- (b)Take measures to prohibit medically unnecessary and irreversible surgery and medical interventions on intersex children until they are able to provide personal consent and adopt measures to provide redress and reparations for the physical and psychological harms inflicted.**

Malawi (2023)

35.The Committee observes with concern information about forced abortions and that women and girls with disabilities under guardianship may be subjected to forced sterilization based on consent provided by third parties, including family members or guardians. It is also concerned about the absence of objective discussions and awareness-raising campaigns on sterilization and the lack of sexual and reproductive health education for persons with disabilities.

36.The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a)Prohibit sterilizations of persons with disabilities without their free and informed personal consent, for example those at the request by third parties, including courts, guardians or family members;**
- (b)Adopt protocols applicable across all health care services to promote respect of sexual and reproductive rights of persons with disabilities, notably women and girls with**

disabilities, including the right to retain their fertility, and the provision of related information and services;

(c) Set up awareness-raising and education campaigns on sexual and reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities.

Mongolia (2023)

35. The Committee remains concerned at the persistence in law (art. 37 (b) of the Law on Health) and in practice, of measures to “prevent conception in persons with genetic psychosocial or intellectual disorders, or psychosocial or intellectually impaired persons”, without their informed consent. The Committee is also concerned that article 9.2 of the Law on Health authorizes abortions of women with “mental disorder” carried out without the free and informed consent of women and girls with disabilities.

36. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/MNG/CO/1, para. 29) and urges the State party to eliminate legislative provisions of the Law on Health, as well as of bylaws and related regulations, restricting sexual and reproductive rights and allowing the forced sterilization of and abortion for women with disabilities, in particular psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, and women with disabilities living in institutions. It also recommends that the State party establish a mechanism for identifying, investigating, and following up on any cases that, despite an explicit prohibition, continue to arise and for providing full redress in those instances, and take measures to provide protection against forced sterilization.

Angola (2023)

29. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of forced medical treatments and the use of drugs and treatment methods on patients with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities without their free and informed consent and forced sterilization of women and girls with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party prohibit forced medical treatment and interventions, including forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, including in both public and private institutions, and provide training to all health practitioners, including traditional healers, on their rights.

Argentina (2023)

35. El Comité observa con preocupación lo siguiente:

a) La persistencia de esterilizaciones y abortos forzados, que afectan especialmente a las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial;

b) La Ley 27.610 establece que si la sentencia judicial de restricción a la capacidad impide prestar el consentimiento para interrumpir el embarazo, o la persona ha sido declarada incapaz judicialmente, deberá prestar su consentimiento con la asistencia de su representante legal, o a falta de este, una persona allegada.

36. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Iniciar procesos de investigación administrativa y penal a las autoridades judiciales y sanitarias y a las instituciones que recomiendan, autorizan o aplican esterilizaciones o abortos forzados a niñas y mujeres con discapacidad, y garantizar el acceso a la justicia y reparaciones para las víctimas;

b) Revisar la legislación, incluyendo la Ley 27.610 (artículo 9), su reglamentación y su Protocolo, para garantizar que todas las mujeres con discapacidad, puedan otorgar de manera autónoma su consentimiento previo e informado para la interrupción voluntaria de un embarazo, en igualdad con otras mujeres.

Georgia (2023)

35. The Committee observes with concern information about forced or involuntary abortion, sterilisation, contraception, and the use of sexuality suppression medication against persons with disabilities.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party explicitly prohibit abortion, sterilisation, contraception and the use of sexuality suppression medication, on the basis of

the authorization of a third party, and that it develops public programmes to raise awareness and inform persons with disabilities, targeting young persons with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, about their sexual and reproductive rights.

Peru (2023)

34.El Comité observa con preocupación que:

- a) Las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad que han sido esterilizadas sin su consentimiento, incluso en instituciones psiquiátricas y de asistencia social, no han sido incluidas en el **Registro de Víctimas de Esterilizaciones Forzadas – REVIESFO**, ni en las causas penales para abordar la esterilización forzada de mujeres;
- b) La Norma Técnica de Planificación Familiar Actualizada afirme que el consentimiento para la esterilización femenina no es aplicable a las mujeres con discapacidad psicosocial.

35.El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

- a) **Desarrolle medidas para garantizar que las mujeres con discapacidad supervivientes de esterilizaciones forzadas reciban medidas de resarcimiento y reparación y que se procese a los autores, incluidos los responsables de instituciones psiquiátricas y de asistencia social;**
- b) **Incorpore a la Norma Técnica de Planificación Familiar Actualizada las medidas específicas, incluyendo la provisión de ajustes razonables, apoyos y otros medios de verificación, que garanticen el consentimiento informado de las mujeres con discapacidad psicosocial para que puedan tomar sus propias decisiones relacionadas con su cuerpo y sexualidad, así como con su salud reproductiva.**

Togo (2023)

35.The Committee notes that the national legislation prohibits forced sterilization of women with disabilities. However, it is concerned about the lack of monitoring mechanisms of psychiatric hospitals and other segregation centres to prevent possible cases of forced sterilizations and other types of surgeries for which the consent has not been obtained.

36.The Committee recommends the establishment of independent monitoring to assess the situation of women and girls with disabilities in institutions to prevent, detect and, where appropriate, punish and provide redress in cases of forced sterilizations, abortions or any other type of surgery.

Tunisia (2023)

29.The Committee is deeply concerned about women with disabilities who are under guardianship and who could allegedly be subjected to forced sterilization at the request of third parties, including trusted persons, family members or guardians without their free will or informed consent. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of public and objective debate on the issue and the absence of awareness campaigns to raise understanding that persons with disabilities should have access to sexual and reproductive health training and make their own decisions.

30.The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take immediate measures, including legislative measures, to prohibit and eliminate forced sterilizations, especially of women with disabilities;**
- (b) Establish awareness campaigns on the rights of persons with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health, directed to medical personnel involved in sexual and reproductive health and to persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities.**

Bangladesh (2022)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Forced abortion and forced sterilisation perpetrated against women with disabilities in institutions, particularly women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as forced medical and/or psychiatric interventions and involuntary psychiatric admissions;

- (b) Lack of statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age and type of impairment, on persons with disabilities subjected to forced sterilization and forced abortions, as well as forced medical and/or psychiatric interventions and involuntary psychiatric admissions;
- (c) Harmful practices against women and girls with disabilities, particularly forced marriages, remain common.

36. The Committee recommends that the state party:

- (a) Take concrete measures to prohibit forced abortion and forced sterilization against women with disabilities, particularly against women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including abolishing forced medical, psychiatric interventions and involuntary psychiatric admissions and establish mechanisms of supported decision-making to enable persons with disabilities to express prior and informed consent in relation to such interventions and treatment;**
- (b) Collect statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age and type of impairment, on persons with disabilities subjected to forced sterilization, forced abortions, as well as forced medical and/or psychiatric interventions and involuntary psychiatric admissions;**
- (c) Take strong measures to prevent harmful practices such as forced marriages.**

China (2022)

38. The Committee is concerned about the legal exceptions to free and informed consent to compulsory hospitalization and medical interventions.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party remove legal exceptions to the requirement of free and informed consent of all persons with disabilities to medical interventions, including hospitalization, and ensure adherence to the requirement of free and informed consent with regard to all persons with disabilities.

Macao

84. The Committee is concerned about the legal exceptions to free and informed consent to compulsory hospitalization and medical interventions.

85. The Committee recommends that Macao SAR, China remove legal exceptions to the requirement of free and informed consent of all persons with disabilities to medical interventions, including hospitalization, and ensure adherence to the requirement of free and informed consent with regard to all persons with disabilities.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

30. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on concrete measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities against forced medical procedures and interventions, including sterilization.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the legal and policy frameworks to ensure that all medical and psychiatric treatment and interventions are done on the basis of own free and informed consent. It also recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to eliminate the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and those still deprived of their legal capacity.

New Zealand (2022)

35. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

- (a) The lack of action by the State party, in response to the Committee's 2014 concluding observations, to address the fact that parents can consent to sterilization of their children with disabilities and to also address laws that allow for the use of sterilization, contraception and abortion procedures with regard to women and girls with disabilities without their personal consent;
- (b) The lack of a prohibition on non-urgent, intrusive and irreversible medical interventions or the imposition of hormones on intersex infants and children before an age at which they can provide informed consent;

(c) The lack of legislative provisions to prohibit Ashley Treatment or growth attenuation treatment for children with disabilities, including to prohibit accessing these procedures outside New Zealand;

(d) The lack of data in relation to sterilization and abortion procedures performed on persons with disabilities without their personal consent, non-urgent medical interventions on intersex children without their consent and growth attenuation treatment.

36. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Immediately place a moratorium on sterilization, contraception and abortion procedures performed without personal consent, and take urgent action to adopt uniform legislation prohibiting such procedures on women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Adopt clear legislative provisions that explicitly prohibit the performance of unnecessary, invasive and irreversible medical interventions, including surgical, hormonal or other medical procedures on intersex children before an age at which they can provide informed consent;

(c) Recalling previous recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, develop and implement a child rights-based health-care protocol for intersex children, setting the procedures and steps to be followed by health teams, ensuring that no one is subjected to unnecessary medical or surgical treatment during infancy or childhood, guaranteeing the rights of children to bodily integrity, autonomy and self-determination, and provide families with intersex children with adequate counselling and support;

(d) Adopt legislative provisions to prohibit growth attenuation treatment (Ashley Treatment), including a prohibition on procedures sought outside New Zealand;

(e) Adopt legal provisions to provide legal remedies and holistic redress to victims of medical interventions performed without personal consent, including access to support and recovery services and adequate compensation;

(f) Develop measures to ensure reporting and data collection on sterilization, contraception and abortion procedures performed without personal consent, on non-urgent medical interventions performed on intersex children and on growth attenuation treatment.

Singapore (2022)

35. The Committee is concerned that the Voluntary Sterilization Act allows for the sterilization of persons with disabilities based on a court order declaring that it is necessary and in the best interest of the person concerned.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the Voluntary Sterilization Act and expressly and effectively protect women and girls with disabilities from sterilization without their free and informed personal consent.

Hungary (2022)

35. The Committee observes with concern that women and girls with disabilities, especially those placed under substitute decision-making regimes and those still in institutions can be subject to sterilization and abortion without their consent. The Committee is particularly concerned that women and girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and autistic women and girls are subjected to contraception without their consent in residential institutions, including in group homes, and face discriminatory legal restrictions on their right to have a child.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish all legal provisions, including the provisions of the Health Act (187/B) that allows for women and girls with disabilities to be sterilized and abortions carried out on them on the basis of third-party requests, including from guardians. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt protocols on respect for the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls with disabilities, in particular women and girls with intellectual disabilities, and include the duty to provide them with accessible information and services concerning their sexual and reproductive health rights. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure that the use of contraception by all women and girls with disabilities in all settings is based on free and informed consent, respecting the dignity and autonomy of women and girls with disabilities.

Mexico (2022)

45. The Committee is concerned about continuing practices of forced sterilization, contraception and abortion, particularly affecting women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities both inside and outside of institutions and indigenous women and girls. The Committee has received very disturbing reports of forced sterilization in Casa Hogar Esperanza.

46. The Committee reiterates the recommendations made in paragraph 38 of its previous concluding observations urging the State party to launch administrative and criminal investigations into the judicial and health authorities and institutions that recommend, authorize or perform forced sterilizations, contraception and abortion on girls, adolescents and women with disabilities and to guarantee access to justice and reparation for victims.

47. The Committee further recommends that the State party implement training programmes for professionals in the public and private health sectors on sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls with disabilities that include training on respect for their preferences and on dismantling prevalent stereotypes of the sexuality of women and girls with disabilities.

Switzerland (2022)

35. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That persons over 16 years of age deemed “incapable of discernment” can be sterilized under legal provisions that authorize sterilisation procedures; and the lack of data on and redress for such procedures;

(b) The lack of uniform cantonal protection against the practice of “packing” that is applied to autistic children, whereby the child is wrapped in cold, wet sheets;

(c) That intersex persons can be subjected to unnecessary and irreversible medical and/or surgical interventions, including during infancy or childhood; and that there is a lack of ongoing health care, psychosocial support and social reintegration for intersex persons who have been subjected to intersex genital mutilation and a lack of access to redress.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Prohibit the sterilization of persons with disabilities without their consent, repeal legal provisions that allow substituted consent by third parties for sterilization procedures, collect disaggregated data on sterilization procedures, and take measures to provide redress and support to persons with disabilities who are victims of forced sterilization;

(b) Prohibit in all cantons the practice of “packing” children, and take measures ensure the recovery of and redress for children who have been subjected to such treatment;

(c) Adopt clear legislative provisions that explicitly prohibit the performance of unnecessary and irreversible medical interventions, including surgical, hormonal or other medical procedures, on intersex infants and children; provide adequate counselling and support for families of intersex children; extend the statute of limitations to enable criminal and civil remedies; and provide health care and psychosocial support to intersex persons who have been subjected to intersex genital mutilation.

Venezuela (2022)

32. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of involuntary confinement and treatment and non-consensual medical practices in respect of persons with disabilities, including the forced sterilization of women and girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all legal provisions that permit involuntary treatment, and prohibit involuntary treatment and restraint and the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities.

Djibouti (2021)

29. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective frameworks and policies to protect the integrity of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, particularly in mental health institutions, including forced medical treatment and the use of drugs and treatment methods without free and informed consent.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement legislative and policies measures to establish safeguards to ensure the protection of the integrity of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities in all situations and to move towards mental health services in the community and to ensure the respect of the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities regarding medical treatment and interventions.

France (2021)

36. The Committee observes with concern that:

- (a) Women with disabilities subject to guardianship can be subjected to abortion or sterilization under The Public Health Code art. L2123-2 without their consent, or with consent provided by third parties, including trusted persons, family members or guardians;
- (b) Autistic children are subjected to treatments with objective "render them non-autistic", disrespecting their identity, and the practices of packing, despite public declarations prohibiting this practice;
- (c) Non-consensual medical interventions of intersex persons.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Prohibit involuntary sterilization and abortion of women with disabilities, including by request of family members, guardians and trusted persons or with the consent of third parties;**
- (b) **Eliminate normalising treatments on autistic children, and adopt measures to redress the rights of children and adults with disabilities who have been subjected to these treatments, including through reparations and compensations for the impact of these treatments on their physical and mental integrity;**
- (c) **Prohibit the practice of non-consensual medical interventions on intersex persons.**

Estonia (2021)

34. The Committee observes with concern that women with disabilities under guardianship can be subjected to sterilization or abortion without their consent.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Prohibit the forced sterilization and the termination of pregnancies of women with disabilities based on third-party requests, including from guardians or tutors, and raise awareness about the legal prohibition;**
- (b) **Adopt protocols promoting respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, and include in such protocols the duty to provide persons with disabilities with accessible information and services concerning their right to retain their fertility.**

Australia (2019)

33. The Committee is seriously concerned about:

- (a) The ongoing practice of forced sterilization, forced abortion and forced contraception among persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, which remains legal;
- (b) The unregulated use of involuntary surgery on infants and children born with variations in sex characteristics and of other intrusive and irreversible medical interventions without the free and informed consent of those undergoing such interventions or without evidence of the need to carry them out.

34. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) **Review and amend laws, including the section of the Family Law Rules 2004 relating to applications for medical procedures, in line with the Convention and adopt uniform legislation prohibiting, in the absence of free and informed consent, the sterilization of adults and children, the administration of contraception and the imposition of abortion procedures on women and girls with disabilities;**
- (b) **Adopt clear legislative provisions that explicitly prohibit the performance of unnecessary, invasive and irreversible medical interventions, including surgical, hormonal or other medical procedures on intersex children before they reach the legal age of consent; also**

provide adequate counselling and support for the families of intersex children and redress to intersex persons having undergone such medical procedures;

(c) Prohibit the use of non-consensual electroconvulsive therapy on the basis of any form of impairment.

Ecuador (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The fact that the Organic Act on the Health System is not in line with the Convention since it is not based on the human rights model of disability;

(b) That no explicit provision is made for the rights of persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities to request or reject treatments of any type on their own volition, including those dealing with sexual and reproductive health, on the basis of their informed consent and supported decision-making in the exercise of their legal capacity;

(c) The fact that forced sterilization is not expressly prohibited.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the Organic Act on the Health System to incorporate a human rights approach to disability and to expressly prohibit forced sterilization and the non-consensual interruption of pregnancies. The Committee also recommends that the State party guarantee the integrity and autonomy of persons with disabilities based on free and informed consent and supported decision-making in requesting or rejecting treatments relating to all relevant procedures. It also recommends that a mechanism be established for identifying, investigating and following up on any cases that, despite an explicit prohibition, continue to arise and for providing full redress in those instances.

El Salvador (2019)

34. The Committee is concerned that women and girls with disabilities continue to be subjected to forced sterilization and abortion, without their consent, and that the Counsel-General's Office issues opinions to hospitals on medical treatment including forced sterilization without the consent of the person concerned but with the consent of a third party. It is also concerned that no cases of forced sterilization were reported by hospitals.

35. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Repeal article 147 (3) of the Criminal Code and abolish the practice of forced sterilization of women and girls with disabilities, and ensure that decisions regarding medical procedures are taken with the free and informed consent of the person with disability and not as per the opinions issued by the Counsel-General's Office;

(b) Establish an independent mechanism to monitor, register and investigate cases of forced sterilization in hospitals and private clinics.

India (2019)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Continuing lawful practices of forced sterilization, forced contraception and forced abortion, particularly affecting women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in institutions;

(b) Harmful practices against women with disabilities, particularly forced marriages, dowry payments from families, and national schemes to promote financial incentives for marriage with a woman with disabilities or to prompt marriage among persons with disabilities;

(c) Sex-assignment or "sex-normalizing" surgery on intersex children, stigmatization and bullying against intersex children and their restricted access to community services.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal section 92 (f) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act on the exception to the requirement of consent to abortion in women with "severe" disabilities and legislation authorizing medical treatment on the basis of third-party consent, and provide all persons with disabilities with supported decision-making mechanisms for expressing prior and informed consent to medical treatment;

(b) Redouble its efforts to enforce the legal prohibition of harmful practices such as dowry payments and forced marriages, in relation to women and girls with disabilities, and end

harmful practices. The State party should ensure actual implementation of the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/HRC/26/38/Add.1, para. 80 (b)) on designing and launching targeted awareness-raising campaigns at the community level on harmful practices;

(c) Adopt measures to prevent sex-assignment or “sex-normalizing” surgery, stigmatization and bullying against intersex children and ensure their right to respect for their physical and mental integrity.

Kuwait (2019)

34. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on whether certain medical interventions, including the sterilization of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, are being carried out without the free and informed consent of the person concerned.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party protect persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, from forced sterilization, in law and in practice, and that it ensure that the right to free and informed consent prior to all interventions and treatments is upheld and that supported decision-making mechanisms and strengthened safeguards are provided.

Myanmar (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on concrete measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities against forced medical procedures and interventions, including sterilisation and castration.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the legal and policy provisions to ensure that all medical and psychiatric treatment and interventions are done on the basis of their own free and informed consent. It also recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to eliminate practices of forced sterilisation and castration on persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and those still deprived of their legal capacity.

Cuba (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned about the risks posed by article 18 of the Public Health Act, which exempts ‘disabled persons’ from the requirement of prior consent with regard to medical interventions. The Committee is therefore concerned that a legal guardian may authorise medical interventions with regard to persons with disabilities, including forced institutionalisation and sterilization.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt effective measures to ensure respect for the right of persons with disabilities to provide free and informed consent prior to medical treatment, institutionalization and sterilization, and provide efficient support mechanisms for decision-making in the State party.

Niger (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Sterilization of persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent especially women and girls with disabilities, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in health centres and hospitals, and through traditional healers;
- (b) The lack of protection of persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, against forced medical treatments; and the use of drugs and treatment methods on patients with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities without their free and informed consent.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen legal and policy provisions protecting persons with disabilities from forced sterilization, especially women and girls with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and those deprived of their legal capacity; prosecute and sanction

the perpetrators, and provide remedies to victims;
(b) Adopt necessary legislative and policy measures to ensure all medical treatment and interventions are done on the basis of the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities;
(c) Provide training to all health practitioners, including traditional healers, on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Norway (2019)

29. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, including women and children, reportedly continue to be subjected to involuntary medical treatment, including forced abortion and sterilization.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt effective measures to ensure respect for the right of persons with disabilities, particularly women and children, to provide informed and prior consent to medical treatment, including abortion and sterilization, regardless of the severity and type of impairment and to provide efficient support mechanisms for decision-making.

Rwanda (2019)

31. The Committee notes with concern the lack of prevention and protection measures to fully ensure the integrity of persons with disabilities, in particular against forced treatment and forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt legislative and other measures necessary to protect the integrity of persons with disabilities in all settings, including institutional settings where persons with psychosocial disabilities are still placed, and to prevent and stop forced treatment and forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned at the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

32. The Committee urges the State party to protect persons with disabilities, especially women and girls and those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, from forced sterilization, in law and in practice, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and sanctioned, and that remedies are available for persons subjected to forced sterilization.

Spain (2019)

33. The Committee is deeply concerned that women and girls with disabilities continue to be subjected to forced sterilization and abortion. The Committee is further concerned that medical treatments without the free and informed consent by the person are practiced in the State party.

34. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/ESP/CO/1, para. 8) and further urges the State party to repeal article 156 of the Organic Law 10/1995 to fully abolish the administration of sterilization, medical treatment and research on all persons with disabilities, without the full and informed consent of the person.

Türkiye (2019)

36. The Committee is concerned about reports of forced sterilization and forced abortion performed on women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information about procedures to safeguard the physical and mental integrity of persons with disabilities, in cases where guardians or other third parties request or authorise medical interventions without their consent.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise current legislation and prohibit the practice of medical interventions based on third party's consent acting as guardians or tutors of persons with disabilities deprived of their legal capacity, and that it develop supported decision-making mechanisms for persons

with disabilities that respect will and preferences of the person and protect their dignity and individual autonomy;

(b) Adopt measures to ensure the prohibition of forced abortions and forced sterilizations and raise awareness of forced medical interventions as harmful practices and ensure that the prior and informed consent of persons with disabilities is given for any medical and surgical treatment;

(c) Ensure patient rights' brochures, social media posts and guidebooks are in accessible formats such as Easy Read and plain language and known by persons with disabilities, doctors and health personnel in all health care facilities;

(d) Provide sufficient remedies, including compensation, reparation and rehabilitation to persons with disabilities who have been subjected to any forced medical intervention, ensuring that information retrieved by the Human Rights and Equality Institution is expeditiously processed and that victims are assisted.

Vanuatu (2019)

30. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, are subjected to forced sterilization without their consent.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party prevent and prohibit all forms of coercive medical treatment, including forced sterilization, on persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent and ensure that no women or girls with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities are subject to forced sterilization.

Poland (2018)

30. The Committee is concerned about the reported forced sterilization of women and girls with disabilities, deprived of their legal capacity, placed under guardianship and living in institutions. It is also concerned by reports of so called "conversion therapy" being performed on LGBT+ persons without consent, by public and private health entities, and based upon the presumed or actual psychosocial disability of a person.

31. The Committee recommends ensuring that women and girls with disabilities have access to support to make important life decisions for themselves and are not subjected to sterilization without their full, free and informed consent. It also urges to put an end to the use of conversion therapy and offer support for persons with psychosocial disability which respects the gender identity and sexual orientation of a person.

Philippines (2018)

32. The Committee is concerned about the reported incidents of forced sterilization of women with intellectual disabilities.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party takes measures to protect women with intellectual disabilities from involuntary sterilization, and ensure that force sterilization will not happen in practice in the future.

South Africa (2018)

32. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That forced sterilisation and forced abortion of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and in particular those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, occur unabated;

(b) The lack of protection of persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, against the use of menstrual suppression drugs, including the use of experimental or new drugs and treatment without free and informed consent, which is also a condition of admission into some special education schools.

33. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) **Revise the South African Sterilisation Act No. 44, 1998, and Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act No. 92, 1996, and remove provisions allowing for sterilisation and termination of pregnancy under substitute decision-making regime, and bring them in line with general comment No. 1 (2014) on supported decision-making;**

(b) Adopt legislative and policy measures to prevent and prohibit forced sterilization and non-consensual abortions, ensuring, without exception, that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, and in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including those deprived of their legal capacity, enjoy their right to free and informed consent;

(c) Abolish the use of menstrual suppression drugs, including the use of experimental or new drugs and treatment as a condition of admission into special education schools, notably schools for learners with intellectual disabilities and autism.

North Macedonia (2018)

32. The Committee is concerned that a legal guardian can authorize medical interventions, including abortion and sterilization, without free and informed consent of the person with disabilities.

33. The Committee urges the State party to adopt effective measures to ensure respect for the right to provide free, informed and prior consent of the person with disabilities to medical treatment, including sterilization and abortion, and to provide efficient support mechanisms for decision-making in the State party.

Haiti (2018)

32. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly women with intellectual disabilities are subject to contraceptive methods without their consent, but with the consent of third persons. The Committee is concerned that there is no structure of control or oversight of the implementation of the prohibition of medical or scientific experiments without the actual consent of the person as foreseen in the Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2012).

33. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures to ensure that all medical procedures and treatments concerning persons with disabilities are contingent on their free and informed consent. It also recommends that the State party monitor the respect of laws prohibiting forced and medical or scientific experiments without the actual consent of the person.

Oman (2018)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, and in particular those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) Insufficient protection of persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, against medical and scientific experimentation, including the use of experimental or new drugs and treatment methods related to the care of patients with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities without their free and informed consent.

34. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Ensure that both in law and in practice that persons with disabilities are not subjected to forced sterilization, especially women and girls, and in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including those deprived of their legal capacity; and that perpetrators are prosecuted and sanctioned, as necessary, and provide remedies to persons subjected to forced sterilization;

(b) Undertake all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to protect all persons with disabilities, in particular those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, against medical and scientific experimentation, including the use of experimental or new drugs and treatment methods, without their free and informed consent.

Russian Federation (2018)

38. The Committee is concerned about the reported instances of forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with intellectual and/or psycho-social disabilities and autistic persons, including when consent is given by the guardian of the person subjected to sterilization.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to prevent any forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with

intellectual and/or psycho-social disabilities without that individual's free and informed consent with effective safeguards available for the concerned persons.

Sudan (2018)

35. The Committee is concerned that sterilization without the free and informed consent of women and girls with disabilities is not explicitly prohibited.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party explicitly prohibit the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, and criminalize such practice.

Luxembourg (2017)

34. The Committee is concerned about reports of the forced administration of contraceptives to women with disabilities of reproductive age, particularly of women and girls with disabilities with intellectual disabilities still living in State-funded institutions. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities are still subject to medical treatments without their free and informed consent, particularly persons still under guardianship.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all legislative and other measures necessary to prevent and stop non-consensual contraception measures or medical treatment, including when consent is given by a third party.

Montenegro (2017)

34. The Committee notes with concern that, pursuant to article 24 of the Protection and Exercise of the Rights of the Mentally Ill Act, biomedical research may under certain circumstances be carried out on persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities without their prior, informed and fully voluntarily given consent.

35. The Committee urges the State party to expedite all necessary legal amendments to ensure that any form of medical or other scientific research may not be carried out on persons with disabilities without their prior, informed and fully voluntarily given consent. The Committee reminds the State party that such consent cannot be given via substituted decision-making.

Morocco (2017)

36. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities in the State party, particularly intersex persons with disabilities, are subjected to corrective surgeries and to the practice of forced sterilization, including forced chemical castration.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party prohibit and criminalize the practice of corrective surgeries on intersex persons with disabilities, in the absence of prior and informed consent, and the practice of forced sterilization, including forced chemical castration. It also recommends that the State party raise awareness of such practices as harmful and strengthen mechanisms aimed at ensuring that the informed consent of persons with disabilities is given for any medical and surgical treatment.

Panama (2017)

40. The Committee is concerned by the regulations being adopted regarding mental health care. It is also concerned at the lack of information on forced sterilization and forced abortion.

41. The Committee urges the State party to prevent and prohibit forced sterilization and non-consensual abortions, ensuring, without exception, that persons with disabilities, including those whose legal capacity has been revoked, enjoy their right to free and informed consent. In addition, the Committee requests the State party to compile and publish clear statistics on the number of persons with disabilities subjected to forced sterilization or non-consensual abortion.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

40. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, including women, intersex persons, girls and boys, reportedly continue to be subjected to involuntary medical treatment, including forced sterilization and conversion surgeries.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all types of legislation, regulations and practices allowing any form of forced intervention or surgery, and ensure that the right to free, prior and informed consent to treatment is upheld and that supported decision-making mechanisms and strengthened safeguards are provided, paying particular attention to women, intersex persons, girls and boys.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

32. The Committee is concerned that a legal guardian may authorize medical interventions, without the free and informed consent of the person with disabilities.

33. The Committee urges the State party to adopt effective measures to ensure respect for the right of free, informed and prior consent by persons with disabilities for medical treatment, and to provide efficient support mechanisms for decision-making in the State party.

Canada (2017)

35. The Committee notes with concern that although forced or compulsory sterilization is illegal in Canada, people with disabilities, particularly people with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, still experience involuntary sterilization through the manipulation of their consent.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party work with provinces and territories to ensure that health-care and substitute decision-making practices prevent involuntary sterilization, including in situations where persons with disabilities are deemed to lack legal capacity to consent. The State party should ensure the development of human rights education and training programmes for health-care providers to prevent non-consensual sterilization and/or manipulated consent of people with disabilities.

Cyprus (2017)

41. The Committee is concerned that, according to relevant legislation, persons with disabilities may be subjected to intrusive therapy and other medical treatments without their free and informed consent, including free and informed consent based on supported decision-making. It is also concerned about the insufficiency of safeguards to ensure full access to and respect of persons with disabilities' sexual and reproductive health and rights, in particular those of women and girls, including by enabling them to retain their fertility under all circumstances.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate steps to abolish all forms of guardianship and ensure, including through supported decision-making and adequate counselling, that any subjection to intrusive medical or surgical treatment without the individual, prior and fully free and informed consent, is prevented, and that personal integrity, autonomy and self-determination of persons with disabilities is guaranteed in accordance with general comment No. 1 (2014), with a particular focus on women and girls with disabilities. It furthermore recommends that the State party adopt appropriate safeguards in order to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy full autonomy with respect to their sexual and reproductive rights, on an equal basis with others, including by enabling them to retain their fertility, and that awareness of that issue be promoted among health professionals and the general public.

Honduras (2017)

43. Al Comité le preocupa que las personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres y niñas, sean objeto de esterilizaciones forzadas y otras formas de tratamientos anticonceptivos no consentidos.

44. El Comité recomienda que se adopten todas las medidas necesarias para asegurar la abolición de todas las prácticas de esterilizaciones forzadas y abortos coercitivos de mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, así como que se garantice el consentimiento libre e informado de todas las personas con discapacidad para cualquier intervención o tratamiento médico.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

36. The Committee notes with concern that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities could be subjected to forced sterilization at the request of third parties, including guardians.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal legislation that allows for sterilization of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities upon request of guardians and establish a mechanism of supported decision-making about sexual and reproductive health and rights. It also recommends that the State party ensure that free and informed consent is provided prior to any form of medical treatment.

Jordan (2017)

35. The Committee is deeply concerned about the practice of subjecting persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, to sterilization, despite its prohibition in the fatwa issued in Decision No. 194-02 of 2014.

36. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Cease the practice of sterilization in the absence of the individual's free and informed consent;

(b) Adopt the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code, prohibiting forced sterilization, ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and sanctioned, as necessary, and provide remedies to persons subjected to forced sterilization, including adequate compensation and rehabilitation.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

34. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory Ministry of Health regulations that specify "mental disability" as a criterion for sterilization. It is also concerned about reports of forced contraceptive measures, including forced sterilization and abortion, particularly involving women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, especially those still in residential institutions.

35. The Committee urges the State party to repeal and amend any legislation and regulations permitting the forced or involuntary sterilization of persons with disabilities, and to prevent and stop the use of non-consensual contraceptive measures, including cases where consent is given by a third party.

Bolivia (2016)

43. The Committee is concerned that sterilization and other surgical procedures are performed without the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities, and with no other authorization than that of the guardian or legal representative, or by court order.

44. The Committee urges the State party to abolish the practice of sterilization of persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent and/or by decision of a third party, and recommends the adoption of protocols to regulate such consent in all surgical, psychiatric and other invasive procedures.

45. The Committee deplores the acts of violence committed against the physical and psychosocial integrity of persons with disabilities as they exercised their legitimate right to demonstrate in public. It is also concerned at reports of excessive use of force, intimidation and physical and verbal violence by police officers, resulting in physical injury to demonstrators, including women and children with disabilities.

46. The Committee urges the State party to launch an impartial and independent investigation to determine responsibility for the acts of repression and the use of violence during demonstrations by persons with disabilities, with the aim of bringing the perpetrators to justice and providing physical and psychosocial redress for those concerned.

Colombia (2016)

46. The Committee is concerned that the sterilization of persons with disabilities without their consent, and with the authorization of a judge, is a legal practice, and has been confirmed by decisions of the Constitutional Court (C-182 of 13 April 2016 and T-303 of 2016), including

the ordering of exceptions to Act No. 1412 of 2010 to authorize the sterilization of children with cognitive and psychosocial disabilities (C-131 of 2014).

47. The Committee urges the State party to take the necessary steps to abolish the sterilization of persons with disabilities without their free and informed consent, including the repeal of article 6 of Act No. 1412 of 2010. It recommends immediately reviewing the decisions of the Constitutional Court, with a view to maintaining the prohibition, without exception, of sterilization of persons with disabilities, particularly children, without their free and informed consent, and taking measures, including the training of judges and prosecutors, with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, on the rights of persons with disabilities and the international obligations of the State party, mainly those relating to non-discrimination on grounds of disability and the personal integrity of children with disabilities.

Ethiopia (2016)

37. The Committee is concerned that forced treatment on the basis of impairment still exist, especially based on third-party consent. It is also concerned that medical personnel working with persons with disabilities are not adequately trained on the rights of persons with disabilities, especially the right to free, prior and informed consent.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that forced treatment on the grounds of disability is fully prohibited. It also recommends that the State party train medical personnel working with persons with disabilities on the Convention, particularly on the right to free, prior and informed consent, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1.

39. The Committee is concerned at the existence of harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, which include women and girls with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party effectively address female genital mutilation both in law and in practice, including women and girls with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party take into account article 17 of the Convention while implementing target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guatemala (2016)

49. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls who have been sexually abused, deprived of their legal capacity and/or institutionalized, are subject to sterilization, abortion and other contraceptive treatments without their consent.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all possible measures to ensure that no women or girls with disabilities are subject to forced sterilization or abortion and that all medical procedures and treatments concerning persons with disabilities are contingent on their free and informed consent.

Italy (2016)

45. The Committee is concerned that children are subjected to irreversible surgery for intersex variation and other medical treatments without their free and informed consent.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that no one is subjected to scientific undocumented medical or surgical treatment during infancy or childhood; that it guarantee bodily integrity, autonomy and self-determination to the children concerned; and that it provide families with intersex children with adequate counselling and support.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

33. The Committee is concerned that the national legislation, including article 13 of Federal Act No. 10 of 2008, permits the involuntary or forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, and allows sterilization when consent is given by a third party.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal article 13 of Federal Act No. 10 of 2008 and review its legislation to explicitly prohibit involuntary or forced sterilization of persons with disabilities, including sterilization when consent is given by a third party.

Uruguay (2016)

43. Preocupa al Comité que en el Estado parte se siga aplicando la Ley 9581, de 1936, sobre atención de enfermos psiquiátricos y las reglamentaciones que en materia de atención a la salud mental dicte el Ministerio de Salud Pública.

44. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que revise la Ley 9581 de 1936 y las reglamentaciones que en materia de atención a la salud mental dicte el Ministerio de Salud, garantizando sin excepción el consentimiento libre e informado de personas con discapacidad, incluyendo a aquéllas declaradas interdictas, como requisito indispensable para toda intervención quirúrgica o tratamiento médico, particularmente los de carácter invasivo y aquéllos con efectos irreversibles tales como la esterilización y las cirujías a niños y niñas intersex.

Chile (2016)

41. Preocupa al Comité que en el Estado parte se sigan practicando esterilizaciones sin consentimiento libre e informado a personas con discapacidad, en su mayoría mujeres y niñas, con tan solo una solicitud de familiar o tutor, así como las evidencias de que esta es una práctica frecuente entre personas con discapacidad psicosocial ingresadas en los centros psiquiátricos.

42. El Comité solicita al Estado Parte que revise la Ley núm. 20584 y el Decreto 570, garantizando sin excepción el consentimiento libre e informado de personas con discapacidad, incluyendo de aquellas declaradas interdictas, como requisito indispensable para toda intervención quirúrgica o tratamiento médico, particularmente los de carácter invasivo y aquéllos con efectos irreversibles tales como la esterilización y las cirugías a niños y niñas intersex.

Lithuania (2016)

37. The Committee is concerned about the provision of the Civil Code of 2000 that makes it possible for persons with disabilities who have been deprived of legal capacity to undergo, without their consent, surgical operations, including castrations, sterilizations, abortions and operations for the removal of organs, upon authorization by a court. It is also concerned at the lack of investigation of and data on the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Abolish all practices of forced treatment, including non-consensual castrations, sterilizations and abortions, and eliminate the possibility for third parties such as guardians, doctors and the courts to approve such practices, in accordance with article 12 and the Committee's general comment No. 1;

(b) Provide training for judges and health-care workers on recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and the mechanisms of supported decision-making;

(c) Collect disaggregated, reliable data on the forced sterilization of persons with disabilities.

Portugal (2016)

36. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, and especially those who have been declared legally incapacitated, continue to be subjected against their will to termination of pregnancy, sterilisation, scientific research, electroconvulsive therapy, and psychosurgical intervention.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all possible measures to ensure respect for the right to provide free, informed and prior consent to medical treatment and to provide support mechanisms for decision making in the State party.

Serbia (2016)

33. The Committee is concerned that a legal guardian can authorise medical interventions, including sterilization, without the free and informed consent of a person with disability.

34. The Committee recommends the State Party prohibit medical interventions without the prior consent of persons with disabilities and provide sufficient remedies and compensation to those subjected to such procedures.

35. The Committee is deeply concerned at reports indicating regular use of physical restraint, isolation, and excessive antipsychotic therapy, including for children.

36. The Committee recommends the State party investigate all cases of forced interventions without the free and informed consent of the person, provide protection and redress mechanisms and apply sanctions already available.

37. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those who have been declared legally incapacitated, are still subject against their will to contraceptive treatments, abortion, sterilization, scientific research, electroconvulsive therapy or psychosurgical interventions.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to ensure that the right to free, prior and informed consent for any kind of treatment that may affect a person with a disability, regardless of her/his legal capacity. It also recommends that support for decision making regimes for persons with disabilities are provided when necessary.

Slovakia (2016)

49. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are subjected to involuntary commitment and treatment procedures without their free and informed consent.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party amend legislation and policies to ensure that all persons with disabilities provide their free and informed consent to admission procedures and all forms of treatment.

51. The Committee is concerned that the Health Care Act authorizes guardians to make decisions for women, whose legal capacity has been restricted, on their sterilization and use of contraception. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of investigations and provisions of redress for cases of forced sterilization.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish all forms of guardianship and replace them with supported decision-making regimes, as well as investigate and provide redress for historical cases of forced sterilization, including for Roma women with disabilities.

Thailand (2016)

35. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, including women, girls and boys with disabilities, continue to be subjected to involuntary medical treatment, including forced sterilization and abortion.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party take efficient measures to protect persons with disabilities, including women, girls and boys, from forced interventions, especially sterilization and abortion, and ensure that the individual's right to free, prior and informed consent to treatment is upheld and supported decision-making mechanisms are provided.

Uganda (2016)

32. The Committee observes with concern that harmful practices and sexual abuse of women with disabilities are based on harmful stereotypes that consider women with disabilities asexual and pure and that suggest that having sexual intercourse with them might cure HIV/AIDS.

33. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

(a) Adopt measures including a clear public statement and campaigns to end harmful practices against women with disabilities, and prosecute perpetrators;

(b) Adopt a strategy that includes community associations and organizations of women with disabilities to raise awareness about their rights and dignity and inform victims about available protection mechanisms.

34. The Committee is concerned about laws that allow forced medical treatment for persons with disabilities and suchlike practices. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the prevalence of female genital mutilation.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws and practices allowing or perpetuating forced treatment of persons with disabilities. It recommends that the State

party develop alternative modes of medical treatment that respect the dignity, will and preferences of persons with disabilities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party criminalize the practice of female genital mutilation.

Brazil (2015)

34. The Committee is deeply concerned that children and adults with disabilities whose legal capacity is restricted through interdiction can be sterilized without their free and informed consent, pursuant to Law No. 9263/1996. It is also concerned that the Statute of Persons with Disabilities (Lei Brasileira de Inclusão da Pessoa com Deficiência), authorizes surgical treatment on persons with disabilities under curatela, in absence of free, prior and informed consent on an unequal basis with others.

35. The Committee recommends the State party take measures to:

- (a) immediately revise Law No. 9263/1996 and explicitly and unconditionally prohibit the sterilization of persons with disabilities in the absence of their individual prior, fully informed and free consent;**
- (b) ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with support to make informed choices and decisions regarding medical procedures and interventions; and**
- (c) conduct campaigns to raise awareness among families, guardians, medical professionals and managers of institutions of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, under article 17 of the Convention.**

European Union (2015)

46. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are exposed to involuntary treatment in European Union Member States, including forced sterilisation and abortion.

47. The Committee recommends that the European Union take possible measures to ensure the individual right to free and informed consent to treatment is upheld and supporting decision-making mechanisms are provided in EU Member States.

Gabon (2015)

40. The Committee is concerned that, according to information provided by the State party delegation, the practice of female genital mutilation "only affects women and girls with disabilities who are foreigners", considering this a "cultural issue".

41. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all appropriate legal and administrative measures to eradicate female genital mutilation, for all women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, whatever their country of origin, in accordance to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women's General Recommendation No. 14 (1990).

Kenya (2015)

33. The Committee observes with concern that women with disabilities have been victims of forced sterilization and that genital mutilation affects women and girls with disabilities, although is a practice prohibited by law.

34. The Committee calls the State party to:

- (a) Establish mechanisms to monitor health care facilities and adopt measures to prohibit forced sterilization and ensure that adequate information is provided in accessible formats for all women and girls with disabilities concerning their sexual and reproductive rights; and**
- (b) Implement the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2011 (CEDAW/C/KEN/CO/7) relevant to female genital mutilation, and ensure that the action plan of the Anti-FGM Board includes compilation of information on women and girls subjected to such a practice and mechanisms for their reparation and redress.**

Mauritius (2015)

29. The Committee is concerned about the absence of safeguards to prevent forced treatment of persons with disabilities in hospitals and institutions, especially women and girls with disabilities from forced sterilization.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party unambiguously prohibit forced treatment of persons with disabilities, as well as the forced sterilization women and girls with disabilities, in the absence of the individual's free and informed consent.

Qatar (2015)

33. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information indicating whether or not persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, can be subjected to medical interventions, notably to involuntary or coerced sterilization against their will.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that no medical treatment, in particular involuntary and coerced sterilization, is administered without the full and informed consent of the person concerned and requests that information in this regard is included in the next periodic report.

Ukraine (2015)

34. The Committee notes with concern that under article 281 of the Civil Code the guardian of a person recognized as legally incapable is authorized to give consent to the sterilization of the person concerned, thus subjecting that person to forced sterilization without his/ her free and informed consent.

35. The Committee urges the State party to abolish the practice of sterilization without free and informed consent of the person with disability, and to abolish article 281 of the Civil Code accordingly. The Committee also calls upon the State party to provide remedies to the victims of forced sterilization.

Cook Islands (2015)

35. The Committee is concerned that current legislation does not protect women and girls with disabilities from forced sexual and reproductive health procedures nor does it provide sexual and reproductive health education.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise the Criminal Code and any other relevant laws to protect women and girls with disabilities from coerced sterilization, contraception and other forced medication without the individual's free and informed consent;

(b) Introduce accessible sexual and reproductive health education programmes in schools and the community that are inclusive of young persons with disabilities, including women and girls.

Croatia (2015)

27. The Committee is deeply concerned that children and adults with disabilities can be sterilized without their free and informed consent pursuant to the Health Act, in cases where their parents or guardians have so requested. It is further concerned about frequent use of forced medical treatment of persons with disabilities.

28. The Committee recommends that:

(a) the Health Act be urgently amended to unconditionally prohibit the sterilization of boys and girls with disabilities, and of adults with disabilities in the absence of their individual prior, fully informed and free consent;

(b) persons with disabilities are provided with support to make informed choices and decisions regarding medical procedures and interventions, and

(c) medical professionals are trained in accessible and alternative communication techniques in order to communicate with persons with intellectual, psycho-social and sensory impairments.

Czech Republic (2015)

36. The Committee notes with concern that under the Civil Code and the Health Care Act the guardian of person with disability is authorized to give consent to the sterilization of the person concerned, thus subjecting that person to forced sterilization without his/ her free and informed consent.

37. The Committee urges the State party to abolish the practice of sterilization without free and informed consent of the person with disability, and to amend the Civil Code and the Health Care Act accordingly. The Committee also calls upon the State party to provide remedies to the victims of forced sterilization in accordance with the recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/CZE/CO/3) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/CZE/CO/5).

Dominican Republic (2015)

34. The Committee is concerned about the practice of the forced sterilization of women and girls with disabilities, who are declared “legally incompetent”.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party prohibit the forced sterilization of women and girls with disabilities and that it have cases of sterilization reviewed by an independent authority, that it conduct investigations and punish perpetrators, and that it adopt measures for the compensation and reparation of victims. It also recommends that a mechanism be established to oversee cases of sterilization to ensure that persons with disabilities can give free and informed consent.

Germany (2015)

37. The Committee is concerned about: a) the lack of available data of involuntary placement and treatment; b) the practice of forced sterilisation and coercive abortions by substituted consent of adults with disabilities; c) the lack of implementation of the 2011 recommendations CAT/C/DEU/CO/5, para. 20, regarding upholding bodily integrity of intersex children.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures, including of a legislative nature to:

(a) Repeal section 1905 of the German Civil Code and explicitly prohibit in law sterilisation without the full and informed consent of the individual concerned, eliminating all exceptions including by substituted consent or upon court approval;

(b) Ensure that all psychiatric treatments and services are always delivered with the free and informed consent of the individual concerned;

(c) Investigate human rights violations in psychiatric and older persons care settings in all Länder;

(d) Implement all the recommendations of CAT/C/DEU/CO/5, para. 20 relevant to intersex children.

Mongolia (2015)

29. The Committee is concerned with the measures taken by the State party “to prevent conception in persons with genetically psychosocial or intellectual disorders, or psychosocial or intellectually impaired persons” without informed consent as specified in Article 37(b) of the Law on Health.

30. The Committee urges the State party to eliminate the legislative provisions from the Law on Health, bylaws and related regulations restricting sexual and reproductive rights, and that allow forced sterilisation, and abortion for women with disabilities, in particular psychosocial and intellectual disabilities.

Turkmenistan (2015)

35. The Committee is concerned that termination of pregnancy and sterilization as a method of contraception may be performed based on “medical necessity” only, without the person with disability’s individual free and informed consent.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation in order to introduce safeguards and ensure that termination of pregnancy and sterilization are only carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned with safeguards.

New Zealand (2014)

37. The Committee is concerned that parents may give consent for the sterilization of their disabled children, and that courts may order that adults undergo sterilization without the individual's consent.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party enact legislation prohibiting the use of sterilization on boys and girls with disabilities, and on adults with disabilities, in the absence of their prior, fully informed and free consent.

Republic of Korea (2014)

33. The Committee is concerned about cases of forced sterilization of women with disabilities despite legal provisions prohibiting the practice. It is also concerned about the absence of information on investigations undertaken by the State party on this matter.

34. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to eradicate the practice of forced sterilization, including by raising awareness of the rights of women and girls with disabilities among their families, in communities and within institutions, and by ensuring that mechanisms providing protection against forced sterilization are effective and accessible. The Committee recommends that the State party carry out investigations into recent and current cases of forced sterilization.

Mexico (2014)

37. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are being sterilized without their free and informed consent in institutions such as Casa Hogar Esperanza, where, according to reports received by the Committee, forced or coerced sterilization is recommended to, authorized or performed on girls, adolescents and women with disabilities.

38. The Committee urges the State party to launch administrative and criminal investigations into the judicial and health authorities and institutions that recommend, authorize or perform forced sterilizations on girls, adolescents and women with disabilities and to guarantee access to justice and reparation for victims.

Costa Rica (2014)

37. The Committee is deeply concerned at the practice of forcing women and girls with disabilities to undergo sterilization.

38. The Committee urges the State party to take steps to eradicate the practice of forced sterilization, to raise awareness of the rights of women and girls with disabilities within their families and among managers of the institutions in which they are interned, and to guarantee full respect for their personal, physical and mental integrity by ensuring that mechanisms providing protection against forced sterilization are effective and accessible.

Australia (2013)

39. The Committee is deeply concerned that the Senate Inquiry Report into the Involuntary or Coerced Sterilisation of Persons with Disabilities, released in July 2013, presents recommendations, which would allow this practice to continue. The Committee further regrets the failure of Australia to implement the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.268; CRC/C/AUS/CO/4), the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/17/10), and the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (A/HRC/22/53), which addresses concerns regarding sterilisation of children and adults with disabilities.

40. The Committee urges the State party to adopt national uniform legislation prohibiting the use of sterilisation of boys and girls with disabilities, and of adults with disability in the absence of their prior, fully informed and free consent.

El Salvador (2013)

37. The Committee is concerned at the fact that the law permits the forced sterilization of women with disabilities and the abortion of pregnancies often resulting from sexual abuse, as well as the paucity of information about how the use of physical and pharmaceutical restraint

and similar treatments in psychiatric facilities undermines the integrity of the person and about cases brought before the Office of the Human Rights Advocate.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal provisions permitting the forced sterilization of women with disabilities and that it prevent and investigate the practice of aborting pregnancies resulting from sexual abuse. It also recommends that the State party ensure that the administrative authorities provide the information needed to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals.

Argentina (2012)

31. The Committee regrets that, in cases where a woman with disabilities is under guardianship, her legal representative may give consent for a legal abortion on her behalf. It is likewise concerned that persons with disabilities are being sterilized without their free and informed consent.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party amend article 86 of its Criminal Code and article 3 of Contraceptive Surgery Act No. 26.130 so that they will be in accordance with the Convention and take steps to provide the necessary support to women under guardianship or trusteeship to ensure that the women themselves are the ones who give their informed consent for a legal abortion or for sterilization.

Spain (2011)

37. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities whose legal capacity is not recognized may be subjected to sterilization without their free and informed consent.

38. The Committee urges the State party to abolish the administration of medical treatment, in particular sterilization, without the full and informed consent of the patient; and ensure that national law especially respects women's rights under articles 23 and 25 of the Convention.

Tunisia (2010)

28. The Committee is concerned about the lack of clarity concerning the scope of legislation to protect persons with disabilities from being subjected to treatment without their free and informed consent, including forced treatment in mental health services.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party incorporate into the law the abolition of surgery and treatment without the full and informed consent of the patient, and ensure that national law especially respects women's rights under article 23 and 25 of the Convention.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 18 CRPD
(Liberty of movement and
nationality)*

September 2025

Article 18 - Liberty of movement and nationality

1. States Parties shall recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that persons with disabilities:

- a) Have the right to acquire and change a nationality and are not deprived of their nationality arbitrarily or on the basis of disability;*
- b) Are not deprived, on the basis of disability, of their ability to obtain, possess and utilize documentation of their nationality or other documentation of identification, or to utilize relevant processes such as immigration proceedings, that may be needed to facilitate exercise of the right to liberty of movement;*
- c) Are free to leave any country, including their own;*
- d) Are not deprived, arbitrarily or on the basis of disability, of the right to enter their own country.*

2. Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by their parents.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)

China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Türkiye (2019)
Haiti (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)

Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding observations on art. 18 on Mauritius (2024), Ghana (2024), Costa Rica (2024), Angola, Argentina, Cuba, Niger, Norway, Vanuatu, Algeria, Bulgaria, Malta, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nepal, Oman, Russian Federation, Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Panama, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Honduras, Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Colombia, Italy, Uruguay, Chile, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Brazil, Mauritius, Ukraine, Croatia, Czech Republic, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica (2014), Australia, Austria, Argentina, China, Hungary, Peru, Tunisia, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a mechanism to ensure that all children with disabilities are registered at birth;
- (b) Restrictions on freedom of movement through the requirement of advance travel clearance and checkpoints, which disproportionately affects persons with disabilities who may face additional barriers to mobility, including in accessing services for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information regarding practices limiting the freedom of residence of persons with disabilities, particularly persons of short stature.

34. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Establish a mechanism to ensure that all children with disabilities are registered at birth;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities can travel without restrictions throughout the State Party on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Take all necessary measures to ensure that persons with disabilities made to live in specific areas are allowed to reside elsewhere, inform them of this right and facilitate any such moves according to their wishes and preferences, on an equal basis with others.**

Finland (2025)

34. The Committee notes with concern the State Party's plans to restrict health care access for irregular or undocumented migrants, including those with disabilities, to urgent healthcare, limiting access to assistive devices, rehabilitation and disability-related support.

35. The Committee recommends that the State Party withdraw and reconsider proposals before Parliament to restrict health care access for irregular or undocumented migrants with disabilities to urgent health care, and ensure access to non-urgent health care, including assistive devices, rehabilitation and disability-related support.

Kiribati (2025)

33. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That persons with disabilities face barriers in obtaining birth certificates, identity documents, and passports, particularly for those living on outer islands;
- (b) That there is a lack of reasonable accommodation in administrative procedures and the limited decentralization of civil registration services.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to guarantee the full enjoyment of the rights to liberty of movement and nationality for persons with disabilities, and in particular:

- (a) Ensure universal and accessible birth registration of all children with disabilities, including on outer islands, through mobile and digital civil registration services;**
- (b) Accelerate the establishment of a National Identification System and ensure it is accessible to persons with disabilities, with reasonable accommodation provided in all administrative processes;**
- (c) Decentralize access to passports and identity documents, including through mobile outreach and digital platforms, to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities on outer islands.**

Maldives (2025)

35. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That despite the existing legal provisions on birth registration for all, persons with disabilities face barriers to obtain civil documentation, which leads to lack of access to services;
- (b) At the lack of information about the situation of migrants with disabilities with regard to their access to support services and reasonable accommodation.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Remove barriers for persons with disabilities, including those living on the outer islands, in relation to their enjoyment of the right to nationality and citizenship, to enable them to exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention;

(b) Adopt all necessary measures to ensure that migrants with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, are granted adequate support services, including gender-sensitive and age-appropriate accommodation, and that immigration regulations, both for foreign residents in the Maldives and for nationals traveling to third countries, are available in accessible formats, including sign language and interpretation systems.

Canada (2025)

35. The Committee is concerned that asylum-seekers and refugees with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are more likely to be in immigration detention, can be detained in correctional facilities and subjected to solitary confinement if they express suicidal ideation or based on psychosocial disabilities, and are subjected to onerous release conditions in the community, such as requirements to enrol in residential treatment facilities where treatment and confinement is non-consensual.

36. The Committee recommends that the State Party end the use of immigration detention by increasing community-based, independent alternatives that provide access to holistic supports, such as housing, healthcare, mental health services, legal representation, disability-related supports, and children's services.

37. The Committee is concerned that section 38(1)(c) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act can preclude persons with disabilities, including persons living with HIV from obtaining permanent or temporary residency status.

38. The Committee recommends that the State Party repeal section 38(1)(c) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Dominican Republic (2025)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of data about the situation of persons with disabilities among persons of Haitian descent and migrants, particularly with the lack of comprehensive legal framework against racial discrimination;

(b) The limited access to rehabilitation services for migrants and refugees with disabilities and that most of these services are unaffordable because they are provided by the private sector.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a data-collection mechanism to inform the development of targeted policies and programmes and to monitor the effectiveness of measures taken to support the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities;

(b) Ensure free access for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities to quality rehabilitation services.

European Union (2025)

46. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The European Disability Card and Parking Card do not encompass social security or social protection benefits essential for long-term relocation, and that Member States retain wide discretion in their definition of eligibility criteria and disability status;

(b) Persons with disabilities, including autistic persons and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, face particular obstacles in accessing assessment procedures to obtain disability recognition when moving between Member States;

(c) The New Pact on Migration and Asylum (2024) does not sufficiently address the situation of persons with disabilities, and that migration and asylum procedures subject persons with disabilities to purely medical-based assessments and do not contain clear procedures for conducting assessments;

(d) The limited protection of persons with disabilities in migration situations against detention, denial of access to territory and pushbacks.

47. The Committee recalls its previous Concluding Observations and Recommendations (para. 49) and recommends that the European Union:

(a) Extend the scope of the European Disability Card to long-term relocation and render social security or social protection benefits portable by, inter alia, outlining the shared responsibilities of Member States to provide disability support for EU citizens moving for long stays or permanently from one Member State to another, and ensuring mutual recognition of disability status;

(b) Ensure that disability assessment procedures are accessible to all persons with disabilities, including autistic persons, align assessment procedures with the human rights model of disability and the right to freedom of movement;

(c) Provide guidance and standards for procedural and reasonable accommodation and for assessment procedures for persons with disabilities in migration situations;

(d) Ensure that the implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum respects the rights of persons with disabilities, and align policy and standards among Member States to prevent detention, pushbacks and denial of access to territory of persons with disabilities in migrant situations;

(e) Develop reception modalities for migrants with disabilities that do not entail their detention, and seek technical cooperation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to prevent detention in the context of migration.

Palau (2025)

33. The Committee notes that the State party's Constitution ensures freedom of movement, nationality, and rights protection, including for persons with disabilities, and that the "Seventy-Two (72) Hour Detention and Evaluation Act" provides judicial protection measures for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in detention. However, it is concerned:

(a) At the lack of mechanisms to operationalize these protections in practice, particularly for vulnerable populations such as migrants with disabilities, to ensure they have access to adequate support, services, and procedural accommodation during legal or therapeutic interventions;

(b) The limitation for stateless children, including children with disabilities, to obtain citizenship or an identification card, which exacerbates their vulnerability, preventing them from accessing resources to improve their quality of life and inclusion in society;

(c) Discrimination of stateless persons with disabilities, who were abandoned by migrant families and later adopted by Palauan families, who are unable to access citizenship as the Constitution stipulates that at least one of the parents must be Palauan.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the mechanisms for legal safeguards for persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and migrants with disabilities, ensuring that migrants with disabilities are provided with reasonable and procedural accommodations, as well as other necessary assistance under the 'Seventy-Two (72) Hour Detention and Evaluation Act' and related safeguards;

(b) Take legal and other measures to ensure that stateless children, particularly children with disabilities, are registered and granted citizenship, thereby enabling them to access necessary social services on an equal basis with others;

(c) Establish a legal procedure to grant citizenship to stateless persons with disabilities, especially those who have been raised in Palau and integrated into Palauan society, and have demonstrable long-term residency and cultural integration.

Tuvalu (2025)

33. The Committee notes that the Constitution recognises the rights to freedom of movement and nationality. However, it is concerned about reports about persons with disabilities being removed by the police from streets, airport and other public spaces without their consent, and lack of information about practical measures to ensure and support persons with disabilities to enjoy those rights on equal basis with others.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party elaborate policy measures to guarantee the right to freedom of movement of persons with disabilities.

Viet Nam (2025)

35. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities, particularly those in rural or institutionalized settings, face difficulties obtaining essential documents such as birth certificates and national identification cards, which impacts their access to rights;

(b) Immigration procedures remain inaccessible, restricting the freedom of movement for persons with disabilities;

(c) Persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities may encounter restrictions on international travel due to outdated classifications or guardianship.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure all persons with disabilities have equal access to birth registration and official documentation, especially in remote areas or for those in institutionalized care;

(b) Implement disability-inclusive immigration procedures, including accessible visa processing and passport applications;

(c) Remove restrictions on international travel for persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, ensuring full autonomy over their movement and decisions.

Belarus (2024)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The direct or indirect restrictions on the freedoms of activists with disabilities, and other human rights defenders with disabilities, on grounds of their civic activism or political expression;

(b) The reported violence by the border management officials against asylum seekers, including those with disabilities.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Remove all restrictions on the freedoms of the activists with disabilities, and ensure their full enjoyment of and exercise their liberty to reside in their country or to leave for elsewhere upon their free and individual choice;

(b) Ensure safety and respect of dignity of refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities eliminating forms of violence at the borders, as well as safeguard their freedom of movement and access to necessary services, including medical and humanitarian support.

Belgium (2024)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The negative impact on refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations caused by the delay in reception processes, including "vulnerability screening" to identify impairments, and the provision of housing, essential services, and disability assistance;

(b) Undocumented migrant families with children having no option but to be accommodated in community structures, even when shared accommodation is not appropriate for the child with disabilities or another family member with disabilities, and that, as a result, family

members with disabilities are often prevented from accessing adapted accommodation structures.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party coordinate various levels of federal government to remedy the exceedingly long duration of reception processes and provide services to all persons with disabilities requesting international protection, including by ensuring speedy assessments of impairment and the requisite support requirements, provision of procedural accommodation and reasonable accommodation, essential services and disability-related support, accessible housing and accommodation, including for undocumented migrant families with children or family members with disabilities.

Benin (2024)

35. The Committee notes with concern that some children with disabilities particularly in rural areas are still not registered at birth. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities, including migrant persons with disabilities face barriers in obtaining birth certificates, nationality certificates and identity cards owing to the lack of accessibility of services and the lack of awareness among the population about the need to register.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase its efforts to raise awareness among parents and the general public of the importance of birth registration for their children, including children with disabilities, and organize regular campaigns to issue birth certificates and identity documents, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations;

(b) Take appropriate measures to eliminate all obstacles that prevent persons with disabilities, including those living in remote and rural areas, from enjoying their rights to a nationality, birth registration and civil status documents, in order to enable them to exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention;

(c) Put in place in national programmes measures to take account of the situation of migrant persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities who are refugees and in refugee-like situations and to provide them with the documents necessary to enable them to enjoy freedom of movement.

Burkina Faso (2024)

34. The Committee is concerned that civil registration is not systematic, which will have the effect of depriving persons with disabilities of the enjoyment of education, health and other aspects of social and political life.

35. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Strengthen its efforts to establish a national system of free and mandatory birth registration which should be available and sustainable, including in the most remote areas, through the provision of decentralized registration offices with the necessary human, material and financial resources;

(b) Strengthen its awareness-raising activities about birth registration;

(c) Ensure that children with disabilities in refugee-like situations are provided with a birth certificate and that unregistered children with disabilities are not deprived of access to social services, and to provide specific support to families and persons with disabilities in the issuance of identification documents.

Denmark (2024)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of support for refugees and asylum seekers with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and of persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, in exercising their legal capacity during the asylum process;

(b) The marked decrease in the percentage of applicants with disabilities being granted exemptions from the stringent requirements for Danish citizenship, including knowledge and language tests.

54. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark:

(a) Provide reasonable accommodation, procedural accommodation and support to persons with disabilities during the whole duration of the procedure;

(b) Effectively support refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations in exercising their legal capacity, including by providing legal assistance throughout their asylum application procedure;

(c) Amend the rules on exemptions from requirements for citizenship for persons with disabilities who cannot, due to their impairment, fulfil them, provide persons with disabilities with the requisite procedural accommodations in the citizenship application procedure, and implement these provisions.

Netherlands (2024)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information about accessibility of information and training and monitoring of people working with asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities;

(b) The omission to systematically collect disaggregated data on asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide training for people working with asylum seekers, refugees and persons in refugee-like situations on the rights and requirements of persons with disabilities, ensuring the establishment of disability- and gender-responsive protocols;

(b) Establish a data collection mechanism to inform the development of targeted policies and programs and to monitor the effectiveness of measures taken to support the rights of refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities and of persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations.

Ukraine (2024)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of comprehensive and reliable disaggregated data on internally displaced persons with disabilities, as well as the lack of information on their access to social and other entitlements;

(b) The lack of information on whether the number of border crossings have been expanded, including accessible crossings for persons with disabilities;

(c) Persistent difficulties in the provision of assistance to persons with disabilities who remain in occupied territories.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Collect information and statistical data on internally displaced persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnic origin and other sociodemographic relevant characteristics, including information on where they are currently living, their living conditions and the support provided to them;

(b) Implement actions to provide information on border crossings by persons with disabilities and whether those crossings are accessible and as far as possible, ensure additional crosswalks accessible for them;

(c) Continue to increase actions to provide humanitarian aid to persons with disabilities in occupied territories.

Azerbaijan (2024)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Gaps in the legislation governing asylum procedures, particularly due to the absence of procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities and children with disabilities, throughout the status determination processes;
- (b) The lack of measures to ensure that migrant, refugee, asylum seekers and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations have access to services in the community;
- (c) The lack of measures to examine asylum requests by persons with disabilities on the grounds of armed conflict, generalized violence or internal disturbances and when their expulsion could lead to violation of their rights to life, freedom from torture and security of the person;
- (d) The absence of a legal framework to prevent and address risk of statelessness among persons with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into refugee legislation, ensuring gender-sensitive and age-appropriate procedural accommodations, information about asylum procedures in accessible formats, and housing and accommodation throughout status determination processes;**
- (b) Develop a comprehensive policy that is inclusive of migrants, asylum-seekers, refugee persons with disabilities, and those in refugee-like situations, aimed at ensuring access to support required to live independently and in the community, inclusive education, health, and work and employment;**
- (c) Recognize in its legislation situations of armed conflict, generalized violence or internal disturbances and when their expulsion could lead to violation of their rights to life, freedom from torture and security of the person as additional grounds for requests and provision of refugee status and protection by persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Adopt legal measures in line with international applicable standards to prevent statelessness of persons with disabilities.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

36. Recalling the concluding observation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/4, para. 34), the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The discriminatory provisions of the Nationality Law of 1963, which prevents Bahraini women from transmitting their nationality to their children if they are married to a foreign man, putting children with disabilities of a Bahraini mother and a foreign father at risk of remaining stateless.
- (b) Persons with disabilities with non-Bahraini parents are prevented from enjoying the rights and accessing the services provided for in Law No. 74 of 2006 on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities; and
- (b) Discrimination against persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities in the Nationality Law of 1963, which states in its article (6) that nationality is granted to a person with full capacity, and the same law defines full capacity in its article (2) as "not a minor and not of unsound mind".

37. Recalling the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/4, para. 35), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the 1963 Nationality Law to grant Bahraini women, in particular women with disabilities, including when married to a foreign man, the right to transmit their nationality to their children, including children with disabilities.**
- (b) Repeal the provision in Law No. 74 of 2006 on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities that deprives persons with disabilities with non-Bahraini parents from enjoying the rights and accessing the services prescribed therein; (c) Repeal the**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

provision in Law No. 74 of 2006 on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities.

(c) Repeal the provision in the Nationality Law of 1963 that prevents persons from acquiring nationality on the basis of their mental disability.

Kazakhstan (2024)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Limited access of migrant persons with disabilities, including refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, to social security, disability-related allowances, inclusive education, specialized health care, health insurance, social housing and employment;

(b) The lack of residency and naturalization processes for refugees with disabilities;

(c) The risk of statelessness of migrant persons with disabilities due to legislation requiring foreign persons applying for citizenship of the State party to renounce their existing citizenship before they receive a binding decision on whether their application is granted;

(d) The vulnerability of stateless persons with disabilities due to the long duration of the processes for the determination of statelessness;

(e) Reports of lacunae in migration legislation and practice leading to insufficient protection of the principle of non-refoulement, and about barriers, including attitudinal and physical barriers in asylum procedures, restricting persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or other diseases, to apply for asylum.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legislation to ensure to migrant children and adults with disabilities, including refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations who lack permanent resident status, legal recognition of their disability, access to social protection, including disability allowances, health insurance, equipment and mobility devices, housing, and inclusive education;

(b) Ensure that refugees with disabilities have effective access to residency and naturalization processes;

(c) Amend citizenship legislation to ensure that persons with disabilities applying for citizenship are not obliged to renounce their existing citizenship before they receive a binding decision on their application with the State party;

(d) Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and ensure that procedures for the determination of statelessness are conducted with all deliberate speed, and guarantee access to identification, documents and registration;

(e) Ensure that migration legislation and practice protect the principle of *non-refoulement* without exception, and that persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, have full access to immigration and asylum procedures, including by providing procedural accommodation.

Nicaragua (2024)

34. El Comité nota que la Ley de los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad (Ley N° 763), indica que todas las personas con discapacidad tienen derecho a estar inscritos en el Registro Público de Personas, sin embargo, preocupa al Comité la información recabada en el censo del Programa “Todos con Voz” del Ministerio de Salud y otros estudios reflejan que existe una brecha significativa entre las personas con discapacidad que no se encuentran registradas civilmente versus el resto de la población, especialmente en el área rural donde se ha detectado carencia de documentos legales para diversos trámites, incluyendo la cédula de identidad ciudadana y certificado de nacimiento, lo que dificulta aún más el registro de las personas con discapacidad.

35. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que intensifique las acciones establecidas en el artículo 22 de la Ley de los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad (Ley No. 763), incluyendo en las zonas rurales y remotas, y que obtenga estadísticas confiables del subregistro actual de nacimientos, específicamente de personas con discapacidad.

36. Al Comité le preocupa también que:

- a) El Estado parte sea un país de origen, tránsito y destino de la trata de personas, en particular mujeres y niñas, ignorándose cuántas mujeres y niñas con discapacidad son víctimas de este delito;
- b) Se cuente con información de que se le ha negado el regreso al Estado parte a varios nacionales nicaragüenses, entre los cuales podría haber personas con discapacidad;
- c) Que la Ley General de Migración y Extranjería (Ley no. 761) carece de medidas específicas que impidan la detención de migrantes con discapacidad;
- d) La persistencia del uso de la fuerza por miembros de los cuerpos de seguridad militares y de la policía al tratar con migrantes, incluidos aquellos con discapacidad.

37. En consonancia con la meta 10.7 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

- a) Revise urgentemente las razones por las que está siendo un país de origen, tránsito y destino de la trata de personas, en particular mujeres y niñas, investigando cuántas mujeres y niñas con discapacidad son víctimas de este delito;
- b) Evitar la denegación de la entrada o salida de connacionales al Estado parte e investigue cuantos de los señalados son personas con discapacidad;
- c) Modifique la Ley General de Migración y Extranjería (Ley núm. 761) para que contemple en su reglamento medidas claras para eliminar la detención de migrantes con discapacidad;
- d) Prohíba y sancione el uso de la fuerza por miembros de los cuerpos de seguridad militares y de la policía al tratar con migrantes, particularmente aquellos con discapacidad.

Sweden (2024)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The negative impact of the Tidö-agreement on migrants with disabilities and their access to all forms of welfare including healthcare, personal assistance and housing, and proposals to limit access to citizenship to those who can support themselves for 8 years;
- (b) The lack of uniform application of legislation on provision of support services in different regions and municipalities, resulting in loss of some support services when moving from one municipality to another.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative, administrative and other measures to:

- (a) Ensure access to all forms of welfare and essential supports, including disability-specific supports, for migrants with disabilities is available without discrimination;
- (b) Develop a national framework, in close consultation and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, for ensuring mobility of support services across municipalities.

Zambia (2024)

35. The Committee notes with concern that some children with disabilities are still not registered at birth. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities, including migrants with disabilities still face barriers in obtaining birth certificates, nationality certificates and identity cards due to lack of accessibility to services and lack of awareness among the population about the need to register.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Increase its efforts to sensitize parents and the community on the importance of birth registration for their children, including children with disabilities, and organize regular campaigns to issue birth certificates and identity documents in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;

(b) Take appropriate measures to eliminate all obstacles which prevent persons with disabilities, including those living in remote and rural areas, from enjoying their rights to a nationality, birth registration and civil status documents, in order to enable them to exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention;

(c) Put in place measures to take account of the situation of migrants with disabilities in national programmes and to provide them with necessary documents to enable them enjoy freedom of movement.

Andorra (2023)

37. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient provision of support measures and reasonable accommodation for asylum-seekers with disabilities, refugees, and migrants with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party redouble efforts to provide appropriate support and reasonable accommodation for asylum-seekers with disabilities, refugees and migrants with disabilities, including protocols to recognize persons with disabilities in these situations in the social security schemes and ensure that such persons have access to disability-related benefits.

Austria (2023)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Insufficient provision of qualified interpretation, sign language interpretation, information in Easy Read format, Plain German, Braille, and other measures to ensure the accessibility of health services for refugees with disabilities, stateless persons with disabilities, and of persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations;

(b) Insufficient accessible information about the admissions process, the content of decisions taken therein, and about appropriate service providers, for refugees with disabilities, stateless persons with disabilities, and for persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, about deficiencies in their referral to the appropriate services providers, and about insufficient access to crucial disability support schemes;

(c) Reports that refugees and stateless persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, including unaccompanied children with disabilities, are frequently accommodated in facilities that are not accessible or not designed for these purposes, and are not provided the support measures necessary;

(d) Insufficient targeted and regular training on the standards for the treatment and the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention for the employees of all entities participating in the admissions process.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide qualified interpretation, sign language interpretation, information in Easy Read format, Plain German, Braille and other measures to ensure the accessibility of medical examinations of refugees and stateless persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations;

(b) Provide accessible information about the admissions process, the content of decisions taken therein, and service providers for refugees and stateless persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, and guarantee access to crucial support schemes to persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations and persons with disabilities under temporary protection;

(c) Ensure that refugees and stateless persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, including unaccompanied children with disabilities, are accommodated in facilities that are accessible and designed for these purposes;

(d) Intensify advanced training on the standards for the treatment of persons with disabilities and their rights under the Convention to all entities and their employees participating in the admissions process, as envisaged by the "Nationaler Aktionsplan Behinderung 2022 – 2030

Germany (2023)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Access to essential supports, including disability specific supports for refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities being dependent on country of origin;
- (b) The lack of uniform and adequate procedures across all Länder for the identification of refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities, resulting in inconsistent and inadequate implementation of human rights law and the EU Directive 2013/33/EU;
- (c) The impact of the draft law to amend the Nationality Act, which would preclude persons with disabilities in receipt of benefits from obtaining citizenship.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative, administrative, and other measures to:

- (a) Ensure access to essential supports, including disability specific supports, for all refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities is available without discrimination on the basis of country of origin;**
- (b) Implement uniform and adequate procedures across all Länder to ensure the identification of refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities and the provision of appropriate disability related supports as required by human rights law and the EU Directive 2013/33/EU;**
- (c) Ensure the draft law to amend the Nationality Act does not preclude persons with disabilities in receipt of benefits from obtaining citizenship.**

Israel (2023)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Reports of discrimination against persons with disabilities in insurance contracts, in particular that refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities are not eligible for national insurance services, subsidized health insurance, social security benefits, including disability allowances;
- (b) The lack of a consistent registration and identification system for all refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities;
- (c) Restrictions on freedom of movement in the occupied territories and the routine denial of exit permits, including for medical care or only granting permits on the basis of interrogation by Israeli security forces, preventing persons with disabilities to move freely between the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza and from accessing essential medical care, rehabilitation, employment and education.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the national insurance scheme with the aim to expand its coverage to refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, and require financial services, in particular insurance companies to remove discriminatory provisions from insurance services and contracts;**
- (b) Establish a uniform registration and identification system for all refugees and asylum seeker adults and children with disabilities to ensure access to adequate humanitarian services and aid and access to essential services and disability supports;**
- (c) Remove restrictions on freedom of movement within and outside the occupied territories, restrict interrogation by the Israeli Security Forces to instances of legitimate security concern, in accordance with applicable international law, expedite the issuance of exit permits for persons with disabilities, including those requiring medical treatment, assistive devices and medicines, and ensure that persons with disabilities have liberty of movement, including for accessing education, medical care, including sexual and reproductive health services, rehabilitation or work and employment.**

Malawi (2023)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Information indicating that refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations particularly children with disabilities hosted in the Dzaleka camp, have had their freedom of movement restricted across the territory of the State party and the criminalization of persons who have left refugee camps;

(b) The impossibility of refugee persons with disabilities to seek for livelihood opportunities and to access school due to the restrictions of freedom in movement in refugee camps;

(c) The lack of measures to ensure inclusion of migrant, asylum seeking and refugee persons with disabilities in the education system, which impacts particularly children and young persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations can exercise their right to freedom of movement and seek and choose a place to live and consider lifting the current restrictions in the Dzaleka camp;

(b) Speed-up the enforcement of the State party's commitments towards the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework ensuring that refugee and asylum-seekers persons with disabilities benefit from national development agenda plans, including their access to support, health, water and sanitation, settlement opportunities, work and employment;

(c) Adopt measures to ensure that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities access to mainstream education in the community, by addressing prevailing barriers, such as lack of transport, limited facilities, inadequate food, unavailability of assistive devices.

Mauritania (2023)

31. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That despite the existing legal provisions on birth registration for all, and the establishment of offices of the National Agency for the Population Registry and Secure Identity documents in the regions, the Committee is concerned that some children with disabilities, are still not registered at birth, which hinder the enjoyment of their rights and access to services, including the disability card;

(b) The limited access of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, to support services and individualized accommodation.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase its efforts on raising awareness among parents and the community of the importance of registering births of their children, including children with disabilities, and regularly organize mobile campaigns to issue birth certificates and identity documents, with the effective involvement of persons with disabilities;

(b) Remove all barriers for persons with disabilities, including those living in remote and rural areas, to the enjoyment of their rights to a nationality, birth registration and civil documentation, to enable them to exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention;

(c) Adopt all measures necessary to ensure that migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, are granted adequate support services, including gender-sensitive and age-appropriate accommodation.

Mongolia (2023)

37. The Committee is concerned that despite the provisions of the Law on Citizenship which guarantees the liberty of movement, the Law on travel and immigration limits travelling and immigration of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the Law on travel and immigration and the Law on Legal Status of Foreign Nationals, in order to harmonize its provisions with the Convention and article 9.1.1 of the Law on Citizenship.

Paraguay (2023)

33. Al Comité le preocupa que existe un subregistro del 30% en los nacimientos en general y no se informa cuantos de ellos son de personas con discapacidad.

34. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que intensifique las acciones del Programa Derecho a la Identidad, incluyendo las zonas rurales y remotas, que obtenga estadísticas confiables del subregistro actual de nacimientos y específicamente de personas con discapacidad.

Georgia (2023)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of appropriate support measures and reasonable accommodation for asylum seekers with disabilities, particularly the scarcity of qualified sign language interpreters in immigration procedures and the limited accessibility for wheelchair users and other persons with disabilities to premises such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Migrant Accommodation Centre and the Integration Centre of the Internally Displaced Persons, Eco-Migrants and Livelihood Agency of the Ministry of Health;

(b) Information indicating insufficient healthcare services for migrant persons with disabilities, particularly in the Adjara district;

(c) Information indicating that disability benefits are not available for refugee persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide appropriate support measures and reasonable accommodation for asylum seekers with disabilities, establish procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities in asylum proceedings, and provide these mechanisms with sufficient financial means and personnel, particularly qualified sign language interpreters;

(b) Ensure that building premises dedicated to migrant and asylum-seeking procedures are accessible for asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities regardless type of impairment;

(c) Ensure that health care is provided to asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities, including accessible psychosocial support services in the community;

(d) Adopt measures, including protocols, to recognise persons with disabilities in refugee like situations in the social security schemes in the State party, and to ensure the possibility to have access to disability-related benefits.

Peru (2023)

36. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) La poca accesibilidad de la información, los procedimientos y los centros de atención para los migrantes, los refugiados, los solicitantes de asilo, y los desplazados internos con discapacidad y que no haya una identificación completa y sistemática de las personas migrantes y desplazadas internas con discapacidad, de sus necesidades, dificultades para acceder a opciones laborales, servicios públicos, transporte y documentación incluidos el certificado de discapacidad y el carnet de discapacidad;

b) La Política Nacional Migratoria 2017-2025 no establece medidas específicas para la atención de las personas refugiadas y migrantes con discapacidad. Además, para obtener un certificado oficial de discapacidad, estas deben estar en situación migratoria regular, lo que supone un obstáculo para que las personas con discapacidad en situación de migración irregular puedan acceder a servicios y prestaciones.

37. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:

a) Lleve a cabo una identificación completa y sistemática de los migrantes, refugiados, solicitantes de asilo y desplazados internos con discapacidad y sus necesidades, así como la tramitación de sus solicitudes de regularización migratoria, a fin de garantizar su acceso a la obtención de certificados de discapacidad para recibir prestaciones y servicios de manera oportuna y garantice la accesibilidad física, a la información y la comunicación de los centros de migración;

b)Asegure que todas las normas y políticas migratorias, incluyendo la Política Nacional Migratoria 2017-2025, tengan un enfoque de discapacidad, a fin de asegurar que los derechos de este grupo sean respetados en su proceso de tránsito y al establecerse en el Estado parte como país de destino.

Togo (2023)

37. The Committee notes that since January 2022 the birth registration is free of charge if it is declared within 45 days from the birth. However, it is concerned that some children with disabilities, are still not registered at birth. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities still face barriers in obtaining birth certificates, nationality certificates and identity cards due to lack of accessibility to services and lack of awareness among the population about the need to register.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Increase its efforts on raising awareness among parents and the community of the importance of registering births of their children, including children with disabilities, extend the free registration of birth beyond 45 days, and regularly organize mobile campaigns to issue birth certificates, nationality certificates and identity cards, with the effective involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**
- (b) Remove all barriers for persons with disabilities, including those living in remote and rural areas, to the enjoyment of their rights to a nationality, birth registration and civil documentation, to enable them to exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention.**

Tunisia (2023)

31. The Committee is concerned that some persons with disabilities and in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities are excluded from some services provided to other persons with disabilities by the State party such as reduced fares on public transport due to difficulties in obtaining identity cards.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Decree No. 1477 of 2006 to simplify and facilitate the procedures related to the enjoyment by travellers with disabilities of reduced fares for international transportation;**
- (b) Recognise persons with psychosocial disability in the law under drafting for tax exemption of persons with disabilities to enhance freedom of movement.**

Bangladesh (2022)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of civil documentation, such as official birth, marriage and death certificates of children with disabilities, particularly refugee children with disabilities belonging to the Rohingya community, and children with disabilities in remote and rural areas, leading to lack of access to services;**
- (b) The lack of freedom of movement of persons with disabilities, particularly refugees with disabilities belonging to the Rohingya community and impeding their access to seek medical rehabilitation outside their camps or abroad;**
- (c) The State party not having ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol as well as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt concrete measures to ensure the availability of civil documentation for all children with disabilities, particularly refugee children with disabilities belonging to the Rohingya community, and children with disabilities in remote and rural areas to enable them have access to all services;**
- (b) Take effective measures to ensure freedom of movement of persons with disabilities, particularly refugees with disabilities belonging to the Rohingya community and enable them to have access to seek medical rehabilitation outside their camps or abroad;**
- (c) Take necessary measures to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol as well as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of**

Stateless persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and repeal the 1946 Foreigners Act that is targeted mainly against Rohingya Muslims.

China (2022)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of civil documentation, such as official birth, marriage and death certificates of children with disabilities, particularly refugee children with disabilities belonging to the Rohingya community, and children with disabilities in remote and rural areas, leading to lack of access to services;
- (b) The lack of freedom of movement of persons with disabilities, particularly refugees with disabilities belonging to the Rohingya community and impeding their access to seek medical rehabilitation outside their camps or abroad;
- (c) The State party not having ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol as well as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt concrete measures to ensure the availability of civil documentation for all children with disabilities, particularly refugee children with disabilities belonging to the Rohingya community, and children with disabilities in remote and rural areas to enable them have access to all services;**
- (b) Take effective measures to ensure freedom of movement of persons with disabilities, particularly refugees with disabilities belonging to the Rohingya community and enable them to have access to seek medical rehabilitation outside their camps or abroad;**
- (c) Take necessary measures to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol as well as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and repeal the 1946 Foreigners Act that is targeted mainly against Rohingya Muslims.**

Indonesia (2022)

39. The Committee remains concerned at the lack of efforts made to repeal provisions of article 11 of the Immigration Control Act which deprives persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial disabilities, the right to enter the Republic of Korea based on their disability and of article 32 of the Act on Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, which restricts access to basic disability services for migrants with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party takes urgent steps to repeal discriminatory provisions in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are not deprived of the right to enter the Republic of Korea on the basis of disability and to allow migrants with disabilities access to basic disability services.

Japan (2022)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The article 5 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act that allows denial of entry to the State party to persons with intellectual or psychosocial disability;
- (b) Insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation and accessibility of information at the Immigration Services Agency, including enough number of qualified interpreters.

40. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Revise Article 5, Paragraph 2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which allows denial of entry to persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation when required and accessibility of information at the Immigration Services Agency, including enough number of qualified interpreters.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

32. The Committee notes with concern barriers in gaining access to administrative facilities and proceedings for birth registration and civil documentation, including the inaccessibility of

buildings, and communication barriers for persons with disabilities, particularly those from ethnic groups and living in remote and rural areas.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to remove all barriers for persons with disabilities, including those from ethnic groups and living in remote and rural areas, to the enjoyment of their rights to a nationality, birth registration and civil documentation, to enable them to exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention.

New Zealand (2022)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The acceptable standard of health requirements applied under the immigration rules of New Zealand, which allow for discrimination in practice against persons with disabilities in immigration and some asylum procedures;
- (b) The ineligibility under the acceptable standard of health medical waiver policy of persons with disabilities whose impairment requires full-time care, including care in the community;
- (c) Provisions of the Immigration Act of 2009, which prevent people from lodging complaints related to immigration decisions with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review and amend its immigration and asylum legislation and administrative rules, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities and migrants and refugees, to ensure that persons with disabilities do not face discrimination in any of the formalities and procedures relating to immigration and asylum, in particular as a result of the application of the acceptable standard of health requirements;
- (b) Reverse the ineligibility under the acceptable standard of health medical waiver policy of persons with disabilities whose impairment requires full-time care;
- (c) Repeal section 392, paragraphs (2) and (3), of the Immigration Act of 2009, which prohibits the lodging of immigration-related complaints to the Human Rights Commission.

Republic of Korea (2022)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The Acceptable Standard of Health (ASH) requirements applied under New Zealand's immigration rules, which allows for discrimination in practice against persons with disabilities in immigration and some asylum procedures;
- (b) The ineligibility under the ASH medical waiver policy of persons with disabilities whose impairment requires full time care, including care in the community;
- (c) Provisions of the Immigration Act 2009 which prevent people from lodging complaints related to immigration decisions with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review and amend its immigration and asylum legislation and administrative rules, in close consultation with and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities and migrants and refugees, to ensure that persons with disabilities do not face discrimination in any of the formalities and procedures relating to immigration and asylum, in particular as a result of the application of the Acceptable Standard of Health (ASH) requirements;
- (b) Reverse the ineligibility under the ASH medical waiver policy of persons with disabilities whose impairment requires full time care;
- (c) Repeal Section 392 paras. (2) and (3) of the Immigration Act 2009, which prohibits the lodging of immigration-related complaints to the Human Rights Commission

Hungary (2022)

37. The Committee notes with concern the lack of:

- (a) Procedural safeguards, accessibility and reasonable accommodation for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities at border crossings and in reception and accommodation facilities;
- (b) Accessible and understandable modes of information and communication for asylum-seeking or refugee children with disabilities;

- (c) Measures to end the detention of asylum seekers in closed border transit zone facilities and accommodate asylum seekers in open reception facilities;
- (d) Efforts to remove restrictions on non-governmental organizations providing support to asylum seekers, including restrictions on funding from the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund;
- (e) Data on asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age and type of impairment.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Assess the current status of asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities at border crossings and in reception and accommodation facilities, and ensure accessibility, reasonable accommodations and support measures for them;
- (b) Ensure accessible and understandable modes of information and communication for asylum-seeking or refugee children with disabilities;
- (c) End the detention of asylum seekers in closed border transit zone facilities and accommodate asylum seekers in open reception facilities;
- (d) Remove restrictions on non-governmental organizations providing support to asylum seekers, including restrictions on funding from the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund;
- (e) Collect data, disaggregated by sex and age, on asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities.

39. In the light of the growing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, which has already pushed a large number of people into the neighbouring countries, the Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to provide persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities, in need of international protection with all the necessary support and services, including their accommodation in foster care families.

Mexico (2022)

62. The Committee is concerned about the high poverty level of persons with disabilities, and about a lack of measures specifically designed for persons with disabilities in the special programme for indigenous and Afro-Mexican people for 2020–2024.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party create a national plan specifically addressing the high level of poverty among persons with disabilities, including its financing and a time schedule for its implementation; implement it; and monitor its implementation.

Switzerland (2022)

37. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of access to specialized medical care, infrastructure and facilities, communications, reasonable accommodation and qualified personnel to provide support for asylum seekers with disabilities in federal asylum centres, and the disproportionate use of force by security personnel;
- (b) The lack of accessible information and procedural accommodation during asylum procedures;
- (c) The requirements for financial independence under federal migration law that affects the ability of persons with disabilities to obtain and maintain residence permits or seek family reunification.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish, as a matter of priority and in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the proposed single point of contact for asylum seekers with disabilities in federal asylum centres; ensure that asylum seekers with disabilities have access to specialized medical care, infrastructure and facilities, accessible communications, reasonable accommodation and qualified support personnel; and prevent the use of force by security personnel in federal asylum centres;

- (b) Finalize the guidelines for persons with “special needs” and ensure that these guidelines are based on the standards and principles of the Convention, including in the areas of access to information and the provision of procedural accommodation;
- (c) Review the impact of the requirements for financial independence under federal migration law on persons with disabilities, including how disability is understood and recognized by the courts, with the aim of removing or amending this requirement.

Venezuela (2022)

34. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information on displaced or migrant persons with disabilities.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that migrant persons with disabilities are able to exercise their rights on an equal footing with others;
- (b) Establish monitoring and assessment mechanisms at its borders for the identification, processing and protection of migrant persons with disabilities that use information and adapted procedures in accessible formats, individual adaptations such as the facilitation of physical access and trained personnel.

Djibouti (2021)

31. The Committee is concerned about barriers for persons with disabilities to obtain official documentation as refugees, asylum seekers and persons in refugee-like situations, which hinder their enjoyment of the right to liberty of movement. It is also concerned that some children, including children with disabilities, are still not registered at birth.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures, with budget allocations, to strengthen the National Asylum Eligibility Commission so that refugees, asylum seekers, and persons in refugee-like situations with disabilities in all areas of the country have access to official documentation, on an equal basis with others;
- (b) Enforce the registration of all new-born children with disabilities at birth and undertake a nationwide campaign to raise awareness among parents and the community of the importance of registering the births of their children, including those with disabilities.

France (2021)

38. The Committee notes with concern that travelers and Roma, French citizens as well as non-citizens with disabilities often face severe hardship in their living arrangements. It is also concerned that data on their situation is scarce and about the absence of policies to address these risks and protect their rights.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect data on the living conditions of traveller and Roma persons with disabilities, citizens and non-citizens, and the fulfilment of their rights under the Convention, and ensure necessary accommodations for travellers and Roma persons with disabilities, also in asylum-seeking and refugee situations, particularly children with disabilities.

Estonia (2021)

36. The Committee notes with concern information on the lack of accessibility, reasonable accommodations and support measures for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities at border crossings, in reception and accommodation facilities and within the needs-identification procedures for persons with disabilities.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party make assessments of the current status of and ensure accessibility, reasonable accommodations and support measures for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities at border crossings, in reception and accommodation facilities and within the needs-identification procedures for all persons with disabilities.

Australia (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Migration and asylum legislation, such as the Migration Act 1958 and the health requirement in the Migration Regulations 1994, which allows for discrimination against persons with disabilities in asylum and migration procedures;
- (b) The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 providing an exemption to certain provisions within the Migration Act 1958, which results in the exclusion of persons with disabilities;
- (c) The 10-year qualifying period for migrants with a non-permanent visa to access the Age Support Pension and the Disability Support Pension;
- (d) The transfer of refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities to Nauru, Papua New Guinea and other “regional processing countries”.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review and amend its migration laws and policies to ensure that persons with disabilities do not face discrimination in any of the formalities and procedures relating to migration and asylum and, especially, remove the exemption in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 to certain provisions of the Migration Act 1958;**
- (b) Remove the 10-year qualifying period for migrants to access the Age Support Pension and the Disability Support Pension;**
- (c) Cease the transfer of refugees and asylum seekers, particularly persons with disabilities, to Nauru, Papua New Guinea and other “regional processing countries”, as requested by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in a factsheet on the protection of so-called “legacy caseload” asylum seekers, and establish a minimum standard of health care and support for persons with disabilities held in immigration detention.**

Ecuador (2019)

35. The Committee notes with concern the adoption of restrictions on entry into the country by persons with disabilities, particularly persons with disabilities who are seeking international protection. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of accessible shelters for migrants with disabilities that are staffed with personnel trained to provide information and to follow up on their applications and petitions.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that migrants with disabilities, particularly those who are seeking international protection, are able to exercise their rights on an equal footing with others;**
- (b) Establish monitoring and assessment mechanisms at its borders for the identification, processing and protection of migrants with disabilities that use information and adapted procedures in accessible formats, individual adaptations such as the facilitation of physical access and trained personnel;**
- (c) Ensure that conditions at reception centres are such that they afford adequate living standards for migrants and refugees with disabilities and safeguard their physical and mental health on an equal footing with others in accordance with the Convention.**

El Salvador (2019)

36. The Committee is concerned that the new Migration Law and the Passport Issuance and Revalidation Law enforce legal impediments to leaving the country for persons with hearing impairments and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at cases of some persons with disabilities still not having access to identity documents.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party review and reform its legislation on migration to eliminate discriminatory restrictions and ensure that all persons with disabilities who wish to leave or enter the country have access to procedures on an equal basis with others. The Committee also recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have a birth certificate or identity document.

India (2019)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of registration at birth of children with disabilities, particularly deafblind children, children requiring high levels of support and intersex children at a heightened risk of neglect,

the absence of disaggregated data and the insufficiency of measures to ensure the early registration of and access to unique disability identification cards by children with disabilities in remote and rural areas, those internally displaced and those in refugee camps, resulting in their lack of access to community services;

(b) The situation of persons with disabilities, including Muslim persons with disabilities, rendered stateless as a result of the registry process undertaken in the State of Assam and currently in detention camps.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a programme to ensure the registry of children with disabilities immediately after birth and the disaggregation of data of the birth registry, and to facilitate the recognition of unique disability identification cards for all children with disabilities and their access to appropriate early intervention and community services;

(b) Ensure respect for and the protection of all human rights of persons with disabilities rendered stateless, including those in detention camps, urgently adopting measures to allow the reacquisition of nationality, and ratify or accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961).

Iraq (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned that not all children with disabilities are registered at birth and are thus at risk of being stateless, particularly children born in the State party to foreign nationals, children born to unknown parents and children born in regions that have been affected by armed conflict.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate the human, technical and financial resources necessary to continue its efforts to register all children with disabilities and to prevent their statelessness.

Kuwait (2019)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information on the appropriate support and individualized accommodations available to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities in immigration proceedings;

(b) The lack of information on the nationality status of Bidoons with disabilities, on the registration of the births of Bidoon children with disabilities and on the extent to which such children are able to enjoy their rights and access services.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the support and individualized accommodations available to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities in immigration proceedings;

(b) Ensure that all Bidoons with disabilities, including children, enjoy the right to acquire a nationality and that they are registered immediately after birth, have access to services and are able to exercise the rights under the Convention.

Myanmar (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned that the Child Rights Law of 2019 does not guarantee the right to a nationality to children belonging to ethnic minority groups and those who are internally displaced, including children with disabilities, which hinders their access to education, health care and other public services. The Committee is also concerned about barriers to access administrative facilities and proceedings for birth registration, civil documentation and citizenship, including inaccessibility of buildings, official and unofficial fees, and communication barriers for persons with disabilities from ethnic minority groups.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party take the legal and other measures necessary to guarantee the right to a nationality without discrimination, and take effective policy measures to remove all barriers for persons with disabilities, including those from ethnic minority groups, to the enjoyment of their rights to a nationality, birth registration and civil documentation, to be able to exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention.

Rwanda (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned about barriers for persons with disabilities to obtain official documentation as refugees, which hinder their enjoyment of the right to liberty of movement. It is also concerned that some children, including children with disabilities are still not registered at birth.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the registration programme to implement Law No. 13 ter/2014 Relating to Refugees and ensure that refugees with disabilities in all areas of the country have access to official documentation on an equal basis with others;

(b) Enforce the registration of all new born children with disabilities at birth and conduct a countrywide campaign to sensitize parents and the community on the importance of registering the birth of their children including those with disabilities.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Discriminatory provisions, including in the Nationality Act, limiting the rights of women with disabilities to pass on their nationality to their spouses and children;

(b) The fact that women with disabilities are obliged to request the permission of a guardian to travel, including when travelling abroad;

(c) Persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities, including *bedouins*, facing obstacles in the access to citizenship and social services;

(d) The limited access of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugee persons with disabilities to support services and individualized accommodation.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal all discriminatory provisions, including in the Nationality Act, limiting the rights of women with disabilities to pass on their nationality to their spouses and children;

(b) Take all necessary measures, in law and in practice, to ensure that women with disabilities may exercise their right to liberty of movement independently of the permission of a guardian;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and/or religious minorities and living in rural and remote areas, including *bedouins*, have access to identity documents, Saudi citizenship and social services, and guarantee that their rights under the Convention are protected;

(d) Adopt all necessary measures to ensure that migrants, asylum seekers and refugee persons with disabilities are granted with adequate support services, including gender-sensitive and age-appropriate accommodation.

Senegal (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned about children with disabilities not being registered after birth and therefore lacking birth certificates without which the social equality card or other social programmes remain inaccessible to them.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the registration of children with disabilities after birth and grant them the legal documents necessary for enjoyment of their rights.

Spain (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned about the precarious situation of refugees and asylum-seeking persons with disabilities in the State party and also notes with concern that refugee status determination procedures are not accessible. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of a gender perspective in policies and measures for refugees and asylum-seeking persons with disabilities and general lack of knowledge by professionals working in the reception centres of their rights.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all refugee status determination procedures and social protection programs, including disability support schemes, are accessible and do not discriminate in law and in practice, for all non-nationals with disabilities residing in the State party. The Committee further recommends that the

State party elaborate specific gender sensitive policies and ensure full accessibility in reception centres. It further recommends that it provide training for professionals and civil servants working in the reception centres on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Türkiye (2019)

38. The Committee is concerned about the limited information relating to:

- (a) The proportion and situation of migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities in the State party;
- (b) Procedural accommodation and support available to persons with disabilities throughout immigration or asylum seeking procedures, including prior to resettlement, and training provided to personnel in charge of migration and determination of refugee status;
- (c) Public policies and programmes addressing the rights of migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities, and on the involvement of civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, in identifying support requirements by refugees with disabilities.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Carry out research and data collection to assess the situation of persons with disabilities on the move in the State party, including migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities disaggregated by, *inter alia*, gender, age and ethnic background and establish a multi-stakeholder mechanism, including organizations of persons with disabilities, aimed at informing public policies and programmes.**
- (b) Adopt a protocol on the provision of procedural accommodation and support during immigration, refugee status determination procedures and resettlement, and provide persons with disabilities with information on accommodations and support available, in accessible formats, Easy Read and in native languages of the main migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee communities, and ensure training of officials working at protection desks on the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention;**
- (c) Ensure that public policies and programmes recognise migrant workers, asylum seekers, and refugees with disabilities, and allocate the human, financial, and technical resources to ensure the accessibility, reasonable accommodation and support they may require, in particular refugee women with disabilities.**

40. The Committee is concerned about information indicating that persons with physical disabilities require medical reports as a pre-condition for air travel, and that persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities require approval from their guardians to travel abroad.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish the discriminatory requirements of medical reports and third party authorization preventing the freedom of movement of persons with disabilities within and outside the territory of the State party.

Haiti (2018)

34. The Committee is concerned that the registration of the births of all new-borns with disabilities is not widespread throughout the territory. It is also concerned by the difficulties experienced by persons with disabilities to obtain identification documents, especially in rural and remote areas, and given the price of the national identity card. It notes that campaigns to register the population are inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the birth registration system so that all new-borns with disabilities in the State party are registered immediately after birth at no cost. It also recommends that the State party increase the accessibility of campaigns to obtain identity documents, especially in remote and rural areas and to ensure that all persons with disabilities possess at least one identity document. The Committee recommends that the State party consider the issuance of free national identification cards for persons with disabilities.

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Seychelles (2018)

29. The Committee is concerned about the lack of appropriate social and health care services for migrant, asylum seeking and refugee persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its migration, asylum seeking and refugee policies and programs and take measures to provide health and other support services to persons with disabilities who are applicants for international refugee protection.

Slovenia (2018)

29. The Committee is concerned about the lack of appropriate social and health care services for migrant, asylum seeking and refugee persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its migration, asylum seeking and refugee policies and programs and take measures to provide health and other support services to persons with disabilities who are applicants for international refugee protection.

Sudan (2018)

37. The Committee is concerned about restrictions imposed on persons with disabilities limiting their freedom of movement, whereby persons with physical disabilities require medical reports as a pre-condition for travelling by air and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities require approval from their guardians if they wish to travel.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party abolishes the requirements that impede the freedom of movement of persons with disabilities within and outside its territory.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

42. The Committee is concerned that the State party maintains its reservation to article 18 of the Convention.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw its reservation to article 18 of the Convention.

Armenia (2017)

29. The Committee is concerned about structural barriers preventing persons with disabilities from obtaining passports and identity cards on an equal basis with others.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities can obtain passports and identity cards on an equal basis with others, including by providing reasonable accommodation to facilitate access to public offices and passport delivery procedures.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

38. The Committee notes with concern the absence of information about how persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities access services and receive protection of their rights under the Convention. It is further concerned about the absence of measures to guarantee that migrants, asylum seekers, and refugee persons with disabilities are provided with appropriate support and reasonable accommodation in immigration proceedings.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and/or religious minorities, including those living in rural and remote areas, have access to identity documents and can access to services and protection of their rights under the Convention.

Bolivia (2016)

47. The Committee is concerned that universal registration of all persons with disabilities is not guaranteed and that newborns with disabilities are less likely to receive identity documents, which impedes their access to basic services. It is also concerned that not enough information is provided to families in this regard.

48. The Committee urges the State party to guarantee all persons with disabilities the right to be registered, and to train the staff of official institutions to register all persons with disabilities, particularly in indigenous communities and in remote and rural areas.

Ethiopia (2016)

41. The Committee is concerned that the process of birth registration of all newborn children with disabilities across all territories, including refugee camps, is not carried out to its fullest extent.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the birth registration system to ensure that every newborn child with disabilities in all areas of the country, in particular those living in remote and rural areas and those living in refugee camps, are registered immediately upon birth.

Guatemala (2016)

51. The Committee notes that the steps taken by the State party to promote the civil registration of children have not led to the universal registration of children with disabilities and that many such children have no name.

52. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that all children with disabilities are immediately registered after birth, that an identity document is provided and that the National Registry Office properly registers all children with disabilities.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

35. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on:

(a) The conditions in deportation and detention centres, including on accessibility and reasonable accommodation in those centres for migrant workers with disabilities;

(b) Applications made by persons with disabilities for naturalization and whether the naturalization procedure is accessible to them on an equal basis with others and without restrictions;

(c) The nationality status of Bidouns with disabilities and birth registration of Bidoun children with disabilities and the extent to which they are able to enjoy their rights and gain access to services.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that:

(a) Detention and deportation centres are accessible to migrant workers with disabilities and that migrant workers with disabilities are provided with reasonable accommodation;

(b) Naturalization procedures are fully accessible to persons with disabilities and that any person with a disability can choose to apply for nationality of the United Arab Emirates on an equal basis with others;

(c) All Bidouns with disabilities enjoy the right to a nationality and have access to services and that all Bidoun children with disabilities have a birth certificate and are able to exercise all the rights enshrined in the Convention.

Slovakia (2016)

53. The Committee notes with deep concern the precarious situation of persons with disabilities in the current migrant crisis on the national borders of the State party. The Committee is concerned that the migration decision-making procedures are not accessible for all persons with disabilities and that information and communication are not provided in accessible formats.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream disability in all its migration policies. It also recommends that persons with disabilities are permitted free movement across the State party borders on an equal basis with others.

Thailand (2016)

37. The Committee is concerned that the rules governing section 19 of the Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act limit the application for disability identity cards to persons with disabilities who hold Thai citizenship only. It is concerned that this excludes non-Thai persons with disabilities and those who are not registered in the civil registry from benefiting from services and entitlements. It is also concerned about the fact that many children and adults

with disabilities are not registered due to the widespread stigma of being identified as a person with disability.

38. The Committee recommends that the rules governing section 19 of the Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act be amended to ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless of nationality, including persons from different ethnic and indigenous backgrounds, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, can benefit from available services and entitlements. It also recommends that concrete steps be taken to provide information and conduct awareness-raising on registration to gain access to services.

Uganda (2016)

36. The Committee expresses concern about the legislation on immigration that denies persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities acquisition of dual citizenship. It is also concerned about the low level of registration of children with disabilities at birth.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal provisions in the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act (2009) and the Immigration Act (1970) that restrict the right to movement and liberty and acquisition of citizenship of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;

(b) Ensure registration of all children with disabilities at birth.

European Union (2015)

48. The Committee is concerned at the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and workers with family members who have disabilities when moving to live or work in another European Union Member State, irrespective of the length of the stay.

49. The Committee recommends that the European Union take immediate action to ensure that all persons with disabilities and their families can enjoy their right to freedom of movement on an equal basis with others, including the portability of social security benefits in a coordinated manner across its Member States.

Gabon (2015)

42. The Committee is concerned by the absence of data on the number of children with disabilities whose birth is not registered and may not have identity documents, in particular girls.

43. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party establish records to ensure that the birth of all children with disabilities is recorded and that it promptly initiate programmes to provide identity documents to all persons with disabilities.

Kenya (2015)

35. The Committee express concern about the lack of registration of children with disabilities upon their birth, in particular children in situation of internal displacement and those living in refugee camps.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the registration programme with necessary budget and personal resources to ensure that persons with disabilities in all areas of the country, including persons in refugee camps access to identification documents.

Qatar (2015)

35. The Committee is concerned by the conditions in deportation and detention centres and the lack of accessibility and reasonable accommodation in those centres for migrant workers with disabilities.

36. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party improve conditions in detention and deportation centres and ensure that they are accessible to migrant workers with disabilities and that migrant workers with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodation.

Cook Islands (2015)

37. The Committee is concerned about persons with disabilities being denied entry into the State party on the basis of disability.

38. The Committee recommends the State party to amend the law to allow all persons with disabilities entry to the State party on an equal basis with others.

Dominican Republic (2015)

36. The Committee is deeply concerned at the restrictions on access to community inclusion services for persons with disabilities of Haitian descent, as a consequence of the legislation restricting their rights to nationality.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party speed up the restoration of all the rights of persons with disabilities of Haitian origin or descent, so as to enable them to use all services and programmes for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Republic of Korea (2014)

35. The Committee is concerned about the provisions of article 11 of the Immigration Control Act pursuant to which entry to the State party is denied to persons with psychosocial disabilities “who lack reason and are not accompanied by an assistant for their sojourn”, and of article 32 of the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities Act, which restrict basic disability services for migrants with disabilities.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal article 11 of the Immigration Control Act and article 32 of the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities Act in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are not deprived of the right to enter the Republic of Korea on the basis of disability and to free migrants with disabilities from restrictions on basic disability services.

Ecuador (2014)

32. The Committee is concerned that article 7 of the Naturalization Act still provides that Ecuadorian nationality may not be granted to persons with a “chronic illness”. Given the close link between so-called “chronic illnesses” and disabilities, this article is overtly discriminatory and contrary to article 18 of the Convention.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal article 7 of the Naturalization Act so that any person with disabilities can choose to apply for Ecuadorian nationality on an equal basis with others.

Mexico (2014)

39. The Committee is concerned that migrants with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities are detained in migrant holding centres, that the authorities set stricter requirements for entry into the country for persons with disabilities and that persons injured as a result of falling from the train known as “La Bestia” (“The Beast”) receive inadequate care.

40. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Designate appropriate and accessible areas and appoint trained staff to assist persons with disabilities in migrant holding centres;**
- (b) Review and harmonize the operational guidelines under the Migration Act to ensure that persons with disabilities are treated equally in the issuance of visas and entry permits;**
- (c) Review and harmonize care protocols for migrants who are injured while in transit in Mexico, so that they are provided with not only emergency medical care but also sufficient recovery time and basic rehabilitation.**

41. The Committee notes that the steps taken to promote the registration of children with the civil registry have not led to the universal registration of children with disabilities.

42. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that all children with disabilities are immediately registered at birth and are provided with an identity document.

El Salvador (2013)

39. The Committee is concerned that children, adolescents and adults with disabilities living in rural areas remain unregistered and therefore do not have identity documents.

40. The Committee calls on the State party to ensure that children with disabilities are entered in the civil registry at birth.

Paraguay (2013)

45. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are not registered in the State party and that there are as yet no concrete measures to encourage the registration of children with disabilities, particularly in rural areas.

46. The Committee urges the State party to set up a programme on the civil registration of children with disabilities at birth, on an equal footing with other children, and decentralize registry procedures and ensure that they can be carried out simply, quickly and free of charge.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 19 CRPD
(Living independently and being
included in the community)*

September 2025

Article 19 - Living independently and being included in the community

States Parties to this Convention recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

(a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;

(c) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

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Latvia (2017)
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Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
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Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
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New Zealand (2014)
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Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)

Hungary (2012)

Peru (2012)

Spain (2011)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on Tunisia (2011).

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

35. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities have limited freedom to choose their living arrangements, with credible reports of institutionalisation, including the placement of persons of short stature and other groups in isolated settlements where movement is restricted and participation in mainstream education or employment is denied;

(b) The lack of information provided by the State Party on measures taken in respect of children with disabilities who have been abandoned and to transition from residential care institutions to family- and community-based forms of childcare.

36. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in Emergencies, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities:

(a) Prohibit institutionalization and segregation of persons with disabilities, remove restrictions on their freedom to choose where and with whom they live, and ensure full deinstitutionalization by adopting a clear strategy to transition from institutional care to community-based services, that includes specific goals, benchmarks and time frames;

(b) Establish support mechanisms for families of children with disabilities to prevent abandonment, and substitute measures for segregation with measures to promote their adoption or placement in foster care and ensure that foster families receive the requisite support for their care.

Finland (2025)

36. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Insufficient measures to prevent institutionalisation of persons with disabilities, including children and older persons with disabilities, due to inaccessible housing in the community, restrictions on personal assistance, inequity across welfare services counties and between the Disability Services Act and the Social Welfare Act;

(b) The lack of Swedish language social services and accessible housing options for people with disabilities from the Åland islands resulting in relocation to services in Sweden and unclear jurisdictional responsibilities for financing, care, social insurance and oversight and monitoring.

37. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Implement a coordinated deinstitutionalisation strategy across all its territories, with timelines and financial resources, and applicable across all institutional settings, such as nursing homes, group homes, residential facilities and psychiatric institutions;

(b) Develop a nationally consistent, rights-based legislative and policy framework for the provision of community-based supports and services, including accessible housing, home support and personal assistance that respects self-direction and individual control and does not impose age limitations, service fees or waitlists, and ensures equity across welfare services counties and between the Disability Services Act and the Social Welfare Act;

(c) Urgently invest in Swedish language social services and accessible housing options to foster the cultural and linguistic identity of Åland persons with disabilities, to end the need to seek services in mainland Finland or to be relocated to services in Sweden, and resolve the jurisdictional responsibilities for financing, care, social insurance, oversight and monitoring.

Kiribati (2025)

35. The Committee is concerned about the limited possibilities for persons with disabilities to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live, mainly due to the absence of in-home support, personal assistance, community services and accessible housing.

36. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and recommends that the State party in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop national strategies and guidelines on community based inclusive development and work with donors and development partners, faith-based organisations and community leaders to implement community based inclusive programs across all islands;

(b) Strengthen the social protection schemes, such as the Disability Support Allowance to better cover costs associated with in-home support, personal assistance and community services;

(c) Support families with members with disabilities, including financially, to undertake housing modifications and gain access to assistive devices and technologies.

Maldives (2025)

36. The Committee is concerned about the limited possibilities for persons with disabilities to choose their place of residency and where and with whom they live, in particular due to the lack of in-home residential and other community support services including personal assistance, in particular in the outer islands, what leaves persons with disabilities dependant of their families and their care and without the possibility to enjoy their right to independent living.

38. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and recommends that the State party:

(a) In close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, develop national strategies and guidelines on community based inclusive development, across all islands, with an established timeframe and allocation of sufficient resources and ensure the community-based services are available aimed to enable persons to live independently and participate in the community;

(b) Raise awareness to promote understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;

(c) Transform mainstream services in the community including education, employment, health, leisure, cultural and social activities to be disability inclusive and accessible and provide personal assistants;

(d) Support families with members with disabilities, including financially, to adapt the houses, improve their accessibility and get access to assistive technologies.

Canada (2025)

39. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Deinstitutionalisation efforts are inconsistent and slow with many persons with disabilities forced to live in institutions, such as nursing homes, group homes, specialised long term care facilities and other institutions because they are unable to obtain support;

(b) Many Indigenous children and adults with disabilities must leave their communities and cultural connections to obtain accessible housing and appropriate support;

(c) Funding and programs for support for community living have long wait lists, require co-payments and are not portable throughout Canada.

40. Recalling its General Comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Implement a coordinated deinstitutionalisation strategy across federal, provincial, and territorial governments with timelines and targets, and applicable across all institutional settings, such as nursing homes, group homes, specialised long-term care facilities and psychiatric institutions;

(b) Establish comprehensive distinctions-based Indigenous policies and plans to urgently address the lack of accessible housing and community supports within Indigenous communities and for non-status and off-reserve Indigenous persons with disabilities;

(c) Develop a nationally consistent, rights-based legislative and policy framework for the provision of community-based supports and services at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels, including accessible housing, home support and personal assistance that respects self-direction and individual control, and that removes wait lists and co-payments for self-managed funding programs and allow for portability throughout the State Party.

Dominican Republic (2025)

35. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Article 76 of Law No. 5-13 on equal rights of persons with disability allows for the establishment of shelters and institutions for “persons with severe disabilities” in direct violation of the Convention;

(b) There is no clear strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, who are segregated in the Angeles homes;

(c) There is a number of people with disabilities wandering the streets, others reported as abandoned and others reported as victims of family negligence;

(d) Despite the approval of municipal ordinances on local inclusion of persons with disabilities, these are not being implemented effectively due to the lack of attached financial resources.

36. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017), its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Abolish article 76 of Law No. 5-13 on equal rights of persons with disabilities and adopt legal provisions to prohibit all forms of institutionalization for persons with disabilities;

(b) Develop a deinstitutionalization national strategy and clear action plans with adequate allocated budget and defined timelines;

(c) Take immediate measures to release children with disabilities living in the Angeles homes and place them into foster care services and inclusive settings;

(d) Take concrete measures to ensure the effective implementation of municipal ordinances on the local inclusion of persons with disabilities, including by allocating adequate financial resources to support their execution and establishing clear mechanisms for coordination between municipal and central government authorities.

European Union (2025)

48. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The EU's interpretation of the Convention on the permissibility of small group homes seems to deviate from the Committee's interpretation and that Guidance to Member States does not include redress for institutionalization;

(b) EU funds have been and are being used for the construction and maintenance of institutional facilities, including small group homes, in Member States;

- (c) Persons with disabilities are moved between different congregate settings in the implementation of projects operating under EU law and/or financed by the EU funds;
- (d) The current monitoring systems of the use of EU funds by Member States do not effectively ensure compliance with the obligations under the Convention, and that access to judicial oversight processes by organizations of persons with disabilities is severely curtailed;
- (e) Policies and investments are insufficiently targeted at the development of support measures in the community.

49. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the European Union, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Ensure that EU legislation, policies, programmes and guidelines on independent living are in full compliance with the requirements of the Convention, as set out in the Committee's General Comment No. 5 (2017), and repeal the European Commission's Legal Service note of 29 June 2018 (A res [2018] 2249997);**
- (b) Ensure that no EU funding, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, is used for the construction or maintenance of institutional facilities, including small group homes, and shape the Multiannual Financial Framework accordingly;**
- (c) Ensure that the post 2027 Cohesion Policy Legislation explicitly bans the use of EU funds for the construction and maintenance of institutional facilities, including small group homes, that the Disability Strategy 2021-2030 and its action plans for the period 2025-2030 comply with the obligations set out in the Committee's General comment No.5, and that the European Union conduct and publish an impact analysis of previous funding, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**
- (d) Amend the Commission Notice on Guidance on independent living in the context of EU funding to clarify that small group homes do not comply with the Convention and to provide redress and reparation to persons with disabilities who were or are living in institutions;**
- (e) Recognize institutionalization as a form of discrimination against persons with disabilities;**
- (f) Strengthen monitoring and complaint mechanisms of the allocation of EU funds, by enhancing independence of monitoring committees at the national level, ensuring monitoring by national human rights institutions, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in the allocation of EU funds for disability-specific purposes, ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations against the allocation of EU funds by Member States in violation of the Convention, and use its powers, such as infringement procedures, against Member States failing to implement these measures;**
- (g) Adopt unambiguous definitions of community-based services, including personal assistance, to improve targeting of investments, and collect and publish disaggregated data on the services provided and persons with disabilities utilizing them; prioritize investments for the development of accessible and affordable housing for persons with disabilities, personal assistance, centers for independent living, peer support and other types of individualized support respecting the will and preference of persons with disabilities.**

Palau (2025)

35. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The fact that there are persons with disabilities living in institutions including mental health hospitals, the building of new institutions and the absence of a national plan for the transition from institutional settings to live in the community;

(b) The lack of support arrangements for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community, including a lack of in-home services, personal assistance, and access to community services, which limits opportunities for persons with disabilities to choose their place of residence and decide where and with whom they wish to live;

(c) The requirement of working status and history to be able to access accommodation within the local community, which excludes persons with disabilities.

36. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), and the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities with time-bound benchmarks, and human, technical and financial resources;

(b) In close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, adopt a national strategy for independent living to ensure that support services in the community, such as personal assistance, are available, and enable persons with disabilities to exercise choice and control over their lives and to make decisions concerning where and with whom to live;

(c) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can access affordable and accessible accommodation within their local community, regardless of their working status and history to support their independent living.

Tuvalu (2025)

35. The Committee is concerned about the limited possibilities for persons with disabilities to choose their place of residency and where and with whom they live, in particular due to the lack of in-home residential and other community support services including personal assistance, what leaves persons with disabilities dependant of their families and their care and without the possibility to enjoy their right to independent living.

36. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and recommends that the State party:

(a) In close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, develop national strategies and guidelines on community based inclusive development, across all islands, with an established timeframe and allocation of sufficient resources and ensure the community-based services are available aimed to enable persons to live independently and participate in the community;

(b) Raise awareness to promote understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;

(c) Transform mainstream services in the community including education, employment, health, leisure, cultural and social activities to be disability inclusive and accessible and provide personal assistants;

(d) Support families with members with disabilities, including financially, to adapt the houses, improve their accessibility and get access to assistive technologies

Viet Nam (2025)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient awareness among society and public authorities about the right of persons with disabilities to live independently, choose their living arrangements, and be included in the community;

(b) The continued institutionalization of persons with disabilities, including those in social protection centres;

- (c) The limited scope of the Independent Living Programme, currently piloted in only a few provinces, the restricted access of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities to independent living arrangements, and insufficient funding for personal assistance services;
- (d) The inadequacy of financial assistance provided to persons with disabilities, which does not align with the actual costs of independent living, leaving individuals unable to fully exercise their right to independent living;
- (e) The shortage of trained social workers specialized in disability support and case management, particularly in rural areas, hindering the effective provision of community-based services.
- (f) The lack of implementation of a deinstitutionalization process.

38. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Conduct regular awareness-raising to enhance societal and public authority awareness regarding the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently, make their own living arrangements, and be fully included in the community;**
- (b) Ensure full deinstitutionalization by adopting a clear strategy to transition from institutional care to community-based services, including specific goals, benchmarks, and time frames;**
- (c) Expand the Independent Living Programme nationwide, ensure access to independent living arrangements for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including supported housing and community-based mental health services, and provide sustainable funding for personal assistance services;**
- (d) Increase monthly social allowance amounts for persons with disabilities to align with the actual costs of independent living, and implement a system for regularly adjusting these allowances to account for inflation;**
- (e) Expand the number of trained social workers specializing in disability support and case management, particularly in rural areas, to ensure adequate support for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community;**
- (f) Promote in-home and community-based care services as alternatives to institutionalization, and ensure that the new Law on Social Work guarantees the right to personal assistance tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities.**

Belarus (2024)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The continuous institutionalization of persons with disabilities, and the lack of a clear strategy, policy on de-institutionalization or efforts to include persons with disabilities in the community and to provide the necessary support services, including personal assistance services;
- (b) The increasing number of children with disabilities in their status of enrolment in institutions, including boarding schools for children with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement.

38. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) and the Guidelines on deinstitutionalization including emergency situations (2022), the Committee recommends that in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, the State party:

- (a) Establish a moratorium on the admission of persons with disabilities to existing facilities;**

- (b) Increase and expand provisions on additional services as required for children with disabilities and their families, to ensure full support for children with disabilities in the community;
- (c) Ensure the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and their freedom to choose where and with whom to live, preventing any type of congregated living arrangements, including “family-like environments”, which reproduce isolation and institutionalization, and redirect resources from institutions, including small-sized institutions, towards support for living in the community;
- (d) Develop and implement a deinstitutionalization strategy, with clear time frames and budgetary allocations, extending to all persons with disabilities, regardless of age, gender or type of impairment, containing measures to develop independent living skills and to facilitate the transition between institutional settings and life in the community;
- (e) Strengthen measures to develop community-based services and individualized forms of support, ensuring peer support groups, cash transfers or personal budgets, including in rural areas;
- (f) Redirect resources that were used for segregation institutions to community or family support, provision of personal assistant and accessibility of existing services in the community.

Belgium (2024)

38. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That there is no sustained effort to promote the right of persons with disabilities to independent living and being included in the community, and that none of the Walloon, the Common Community Commission of Brussels or German-speaking authorities have implemented any deinstitutionalization plans;
- (b) That whilst the Flemish and Walloon regions have introduced personal assistance for adult persons with disabilities, the lack of sufficient funding has resulted in applicants being put on inordinately long waiting lists that effectively pre-empt the enjoyment of the right to independent living and being included in the community;
- (c) That due to a lack of accessible services to live independently in the community, most parents of children with disabilities opt for non-inclusive and segregated services in relation to school, leisure, accommodation, among others;
- (d) The placement of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities residing in France in psychiatric hospitals and other institutions in the State party.

39. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) , and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities , and recommends that the State party, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Devise and enact an effective deinstitutionalization strategy, with time frames, goals, funding and monitoring, providing various forms of housing to provide persons with disabilities with a real choice about how and where to live, and ensure that community-based services are available and persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, can effectively exercise their right to live independently and be included in the community;
- (b) Ensure sufficient administrative and financial resources for personal assistance for independent living and being included in society to abolish waiting lists, in all regions, and provide information in accessible formats on how to access personal assistance;
- (c) Provide the support to children with disabilities and their caretakers necessary to allow them to access non-segregated services, in school, leisure, accommodation, and others, on an equal basis with other children;

(d) Cease the practice of actively promoting housing of persons with disabilities residing in France in institutions, such as psychiatric hospitals and other institutions, in the State party.

Benin (2024)

37. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information on the persons with disabilities who have benefited from the Support Fund for the Rehabilitation and Integration of Persons with Disabilities.

38. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations :

(a) Ensure that the National Solidarity Support Fund include budget lines to promote understanding of the right to to choose where to live, with whom and how to live and support to live in the community;

(b) Start without delay a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities and develop individualized support to live in the community;

(c) Ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to community-based services on an equal basis with others.

Burkina Faso (2024)

36. The Committee is concerned about the many obstacles for the rights of persons with disabilities to exercise their autonomy, freedom of choice and their full and effective participation in society, including:

(a) The lack of a comprehensive, national, multisectoral deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities;

(b) The lack of financial resources, accessible physical infrastructure and adequate support services, to choose where and with whom they want to live.

37. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities , the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities:

(a) Include in its legislation the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community and adopt mechanisms to guarantee freedom of choice concerning place of residence and where and with whom to live, including by removing guardianship and enabling housing in the community;

(b) Ensure sufficient budgetary allocations to the Operational Action Plan for the acquisition of personal assistance and assistive devices, to ensure that community support services are available, accessible and affordable, including in remote and rural areas, so that all persons with disabilities can exercise their right to live independently and be included in the community.

Denmark (2024)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive, multisectoral deinstitutionalization strategy in the Kingdom of Denmark, and measures aiming towards increased institutionalization of persons with disabilities, particularly measures on expanding the circumstances under which persons with disabilities with high support requirements can be moved to different residential facilities without their consent. It is also concerned about the uneven scope of choice for persons with disabilities concerning the place of residence across municipalities, the limited access to and/or withdrawal of personal assistant schemes mainly affecting young persons with disabilities, deafblind persons and persons with complex support requirements.

56. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities , and its previous recommendation , the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Adopt multisectoral deinstitutionalization strategies for all persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, with specific time frames and the requisite financial resources, ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to housing alternatives in their communities that are in keeping with their will and preference;

(b) Take measures to close existing institution-like residences, including group homes, and to prevent the relocation of persons with disabilities without their free and informed personal consent;

(c) Ensure that municipalities guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities to choose their place of residence regardless of the type of impairment or the complexity of support required; and provide the support required by persons with disabilities to participate in education, employment, cultural activities or to take part on social life and by avoiding reassessments.

57. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) A large number of persons with disabilities in Greenland either have to choose to move to Denmark to seek adequate psychosocial and other supports, or are referred to Danish residential facilities by authorities, due to the lack of specialized support and qualified staff in Greenland, with the risk of being increasingly disconnected from their family, language and culture.

(b) Persons with disabilities in Greenland, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, who are sentenced to detention in a psychiatric institution are often sent to an institution in Denmark, rendering visits by friends and family a near impossibility.

58. The Committee recommends that Greenland:

(a) Further improve its efforts to provide quality support to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in Greenland, rendering relocations of persons with disabilities to Denmark obsolete, and ensure that the measures taken are culturally appropriate, considering that the vast majority of the population in Greenland is Inuit;

(b) Provide community-based housing and appropriate supports and ensure access to justice on an equal basis with others.

Ghana (2024)

36. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There is high prevalence of institutionalization reported by the Ghana Statistical Service and the fact that many individuals still live in segregated environments, limiting their ability to live in the community in the absence of a national plan for the transition from institutional settings to live in the community;

(b) There are limited community-based support services to ensure persons with disabilities can live independently and be included in the community;

(c) Persons with disabilities frequently face significant economic barriers, including unemployment and underemployment, which undermine their ability to live independently. Social stigmatization and discrimination further hinder their participation in community life, affecting their overall quality of life and independence;

(d) The lack of accessible and affordable housing, support services, and social inclusion opportunities that has hindered efforts to promote community-based living for persons with disabilities leaving them with no choice other than to live in institutions;

- (e) Community-based services including healthcare, education, employment services, and social support networks to support persons with disabilities are limited;
- (f) The referral systems within communities are often underdeveloped, leading to inadequate coordination and follow-up for individuals who need comprehensive support services.

37. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Establish a national policy framework for the closure of institutions and residential care facilities, providing clear pathways and support for persons with disabilities to transition into the community;**
- (b) Develop and implement comprehensive community-based support services to ensure persons with disabilities live independently and be included in the community;**
- (c) Implement policies to combat unemployment and underemployment among persons with disabilities, addressing social stigmatization and discrimination to enhance their economic independence and participation in community life;**
- (d) Invest in accessible housing and robust support services to facilitate community-based living, ensuring persons with disabilities have access to inclusive education, employment opportunities, and social inclusion initiatives;**
- (e) Develop and expand community-based support services and inclusion initiatives such as house, school and health facilities to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community;**
- (f) Enhance referral systems and coordination among healthcare, education, employment, and social support networks to provide comprehensive community-based services for persons with disabilities.**

Mauritius (2024)

31. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2024 and relevant action plans fail to sufficiently recognize the right of persons with disabilities to autonomy and full social inclusion and fail to promote deinstitutionalization for persons with disabilities and inclusion in the community;
- (b) Insufficient measures have been taken to achieve deinstitutionalization for persons with disabilities and to provide individualized support for independent living and accessible services in the community, including the “carer’s allowance” of 3,500 rupees per month that is considerably insufficient to hire support persons;
- (c) There is insufficient availability of housing that is appropriate, affordable and accessible for persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community.

32. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities and its previous recommendations, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Explicitly recognize in its legislation the rights of persons with disabilities to freedom of choice, autonomy and full social inclusion; conduct awareness-raising campaigns to this end; and improve the action plans with time-bound benchmarks and human, technical and financial resources aimed at the effective transition of persons with disabilities from institutions into independent living in the community on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Redirect its budget allocations and take measures to achieve deinstitutionalization for persons with disabilities living in institutions of any kind; to phase out institutions and residential homes; to increase the amount of the “carer’s allowance”; and to develop individualized support such as in-home and community personal support as well as services in the community that are accessible for all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including healthcare, education, employment and accessible transportation;**

(c) Increase the range, affordability and accessibility of public housing for persons with disabilities, including by increasing rental subsidies and increasing the 4% allotment of housing units currently reserved for persons with disabilities in the housing project launched in 2023.

Netherlands (2024)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The continued institutionalization of adults and children with disabilities, in particular with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, along with reports of violence and abuse in these institutions and the lack of a clear, actionable plan and timeframe for deinstitutionalization;
- (b) Lack of fully accessible community-based services, including mental health services and personal assistance;
- (c) Reports of a persistent shortage of affordable and accessible housing for persons with disabilities;
- (d) The lack of attention paid to the realization of inclusive housing and living arrangements, as well as the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities regarding housing and living arrangements when moving within or between municipalities, leading to challenges in maintaining independent living, as well as the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, especially persons facing complex barriers, when applying for support services in municipalities, due to the bureaucratic, difficult to understand and lengthy application process.

44. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies , and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities , the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Develop and implement a clear strategy and a comprehensive action plan to end, as a matter of priority, the institutionalization of all persons with disabilities, including in small residential homes, and to support the transition of adults and children with disabilities to community-based and domestic settings, with specific time frames, sufficient human, technical and financial resources, and clear responsibilities for implementation and independent monitoring;**
- (b) Develop plans and implement existing programs to provide and strengthen community-based services, including developing mental health services and personal assistance in the community, and make existing services accessible to all persons with disabilities living in the community;**
- (c) Increase efforts, at all levels of the State party, to end the shortage of affordable and accessible housing for persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Enhance knowledge and awareness of inclusive housing and living arrangements and the right of persons with disabilities to live independently; harmonize regulations and procedures across municipalities and reduce obstacles to ensure that persons with disabilities face minimal disruptions when moving within or between municipalities; render the application process for support services in municipalities fully accessible and ensure that persons with disabilities get timely access to the support necessary to live independently;**
- (e) Re-examine the allocation of funds, including the regional funds obtained from the European Union dedicated to the provision of support services for persons with disabilities, to ensure the full implementation of the right to independent living.**

Ukraine (2024)

38. The Committee notes that the State party is in the process of developing the “National Strategy of reforming the system of institutional care and upbringing of children for 2017–

2026 and the Action Plan for the implementation of its first stage”, as well as the “Strategy for Reforming Psychoneurological, Other Residential Institutions and De-institutionalisation of Care for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons”, both to be adopted the last quarter of 2024. However, it notes with concern that the State party:

- (a) Has not implemented “The National Strategy to Reform of the Institutional Child Care System in Ukraine and Action Plan for the Implementation of Stage I the deinstitutionalization of children within the period 2017-2026;
- (b) Continue to operate small groups for children with disabilities called “family-type orphanages”, which are still institutions and go against the Convention;
- (c) Is not applying a moratorium for new admissions into institutions;
- (d) Continue to allocate private and international recovery and cooperation funds for the construction of new psychiatric institutions, for instance, in the Zakarpattia region, by rebuilding the Mukachevo institution for girls within the last three months, which included a UNDP plaque “on some equipment in the newly reconstructed building”;
- (e) Has failed to ensure that persons with disabilities forced to flee to third countries are not institutionalized;
- (f) Is not providing accessible housing to internally displaced persons with disabilities.

39. Recalling its General Comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the implementation of national plans, and policies on deinstitutionalization for children and adults with disabilities. This, prior consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations;
- (b) Apply a moratorium to the admission of persons with disabilities into all institutions, including those of children with disabilities, meanwhile the implementation of deinstitutionalization programs take place;
- (c) Avoid the transfer of persons segregated in large centres to group homes, as those that are still institutions;
- (d) End all forms of institutionalization based on impairment, including for the purpose of providing rehabilitation;
- (e) Adopt a comprehensive strategy and action plan to transition from institutions to the development of individualized support for living in community, including personal assistance and community-based supports and networks. The State party should expressly include boarding schools for children with disabilities in deinstitutionalization reforms.
- (f) Suspend any interstate agreements that perpetuate institutionalization of persons with disabilities forced to flee Ukraine;
- (g) Establish a national policy ensuring accessible housing for internally displaced persons with disabilities in community-based environments.

Azerbaijan (2024)

43. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Provisions in the Law on the Rights of the Child providing for institutionalization based on impairment, including of children with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and the prevalence of segregated settings, such as orphanages, boarding schools, and community-based rehabilitation centres (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, para. 73);
- (b) The lack of a range of support for persons with disabilities, including in-home support services;
- (c) The uneven access of persons with disabilities to services in the community, in particular affecting persons with disabilities living in rural areas.

44. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergency situations, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and

with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Recognize in its legislation the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community and adopt mechanisms to guarantee freedom of choice concerning place of residence, where and with whom to live, including by removing guardianship and enabling housing in the community;
- (b) End all forms of institutionalization of persons with disabilities, devise and implement a deinstitutionalization strategy for all persons with disabilities that includes information for persons with disabilities in accessible formats, including Braille, Easy Read and sign language, support for living outside congregated settings, redress for survivors of institutionalization, including individual and collective redress, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition;
- (c) Promote social inclusion of children and adults with disabilities, including by providing appropriate individualized support, such as personal assistance, peer support networks and personalized budgets;
- (d) Secure barrier-free access to public facilities and services in the community on an equal basis with others, including to education, healthcare, public transportation, and other cultural, sport and leisure amenities for children with disabilities, vocational training and employment opportunities.

Bahrain (2024)¹

38. The Committee is deeply concerned at:

- (a) The continued granting of licenses to establish residential institutions and sheltered workshops for persons with disabilities, including children, under article 4 of Law No. 74 of 2006 on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the continued placement of persons with disabilities in residential institutions outside the State party's territory.
- (b) The lack of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are free to choose their place of residence and have access to the support services necessary to live independently, including personal facilities.

39. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergency situations, the Committee recommends that the State party, through close consultation and the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities, take immediate steps to

- (a) Prohibit all forms of institutionalization and launch a national strategy and action plan to replace residential services with an inclusive community-based service system.
- (b) Provide services to promote independent living for persons with disabilities and grant allowances for additional expenses incurred by persons with disabilities to carry out their activities of daily living.

Costa Rica (2024)

33. El Comité nota con preocupación:

- a) La ausencia de una estrategia de desinstitutionalización para las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las mujeres y niños con discapacidad segregados en instituciones, y la falta de programas de apoyos comunitarios y servicios accesibles en la comunidad, incluyendo vivienda accesible y trabajo digno, cuando se incluyan en la comunidad;

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

- b) La falta de leyes y políticas relativas a la prohibición del internamiento involuntario en instituciones y el tratamiento forzoso de personas con discapacidad, en particular en el caso de personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial;
- c) La persistente institucionalización de niños y niñas con discapacidad y la falta de apoyos a sus familias para que vivan en comunidad;
- d) La falta de medidas para garantizar que todas las personas con discapacidad mantengan su autonomía y libre determinación a la hora de elegir su lugar de residencia y dónde y con quién vivir; y que han tomado sus propias decisiones con respecto a su inclusión en la comunidad.

34. Remitiéndose a su observación general núm. 5 (2017), sobre el derecho a vivir de forma independiente y a ser incluido en la comunidad, y a sus Directrices sobre la desinstitucionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia (2022), el Comité urge al Estado parte a, mediante consultas estrechas y la colaboración activa con las personas con discapacidad, a través de las organizaciones que las representan:

- a) Elaborar una estrategia nacional sobre la desinstitucionalización de las personas con discapacidad, , y asegurar de que esté en consonancia con la Convención e incluya suficientes medidas presupuestarias y de otro tipo, así como actividades de toma de conciencia para promover la comprensión del derecho de las personas con discapacidad a elegir y determinar de forma autónoma su sistema de vida, el derecho a no ser obligadas a aceptar un determinado sistema de vida y el valor de la inclusión en la comunidad, en contraposición a la segregación;**
- b) Adoptar legislación que proporcione las bases jurídicas necesarias para poner fin a la institucionalización de las personas con discapacidad y proporcionar viviendas accesibles adecuadas y servicios de apoyo para que las personas con discapacidad vivan de forma independiente en la comunidad, e implementarlo rápidamente;**
- c) Establezca un programa de desinstitucionalización incluidos presupuestos y recurso humano dirigido a niños y niñas con discapacidad, con plazos definidos y con apoyos específicos para que vivan en comunidad;**
- d) Adoptar medidas para garantizar que las personas con discapacidad, independientemente de su lugar de residencia, tengan acceso a una gama de servicios de atención domiciliaria, residenciales y otros servicios de apoyo comunitario, incluidos asistentes personales, que sean controlados y gestionados por los beneficiarios.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

41. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Institutionalization of children with disabilities and adults with disabilities in residential and half-residential care facilities, including babies houses, where they lack interaction with the community, including with members of their families, and pilot programmes;
- (b) Plans to transfer persons with disabilities from former medical-social institutions into specialized social service centres and small capacity homes, thereby perpetuating discriminatory congregated living arrangements for persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment;
- (c) Insufficient in-home and community-based support services for persons with disabilities, and the insufficient availability of personal assistance, including for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with high support needs, and insufficient availability of accessible housing, education facilities, commercial premises, leisure and sports infrastructure, and cultural institutions.

42. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergency situations, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) End all forms of institutionalization of persons with disabilities, ensure, in law and in practice, that all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities with high support needs, can in fact exercise their right to choose their place of residence and decide where and with whom they live. To this end, devise and implement a deinstitutionalization strategy for all persons with disabilities, including, inter alia, a range of different forms of individualized support services for living in the community, including personal assistance and community-based support and peer support, support and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities in institutions to participate in deinstitutionalization processes, and mechanisms of accountability and monitoring;**
- (b) Cease investment in the construction and renovation of institutions for persons with disabilities, including in institutions of small size, and divert the funds to the implementation of the deinstitutionalization strategy;**
- (c) Develop safe, accessible and affordable housing in the community, include requirements of persons with disabilities in the eligibility criteria for public housing and for rental subsidies, and ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities with high support needs, can in law and in fact enter into legally binding rental or ownership contracts.**

Nicaragua (2024)

38. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La ausencia de una estrategia de desinstitucionalización para las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las mujeres y niños con discapacidad segregados en instituciones y la falta de programas de apoyos comunitarios y servicios accesibles en la comunidad, incluyendo vivienda accesible y trabajo digno, cuando se incluyan en la comunidad;
- b) La ausencia de partidas presupuestales significativas en el Ministerio de la Familia, Adolescencia y Niñez (Mifan) para financiar la vida independiente de las personas con discapacidad y su inclusión en la comunidad;
- c) La existencia de instituciones como el Centro Infantil “Pajarito Azul” y el Hospital Nacional Psicosocial, y la falta de información sobre cuantas personas, niños y niñas con discapacidad se encuentran institucionalizados.

39. El Comité recuerda su observación general núm. 5 (2017) sobre el derecho a vivir de forma independiente y a ser incluido en la comunidad, y sus directrices sobre la desinstitucionalización, incluidas las situaciones de emergencia, e insta al Estado parte a:

- a) Adoptar una estrategia nacional y multisectorial de desinstitucionalización de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de las niñas y los niños, de las mujeres y de las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, en estrecha consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad y con la participación activa de estas, que incluya plazos específicos y recursos financieros necesarios, asegurando que las personas con discapacidad tengan acceso a alternativas de vivienda en la comunidad que promuevan su voluntad y preferencias, así como a redes y servicios de apoyo, incluido el apoyo entre pares, y atención integral a sus necesidades básicas;
- b) Asignar el presupuesto suficiente al Ministerio de la Familia, Adolescencia y Niñez (Mifan), incluyendo recursos humanos y financieros adecuados para impulsar la vida independiente de las personas con discapacidad;
- c) Poner fin a la institucionalización de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de los niños y las niñas con discapacidad, y a las hospitalizaciones prolongadas e indefinidas.

Sweden (2024)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Increased restrictions to personal assistance, the loss of personal assistance for 1500 persons with disabilities between 2015 and 2022, the lack of opportunity to apply for personal

assistance for persons over 66 and the variation of personal assistance between municipalities;

(b) The increased rates of institutionalisation for children and adults with disabilities;

(c) Persons with disabilities being denied the right to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others.

44. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017), its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on the transformation of services for persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities take immediate action to develop and implement a national deinstitutionalisation strategy that includes:

(a) Legislative, administrative, policy and other measures to ensure nationally consistent access to individualised personal assistance and support to all persons with disabilities, including the 1500 persons with disabilities who lost personal assistance between 2015 and 2022, and to persons with disabilities over the age of 66;

(b) Independent monitoring of institutions until they are closed;

(c) Relevant policies to close existing institutions and to prevent reinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities;

(d) Strengthen the support system for children with disabilities to live with their families or grow up in family environments instead of institutions;

(e) Measures to remove barriers for persons with disabilities to choose where and with whom they live, including an increase in the supply of safe, affordable and accessible community-based housing.

Zambia (2024)

37. The Committee notes with appreciation the information provided by the State party's delegation that the elaboration of national guidelines on community based inclusive development is at its final stage. However, it observes with concern:

(a) The continued institutionalization of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric institutions, and that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disability face stigma, negative attitudes, insults, threats and physical assault, exploitation and ill-treatment in the community, including by family members, the police and traditional healers, which undermines their right to live in the community;

(b) The lack of efforts, including budgetary and other measures, made towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community and the provision of all necessary support services, including personal assistance services, as well as the lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(c) The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with psychosocial disabilities who are in psychiatric institutions;

(d) That persons with disabilities who participated in resettlement programmes under the Department of Resettlement, have been entitled to land in remote areas far from their place of living, with limited access to infrastructure such as water, electricity, roads, schools and health services.

38. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Finalize and adopt, as a matter of priority, the national guidelines on community based inclusive development, and allocate sufficient resources to roll out the State programme on community based inclusive development at the national and local levels, including in rural and remote areas;

- (b) Raise awareness in the communities and in the society in general about the rights of persons with disabilities, take measures to combat stigma and negative attitudes in the communities and punish perpetrators, and commence the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities who are still in residential settings and increase the availability of community-based services;
- (c) Review the national legislation and policies, including the Persons with Disabilities Act No.6 (2012) and the National Disability Policy (2015), in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, to bring them in full conformity with the Convention and ensure that it includes sufficient budgetary and other measures, as well as awareness-raising activities to promote understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;
- (d) Develop a strategy and an action plan in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations for the process of deinstitutionalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities in psychiatric institutions and ensure the community-based services are available aimed to enable persons to live independently and participate in the community;
- (e) Ensure that land plots provided to persons with disabilities under the resettlement programmes, are accessible to persons with disabilities, and have necessary infrastructure to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate in the community.

Andorra (2023)

39. The Committee notes the approval of the Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health and Addictions, PISMA (2022). However, it is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, and the lack of information on the participation of persons with disabilities in these efforts;
- (b) The requirements to access the programme on independent living, including minimum skills and resources, and the limited impact of the programmes on independent living and personal assistance that benefit only twenty and two persons with disabilities, respectively;
- (c) The collaboration agreement signed by the State party with the Our Lady of Meritxell Private Foundation (FPNSM) for the provision of residential care service for persons with disabilities (l'Albó residence), and the public funding used to maintain institutions;
- (d) The limited information on the number of persons with disabilities living in institutions.

40. **The Committee, recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Develop and implement a strategy on deinstitutionalization, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, with clear time frames and budgetary allocations, extending to all persons with disabilities, regardless of age, gender or type of impairment, and provide community-based services aimed at enabling persons to live independently and to participate in the community;
- (b) Strengthen support arrangements for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community, including accessible and affordable housing outside any type of congregated premises, personal assistance, user-led budget, peer support groups, and access to services in the community, as well as review the requirements to access the programme on independent living and reinforce the dissemination of the programmes on independent living and personal assistance;
- (c) Review the collaboration agreement signed by the State party with the Our Lady of Meritxell Private Foundation (FPNSM) for the provision of residential care service for

persons with disabilities (l'Albó residence), and redirect public funding from institutions towards support for living in the community;
(d) Collect disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities living in institutions.

Austria (2023)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive and unified strategy to forcefully promote, coordinate and design the deinstitutionalization process, encompassing the Federal government and the Länder;
- (b) Persons with disabilities being unable and not having the right to choose their place of residence, with choice equal to others, due to a lack of adequate residential accommodation in the community and of the requisite support services, including budget allocations, for personal assistants, and of a corresponding enforceable legal right;
- (c) The lack of harmonized regulations regarding the different personal assistance services and offers and their being assessed based on a medical model of disability;
- (d) Investments, partly with funding by the European Union Structural Funds, in the renovation and construction of segregated institutions for persons with disabilities.

46. Recalling general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and Committee's Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends:

- (a) Establish a comprehensive, nationwide deinstitutionalization strategy, with benchmarks, timeframes, and funding, encompassing the competencies of the Federal government, the Länder and the municipalities, and ensure close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in all deinstitutionalization processes;
- (b) Enact legislation on the level of the Federal Government, the Länder and – if appropriate – on the municipal level, providing the requisite legal bases to end institutionalization of persons with disabilities and to provide adequate accessible residential accommodation and support services for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community, and implement them expeditiously;
- (c) Guarantee an enforceable legal right to adequate financial, technical and personal support to live independently in the community;
- (d) Urge the participation of all Länder in the pilot project 'Nationwide unified regulations for personal assistance in leisure time and work';
- (e) Refrain from any further investment in existing or new institutions for persons with disabilities and allocate appropriate financial, technical and educational resources to foster the right to independent living of all persons with disabilities.

Germany (2023)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The extensive segregation of persons with disabilities in institutional settings and the lack of measures to progress deinstitutionalisation;
- (b) The range of barriers to enable persons with disabilities to exercise choice and preference regarding place of residence and support services, such as the additional cost proviso, the forcible pooling of inclusion benefits and services, the complexity of utilising personal budgets and benefit allowances based on shared accommodation rather than individual requirements.

44. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 'Transformation of services for persons with disabilities' (2023), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive deinstitutionalisation strategy to end, as a matter of priority, the institutionalisation of persons with disabilities, including in small residential homes, with measures to prevent trans-institutionalisation and to support the transition from institutions to life in the community, with specific timeframes, human, technical and financial resources, and clear responsibilities for implementation and monitoring;**
- (b) Develop measures to remove barriers for persons with disabilities to choose where and with whom they live, including by committing to increase the supply of affordable and accessible housing, by establishing personal assistance supports and services, by removing additional cost requirements and the forced pooling of inclusion benefits and services, reducing the complexity in utilising personal budgets and by basing benefit allowances on individual requirement rather than shared accommodation.**

Israel (2023)

43. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Institutionalization of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment in psychiatric facilities, residential facilities, full care facilities, home facility apartments and in the context of the implementation of the 'ecological-rehabilitation model' and the denial of legal capacity to make choices concerning living arrangements;**
- (b) The continued development of congregate housing and the transfer of persons with disabilities from large residential facilities into small institutions such as 'home facilities' or apartments for up to 6 persons and barriers to access to accessible housing, including for renting;**
- (c) Insufficient and/or denial of in-home and community-based support affecting in particular persons with complex support needs, older persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in Arab communities, migrants with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations;**
- (d) The lack of accessible community services and reports of persons with disabilities who are excluded from services provided in the community.**

44. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies² (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) End all forms of institutionalization based on impairment, including for the purpose of providing rehabilitation and adopt a comprehensive strategy and action plan to transition from institutions, redirecting efforts to the development of a range of individualized support to live in the community, including personal assistance, and community-based supports and networks, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Develop safe, accessible and affordable housing in the community, including through reviewing eligibility criteria for public housing, increasing rental subsidies and measures to address in-home accessibility arrangements, providing in-home and community-based support, increasing the allowance for independent living, including for those who leave institutions, and enabling persons with disabilities to enter into legally binding rental or ownership agreements;**
- (c) Implement measures to ensure equal access by persons with disabilities in Arab communities, older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities who have complex support needs, migrants and refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations to the range of in-home and individualized support to live in the community, including personal assistance and access to mainstream services in the community, including health care and education;**

(d)Implement measures to remove access barriers to mainstream services in the community based on migrant, refugee or asylum seeker status or persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations.

Malawi (2023)

39.The Committee is concerned about:

- (a)The lack of measures to recognise and realise the right of persons with disabilities to live in the community and have choices equal to others and that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, often become dependant on their families, and face isolation and confinement at home or in institutions;
- (b)The overreliance of persons with disabilities on “well-wishers”, in absence of individualised support, in particular personal assistance to facilitate their participation in the community;
- (c)That lack of income, employment and social protection prevent persons with disabilities from achieving an autonomous life and an adequate standard of life to participate in the community;
- (d)The lack of accessibility of community services and facilities that limit participation of persons with disabilities in society.

40.The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and with the support of the guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies,³ issued in 2022:

- (a)Ensure the recognition of the right of persons with disabilities, irrespective of age, gender and impairment, to live in the community and to choose where they live and with whom they wish to live. The State party should address stigma and stereotypes that lead to isolation and confinement at home;**
- (b)Put in place legal and policy measures for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities and their effective inclusion in the community, in close consultation with and involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**
- (c)Strengthen community rehabilitation programmes and adopt measures to ensure the economic and social autonomy of persons with disabilities and their families;**
- (d)Ensure that services for the general population in the community take an inclusive approach throughout the State party, including by strengthening the role of organizations of persons with disabilities in supporting people with disabilities in accessing the labour market, transport, housing, education, health, recreation and other publicly accessible facilities and services.**

Mauritania (2023)

33.The Committee is concerned about:

- (a)The continued institutionalization of persons with disabilities and lack of efforts, including budgetary and other measures, made towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community and the provision of all necessary support services, including personal assistance services, as well as the lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- (b)The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities placed in existing residential institutions, the lack of programmes for resettling of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who cannot afford housing.

34. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the deinstitutionalization of all persons with disabilities in institutions of any kind, provide community-based services facilitating the full enjoyment by all persons with disabilities of their right to live in the community and to be fully included and participate in the community;

(b) Develop a strategy and an action plan in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations for the process of deinstitutionalization of those adults and children with disabilities who are still in a residential setting and render the community-based services available aimed at enabling persons to live independently and participate in the community.

Mongolia (2023)

39. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The continuous institutionalization of persons with disabilities and lack of efforts, including budgetary and other measures, made towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community and the provision of all necessary support services, including personal assistance services, as well as the lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(b) The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities placed in existing residential institutions, the lack of programmes for resettling of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who cannot afford housing;

(c) That despite some progress made under the "Universal Progress" programme of the Independent Living Center for Persons with Disabilities to train personal assistants, and the slight increase of wages for personal assistants, the current wages for personal assistants remains low and there is a lack of individualized support and personal assistance for living independently in the community.

40. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a national strategy on deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensure that it is in line with the Convention and includes sufficient budgetary and other measures, as well as awareness-raising activities to promote understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;

(b) Increase the availability of community-based services aimed at enabling persons to live independently and participate in the community;

(c) Strengthen personal assistance trainings and support and services for persons with disabilities for living independently in the community, and increase the wages for personal assistants.

Paraguay (2023)

35. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) La ausencia de una estrategia nacional, multisectorial y global para la desinstitucionalización;

b)La falta de apoyos a las secretarías municipales de discapacidad, creadas por la [Ley N.º 6808/2022](#), que tiene por objeto promover la atención a las personas con discapacidad, en cada gobernación y municipio;

c)El establecimiento de hogares sustitutos que no garantizan adecuadamente el derecho de las personas con discapacidad a vivir de forma independiente y a ser incluidas en la comunidad;

d)La ausencia de partidas presupuestales significativas para financiar la vida independiente de las personas con discapacidad a pesar de estar contemplado en la Política Nacional de Protección Especial para niñas y niños separados de sus familias (PONAPROE) en su eje estratégico 3;

e)La falta de información sobre viviendas accesibles proporcionadas a personas con discapacidad.

36.El Comité recuerda su observación general núm. 5 (2017), sobre el derecho a vivir de forma independiente y a ser incluido en la comunidad, y sus Directrices sobre la desinstitucionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia (2022), e insta al Estado parte a:

a)Adoptar una estrategia nacional y multisectorial de desinstitucionalización de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de la niñez, de las mujeres y de las personas con discapacidad psicosocial, en estrecha consulta y con participación activa de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, que incluya plazos específicos, recursos financieros necesarios, asegurando que las personas con discapacidad tengan acceso a alternativas de vivienda en la comunidad que promuevan su voluntad y preferencias, a redes y servicios de apoyo, incluyendo apoyo entre pares, y atención integral a sus necesidades básicas;

b)Fortalecer, con el presupuesto suficiente a las Secretarías Municipales de discapacidad, creadas por la [Ley N° 6808/2022](#);

c)Eliminar los “hogares sustitutos” ya que no cumplen con las Directrices y no garantizan el derecho de las personas con discapacidad a vivir de forma independiente y a ser incluidas en la comunidad;

d)Asignar el presupuesto suficiente a la estrategia 3 de la Política Nacional de Protección Especial para niñas y niños separados de sus familias (PONAPROE) para impulsar la vida independiente de las personas con discapacidad;

e)Implementar un programa que proporcione créditos asequibles para la obtención de viviendas accesibles en la comunidad para personas con discapacidad desinstitucionalizadas;

[Angola \(2023\)](#)

31. The Committee observes with concern that:

(a) Notwithstanding the Integrated Social Support Centres, there is still a lack of awareness in society and amongst public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(b) The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities placed in existing residential institutions, and the lack of programmes for resettling of those persons, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities who cannot afford housing.

32. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy that includes awareness-raising activities to promote understanding of the right of persons with disabilities to choose with respect to their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;

(b) Commence the deinstitutionalization of those persons with disabilities who are still in a residential setting and increase the availability of community-based services aimed at enabling persons to live and participate in their communities.

Argentina (2023)

37. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La institucionalización de las personas con discapacidad, en particular las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, y su internamiento prolongado en hospitales psiquiátricos o en otro tipo de instituciones;
- b) Pese a los avances de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, el incumplimiento del cierre definitivo de los hospitales monovalentes públicos y privados y la creación de un sistema de atención en comunidad para el año 2020, conforme a la Ley Nacional de Salud Mental;
- c) Los pocos avances en la implementación de la Estrategia Federal de Abordaje Integral de la Salud Mental y en la desinstitucionalización de las personas con discapacidad que residen en instituciones y hospitales psiquiátricos;
- d) La falta de reglamentación de la Ley 26.480 que incorporó los asistentes domiciliarios a la Ley 24.901; y la regulación de los apoyos para la vida independiente enmarcada en el modelo médico que no reconoce el derecho de la persona con discapacidad usuaria a designarlos y gestionarlos;
- e) Algunas de las casas asistidas para personas con discapacidad psicosocial externadas siguen el modelo médico, son dirigidas por el personal de salud y no se respeta la autonomía de las personas con discapacidad;
- f) La ausencia de partidas presupuestales significativas para financiar la vida independiente de las personas con discapacidad pese a la existencia del Programa Servicio y Apoyo a la Vida Autónoma; y el gran porcentaje de presupuesto asignado a los hospitales psiquiátricos;
- g) El limitado cumplimiento del cupo del 5% para las personas con discapacidad en los planes de adjudicación o mejoramiento de viviendas del Fondo Nacional de Vivienda;
- h) La poca participación de las personas con discapacidad psicosocial en la elaboración e implementación de planes nacionales de salud mental y de desinstitucionalización.

38. Remitiéndose a su observación general núm. 5 (2017), sobre el derecho a vivir de forma independiente y a ser incluido en la comunidad, y a sus Directrices sobre la desinstitucionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia (2022), el Comité urge al Estado parte a:

- a) **Poner fin a la institucionalización de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de los niños y las niñas con discapacidad, y a las hospitalizaciones indefinidas;**
- b) **Avanzar en los procesos de externación de las personas institucionalizadas, cerrar los hospitales psiquiátricos, e implementar redes de atención en salud mental integrada al primer nivel de atención, incluyendo un enfoque interinstitucional coordinado, previsiones presupuestarias y cambios de actitud en todos los niveles, incluidas las autoridades locales, que garanticen el derecho a vivir de forma independiente y ser incluido en la comunidad;**
- c) **Implementar un Plan Integral para la Desinstitucionalización y la Estrategia Federal de Abordaje Integral de la Salud Mental, y asegurar que cuenten con plazos específicos, medidas de evaluación y los recursos humanos, técnicos y financieros necesarios para la transición efectiva de las personas con discapacidad de las instituciones a la vida independiente en la comunidad, con el reconocimiento de su derecho a la autonomía y a la plena inclusión social;**
- d) **Reglamentar la Ley 26.480 del asistente domiciliario y garantizar la disponibilidad de apoyos para la vida independiente para las personas con discapacidad en el marco de la Convención, incluyendo viviendas accesibles y asequibles, la asistencia personal, servicios a domicilio y el acceso a los servicios en la comunidad;**
- e) **Revisar el funcionamiento de las casas asistidas para que puedan ser gestionadas de forma autónoma por personas con discapacidad;**

- f) Aumentar el presupuesto para salud mental conforme a la pauta del 10% del presupuesto de salud, establecida por la Ley 26.657, y redireccionar los presupuestos destinados al mantenimiento y construcción de hospitales psiquiátricos al financiamiento para programas de vida independiente en la comunidad;
- g) Garantizar el cumplimiento de la Ley 26.182 que establece un cupo preferente del 5% destinado a personas con discapacidad en los planes de adjudicación o mejoramiento de viviendas que se ejecuten en el Fondo Nacional de Vivienda;
- h) Asegurar la participación activa y efectiva de las personas con discapacidad psicosocial en el diseño, monitoreo, evaluación y seguimiento de planes de salud mental, incluyendo usuarias de estos servicios.

Georgia (2023)

39. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That sub-programs of “community organizations” and “small family-type homes” referred to by the State party in its initial report (CRPD/C/GEO/1, para. 126) reproduce institutionalization, discrimination and marginalization of persons with disabilities;
- (b) That the deinstitutionalization programme is implemented in a fragmented manner, leaving some large institutions operating, and the absence of measures to support persons with disabilities in developing their skills to live independently and in the community;
- (c) The insufficient range of support measures to live in the community, including home care services and personal assistance;
- (d) The lack of measures to develop accessible and affordable housing in the community, providing persons with disabilities with a choice of where and with whom they live, on an equal basis with others.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with its General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and with the support of the Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies issued in 2022:

- (a) Ensure the right of persons with disabilities to live independently, and their freedom to choose where and with whom to live, preventing any type of congregated living arrangements, including “family-like environments”, which reproduce isolation and institutionalisation, and that it redirect resources from institutions, including small size institutions, towards support for living in the community;
- (b) Develop and implement a deinstitutionalization strategy, with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, with clear time frames and budgetary allocation, extending to all persons with disabilities regardless of age, gender or type of impairment, containing measures to develop independent living skills and to facilitate the transition between institutional settings and life in the community;
- (c) Strengthen measures to develop community-based services and individualized forms of support, ensuring even geographical coverage of all support measures, such as peer support groups or cash transfers/personal budgets;
- (d) Establish an accessible and affordable housing strategy for living in the community, including the allocation of resources for the adaptation of housing infrastructure in rural and urban areas that allows adults with disabilities to choose where and with whom they live, on an equal basis with others and avoiding small-congregated settings. Adopt a monitoring strategy with benchmarks to assess the achievements of housing programs;
- (e) Ensure availability, accessibility, affordability and adaptability of services in the community, including education, health care, participation in political and public life, rehabilitation, and remove segregated services.

Peru (2023)

38. El Comité está especialmente alarmado por:

- a) El hecho de que se planeen construir nuevos Centros de Acogida Residencial (CAR), que funcionan como instituciones cerradas con altos niveles de hacinamiento para niños y adultos con discapacidad;
- b) La ausencia de una estrategia nacional, multisectorial y global para la desinstitucionalización, incluyendo con la creación de "hogares protegidos" y que estos no aseguren la participación de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad y no garanticen adecuadamente el derecho de las personas con discapacidad a vivir de forma independiente y a ser incluidas en la comunidad;
- c) Los proyectos de ley acumulados 00648/2021-CR, 01125/2021-CR, 01264/2021-CR y 02266/2021-CR sobre el derecho a la asistencia personal de las personas con discapacidad carece de un enfoque que promueva y garantice la voluntad y preferencias de los usuarios, incluido el reconocimiento explícito de un derecho a la asistencia personal con obligaciones claras para el Estado de garantizar estos servicios, y no contempla el financiamiento necesario para hacerlo operativo.

39. El Comité recuerda su observación general núm. 5 (2017), sobre el derecho a vivir de forma independiente y a ser incluido en la comunidad, y a sus directrices sobre la desinstitucionalización, incluso en situaciones de emergencia (2022), el Comité insta al Estado parte a que:

- a) **Adopte una estrategia nacional y multisectorial de desinstitucionalización de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de la niñez, con la participación de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, que incluya plazos específicos, recursos financieros necesarios, asegurando que las personas con discapacidad tengan acceso a alternativas de vivienda en la comunidad que promuevan su voluntad y preferencias, a redes y servicios de apoyo, incluyendo apoyo entre pares, y atención integral a sus necesidades básicas;**
- b) **Cree una comisión multisectorial de investigación, con la participación de la Defensoría del Pueblo y las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, para documentar todas las formas de institucionalización y otras violaciones de derechos humanos relacionadas, que realice campañas de sensibilización, recomiende reformas y proponga programas integrales de reparación;**
- c) **Que se modifiquen los proyectos de ley acumulados 00648/2021-CR, 01125/2021-CR, 01264/2021-CR y 02266/2021-CR para lograr el reconocimiento legal del derecho a la asistencia personal de las personas con discapacidad, a fin de que el Estado garantice y financie estos servicios desde un enfoque que promueva la autonomía, independencia y control de los usuarios, los servicios de asistencia personal deben permitir a las personas con discapacidad elegir su modo de vida y lugar de residencia y expresar su voluntad y preferencias, con un enfoque que tenga en cuenta el género, la edad y la cultura.**

Togo (2023)

39. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The continued institutionalization of persons with disabilities and lack of efforts, including budgetary and other measures, made towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community and the provision of all necessary support services, including personal assistance services, as well as the lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- (b) The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities placed in existing residential institutions, the lack of programmes for resettling of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who cannot afford housing.

40. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Law on Social Protection of persons with disabilities to bring its full conformity with the Convention and ensure that it includes sufficient budgetary and other measures, as well as awareness-raising activities to promote understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;
- (b) Develop a strategy and an action plan in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities for the process of deinstitutionalization of those adults and children with disabilities who are still in a residential setting and render the community-based services available aimed at enabling persons to live independently and participate in the community.

Tunisia (2023)

33. The Committee is concerned that the State party continues to apply the Orientation Law 83-2005 which provides for the placement of persons with disabilities in specialised accommodation and care facilities, thus institutionalising them without their consent for these living arrangements and where they may be admitted either through judicial authorisation or by decision of their guardian and where they may remain for an indefinite period. It is further concerned about community services targeted at the general population which still fail to be inclusive and without available personal assistants' services.

34. The Committee, in accordance with its General Comment No. 5 (2017) on Living independently and being included in the community recommends the State party to:

- (a) Put in place legal and policy measures for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities and their effective inclusion in the community in accordance with the guide on deinstitutionalization developed by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (b) Take appropriate measures to recognize the right of persons with disabilities, irrespective of age, gender and impairment, to choose their place of residence and with whom they want to live and the right to have access to social support including personal assistants and security based on their individual requirements;
- (c) Ensure that services aimed at the general population in the community adopt an inclusive approach throughout the State party;
- (d) Consult with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations to ensure the inclusiveness of services and to identify the adequate support services to be provided.

Bangladesh (2022)

39. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Insufficient community-based services, recurrent discrimination and segregation of persons with disabilities from the community, as a result of stigma and attitudinal barriers, in particular, against women and children with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to enable them to live independently and be included in the community, particularly in rural and remote areas;
- (b) The lack of financial resources, accessible physical infrastructure, and inadequate support services including provision of personal assistance and assistive devices to promote independent living, to enable persons with disabilities, particularly women, and children with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to choose where and with whom they want to live.

40. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, including in emergency situations (2022), and recommends that the State party:

- (a) In close consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, develop a national strategy to ensure access by persons with disabilities to mainstream community services, eliminating all barriers that hinder the enjoyment and participation of

persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and provide sufficient human, financial and material resources for the realisation of the strategy, including particularly in rural and remote areas;

(b) Ensure sufficient budgetary allocations for the acquisition of personal assistance and assistive devices to ensure that community support services are available, accessible, affordable, including in remote and rural areas, so that all persons with disabilities can exercise their right to live independently and be included in the community.

China (2022)

40. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The institutionalization of adults and children with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autistic persons;

(b) The absence of a strategy to recognize the right of persons with disabilities to live independently in the community, including the development of community support services for persons with disabilities, and technical and financial resources allocated to persons with disabilities who require high levels of support.

41. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, develop an action plan to end, as a matter of priority, the institutionalization of all persons with disabilities, including in leprosy colonies or villages, with measures to prevent trans-institutionalisation, with specific timeframes, human, technical and financial resources, and clear responsibilities for implementation and independent monitoring.

Hong-Kong (2022)

71. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient community support services for persons with disabilities, including personal assistance, and the human, technical and financial resources allocated to persons with disabilities who require high levels of support.

72. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017), the Committee recommends that Hong Kong SAR, China, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities develop an action plan to end, as a matter of priority, the institutionalization of all persons with disabilities and to support the transition from institutions to life in the community, with specific timeframes, human, technical and financial resources, and clear responsibilities for implementation and independent monitoring.

Indonesia (2022)

44. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities placed in residential institutions, social care institutions, hospitals, half-way homes and rehabilitation centres;

(b) The lack of gender and age-appropriate community-based support services to implement independent living for persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.

45. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy for the process of deinstitutionalization of adults and children with disabilities who reside in residential and social care institutions, hospitals, half-way homes and rehabilitation centres;

(b) Establish a community-based support system for independent living with allocated budget that includes social protection, employment, housing, health, education, and any other support needed for persons with disabilities, to choose where and with whom they live and to live independently and participate in the community.

Japan (2022)

41. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Perpetuation of institutionalization of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, elderly persons with disabilities, persons with physical disabilities and those who require more intense support, in particular living arrangements outside community, and of children with disabilities, particularly, children with intellectual, psychosocial or sensory disabilities and those who require more intense support, through the Child Welfare Act, in various types of facilities, depriving them family and community life;
- (b) Promotion of institutionalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with dementia in psychiatric hospitals, both public and private, particularly, the continuance of indefinite hospitalisations of persons with psychosocial disabilities in them;
- (c) Limited opportunities for persons with disabilities to choose their place of residence and where and with whom to live, including for those, dependent on parents and living in their homes, and those, placed in particular arrangements such as group homes under the Act on the Comprehensive Support for the Daily and Social Life of Persons with Disabilities;
- (d) Lack of a national strategy and legal framework for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities residing in residential institutions and psychiatric hospitals, and their independent living in the community on an equal basis with others, including the recognition of their right to autonomy and full social inclusion;
- (e) Insufficient support arrangements for persons with disabilities for living independently in the community, including accessible and affordable housing, in-home service, personal assistance and access to services in the community;
- (f) Assessment schemes for granting support and services in the community that are based on medical model of disability.

42. With reference to its General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and its Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation (2022), the Committee urges that the State party:

- (a) Takes expedited measures to end the institutionalisation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, by redirecting its budgets allocations from the placement of persons with disabilities in residential institutions towards arrangements and supports for persons with disabilities for living independently in the community on an equal bases with others;**
- (b) Review all cases of persons with disabilities hospitalized in psychiatric hospitals to cease any indefinite hospitalization, ensure their informed consent and foster their independent living along with the required mental health support in the community;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities have opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live in the community and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, including group homes, and enable persons with disabilities to exercise choice and control over their lives;**
- (d) Launch, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, a legal framework and national strategy with time-bound benchmarks, human, technical and financial resources, aiming at the effective transition of persons with disabilities from institutions into independent living in the community on an equal basis with others, including the recognition of their right to autonomy and full social inclusion, and obligations for prefectures to ensure its implementation;**
- (e) Strengthen support arrangements for persons with disabilities for their living independently in the community, including the independent, accessible and affordable housing outside any type of congregated premises, personal assistance, user-led budget, and access to services in the community;**
- (f) Revise existing schemes of assessment for granting support and services in the community for ensuring that they are based on human right model of disability, including the**

assessments of barriers in society for persons with disabilities and their required support for their social participation and inclusion.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

34. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The segregation or exclusion of persons with disabilities from the community into particular living arrangements, including owing to stigmatization and attitudinal barriers, in particular against persons affected by leprosy, children with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) The lack of information about community support services, support of independent living and inclusion in the community, including personal assistance, especially in remote and rural areas;
- (c) The lack of disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and persons affected by leprosy living in institutions, special villages, rehabilitation centres other than community-based, group homes, or other settings with defining elements of an institution.

35. With reference to its General Comment No. 5 (2017) and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Promote the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons affected by leprosy, children with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to live independently and be included in the community, including by raising awareness among the general public to tackle stigmatization and attitudinal barriers;**
- (b) **Ensure that support services in the community, such as personal assistance, are available, accessible, affordable and of quality across the State party, including in remote and rural areas, and enable persons with disabilities to exercise choice and control over their lives and to make decisions concerning where and with whom to live;**
- (c) **Collect disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and persons affected by leprosy, still living in institutions, special villages, or other settings with defining elements of an institution.**

New Zealand (2022)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The protracted rollout of initiatives under the Enabling Good Lives programme and the exclusion of particular impairment types, such as people with foetal alcohol syndrome disorder, from the programme;
- (b) The lack of a comprehensive deinstitutionalization strategy to close all residential institutions, including group homes and residential specialist schools, and to enable community supports for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community;
- (c) Barriers for persons with disabilities to choose where and with whom they live, such as the lack of affordable and accessible housing and the Disability Community Residential Support Services Strategy that provides congregate living arrangements linked with shared support;
- (d) The continued investment of public resources in residential specialist schools for children with disabilities.

40. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Expedite the national rollout of the Enabling Good Lives programme and ensure that all persons with disabilities, including people with foetal alcohol syndrome disorder, are eligible;**
- (b) **Develop a comprehensive deinstitutionalization strategy, with specific time frames and adequate budgets, to close all residential institutions, including group homes and residential**

specialist schools, to provide community supports for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community;

(c) Develop measures to remove barriers for persons with disabilities to choose where and with whom they live, including by committing to increase the supply of affordable and accessible housing and by reforming programmes, such as the Disability Community Residential Support Services Strategy to prevent congregate living arrangements linked with shared support;

(d) Take measures to cease investment in residential specialist schools for children with disabilities and establish a deinstitutionalization process that ensures adequate support is provided for children with disabilities to return to their families and exercise their right to an inclusive education.

Republic of Korea (2022)

41. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The continuous institutionalization of persons with disabilities and lack of efforts, including budgetary and other measures, made towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community and the provision of all necessary support services, including personal assistance services, as well as the lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(b) The weak implementation of the deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities placed in existing residential institutions, the lack of programmes for resettling of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who cannot afford housing.

42. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the Committee's Guidelines on Deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the Roadmap to Support Independent Living of Deinstitutionalized Persons with Disabilities in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, and bring it in line with the Convention and ensure that it includes sufficient budgetary and other measures, as well as awareness-raising activities to promote understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;

(b) Strengthen the implementation of the Deinstitutionalization strategy for the process of deinstitutionalization of those adults and children with disabilities who are still in a residential setting and increase the availability of community-based services aimed at enabling persons to live independently and participate in the community.

Singapore (2022)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(b) Widespread institutionalization of persons on the basis of their impairment and the construction of new institutions, groups homes, adult disability hostels and homes, which results in a high number of persons with disabilities, including autistic persons, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities who are deprived of their right to live independently and being included in the community.

38. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and its Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies and recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure deinstitutionalization of all persons with disabilities in institutions of any kind, provide community-based services facilitating the full enjoyment by all persons with disabilities of their right to live in the community and their full inclusion and participation in the community, and adopt a strategy to this end with clear goals, benchmarks and time frames;

(b) Adopt awareness-raising programmes to broadly promote an understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the crucial significance of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community for the effective guarantee of all rights of persons with disabilities.

Hungary (2022)

40. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The perpetuation of institutionalization of children with disabilities by the refurbishing and building of new institutionalized settings and by placing children with disabilities who require higher levels of support in institutions for adult persons with disabilities;

(b) The lack of an independent monitoring mechanism for the deinstitutionalization of children;

(c) The lack of recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, in line with the provisions of the Convention. The Committee is also concerned about the transinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities moving from large institutions into small-scale institutions, including supported houses, and the refurbishment of existing institutions, including with the use of structural funds from the European Union, perpetuating institutionalization and exclusion on the basis of disability;

(d) The mistaken interpretation of the substitute decision-making regime, depriving persons with disabilities of the opportunity to exercise their right to choose their place of residence and live independently on an equal basis with others in the community;

(e) The continuing admissions of persons with disabilities into residential institutions under the Act on Social Administration and Social Benefits and government decree No. 1295/2019 (V.27), due to the lack of community-based services and individualized support for persons with disabilities to live independently;

(f) Insufficient measures to promote and ensure access by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others to community services and facilities.

41. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017), the Committee reiterates the recommendations set out in its report on the inquiry concerning Hungary under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, urging the State party to:

(a) Discontinue the institutionalization of children with disabilities and ensure their right to a family life by redirecting investments from institutions into support measures for families and the provision of inclusive community services, such as inclusive early intervention, across the State party;

(b) Ensure independent monitoring of the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities and independent methodological support for that process, with the close involvement of disability rights organizations;

(c) Revise its deinstitutionalization strategy with the aim of redefining its objectives;

(d) Redesign its measures and redirect its efforts and budgets into community-based support services, including personal assistance, with the aim of providing for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community equally with others, regardless of their type of impairment, guarantee that community services and facilities for the general population are available for persons with disabilities and ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity and right to choose their place of residence on an equal basis with others in the community.

Jamaica (2022)

34. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;
- (b) The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities placed in existing residential institutions, and the lack of programmes for resettling of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities who cannot afford housing.

35. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy that includes awareness-raising activities to promote understanding of the right of choice and self-determination of adults and children with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement, and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;**
- (b) Adopt a strategy for the process of deinstitutionalization of those adults and children with disabilities who are still in a residential setting and increase the availability of community-based services aimed at enabling persons to live independently and participate in the community.**

Mexico (2022)

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a federal and state strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and their ability to live independently, and about the absence of a specific and effective strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities.

51. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend or adopt laws, policies, financial and other measures, including time frames for their implementation, to ensure that persons with disabilities can live independently in the community. These measures should include personal assistance services, be culturally appropriate, enable beneficiaries to choose their lifestyle and place of residence, express their will and preferences and contain a gender and age perspective;**
- (b) Take expedited measures to end the institutionalization of persons with disabilities by, inter alia, developing and implementing a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities, including specific time frames, assessment measures and an adequate budget.**

Switzerland (2022)

39. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The institutionalization of adults and children with disabilities, including persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and autistic persons, and reports of violence and abuse in these institutions;
- (b) The lack of a comprehensive system to provide individualized support and personal assistance for living independently in the community, and the shortage of affordable and accessible housing in the community for persons with disabilities.

40. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities:

- (a) Develop a strategy and action plan to end, as a matter of priority, the institutionalization of all persons with disabilities, including in small residential homes, with measures to prevent transinstitutionalization and to support the transition from institutions to life in the community, with specific time frames, sufficient human, technical and financial resources, and clear responsibilities for implementation and independent monitoring;**

(b) Strengthen personal assistance support and services for persons with disabilities for living independently in the community, and ensure access for persons with disabilities to affordable and accessible housing in the community on the basis of individual choice.

Venezuela (2022)

36. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities are largely unaware of the implementation of support programmes for independent living;
- (b) The departure from the country of trained health, education and other professionals is limiting the opportunities for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community;
- (c) Projects related to persons with disabilities are the responsibility of the Ministry of People's Power for Public Health, thus reinforcing the medical approach to disability, which is at odds with the Convention.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Raise awareness, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, of the programmes in place to support persons with disabilities in the community;**
- (b) Ensure that support services for independent living in the community have interdisciplinary staff;**
- (c) Take measures to promote independent living in the community, including personal assistance, sign language interpreters and other forms of individual support for persons with disabilities with a human-rights based approach, through the ministries for the economy, education, labour, culture and others.**

Djibouti (2021)

33. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The lack of accessible independent living support services, such as in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, particularly in rural areas and for refugees with disabilities;
- (b) The limited accessibility for persons with disabilities of mainstream services and facilities for the public, including employment, education and health.

34. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legal and policy measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community and provide information in accessible formats to persons with disabilities and their families, including refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas, on how to access independent living support services and assistance;**
- (b) Provide budgetary allocations to ensure that all persons with disabilities can decide where, how and with whom they wish to live, and provide the necessary accompanying community support services, including personal assistance;**
- (c) Adopt measures to ensure the accessibility of mainstream services for the public by persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others.**

France (2021)

40. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Regulations, structures and budgets that promote placement of children and adults with disabilities in segregated settings, including 'medico-social institutions' and specialized services, including in small-size residential care institutions so-called "l'habitat inclusive" or "l'habitat partagé", particularly impacting persons requiring higher levels of support;
- (b) Placement of children with disabilities in psychiatric hospitals and other institutions, including in third States parties, mainly Belgium;

(c) The lack of awareness of public authorities, professionals and social servants about the negative impacts of institutionalization on persons with disabilities, and the absence of strategies and action plans to end institutionalization;

(d) The lack of arrangements for living independently and in the community, including the lack of independent accessible and affordable housing, individualized support, and lack of equal access to services in the community.

41. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and recommends that the State party, in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Ensure the availability of support to live independently and in the community, such as user-led budgeted and personalised support, and enable persons with disabilities to exercise choice and control over their lives and to make decisions concerning where and with whom to live, as outlined in General comment No. 5 (2017);

(b) Adopt measures to ensure access of persons with disabilities to affordable and accessible housing on the basis of individual choice and outside any type of congregated premises;

(c) Set up a time frame and benchmarks for achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities to mainstream community services, such as education, health, work and employment.

Estonia (2021)

38. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The lack of awareness in society and among public authorities of the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, the right to choose where and with whom to live and the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(a) That institutionalization on the basis of disability persists in the form of alternative care homes and new small-scale “family type” or “special care villages” and that such forms of institutionalization affect particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with autism;

(b) The absence of a system to provide individualized support and personal assistance for living independently and in the community;

(c) The limited accessibility for persons with disabilities of mainstream services and facilities for the general population, including education and health.

39. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy that includes awareness-raising activities to promote understanding of the right to choose and self-determination of persons with disabilities concerning their living arrangements, the right not to be obliged to live in a particular living arrangement and the value of inclusion in, as opposed to segregation from, the community;

(b) Enact a moratorium on the institutionalization of persons with disabilities, revise its deinstitutionalization strategy, redirect the use of public funds, including the European regional development funds, to the development of individualized support for living independently and ensure that programmes based on congregated settings, such as “home-like institutions”, “family type houses” and “special care villages”, are amended so as to prioritize inclusion in the community;

(c) Develop a system for self-managed personal assistance that includes person-directed tools for supporting living independently in the community in accordance with an individual’s requirements and preferences;

(d) Set up a time frame and benchmarks for achieving the accessibility of mainstream services for the general population by persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others.

Albania (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned about the insufficiency of:

- (a) Effective measures taken to urgently advance the deinstitutionalization process of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Progress made in implementing independent living arrangements and the lack of programmes and in-home, residential and individualized support in the community, including personal assistance for persons with disabilities who require it and benefits for housing, so that they may exercise their right to independent living and to be included in their community;
- (c) Disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities still living in institutional settings;
- (d) Information on legal, administrative and financial measures taken to ensure the right of persons with disabilities to choose their place of residence and where and with whom to live.

34. In line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on the right to independent living and to be included in the community and recalling the report of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe following her visit to Albania (para. 83), the Committee recommends that the State party to:

- (a) Develop and implement an effective deinstitutionalization plan, with a clear time frame and benchmarks and allocate sufficient funds for its implementation, particularly at the local level;**
- (b) Promote independent living schemes and roll out programmes and services, including personal assistance for persons with disabilities who require it, so that they may exercise their right to live independently and be included in their community;**
- (c) Collect disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities still living in institutions;**
- (d) Take all necessary measures to develop community support services for persons with disabilities to ensure that they have the right to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live, including in rural areas, on an equal basis with others;**
- (e) Ensure the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of independent living strategies and schemes that provide for accessible community services, supports and facilities, especially at the local level, including accessible and affordable housing.**

Australia (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that the Specialist Disability Accommodation framework facilitates and encourages the establishment of residential institutions and will result in persons with disabilities having to live in particular living arrangements in order to access National Disability Insurance Scheme support;
- (b) The lack of appropriate, affordable and accessible social housing, which severely limits the capacity of persons with disabilities to choose their place of residence;
- (c) The fact that the Younger People in Residential Aged Care action plan only outlines ways to reduce the number of persons under 65 years of age, including persons with disabilities, living in aged care facilities, but does not end the practice.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a national framework aimed at closing all disability-specific residential institutions and preventing transinstitutionalization, including by addressing how persons with disabilities not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme can be supported to transition from living in an institution to living independently in the community;**
- (b) Increase the range, affordability and accessibility of public and social housing for persons with disabilities, including by implementing a quota for accessible social housing and by developing regulations and standards to guarantee the progressive application of universal design principles in accessible housing;**

(c) Revise the Younger People in Residential Aged Care action plan to ensure that by 2025 no person under 65 years of age enters or lives in residential aged care.

Ecuador (2019)

37. The Committee notes with concern that public policies and programmes directed towards persons with disabilities, including the “Las Manuelas” Mission, disability pensions and the “Neighbourhood Doctor” Strategy are not primarily focused on measures that will help persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community. The Committee is also concerned at:

(a) The fact that the State party’s laws, in particular the Organic Act on Disabilities, do not provide for the right to live independently and be included in the community;

(b) The institutionalization of persons with disabilities and the lack of deinstitutionalization plans and community service programmes that involve organizations of persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise the measures provided for in public policies and programmes directed towards persons with disabilities, including the “Las Manuelas” Mission, disability pensions and the “Neighbourhood Doctor” Strategy, so as to protect the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in their communities;

(b) Review and amend its laws, including, in particular, the Organic Act on Disabilities, to incorporate the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in their communities;

(c) Establish, without delay and in coordination with the organizations representing persons with disabilities, a strategic deinstitutionalization plan that includes community strategies and programmes, family and social support networks, and personal and in-home assistance.

El Salvador (2019)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities currently in reception centres or psychiatric hospitals, principally, and the lack of involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in that regard;

(b) Insufficient foster care programmes to ensure the right to family life of children with disabilities;

(c) Insufficient housing loans granted to persons with disabilities, and the lack of accessibility in individual homes that are part of social housing programmes.

39. In accordance with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, a comprehensive national strategy with clear time-bound measures, benchmarks and the allocation of sufficient funds for effective deinstitutionalization at all levels, which should include community programmes, family and social support networks in the community and personal and domiciliary assistance.

Greece (2019)

28. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information provided to the Committee about in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance, and effective measures for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, including for the support of independent living and inclusion in the community, in particular under the supported living scheme. It is also concerned about the lack of disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, still living in institutions;

(b) The lack of information on legal, administrative and financial measures to ensure the equal right of persons with disabilities to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live.

29. The Committee recommends that, in line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the State party:

(a) Adopt a comprehensive national strategy with clear time-bound measures and sufficient funds for effective deinstitutionalization at all levels;

(b) Ensure the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of independent living strategies and schemes that provide accessible community-based services, especially at the local level.

India (2019)

40. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The institutionalization of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, in large and small congregated settings, and the absence of measures to ensure independent living and inclusion in the community;

(b) The lack of measures to establish individualized support to live in the community, and the reliance of persons with disabilities on kinship support to undertake daily activities;

(c) The lack of progress in improving access to community services by all persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, including access to affordable and accessible urban housing.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community:

(a) End all forms of institutionalization based on disability, repeal legislation providing for the establishment of institutions for persons with "severe disability", and adopt a deinstitutionalization strategy, with an appropriate time frame and financial, human and technical resources, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, prioritizing the deinstitutionalization of children from all types of institutions;

(b) Provide personal assistance and strengthen individualized support, and community support networks that facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community;

(c) Adopt a strategy and indicators of progress concerning access by persons with disabilities to mainstream community services, and remove the barriers to access to public services, such as housing, inclusive education and work and employment, in particular for women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

Iraq (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence in Law No. 38 (2013) of an explicit recognition of the right to live independently and be included in the community as an individual right;

(b) The lack of community-based social and support services, which prevents persons with disabilities from enjoying their rights under article 19 of the Convention, and the absence of statistical data on the number of persons with disabilities who live in shelters, according to paragraph 10 of the law on rehabilitation;

(c) The use of the medical model of disability to determine the beneficiaries of full-time assistance under article 19 of Law No. 38 (2013), the reportedly lengthy process of such an assessment and the absence of information on a monitoring mechanism to ensure that the service remains controlled by persons with disabilities, in particular in cases involving persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, where the full-time assistant is chosen by a guardian.

36. The Committee, in accordance with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, recommends that the State party:

(a) Enact legislation recognizing the right of persons with disabilities to be included in the community and to choose their place of residence and with whom to live, ensuring that all

persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities currently living in camps for internally displaced persons, have equal recognition before the law to exercise their freedom of choice concerning living arrangements;

(b) Increase community-based services, including the provision of appropriate housing units, established through the Commission for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs and ensure systematic, up-to-date and appropriately disaggregated data collection;

(c) Establish a mechanism to determine, in an efficient manner, the beneficiaries of full-time assistance in line with the human rights model of disabilities and ensure that any services provided under article 19 of Law No. 38 (2013) remain controlled by the persons with disabilities benefiting from those services.

Kuwait (2019)

38. The Committee is concerned about the existence of segregated institutions for persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, and the lack of:

(a) A strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently, choose their place of residence and be included in the community, including with personal assistance;

(b) Access to community-based services and facilities, including housing, for Kuwaiti women who are married to non-Kuwaitis with disabilities or who have children with disabilities.

39. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) In close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, adopt and implement a time-bound and adequately resourced deinstitutionalization strategy and action plan for all children and adults with disabilities in favour of non-residential services, community-based supported living arrangements, including personal assistance, and a ban on new admissions in segregated institutions;

(b) Ensure equal access to mainstream community-based services and facilities, including housing, for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, regardless of their marital status, origin and nationality.

Myanmar (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The persistence of institutionalization of persons with disabilities and the emphasis on the so-called "institution-based rehabilitation";

(b) Segregation or exclusion of persons with disabilities from the community, including owing to stigmatization and attitudinal barriers, in particular against persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;

(c) The inadequate services and provision of personal assistance to promote independent living of persons with disabilities, especially in remote and rural areas, to enable their inclusion and full participation in the community.

38. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and recommends that the State party:

(a) Introduce and implement a strategy, with a clear time frame, to ensure the transition from institutions to full independent living and being included in the community for all persons with disabilities, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, and ensure the allocation of the resources necessary for the implementation of that strategy;

(b) Promote the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to live independently and be included in the community, including by raising awareness among the general public to tackle stigmatization and attitudinal barriers;

(c) Allocate sufficient resources for the provision of personal assistance and to ensure that support services in the community are available, accessible, affordable and of high quality

Cuba (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of measures taken to ensure respect for the right of persons with disabilities to independent living and to be included in the community and the lack of programmes and services, including personal assistance for persons with disabilities who require it;
- (b) Continuing investment of public funds in residential institutions for persons with disabilities, which may increase the use of institutionalization practices;
- (c) That not all persons with disabilities might have access to information on the services available.

36. In line with the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on the right to independent living and to be included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the measures taken to ensure that all persons with disabilities living in any form of institution, including those in psychiatric hospital units, have the right to live independently and to be included in the community with choices equal to those of other persons;**
- (b) Discontinue the investment of public resources for residential institutions for persons with disabilities and invest more in independent living arrangements in the community, as well as in all general services to make them inclusive, guaranteeing their accessibility and availability for all persons with disabilities, to enable their inclusion and participation in all spheres of life;**
- (c) Enact and enforce laws, standards and other measures with the purpose of making local communities and the environment, as well as information and communication, accessible to all persons with disabilities, including through information on and provision of community-based services.**

Niger (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on availability of accessible independent living support services in the community and ways to claim such assistance; the inaccessibility of such services in rural areas, and to migrant and refugees with disabilities; and the absence of home and community-based care for children with disabilities, especially in rural areas.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party, in light of the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on article 19 of the Convention:

- (a) Adopt measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community; and systematically provide information in accessible formats to persons with disabilities and their families, including refugees and migrants with disabilities, on how to access support services and assistance, in particular in rural areas;**
- (b) Ensure accessibility to community services and facilities by all persons with disabilities in all areas of life, as well as home and community-based care for children with disabilities, particularly in rural areas.**

Norway (2019)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of an action plan for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities with clear timelines and budget, and the emphasis on the resettlement of persons with disabilities in shared housing instead of full independent living arrangements;
- (b) The insufficient efforts to provide resources for the development of support services, particularly user-controlled personal assistance services, in municipalities;
- (c) The existing regulative framework permitting for coercive health care and drug rehabilitation;
- (d) The fact that persons who are deaf or hard of hearing do not receive interpreting services outside of office hours.

32. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop, implement and provide adequate human, financial and technical resources for an effective deinstitutionalization plan, particularly for implementing the transformation to independent living arrangements, with a clear timeframe and benchmarks, involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations at all stages;

(b) Adopt the necessary measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have a legal entitlement to a sufficient personal budget for independent living, which takes into account the additional costs related to disability and, at the same time, redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services, while increasing the availability of personal assistance;

(c) Adopt legal and practical measures to end coercive measures in health and care services, which should guide the assessment of the State party's public multidisciplinary committee due in June 2019;

(d) Provide adequate human and financial resources to provide deaf and hard of hearing persons interpreting services when needed, including outside of office hours.

Rwanda (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned that there are persons with disabilities living in social isolation and segregated from their families and the community. It is also concerned that inaccessible infrastructure and services make it difficult for persons with disabilities to participate in the activities of daily life independently, in particular in rural or remote areas.

36. In line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on the right to independent living and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national strategy for living independently and being included in the community, and prevent isolation or segregation of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party enhance the availability, accessibility and inclusiveness of existing public services and develop community-based services for persons with disabilities to ensure that they have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live, including in rural or remote areas. It also recommends that the State party ensure the availability and accessibility of support services, including personal assistance services for persons with disabilities.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities, and particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, are forced to live in habilitation and residential centers;

(b) Persons with disabilities have limited access to and low level of awareness of available independent-living support services and ways in which such assistance may be claimed within their local community;

(c) Data disaggregated by sex, age and disability on persons with disabilities residing in habilitation and other centers is not available.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on the right to independent living and being included in the community:

(a) Adopt a strategy to deinstitutionalize all persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and ensure the allocation of the necessary resources for the implementation of this strategy;

(b) Promote the provision of individualized and community support services for the independent living and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community, and systematically raise their awareness on the availability of such services and assistance, as well as on how to access these services;

(c) Provide, in its next periodic report, data disaggregated by sex, age and disability on persons with disabilities residing in habilitation and other centers.

Senegal (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned about the persisting marginalisation of persons with disabilities, especially persons affected by leprosy and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, from participation in daily life activities. It is also concerned about the lack of:

- (a) A well-defined and legislative framework on de-institutionalisation and the absence of independent living community support services that provide for inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Awareness, among persons with disabilities, of available independent-living support services, including personal assistance services, the inaccessibility of such services to persons affected by leprosy and those with physical disabilities, persons with disabilities in rural areas and to migrant workers;
- (c) Home-based and community-based care for children with disabilities, especially in rural areas.

34. The Committee, in line with its General Comment No. 5 (2017) on the right to independent living and being included in the community, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt concrete measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the family and community;**
- (b) Provide systematically information to all persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, migrant workers and their families on how to access support services and assistance that would enable them to live independently in accordance with their choice, particularly in rural areas;**
- (c) Undertake all necessary measures to ensure accessibility of community services and facilities for all persons with disabilities in all areas of life, as well as ensure home and community-based care for children with disabilities, including in rural areas.**
- (d) Provide budgetary allocations to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy, can decide where, how and with whom they wish to live, with accompanying necessary community support services, including personal assistance.**

Spain (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Limited access to personal assistance, despite positive developments in some Autonomous Communities, due to non-personalized eligibility criteria and lack of a human rights-based approach of individualized support;
- (b) Continuing investment of public funds in the construction of new residential institutions for persons with disabilities;
- (c) Lack of a deinstitutionalization strategy and action plan to promote independent living for all persons with disabilities within their community.

38. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Recognize the right to personal assistance under the law ensuring that all persons with disabilities are entitled to personal assistance responding to personalized criteria for their independent living in the community, referring to a wide range of person-directed / user-led support and self-management of service delivery;**
- (b) Discontinue the use of public funds for building residential institutions for persons with disabilities and invest in independent living arrangements in the community as well as in all general services to make them inclusive, guaranteeing their accessibility and availability for all persons with disabilities, to enable their inclusion and participation in all spheres of life;**
- (c) Design, adopt and implement a comprehensive de-institutionalization strategy and implement safeguards to ensure the right to living independently and being included in the community across all regions, by redirecting resources from institutionalization to**

community-based services and increasing budget support for persons with disabilities to enhance their equal access to services, including personal assistance.

Türkiye (2019)

42. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a legislative framework recognizing the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and choose their place of residence;
- (b) The prevalent institutionalization of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment in facilities such as 'Hope homes', including children with disabilities, who remain in nursery residential schools and orphanages;
- (c) The medical approach to support, which is linked to institutions or for 'screening', 'diagnostic', 'intervention' and 'rehabilitation' purposes, particularly affecting autistic persons, and the low level of awareness among persons with disabilities of available forms of support, and mechanisms to access them;
- (d) The absence of measures to obtain personal assistance and that the minimum wage of in-home support is provided to relatives or guardians rather than to persons with disabilities themselves;

(e) The absence of a holistic approach to accessible community services for facilitating inclusion, in particular the lack of measures to ensure access to housing in the community.

43. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Revise the Law on Social Services no. 2828 to comply and adhere to the Convention, recognizing the right of persons with disabilities to live independently as an individual right, and establishing measures to facilitate the exercise by persons with disabilities of their autonomy in choosing where, and with whom to live;**
- (b) In consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, adopt, implement and monitor a strategy at the national and provincial levels, with a concrete timeframe and benchmarks to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and replace all institutionalized settings, with support for independent living;**
- (c) Allocate greater resources for developing individualized support for persons with disabilities, regardless of impairment or age, and ensure that human rights-based mental health is available for all persons with disabilities in all provinces;**
- (d) Systematically provide information in accessible formats to persons with disabilities and their families on how to access support to enable them to live independently and be included in the community;**
- (e) Enact policies and legislation and allocate financial resources for increasing accessibility in the community, including affordable housing, the built environment, public spaces and transport.**

Vanuatu (2019)

32. The Committee is concerned at, despite the adoption of the Community-based rehabilitation Action Plan (2014-2024), the lack of sufficient support, including provision of personal assistants, for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community.

33. In line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Allocate adequate resources to provide support, including personal assistants and social protection, for persons with disabilities and their families to enable them to live independently in the community and to choose where and who they live with;**
- (b) Establish mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and impact analysis of the Community-based rehabilitation Action Plan (2014-2024) in providing health and rehabilitative services to persons with disabilities in the home and in the community.**

Algeria (2018)

32. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not initiated a process of deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities and notes with concern the lack of measures taken to ensure respect for the right of persons with disabilities to independent living and inclusion in the community.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce and implement policy measures to initiate the process of deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities taking into account its General Comment No. 5 (2017) on article 19.

Bulgaria (2018)

39. The Committee notes with grave concern that according to the Action plan for the implementation of the National Long-term Care Strategy, the transition process from “institutional care to care in the community” would not be completed before 2034. It is also deeply concerned that the strategy envisages transfer of residents from large institutions to small group homes, contrary to the provisions of article 19, as elaborated in the Committee’s general comment No. 5 (2017). It is further concerned that persons with psychosocial disabilities are hospitalised in psychiatric hospital wards due to lack of recovery oriented rehabilitation, adequate individualized services and accommodation within the community.

40. In line with its’ General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Significantly expedite the transition process ensuring all persons with disabilities living in any form of institution, including psychiatric hospital units, and small community-based group homes, the right to and possibility of living independently within the community, paying particular attention to persons with psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities, children with disabilities, and elderly persons with disabilities;

(b) Increase resources for developing individualized support services for persons with disabilities regardless of type of impairment and age. These services should include peer support and personal assistance;

(c) Adopt legislation concerning individualized and self-managed personal assistance and social and support services, recognising the right to living independently and being included in the community as a subjective right for all persons with disabilities regardless of impairment and required level of support;

(d) Implement a procedure to meaningfully and disability-sensitively consult with organizations of persons with disabilities on all aspects of the implementation of article 19, including deinstitutionalization strategies and processes;

(e) Use financial national and international resources from the European Union to advance inclusion of persons with disabilities in society, and introduce efficient remedies and guidelines to avoid spending national and international funds on establishing infrastructure, housing and/or services which are not accessible and affordable for all persons with disabilities.

Malta (2018)

29. The Committee is concerned that the State party continues to institutionalize persons with disabilities and has not yet adopted a national legislation incorporating the legal provisions of article 19 of the Convention, so that they become directly justiciable, and provided tools for their enforcement. The Committee is also concerned at the limited, financial support to persons with disabilities to employ personal assistance that would allow them to live independently and the lack of skills training personnel to support persons with disabilities in the community.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and:

- (a) Ensure that existing residential institutions that contribute to the seclusion of persons with disabilities are closed and that the provision of appropriate community-based services is strengthened;**
- (b) Ensure that all projects supported by public funds are carried out in a community setting, do not contribute to seclusion of persons with disabilities, are monitored by organizations of persons with disabilities, and are provided with sustainable continuous funding;**
- (c) Adopt the legal and other necessary measures, such as the planned Personal Autonomy Bill and the UN CRPD Bill, that will make article 19 of the Convention justiciable;**
- (d) Ensure that the financial and other measures are in place that allow persons with disabilities to be provided with personal assistance and that personnel supporting persons with disabilities in the community are appropriately trained, if necessary.**

Philippines (2018)

34. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of recognition of the right to living independently and being included in the community as a subjective right;**
- (b) The absence of a strategy to ensure the transition from institutions to full independent living for all persons with disabilities within the community, including personal assistance;**
- (c) The lack of support services to enable persons with disabilities to be included and participate fully in the community, which contributes to perpetuation of the institutionalization model.**

35. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and:

- (a) Enact legislation aimed at recognising the right of persons with disabilities to live included in the community and to choose their place of residence, and where and with whom they live. The State party should ensure that all persons with disabilities have legal capacity to exercise their freedom of choice concerning living arrangements;**
- (b) Ensure the involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of the development of independent living strategies and schemes.**
- (c) Adopt the measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities have a legal entitlement to a sufficient personal budget for independent living, which takes into account the additional costs related to disability and, at the same time, redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services, while increasing the availability of personal assistance;**
- (d) Implement community support services, with qualified human resources and adequate budgets, to enable persons with disabilities to make independent decisions on where to live and to be included in the community.**

Poland (2018)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Critical stagnation and absence of determination in the process of deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities and their transition to independent living in community ensuring the right to choose where, with whom and how to live outside institutions and group homes, including the absence of a strategy and action plan and targeted funding for the deinstitutionalisation process after the termination of the European Union funds allocated for this purpose;**
- (b) Lack of access to community-based services, especially in villages, and the continuation of sheltered housing programmes, including the establishment of group homes, that are inconsistent with article 19 of the Convention as elaborated in Committee's General Comment No.5;**
- (c) Personal assistance services that are project-based, non-systemic and limited in budget, duration and territorial availability;**

- (d) Spending of the European Union funds allocated for deinstitutionalisation on measures that are not consistent with the Convention as elaborated in Committee's General Comment no.5, and the lack of monitoring of how these funds were used;
- (e) Incorrect translation of the term "community" by "society" in the Polish version of the Convention.

33. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Design and adopt concrete action plans for deinstitutionalisation and a time bounded transition to independent living schemes for persons with disabilities within the community, and ensure that adequate funding is allocated to this process after termination of European Union funds allocated specifically for this purpose;**
- (b) Adopt legal frameworks and allocate sustainable budget aimed at providing personal assistance within individualized and inclusive support arrangements to persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure spending of the European Union funds allocated for deinstitutionalisation on measures that is consistent with the Convention; as well as monitoring of spending of the European Union funds allocated for deinstitutionalisation, with the effective participation of persons with disabilities and/or their representative organisations, to ensure that spending is in line with requirements of persons with disabilities themselves.**
- (d) Ensure the correct translation of the term "community" in the Polish version of the Convention**

South Africa (2018)

34. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a well-defined national strategic and legislative framework on de-institutionalisation and the absence of independent living community support services that provide for inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee is deeply concerned that the Gauteng tragedy may discourage the continuation of the process of de-institutionalisation process in the State party.

35. The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on the right to independent living and to be included in the community, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop and adopt a national strategic and legislative framework on de-institutionalisation of persons with disabilities, including all necessary independent living community support services and ensure that persons with disabilities are effectively included, through their representative organisations, at all stages of the deinstitutionalization process;**
- (b) Step up the efforts for de-institutionalisation;**
- (c) Adopt an action plan at the national, regional and local level to develop community support services in urban and rural areas, including providing personal assistance, grants and support to families of children with disabilities and parents with disabilities, covering support for assistive devices, guides and sign language interpreters.**

North Macedonia (2018)

34. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The weakness of the deinstitutionalization process and the emphasis given to the resettlement of persons with disabilities in small group homes instead of independent living arrangements;
- (b) The absence of services and provision of personal assistance to promote independent living of persons with disabilities in the State Party;
- (c) That the State Party still spends more funds on institutions as compared to community based services;
- (d) The age discriminatory nature of the personal assistance pilot program.

35. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide adequate human, financial and technical resources for the full implementation of deinstitutionalization particularly for implementing the transition to independent living conditions;

(b) Allocates sufficient resources to ensure the provision of personal assistance and that services in the community are available, accessible, affordable, accommodating and of quality in order to enable persons with disabilities exercise their right to live independently and be included in the community;

(c) Adopt the measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities have a legal entitlement to a sufficient personal budget for independent living, which takes into account the additional costs related to disability and, redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services;

(d) Adopt measures to ensure the provision of personal assistance for persons with disabilities regardless of age limitations.

Haiti (2018)

36. The Committee is concerned that the legislation of the State party fails to recognize living independently and being included in the community as a human right that enshrines individual autonomy, control and choice as intrinsic aspects of that right. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of policies, priorities and measures that affect the ability to live independently in the community.

37. The Committee recommends, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, that the State party recognize the right to living independently and being included in the community as a subjective right, including the enforceability of all its elements, and adopt rights-based policies, regulations and guidelines to ensure implementation. The Committee further recommends that the State party set up a comprehensive plan, developed in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, with adequate and sufficient dedicated funding to allow persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community in rural as well as urban areas and ensure the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities.

Nepal (2018)

29. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are not provided with adequate means to enable them to exercise choice and control over their lives and make all decisions concerning their lives, particularly to live independently and in communities. The Committee is further concerned that the State party has not adopted any policy measures to protect persons with disabilities against forced institutionalization.

30. In line with General Comment No. 5 (2017) on the right to independent living, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a strategy to implement independent living schemes and ensure access to disability specific and community services. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities who live with or are dependent on their families receive appropriate support to enable them to live independently in the community.

Oman (2018)

35. The Committee is concerned about the low level of awareness among persons with disabilities of available independent-living support services and ways in which to claim such assistance within their local community, the inaccessibility of such services to persons with mobility impairments, persons with disabilities in rural areas and to migrant workers. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of home-based and community-based care for children with disabilities, especially in rural areas.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the family and community, and to systematically provide information to all persons with disabilities, including migrant workers and their families on how to access support services and assistance that would enable them to live independently in accordance with their own choice, in particular in rural areas. The Committee also recommends that the State party undertake all necessary measures to ensure accessibility to community services and facilities by all persons with disabilities in all areas of life, as well as ensure home and community-based care for children with disabilities, including in rural areas.

Russian Federation (2018)

40. The Committee is deeply concerned about the large number of persons with disabilities living in institutions and about the limited opportunities for persons with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to access services and participate in local communities. It also notes with concern the lack of de-institutionalization strategy and that not all persons with disabilities are aware of the available support services and ways in which to claim assistance in local community.

41. In line with its General comment No. 5, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, to develop accessible support services for persons with disabilities of all types and ages in local communities, and to systematically provide information to persons with disabilities and their families on how to claim support services and assistance that would enable them to live independently in accordance with their own choice and as part of the community.

Seychelles (2018)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of legal measures in the State party to ensure that persons with disabilities can live independently;
- (b) The limited support that persons with disabilities and their families receive to enable them to exercise their right to independent living and inclusion in the community, which has resulted in cases of abandonment of persons with disabilities and their being placed in the care of the State in a residential institution;
- (c) The absence of a deinstitutionalization strategy for those persons with disabilities placed in existing residential institutions.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expressly recognize in its legislation the right of persons with disabilities to choose with whom and where they wish to live;**
- (b) Provide sufficient support to persons with disabilities and their families to enable them to exercise their rights to independent living and to be included in the community;**
- (c) Urgently start the process of deinstitutionalization of those persons with disabilities still in a residential setting and increase the availability of community-based services aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to live and participate in the community.**

Slovenia (2018)

31. The Committee is concerned at the large number of persons with disabilities still residing in institutions because of the lack of an explicit policy, national and municipal capacity and measures for deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, and the insufficient provision of independent living services in the community. It is also concerned about the practice of transferring persons with disabilities from larger to smaller institutions and about plans to build new institutions.

32. With reference to the Committee ' s general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement a strategy and action plan, within a time frame, aimed at deinstitutionalization;**
- (b) Prevent any form of reinstitutionalization and provide sufficient funding for developing community-based independent living schemes;**
- (c) Allocate sufficient resources to ensure that services in the community are available, accessible, affordable, acceptable and accommodating of persons with disabilities, so that such persons may exercise their right to live independently and be included in their communities, in both urban and rural areas;**
- (d) Strengthen the national and municipal capacity to implement deinstitutionalization, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities.**

Sudan (2018)

39. The Committee notes with concern the absence of a strategy to promote and ensure the transition to full independent living for all persons with disabilities within the community, including with support of personal assistance programs; and that persons with psychosocial disabilities are still forced to live in reformatories without their consent under the guise of ensuring close supervision and access to better health care and treatment.

40. In the light of its general comment No. 5 (2017), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt the legal and political measures necessary to ensuring the right of all persons with disabilities to independent living and inclusion in the community, including by providing for personal assistance and assistive aids;**
- (b) Adopt the measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities have a legal entitlement to a sufficient personal budget for independent living, which takes into account the additional costs related to disability and, redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services.**

Latvia (2017)

30. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) (a) Slow process of deinstitutionalizing persons with disabilities and allegations that residents are being transferred between institutions under the guise of deinstitutionalization;**
- (b) Absence of a strategy to ensure the continuity of deinstitutionalization after the termination of support from European structural funds;**
- (c) (c) Lack of commitment shown by municipalities to the deinstitutionalization process as a result, in part, of the limited knowledge of independent living;**
- (d) Excessive administration and limited provision of personal assistance for persons with disabilities.**

31. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) (a) Expedite the complete deinstitutionalization of all persons with disabilities within a set time frame in order to close all remaining institutions, both those run by the State and the municipalities, ensuring that residents are not subject to transinstitutionalization;**
- (b) (b) Reinforce the engagement of municipalities in implementing the deinstitutionalization strategy, including through raising awareness about independent community-based living for persons with disabilities and ensuring sustainable provision of services to promote independent living following termination of European structural funds;**
- (c) (c) Ensure the provision of quality personal assistance that takes into account the individual needs of persons with disabilities and ensures their social inclusion and participation.**

Luxembourg (2017)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Laws in place, including the reform to Act 7014 of 8 July 2016, that continue to curtail the right to independent living by setting limits and controls on persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of an action plan for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities with a specific timeline and appropriate funding;
- (c) The absence of a clear strategy to promote and ensure the transition to full independent living for all persons with disabilities within the community, including with support of a personal assistant, and that future plans and construction projects still contain elements that limit the rights of persons with disabilities under article 19.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, and:

- (a) Adopt the legal and other measures necessary, including repealing Reform Act 7014 and relevant disability insurance systems, replacing them by legislation promoting the right to independent living and being included in the community, providing for, among others, personal assistance and clarifying the responsibilities and resource allocations of central and local authorities;**
- (b) Develop and implement an effective deinstitutionalization plan, with a clear time frame and benchmarks, involving persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in all stages;**
- (c) Adopt the measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities have a legal entitlement to a sufficient personal budget for independent living, which takes into account the additional costs related to disability and, at the same time, redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services, while increasing the availability of personal assistance.**

Montenegro (2017)

36. The Committee is concerned about the continuation of institutional care and the lack of any comprehensive strategy of deinstitutionalization. It is also concerned about:

- (a) The high number of persons with disabilities who are institutionalized, and the fact that the efforts made by the State party to develop individual support services remain insufficient;
- (b) The fact that persons who are institutionalized are transferred to other institutions as a form of “holiday”;
- (c) The allocation of resources to the creation of smaller, albeit still segregated settings, which constitute de facto institutions, instead of increasing resource allocation to community-based care.

37. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a comprehensive strategy with clear time-bound goals for effective deinstitutionalization and to allocate adequate resources to its implementation. It recommends that the State party:

- (a) Commit to not building new institutions or other forms of segregated settings, and instead develop a wide range of community-based services, including at the local level, that respond to the needs of persons with disabilities and respect their autonomy, choices, dignity and privacy and that include peer support and other alternatives to the medical model of mental health;**
- (b) Discontinue the concept of holidays in a different institution and ensure that persons with disabilities can spend holidays in a community care environment;**
- (c) Ensure the involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of the development of independent living strategies and schemes.**

Morocco (2017)

38. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The high number of persons with disabilities, including children, living in institutions;

- (b) The absence of community support services that provide for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community;
- (c) The marginalization of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, from participation in the activities of daily life owing to a lack of accessible essential services;
- (d) The absence of a policy on deinstitutionalization and independent living.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize in its legislation the subjective right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community;
- (b) Set up a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities that includes provisions for collecting data, particularly of abandoned children with disabilities in institutions, a clear time frame and indicators;
- (c) Adopt a plan at the national and regional levels to develop community support services in urban and rural areas, including personal assistance, grants and support for families of children with disabilities and parents with disabilities, including support for the provision of assistive devices, guides and sign language interpreters;
- (d) Adopt measures at the national and local levels to ensure the accessibility of community services and facilities for all persons with disabilities in all areas of life.

Panama (2017)

42. The Committee is concerned at the limited progress made in implementing an independent living model and the lack of programmes and services, including personal assistance for persons with disabilities who require it, so that they may exercise their right to independent living and to be included in their community.

43. In line with its general comment No. 5 (2017) on the right to independent living and to be included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party promote independent living schemes and roll out programmes and services, including personal assistance for persons with disabilities who require it, so that they may exercise their right to live independently and be included in their community. It also recommends that the State party introduce a budget line to guarantee fair wages for individuals who provide personal assistance to persons with disabilities.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that the State party's legislation fails to recognize living independently and being included in the community as a human right that enshrines individual autonomy, control and choice as intrinsic aspects of that right;
- (b) Policies and measures that affect the ability to live independently in the community, such as the reduction in social protection schemes related to housing, household income and budgets for independent living, as well as the closure of the Independent Living Fund;
- (c) The fact that responsibility for supporting independent living has been transferred to the devolved administrations and local authorities without providing appropriate and earmarked budget allocation;
- (d) The fact that many persons with disabilities are still institutionalized and deprived of the right to live independently and be included within the community, when: (i) they lack the financial resources to afford personal assistance; (ii) local authorities are of the opinion that they can provide assistance within care homes; and (iii) the cost rationale constitutes the main parameter of an assessment;
- (e) The lack of support services and accessible public facilities, including personal assistance, for persons with disabilities, regardless of sex, gender, age and other status, to live independently and be included in the community.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community and the

Committee's report on its inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention:

- (a) Recognize the right to living independently and being included in the community as a subjective right, recognize the enforceability of all its elements, and adopt rights-based policies, regulations and guidelines to ensure implementation;**
- (b) Conduct periodic assessments in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities to address and prevent the negative effects of policy reforms through sufficiently funded and appropriate strategies in the area of social support and living independently;**
- (c) Provide adequate, sufficient earmarked funding to local authorities and administrations, including the devolved governments, to be able to continuously allocate adequate resources allowing persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community and to exercise their right to choose their place of residence and where and with whom to live;**
- (d) Set up a comprehensive plan, developed in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, aimed at the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, and develop community-based independent living schemes through a holistic and cross-cutting approach, including education, childcare, transport, housing, employment and social security;**
- (e) Allocate sufficient resources to ensure that support services are available, accessible, affordable, acceptable, adaptable and are sensitive to different living conditions for all persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas.**

Armenia (2017)

31. The Committee is concerned about the slow progress of the deinstitutionalization process and the large number of children and adults with disabilities still living in residential institutions. It is also concerned about the very limited support to enable them to live independently within the community.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the process of deinstitutionalization and implement, without delay, its action plan for deinstitutionalization, including timelines for closing all remaining institutions. It also recommends that the State party adopt legal measures and allocate sufficient resources for the development of support services, including personal assistance, that would facilitate the independent living of all persons with disabilities in the community. The Committee further recommends that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, be involved in all stages of the deinstitutionalization process (planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring).

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

34. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Institutional care is still prevalent and there is no comprehensive strategy of deinstitutionalization in the State party;**
- (b) The number of institutionalized persons with disabilities remains high, and insufficient efforts have been made to provide resources for the development of support services, in particular personal assistance, in local communities for those leaving institutions;**
- (c) Resources are still invested in renovating or extending institutions, while initiatives of – and opportunities provided for – organizations of persons with disabilities for developing services within the community that enable independent living are not sufficiently supported.**

35. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive strategy with clear time-bound measures and the allocation of sufficient funds for effective deinstitutionalization;**
- (b) Legally ensure that no further investment will be made in new institutions and that the staff of current institutions will be provided with adequate training on the Convention, and update the current curricula of social worker students accordingly;**

(c) Facilitate the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of independent living strategies and schemes that provide for accessible community-based services, especially at the local level.

Canada (2017)

37. The Committee commends the steps taken by different provinces in the State party towards deinstitutionalization, and welcomes in particular the information that Ontario closed its last residential institution for persons with “developmental” disabilities in 2009. However, the Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities continue to be placed in institutions in many provinces, such as Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec, and in the territories. It is also concerned about the lack of adequate services and support available to persons with disabilities within the over 600 First Nation communities in the State party.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt national guidelines on, and provide on a continuous basis advice to provincial and territorial jurisdictions towards, the recognition of the right to live independently and be included in the community as a subjective and enforceable right for persons with disabilities, reaffirming the principle of respect for the individual autonomy of persons with disabilities and their freedom to make choices about where and with whom to live;

(b) Adopt a human rights-based approach to disability in all housing plans and policies at all levels. To that end, the State party should increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing units for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, as well as support services;

(c) Ensure that provincial and territorial jurisdictions set up strategies with time frames to close institutions and replace them with a comprehensive system of support for independent living, including home support and personal assistance for persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure that accessibility legislation, plans and programmes include the accessibility of services and facilities with the aim of facilitating the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community and preventing their isolation and institutionalization;

(e) Ensure appropriate service provision within First Nation communities (on reserves) to individuals with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

Cyprus (2017)

43. The Committee is deeply concerned about the significant number of persons with disabilities who are currently still institutionalized.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, and in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention:

(a) Develop and implement safeguards securing the right to independent living;

(b) Adopt and immediately implement an adequately funded deinstitutionalization strategy;

(c) Redirect resources allocated to institutionalization and earmark and allocate them to community-based services and increase the budget enabling persons with disabilities to live independently across the State party with access to individually assessed and adequate services, including personal assistance, within the community.

Honduras (2017)

45. Al Comité le preocupa la inexistencia de iniciativas concretas para la desinstitucionalización de personas con discapacidad y apoyos en la comunidad para la vida independiente. También le preocupa las inconsistencias entre el Programa de Asistencia Personal y la persistencia del enfoque médico en la aplicación de la legislación sobre cuidadores.

46. El Comité alienta al Estado parte en sus esfuerzos de no aceptar ninguna nueva institucionalización y le recomienda que impulse un plan con plazos concretos y un

presupuesto suficiente para la desinstitucionalización de personas con discapacidad, particularmente personas con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial, que garantice a las personas con discapacidad el acceso a los servicios y apoyos necesarios, incluyendo la asistencia personal, con el objetivo de una vida independiente en la comunidad, todo esto en consultas con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

40. The Committee is concerned about isolation and institutionalization of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who depend on 'care' provided by their families or in institutions. It is further concerned about the absence of support services, including personal assistance aimed at ensuring inclusion of persons with disability in the community.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy for the de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities, within a time frame, budget and measurable indicators, and withdraw the program community mental health center run by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education; and

(b) Redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services and increase budgets to enable persons with disabilities to live independently with access to services, including personal assistance.

(c) Raise awareness about the right to autonomy and self-determination of persons with disabilities, including concerning decisions of where and with whom to live.

Jordan (2017)

37. The Committee is concerned about the low level of awareness among persons with disabilities of available independent-living support services and ways in which to claim such assistance within their local community.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the deinstitutionalization strategy, ensure the allocation of the resources necessary for it to realize its objective of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the family and community, and systematically provide information to persons with disabilities and their families on how to access support services and assistance that would enable them to live independently in accordance with their own choice and as part of the community and the family.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

36. The Committee is concerned about the slow pace of the deinstitutionalization process. It is concerned that, despite the executive moratorium on new admissions, persons with disabilities continue to be institutionalized. It is also concerned that the State party lacks the legal measures to ensure that persons with disabilities who have been deinstitutionalized can live independently, and that there is a lack of clarity as to the responsibilities of central and local authorities regarding the provision of community-based services.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the process of deinstitutionalization and ensure the application of the moratorium. It recommends that the State party:

(a) Execute, without delay, the action plan for the implementation of reforms relating to deinstitutionalization, which should include a deadline and timelines for closing all remaining institutions;

(b) Adopt legal measures providing for independent living, including personal assistance, and clarify the responsibilities and resource allocations of central and local authorities;

(c) Involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in all stages of the deinstitutionalization process (planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring).

Bolivia (2016)

49. The Committee is concerned about the non-existence of support services to enable persons with disabilities to be included and participate fully in the community, which contributes to perpetuation of the institutionalization model.

50. The Committee urges the State party to implement community support services, with qualified human resources and adequate budgets, to enable persons with disabilities to make independent decisions on where to live and to be included in the community.

Colombia (2016)

48. The Committee is concerned that the transition of persons with disabilities from institutions to living in the community has not begun, and that there is a lack of support services for independent living.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement a plan for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, with specific timelines and sufficient resources for its implementation;

(b) Ensure that community services are available to persons with disabilities and are inclusive of persons with disabilities, and develop and make available at all levels, including municipalities and communities, the support services required by persons with disabilities, including personal assistance, to enable them to choose their place of residence and to live independently.

Ethiopia (2016)

43. The Committee is concerned at the absence of community support services that provide for the inclusion of persons with disability in society. It is also concerned at the lack of availability and accessibility of personal assistance services for persons with disabilities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party enhance the availability, accessibility and inclusiveness of existing public services and develop further community-based services for persons with disabilities to ensure that they have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live, including in rural areas. It also recommends that the State party ensure the availability and accessibility of personal assistance services for persons with disabilities.

Guatemala (2016)

53. The Committee is concerned by the high number of children and adults with disabilities being held in institutions. The Committee is particularly concerned by the situation of persons at the Federico Mora National Mental Health Hospital, who are isolated indefinitely. It is also concerned by the large number of children, including many with disabilities, who are currently in institutions. The Committee notes with concern the lack of local community services designed to meet the needs of persons with disabilities to enable them to live independently. In addition, it is concerned by the lack of support for the families of children with disabilities to ensure that such children are able to remain in the family environment.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Urgently draw up a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, with time frames, adequate resources and specific assessment measures;

(b) Allocate sufficient resources to the development of local community support services, including personal assistance, to enable all persons with disabilities, regardless of disability, gender or age, to choose freely with whom, where and in what living arrangement they wish to live;

(c) Provide support to families of children with disabilities to prevent family breakdown and institutionalization of the children;

(d) Abolish the institutionalization of children of any age.

Italy (2016)

47. The Committee is deeply concerned about the trend to re-institutionalize persons with disabilities and that funds are not being reallocated from institutions to promoting and ensuring independent living for all persons with disabilities within their community. Furthermore, it notes with concern the gendered consequences of the current policies where women are “forced” to remain within the family as caregivers of their peers with disabilities instead of being employed in the labour market.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party implement safeguards to retain the right to autonomous independent living across all regions, and redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services and increase budget support to enable persons with disabilities to live independently across the country and have equal access to services, including personal assistance.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

37. The Committee is concerned that a number of cultural, social and environmental challenges prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying their rights to live independently and be included in the community, including the absence of a strategy to develop inclusive community-based services and provide personal assistance.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including Bidouns, to live independently and be included in the community, which includes developing community-based services, providing personal assistance and rendering existing services inclusive, regardless of place of residence, and to systematically provide information to persons with disabilities and their families on how to claim the kind of support services and assistance that would enable them to live independently in accordance with their own choices and as part of the community.

Uruguay (2016)

45. Al Comité le preocupa la inexistencia de iniciativas concretas para la desinstitucionalización de las personas con discapacidad y los apoyos en la comunidad para la vida independiente. También le preocupa las inconsistencias entre el Programa de asistencia personal y la persistencia del enfoque médico en la aplicación de la ley de cuidadores.

46. El Comité alienta al Estado parte en sus esfuerzos de no aceptar ninguna nueva institucionalización y le recomienda que impulse un plan con plazos concretos y un presupuesto suficiente para la desinstitucionalización de personas con discapacidad, incluyendo a las personas con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial, que garantice a las personas con discapacidad el acceso los servicios y apoyos necesarios, incluyendo la asistencia personal, con el objetivo de una vida independiente en la comunidad, todo esto en consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad.

Chile (2016)

43. Al Comité le preocupan los pocos avances en la implementación de la Ley núm. 20422 en lo relativo a las disposiciones para apoyar a personas con discapacidad a vivir independientemente pues estas personas carecen de sistemas de apoyos en la comunidad, lo cual las obliga a ingresar en instituciones o vivir en condiciones de indigencia. Asimismo, le preocupa la ausencia de un plan para la desinstitucionalización de personas con discapacidad y su transición hacia una vida de inclusión comunitaria.

44. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que impulse un plan para la desinstitucionalización de personas con discapacidad, particularmente personas con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial, que incluya su transición hacia una vida independiente en la comunidad contando con los servicios y apoyos necesarios, con plazos concretos y un presupuesto suficiente.

Lithuania (2016)

39. The Committee is deeply concerned at the lack of sufficient choice and range of adequate support mechanisms, including independent living schemes, to ensure that persons with disabilities can access accommodation within their local community, regardless of their sex, age or impairment. In particular:

- (a) Many children under 3 years of age with disabilities are still placed in residential institutions;
- (b) There are no guarantees that all younger persons with disabilities have realistic options of choosing not to live in residential facilities for the elderly;
- (c) There is no programme for individualized personal and financial assistance allowing persons with disabilities to live independently in the community, and a lack of range of community-based services.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt an adequately funded strategy for deinstitutionalization ensuring a range of community-based services for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, including for children with intellectual and/or psychosocial impairments, including their right to live independently in the community, with the possibility of individualized personal assistance support services in their home;**
- (b) Effectively implement the action plan for the implementation of the national programme for the social integration of persons with disabilities for the period 2013-2019 at all levels of the State;**
- (c) Adopt a moratorium on new admissions of children into institutionalized care;**
- (d) Eliminate excessive waiting time for receiving support services by investing in developing new services and rendering existing services accessible and inclusive and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sufficient financial resources for independent living and improved access to accessible services in the community.**

41. The Committee is concerned that the national budget and European Union structural funds have been used in renovating existing institutional facilities and in constructing new ones.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party further prioritize investing in a social service system for independent living in the community, and immediately refrain from using national and structural funds of the European Union to renovate, maintain or construct residential institutions for persons with disabilities.

Portugal (2016)

38. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national policy for independent living in the State party, the lack of regulations governing personal assistance, and the fact that the amount currently paid for 'Third person assistance allowance' is very low, resulting in some persons in the State party being forced to live in institutions for persons with disabilities or in homes for older people, in which the State Party invest more than in support for living independently. It is also concerned that the National Mental Health Plan 2007-2016, which aims to extend the National Network for Integrated Continuous Care, has yet to put in place community-based services.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, adopt a national strategy for independent living, including increased investment in living independently in the community rather than in institutions, regulate in the field of personal assistance, and offer wider access to sign language interpreters and deafblind sign language interpretation in its public services. Furthermore, the Committee urges the State party to establish community-based support services for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

Serbia (2016)

39. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comprehensive strategy of deinstitutionalisation in the State party, further concerned that the number of institutionalised persons with disabilities remain high, and that insufficient efforts have been made to provide resources for the development of support services, personal assistance services in particular, in local communities for those leaving institutions. The Committee is further concerned that resources are still invested in renovating or extending institutions while a lot of barriers for initiatives by organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) including overcomplicated licencing process, still persist.

40. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a comprehensive strategy and measures for an effective deinstitutionalisation. It further recommends to ensure no investment will be made for new institutions and to allocate resources to enable all persons with disabilities to live independently and to have support in the community based on their own choice and preference. It further recommends removing barriers for a greater participation of organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) in the development of community based services, especially at the level of municipalities.

Slovakia (2016)

55. The Committee is deeply concerned by the high number of institutionalized persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities; that progress on the deinstitutionalization process is too slow and partial; about the ongoing investments from government budgets in institutions; and the lack of provision of full support for persons with disabilities to live independently in their communities.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party provide and implement a timetable to ensure that the implementation of the deinstitutionalization process is expedited, including by putting in place specific additional measures to ensure that community-based services are strengthened for all persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and older persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the State party should ensure that the use of European structural and investment funds complies with article 19 and that new follow-up national action plans on the transition from institutional settings to community-based support are initiated with the comprehensive involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society organizations, including in the area of monitoring. The Committee also recommends that the State party no longer allocate resources from the national budget to institutions and that it reallocate resources into community-based services in accordance with the investment priorities of the European Regional Development Fund (art. 5.9 (a) of European Union regulation No. 1303/2013).

57. The Committee is concerned at the geographic variation and unequal financial support of community-based social services and home-care services for persons with disabilities, including older persons, and at the slow rate of the remuneration process on behalf of the State party.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the equal distribution of resources for social care, with an emphasis on community-based services. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that community-based social services and home-care services are available in all geographic regions and rural areas, and that funds are allocated to persons with disabilities who require them, especially those who are unemployed or in low-wage employment.

Thailand (2016)

39. The Committee is concerned about the institutionalization of persons with disabilities, including girls and boys, in residential institutions, hospitals, half-way homes and rehabilitation centres, and the insufficiency of community-based support services to implement independent living. The Committee is also concerned that many initiatives for

facilitating the enjoyment of the right to independent living remain isolated examples and face challenges in terms of sustainability.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in active dialogue with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt a concrete time frame for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Make available a range of supports in the community to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise choice and control regarding where and with whom they live;**
- (c) Continue and strengthen initiatives for independent living to ensure long-term sustainability.**

Uganda (2016)

38. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of institutionalization of persons with disabilities and the absence of community support services that provide for inclusion of persons with disability in society. It is also concerned about the marginalization of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, from everyday life due to lack of provision of essential services.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with**
- (b) disabilities, within a time frame and with indicators;**
- (c) Provide essential community-based services, including accessibility to education, health care, employment and accommodation, and personal assistance to guarantee independent living for persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;**
- (d) Provide grants to persons with disabilities to facilitate independent living in the community covering support for assistive devices, guides, sign language interpreters and affordable skin-care protection for persons with albinism.**

Brazil (2015)

36. The Committee is concerned at the lack of access to support services and allowances, especially personal assistance services, aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community. The Committee is also concerned that the State party does not have a comprehensive strategy to replace institutionalization with community-based living for persons with disabilities.

37. The Committee recommends the State party to establish a framework providing for legal entitlement to personal assistance services to enable persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. The Committee also recommends that, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the State party develop and implement an effective de-institutionalization and community-based living strategy with clear time frames and benchmarks.

European Union (2015)

50. The Committee is concerned that across the European Union persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities still live in institutions rather than in local communities. It further notes that in spite of changes in regulations, in different Member States the ESI Funds continue being used for maintenance of residential institutions rather than for development of support services for persons with disabilities in local communities.

51. The Committee recommends that the European Union develop an approach to guide and foster deinstitutionalisation, to strengthen the monitoring of the use of ESI Funds - to ensure they are being used strictly for the development of support services for persons with disabilities in local communities and not the re-development or expansion of institutions. It further recommends that the European Union suspend, withdraw and recover payments if the obligation to respect fundamental rights is breached.

Gabon (2015)

44. The Committee is concerned that community-based services aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to live and participate in the community with choices equal to others have yet to be developed. It is also concerned about the lack of measures aimed at persons with disabilities who are abandoned by their families, especially in and around the capital in so-called 'cités'.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party comprehensively develop community-based services for persons with disabilities in close cooperation with them and their representative organisations including, in particular, the service of personal assistance. It also recommends that it adopt the necessary measures to prevent isolation or segregation of persons with disabilities from the community hidden in the family, in segregated institutions, and in the so-called 'cités'.

Kenya (2015)

37. The Committee is concerned about the institutionalization of persons with disabilities and the absence of community support services that provide for inclusion of persons with disability in society.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy for the de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities, within a timeframe and measurable indicators. This strategy must involve the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities;

(b) Launch a comprehensive strategy with timeframe and human rights-based indicators to provide for community-based services available for persons with disabilities; and

(c) Take steps to introduce specific budgetary allocations, for the promotion of independent living, including cash transfer schemes for personal assistance services.

Mauritius (2015)

31. The Committee is concerned that families who are often the sole base of support for persons and children with disabilities, especially those with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities, receive limited assistance from the State. The Committee is also concerned that children are removed from family settings and placed in residential institutions where they lack care and psychological support and are sometimes subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. The Committee is further concerned that private Day Care Centers where children with disabilities are placed are not regulated nor monitored by the State and that children with disabilities continue to be placed in "Centres de Sauvegarde" ("Abris des Enfants en Détresse").

32. The Committee recommends that the State party urgently remove children with disabilities from the "Centres de Sauvegarde" ("Abris des Enfants en Détresse") and develop family and community-based alternatives for those deprived of a family environment. The State party should initiate without delay a transition from private unregulated Day Care Centers to inclusive early childhood education and education settings and in the interim, regulate and closely monitor these Centers. The State party should adopt urgent measures directed to the deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities and to develop mechanisms at the community level to promote choices, autonomy and inclusion, for persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party develop effective quality support services for parents caring for children with disabilities and for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community as well as effective protection systems.

Qatar (2015)

37. The Committee is concerned by the absence of a strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community and the lack of a systematic provision of information by the State party to persons with disabilities and their families on how to claim support services and assistance they are entitled to.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, and to systematically provide information to persons with disabilities and their families on how to claim support services and assistance that would enable them to live independently in accordance with their own choice and as part of the community.

Ukraine (2015)

36. The Committee notes with concern that the State party continues to practice institutionalization of persons with disabilities and provides very limited support, especially to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, to live independently in their respective communities.

37. The Committee urges the State party to adopt measures for deinstitutionalization and to allocate sufficient resources for development of support services in local communities that would enable all persons with disabilities, to choose freely with whom, where and under which living arrangements they will live.

Cook Islands (2015)

39. The Committee is concerned that there are no registered personal assistants services in the State party and that families are the sole base of support for persons with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends the State party develop support services for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community, including setting a concrete time frame and allocating budget for the establishment of professional personal assistance services, with the active participation of organisations of persons with disabilities.

Croatia (2015)

29. The Committee is, concerned, that not all residential institutions, such as smaller private institutions, wards for long-term care in psychiatric institutions and foster homes for adults, are covered by the deinstitutionalization plan. It is further concerned that a legal framework providing for personal assistant services allowing independent living in the community is lacking and that such services are only available to a limited number of persons with disabilities.

30. The Committee recommends that the process of deinstitutionalization include all residential institutions for all persons with disabilities and foster homes for adult persons with disabilities. It recommends to adopt a legal framework providing for entitlement to personal assistance services in the community and to initiate a process of making local communities and mainstream services accessible to persons with disabilities.

Czech Republic (2015)

38. The Committee notes with concern that the State party continues to invest more resources in institutional settings than in support services that would enable persons with disabilities to live independently in their respective local communities. It further notes with concern the lack of plans to provide support services in local communities for older persons with disabilities

39. The Committee urges the State party to step up the process of deinstitutionalization and to allocate sufficient resources for development of support services in local communities that would enable all persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairments, gender or age, to choose freely with whom, where and under which living arrangements they will live, in line with the provisions of article 19 of the Convention.

The Committee recommends the State party to take all necessary measures to ensure that policy processes for deinstitutionalization, including the development of the National Plan on Promoting Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2015-2020, have a clear timeline and concrete benchmarks for implementation which are effectively monitored at regular intervals. In particular, the Committee urges the State party to abolish the placement of children under three years old in institutionalized care as soon as possible.

Dominican Republic (2015)

38. The Committee is deeply concerned at the fact that there is no strategy to de-institutionalize persons with disabilities, particularly children with “severe” disabilities in the Angeles homes and that no community and support services have been created to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a programme for the de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, in the Angeles homes. It also recommends setting up programmes and support networks to enable persons with disabilities to be included in the community and to live independently, in housing arrangements that meet their wishes, needs and preferences.

Germany (2015)

41. The Committee is concerned about the high levels of institutionalisation and the lack of alternative living arrangements or appropriate infrastructure, which comprise additional financial barriers for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, it is concerned that access to benefits and support services impede the right to live in the community with an adequate standard of living due to means-testing of benefits, which do not cover disability-related expenses.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take steps towards legal reform of Section 13 para. 1(3) of the Twelfth Book of the Social Code (SGB XII) for increased social assistance services to enable inclusion, self-determination and choice to live in the community;

(b) Allocate sufficient financial resources to facilitate de-institutionalisation and promote independent living, including increased financial resources to provide community-based outpatient services providing the required support to persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities based on the free and informed consent of the individual concerned across the whole country;

(c) Increase access to programmes and benefits to support living in the community and which cover disability-related costs.

Mongolia (2015)

31. The Committee is concerned about the lack of social assistance programmes aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to live independently in the community as prescribed for in article 19 of the Convention.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a de-institutionalisation plan, in consultations with persons with disabilities, which includes establishing support measures, including personal assistance to persons with disabilities, regardless of whether they have family or not.

Turkmenistan (2015)

37. The Committee is concerned at the absence of an effective roadmap with concrete targets to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party design and effectively implement a strategy based on measurable targets for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities taking into account the different types of institutions, with a view to promoting community-based services and supporting independent living. The above-mentioned strategy should be developed in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. The strategy should provide for sufficient trained therapists, social workers and other relevant specialists.

New Zealand (2014)

39. The Committee notes the independent living model and the Enabling Good Lives project, which both give greater independence to persons with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned that there appears to be a lack of choice and of a range of supports to ensure that persons with disabilities can freely and by themselves choose to live included in the community, noting especially that persons with disabilities in some cases have no other option than to live in residential facilities for the elderly.

40. The Committee recommends that the independent living model and the Enabling Good Lives programme be extended to enable more persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. The Committee also recommends that a range of supports be made available in the community to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise choice and control regarding where they live.

Denmark (2014)

42. The Committee is concerned about the increased construction, by municipalities, with State-guaranteed loans, of large institution-like residences for persons with disabilities, with thirty to sixty or even more residents, often outside city centres. It is also concerned about the recent surveys indicating the limited possibility for persons with disabilities to freely choose where to live, which has included instances of forced relocation.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party end the use of State-guaranteed loans to build institution-like residences for persons with disabilities; that it amend the legislation on social services so that persons with disabilities may freely choose where and with whom they live, while enjoying the necessary assistance to live independently; and that it take measures to close existing institution-like residences and to prevent the forced relocation of persons with disabilities, in order to avoid isolation from the community.

Republic of Korea (2014)

37. The Committee is concerned about the lack of efficiency of the deinstitutionalization strategies and the lack of sufficient measures aimed at including persons with disabilities in the community, as reflected by the increase in both the number of institutions for persons with disabilities and the number of residents, and the lack of policies for inclusion in the community with all necessary support services, including personal assistance services.

38. The Committee urges the State party to develop effective deinstitutionalization strategies based on the human rights model of disability and to significantly increase support services in the community, including personal assistance services.

39. The Committee is concerned that the amount that a person with disabilities is required to pay to receive personal assistant services is calculated based on the “degree of impairment” rather than on the characteristics, circumstances and needs of that person and on the income of the family rather than on the income of the person concerned, resulting in the exclusion of some persons with disabilities from receiving personal assistant services.

40. The Committee encourages the State party to ensure that social assistance programmes provide sufficient and fair financial assistance so that persons with disabilities can live independently in the community. The Committee recommends, in particular, that the State party base the amount of payment for the personal assistant services on the characteristics, circumstances and needs of the persons with disabilities, rather than on the “degree of impairment”, and on the income of the person with disabilities concerned, rather than on the income of his or her family.

Belgium (2014)

32. The Committee notes with concern the high rate of referral to institutional care for persons with disabilities in the State party and the lack of deinstitutionalization plans. It also notes that there is insufficient information on opportunities to continue living in society and the community, since institutional care is too often seen as the only lasting solution. Moreover,

there are very few opportunities for persons with disabilities to live independently owing to a lack of investment and the inadequacy of personal assistance services. The Committee is concerned about the policy on registration of institutions that care for French persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities, in the State party and the lack of monitoring of such institutions.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party work towards deinstitutionalization by reducing investment in collective infrastructure and promoting personal choice. The Committee urges the State party to implement a disability action plan at all levels of the State to guarantee access to services and an independent life for persons with disabilities so that they are able to live in the community. The action plan must eliminate current waiting lists and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sufficient financial resources and that communities are accessible for persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends that the State party devise international cooperation programmes that respect the right of persons with disabilities to live in the community and involve disabled persons' representatives and their families in their preparation.

Ecuador (2014)

34. The Committee is concerned that, although the Joaquín Gallegos Lara vouchers are provided so that persons with disabilities can have assistance in the home, these payments are made to the carers and not to the persons with disabilities themselves.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party review the criteria for issuing Joaquín Gallegos Lara vouchers to persons with disabilities, with a view to ensuring that it is they who receive such support to live independently and be included in the community.

Mexico (2014)

43. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a State strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and their ability to live independently. The Committee is further concerned by the absence of a specific and effective strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legislative, financial and other measures to ensure that persons with disabilities may live autonomously in the community. These measures should include personal assistance services, be culturally appropriate, enable beneficiaries to choose their lifestyle and place of residence and express their preferences and needs, and contain a gender and age perspective;

(b) Urgently define a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, including specific time frames and assessment measures.

Sweden (2014)

43. The Committee is concerned that State-funded personal assistance has been withdrawn for a number of people since 2010 due to a revised interpretation of "basic needs" and "other personal needs", and that persons who still receive assistance have experienced sharp cutbacks, the reasons for which are unknown or only seemingly justified. It is further concerned at the reported number of positive decisions under the Swedish Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments that are not executed.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that personal assistance programmes provide sufficient and fair financial assistance to ensure that a person can live independently in the community.

Azerbaijan (2014)

32. The Committee is concerned that notwithstanding the State party's efforts to implement the State Programme on De-Institutionalisation and Alternative Care 2006-2015 and to reduce

the number of people living in institutions, the level of institutionalisation remains high particularly among children. The Committee is particularly concerned at the lack of information on the promotion of independent living for persons with intellectual disabilities instead of their institutionalisation in psychiatric institutions

33. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify the implementation of its de-institutionalization programme strategies with a view to promoting community based services and support independent living. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure that social assistance programmes provide sufficient financial assistance to facilitate independent living in the community.

Costa Rica (2014)

39. The Committee regrets that there is no deinstitutionalization strategy for persons with disabilities in the State party. It is also concerned to note that, in the absence of due State supervision and control, the number of private care homes and shelters in which persons with disabilities are institutionalized is rising.

40. The Committee urges the State party to immediately adopt a deinstitutionalization policy for persons with disabilities, including those in psychiatric hospitals, and which incorporates a comprehensive, human rights-centred mental health strategy. It also recommends the establishment of institutional facilities for persons with disabilities to be controlled and discouraged, and urges the State party to adopt a policy of developing community services so as to ensure that persons with disabilities can be included in the community.

Australia (2013)

41. The Committee is concerned that despite the policy to close large residential centres, new initiatives replicate institutional living arrangements, and many persons with disabilities are still compelled to live in residential institutions in order to receive disability support.

42. The Committee encourages the State party to develop and implement a national framework for the closure of residential institutions and allocate the resources necessary for support services that would enable persons with disabilities to live in their communities. The Committee recommends that the state party takes immediate action to make sure that persons with disabilities are given a free choice of where they want to live and with whom and be able to receive the necessary support regardless of the place of residence. The State party should therefore conduct a mapping of the various forms of living accommodation based on the needs of various kinds of persons with disabilities.

Austria (2013)

36. The Committee notes with concern reports that over the last twenty years the population of Austrians with disabilities, who are institutional dwellers, has increased. The Committee is particularly concerned by this phenomenon because institutions are contrary to article 19 of the Convention and leave persons vulnerable to violence and to abuse.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the Federal Government and the Governments of the Länder place greater efforts on de-institutionalisation and in allowing persons with disabilities to choose where they live.

38. The Committee commends Austria on its various personal assistance programs (at the federal and Länder levels) to assist persons with disabilities. The Committee notes with concern that the personal assistance programs are not available to persons with psychosocial disabilities and that not all cover persons with intellectual disabilities.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the assistance programs provide sufficient financial assistance to ensure that persons can live independently in the community. The Committee further recommends that the State Party harmonise and broaden its personal assistance programs by making personal assistants available to all persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

El Salvador (2013)

41. The Committee notes that the State party does not have a legal and public policy framework on the right to live independently and that poverty serves as a background for the abandonment and isolation of persons with disabilities and their separation from their families and communities. The Committee regrets that children with disabilities remain subject to institutional placement.

42. The Committee urges the State party to adopt, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, an adequately funded strategy to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities, including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial impairments, and ensure their social inclusion and their right to live independently in the community, with the possibility of a personal assistant or support services in the home. It also recommends the adoption of measures to prevent persons with disabilities being hidden or isolated from society or being separated from their families and social circle, including through granting their families the necessary support.

Paraguay (2013)

47. The Committee regrets that the State party has still made no significant progress on a mental health policy that includes measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities who are currently housed in psychiatric hospitals, institutions for children with disabilities and shelters for homeless persons, particularly children, with disabilities.

48. The Committee asks the State party to implement a policy to gradually deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities, with clear time frames and benchmarks, and which includes the setting up of community services, including rights-based mental health services.

49. The Committee is concerned at the lack of understanding of the importance of persons with disabilities being able to live an independent life as part of the community. It is also concerned at the lack of measures and policies aimed at including persons with disabilities in the community and the low level of involvement of local authorities and institutions in this question.

50. The Committee urges the State party to encourage the creation of services aimed at including persons with disabilities in the community and, to that end, to obtain the involvement and commitment of the authorities at all levels, particularly the local and the community levels, and to conduct appropriate consultations and encourage the involvement of disabled persons' organizations in these services.

Argentina (2012)

33. The Committee regrets that the State party's Support Service for Independent Living (SAVA) is not yet operational, and it is concerned that the available resources and services are of insufficient quality and quantity to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and to be included in the community.

34. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the Support Service for Independent Living (SAVA) becomes operational as soon as possible and to develop and implement comprehensive programmes that will enable persons with disabilities to have access to a wide range of in-home, residential, community-based and other rehabilitation services and to freely choose where and how to live.

China (2012)

31. The Committee is concerned about the high number of persons with disabilities living in institutions and about the fact that China maintains institutions with up to 2000 residents. Such institutions are not in compliance with art. 19 CRPD. The Committee is further concerned about the existence of lepers colonies, where people with leprosy live in isolation.

32. The Committee recommends taking immediate steps to phase out and eliminate institutional-based care for people with disabilities. Further, the Committee recommends to

State party to consult with organisations of persons with disabilities on developing support services for persons with disabilities to live independently in accordance with their own choice. Support services should also be provided to persons with a high level of support needs. In addition, the Committee suggests that the state party undertake all necessary measures to grant people with leprosy the medical treatment needed and to reintegrate them into the community, thereby eliminating the existence of such lepers' colonies.

Hong-Kong (2012)

69. The Committee is concerned about the shortage of subvented residential homes. It is also worried about the lack of premises for District Support Centres, whose aim is to strengthen the ability of persons with disabilities to live at home in their own community and be integrated into society.

70. The Committee suggests that Hong Kong, China, allocate more resources to setting up more subvented mainstream residential homes and strengthening policies promoting establishment of accessible living facilities to secure the de facto possibility of free choice of accommodation. It calls upon Hong Kong, China, to ensure that the District Support Centres receive the necessary funds and premises in order to enable persons with disabilities to live in the community.

Macao (2012)

92. The Committee is concerned that the right to live independently and in the community has not yet been fully achieved in the Macao, China.

93. The Committee urges the Macao, China, to prioritize the implementation of this right and shift from institutionalization to in-home or residential living as well as provide other community support services.

Hungary (2012)

33. The Committee takes note that the State party has recognized the need for the replacement of large social institutions for persons with disabilities in community-based settings (deinstitutionalisation). The Committee, however, notes with concern that the State party has set a 30 year time frame for its plan for deinstitutionalisation. It is furthermore concerned that the State party dedicated disproportionately large resources, including regional EU funds, to reconstruction of large institutions, which will lead to continued segregation in comparison to sufficient resources dedicated to setting up of community-based support service networks. The Committee is concerned that the State party fails to provide sufficient and adequate support services in local communities that would enable persons with disabilities to live independently outside the residential institutions settings.

34. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that an adequate level of funding is made available to effectively enable persons with disabilities to: enjoy the freedom to choose their residence on an equal basis with others; access a full range of in-home, residential and other community services for daily life, including personal assistance; and enjoy reasonable accommodation with a view to supporting their inclusion in their local communities.

35. The Committee further calls upon the State party to re-examine the allocation of funds, including the regional funds obtained from the EU, dedicated to the provision of support services for persons with disabilities, and the structure and functioning of the small community living centres, and ensure the full compliance with the provisions of article 19 of the Convention.

Peru (2012)

32. The Committee is concerned at the absence of resources and services to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and to be included in the community, in particular in rural areas.

33. The Committee urges the State party to initiate comprehensive programmes to enable persons with disabilities to access a whole range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community, especially in rural areas.

Spain (2011)

39. The Committee is concerned at the lack of resources and services to guarantee the right to live independently and to be included in the community, in particular in rural areas. It is further concerned that the choice of residence of persons with disabilities is limited by the availability of the necessary services, and that those living in residential institutions are reported to have no alternative to institutionalization. Finally, the Committee is concerned about linking eligibility of social services to a specific grade of disability.

40. The Committee encourages the State party to ensure that an adequate level of funding is made available to effectively enable persons with disabilities: to enjoy the freedom to choose their residence on an equal basis with others; to access a full range of in-home, residential and other community services for daily life, including personal assistance; and to so enjoy reasonable accommodation so as to better integrate into their communities.

41. The Committee is concerned that the law for the promotion of autonomy limits the resources to hire personal assistants only to those persons who have level 3 disabilities and only for education and work.

42. The Committee encourages the State party to expand resources for personal assistants to all persons with disabilities in accordance with their requirements.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 20 CRPD
(Personal mobility)*

September 2025

Article 20 - Personal mobility

States Parties shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including by:

- a) Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost;*
- b) Facilitating access by persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost;*
- c) Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities;*
- d) Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities.*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)

Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Niger (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Montenegro (2017)

Morocco (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Uganda (2016)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on Art. 20 on Canada (2025), Denmark (2024), Costa Rica (2024), Israel, Mauritania, China, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Cuba, Norway, Spain, Turkey, Bulgaria, Haiti, Luxembourg, Panama, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Cyprus, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Bolivia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Chile, Lithuania, Portugal, Thailand, Brazil, Kenya, Mauritius, Qatar, Ukraine, Cook Islands, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Germany, Turkmenistan, Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea Sweden, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Australia, Austria, Argentina, China, Hungary, Peru, Spain, Tunisia, Mexico, Switzerland, Venezuela, China, Hong Kong, Macao and the Republic of Korea.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of specific mechanisms to provide mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of information provided by the State Party on the accessibility of transport, particularly in rural and remote areas, beyond the existence of a taxi service for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information provided by the State Party on technical training on personal mobility that includes persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Establish and implement specific, adequately resourced mechanisms to ensure the timely provision, maintenance, and replacement of affordable mobility aids, devices, and assistive technologies for all persons with disabilities, taking into account individual requirements and preferences;**
- (b) Systematically collect and publish disaggregated data on the accessibility of public and private transport, including in rural and remote areas, and take targeted measures to ensure that all transport services are physically and technologically accessible as well as affordable to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Develop, resource, and implement accessible technical training programmes on personal mobility for persons with disabilities, ensuring their meaningful participation in the design, delivery, and evaluation of such programmes.**

Finland (2025)

38. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The insufficient availability of accessible public transport and the discretionary criteria from Social Welfare Counties for granting access to transport services;
- (b) Restrictive amendments to criteria for accessing technical aids, and cutbacks on tax exemptions for the acquisition of vehicles and assistive technologies;

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure availability of accessible public transport and private and/or shared complementary transport options throughout the territory, and establish harmonized guidelines across all Social Welfare Counties to ensure transparency and equity in access to mobility services for all persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that budget cuts do not infringe on the autonomy of persons with disabilities, guarantee the provision of technical aids, including vehicles and assistive technologies, at affordable cost, and eliminate bureaucratic barriers in access to technical aids.**

Kiribati (2025)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited availability and affordability of mobility aids, devices, and assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, which remain largely dependent on external donor support;
- (b) The lack of trained personnel for the fitting, repair, and maintenance of mobility devices, the concentration of services in South Tarawa, and the absence of a comprehensive national strategy to guarantee personal mobility for persons with disabilities across all islands.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take necessary measures, in cooperation with relevant donors and development partners, to facilitate access for all persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies at an affordable cost, particularly on the outer islands, as well as measures to provide for fitting, repair and maintenance of those devices through the Tungaru Rehabilitation Service and community-based approaches;**

(b) Ensure affordability of assistive devices by introducing incentive measures, including tax and custom exemptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and devices for persons with disabilities.

Maldives (2025)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The challenges that persons with disabilities face in obtaining, using, and maintaining the mobility aids, assistive devices, and assistive technologies and services, due to the partial subsidies provided by the National Social Protection Agency (NSPA) to cover the cost, the limited range of assistive devices available through current support schemes, and the lack of orientation and mobility practitioners, as well as teachers, to train persons with motor impairments, and blind and visually impaired persons on the use of their assistive technologies;

(b) The barriers that persons with disabilities face with regard to obtaining driver's license;

(c) The absence of locally manufactured assistive aids and devices, which results in a heavy reliance on expensive overseas procurement and external donations for mobility equipment, thereby creating significant barriers for persons with disabilities in accessing the essential support and services needed to ensure their mobility and independence, and that imported assistive devices for persons with disabilities are expensive and not exempted from taxes and additional duties.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national strategy, to ensure individualized access of persons with disabilities to mobility aids, assistive technologies, live assistance, and intermediary services for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies at an affordable cost, particularly in the outer islands, as well as measures to provide for training, arranging repair and maintenance of those devices and technologies, taking into account the WHO Priority Assistive Products List (APL);

(b) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to obtaining a driver's license by introducing and enforcing reasonable accommodations in the driver testing and licensing processes;

(c) Ensure affordability of vehicles and assistive devices, including by applying incentive measures and tax and custom exemptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and devices for persons with disabilities, and review taxation laws to allow tax exemption for vehicles and assistive devices for use by persons with all types of disabilities.

Dominican Republic (2025)

37. The Committee notes with concern that mobility equipment and assistive devices remain unaffordable for many persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party eliminate all barriers to persons with disabilities acquiring affordable and high-quality mobility aids, assistive devices and assistive technologies and services so as to aid their personal mobility and provide the necessary information and training on their usage and maintenance.

European Union (2025)

50. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities cannot travel independently and spontaneously due to pre-notification requirements and mobility barriers in all transport modes;

(b) Regulation TSI-PRM allows the use of inaccessible trains and does not address the platform-train interface;

(c) Passenger rights regulations deny transport based on "safety considerations" and do not provide compensation when assistance fails to materialize or when denied boarding; and in air transport, compensation is limited;

(d) Many transport providers do not allow the use of mobility equipment on buses or trains;

(e) Only 250 bus stops in the EU are designated to provide assistance and there is a lack of information on the frequency and content of training of bus and coach staff.

51. The Committee recalls its previous Concluding Observations and Recommendations (para. 53) and recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Revise the passenger rights regulations for all transport modes to eliminate pre-notification requirements and ensure spontaneous travel;**
- (b) Include comprehensive accessibility requirements for train stations and rolling stock in the upcoming TSI PRM revision, ensuring independent boarding and removing exceptions for double-decker trains and restaurant cars;**
- (c) Prohibit denial of boarding on disability-related grounds and establish compensation mechanisms for violations; ensure full liability of air carriers for damaged or lost mobility equipment and prevent denial of boarding in air transport;**
- (d) Develop harmonized accessibility standards for all forms of transport, including urban transport, to ensure accessibility and accommodation of mobility equipment;**
- (e) Increase the number of bus stops with assistance for persons with disabilities and provide training on accessibility of persons with disabilities for drivers and personnel operating bus stops.**

Palau (2025)

37. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing, using and maintaining the mobility aids, assistive devices and assistive technologies and services, including accessible transportation and infrastructure, necessary for their personal mobility;
- (b) The reliance on overseas procurement and external donations for specialized mobility equipment, as well as the limited availability of prosthetic and orthotic services.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to eliminate all barriers hindering persons with disabilities from acquiring affordable and high-quality mobility aids, assistive devices and assistive technologies and services, including accessible transportation and infrastructure, and ensure the availability of the necessary information and training on their usage and maintenance;**
- (b) Ensure affordability of vehicles and assistive devices, including by applying incentive measures and tax and custom exemptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and devices for persons with disabilities, and review taxation laws to allow tax exemption for vehicles and assistive devices for use by persons with all categories of disabilities.**

Tuvalu (2025)

37. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About difficulties faced by persons with disabilities, in particular those with motor and visual impairments, in accessing quality and affordable mobility and assistive technologies, live assistance and intermediaries;
- (b) That imported assistive devices for persons with disabilities are expensive and not exempted from taxes and additional duties.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take necessary measures, in cooperation with relevant national and international actors, to facilitate access for all persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies at an affordable cost, particularly in the outer islands, as well as measures to provide for training, arranging repair and maintenance of those devices and technologies;**
- (b) Train and deploy adequate numbers of orientation and mobility instructors for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure affordability of vehicles and assistive devices, including by applying incentive measures and tax and custom exemptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and**

devices for persons with disabilities, and review taxation laws to allow tax exemption for vehicles and assistive devices for use by persons with all categories of disabilities.

Viet Nam (2025)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistent inaccessibility of public spaces and sidewalks due to obstacles such as street vendors and parked motorcycles;
- (b) The barriers to obtaining driving licenses for persons with disabilities, including regulations that disproportionately affect them and limited support for acquiring and adapting private vehicles;
- (c) The high cost and limited availability of assistive technologies, despite encouraging policies, and the lack of clear funding or guidelines for accessibility-related innovation.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement regulations to remove obstacles from public pathways, ensuring sidewalks and public spaces remain accessible;**
- (b) Review Circular 24/2015 to eliminate disability-based driving restrictions, assessing applicants based on driving capability instead, and provide financial and policy incentives for persons with disabilities to acquire and adapt private vehicles for independent mobility;**
- (c) Introduce funding programmes to support the research, development, and distribution of affordable assistive technologies, ensuring wide availability for persons with disabilities.**

Belarus (2024)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a comprehensive strategy, action plan or targeted legislation to improve the individual safety of persons with disabilities for their personal mobility, in a manner ensuring universal access to appropriate mobility aids and assistive devices;
- (b) The lack of orientation and mobility training programmes for children and adults with disabilities and the absence of clear mechanisms to provide them with aids and assistive technologies that help them to move around independently and safely.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a national strategy or targeted legislation on personal mobility, guaranteeing universal access to appropriate mobility aids, and other assistive technologies;**
- (b) Develop specialized mobility training for children and adults with disabilities and provide the necessary assistive technology, tools and aids to enable persons with disabilities to exercise their right to mobility safely and independently.**

Belgium (2024)

40. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That accessibility of public transportation and other mobility services continues to be insufficient, and that persons with disabilities over the age of 65 are generally not entitled to mobility aids, devices and assistive technology;
- (b) About the lack of an adequate budget to strengthen the quality of essential services in medical settings, and the provision of guide and assistance dogs;
- (c) About the application of a medical model of disability in the assessment of the need for mobility aids.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Ensure that mobility policies meet the requirements of persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities over the age of 65, and that mobility aids are adapted to the requirements of each individual person with disabilities, at affordable cost;**
- (b) Develop disability inclusive budgeting plans at all levels of government, to guarantee a sufficient allocation of financial resources to strengthen the quality of essential services, including in medical settings as well as guide and assistance dogs;**

(c) Fundamentally reorient its disability assessment systems by replacing elements of the medical model of disability with principles of the human rights model of disability, by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers to persons with disabilities, and by the provision of the support and assistance necessary realize the right to independent living and being included in society of persons with disabilities.

Benin (2024)

39. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Challenges faced by persons with disabilities, particularly those with mobility and visual impairments, in accessing quality and affordable mobility and assistive technologies, live assistance and intermediaries, in accordance with article 20 (b) of the Convention, especially in rural areas;

(b) The lack of orientation and mobility practitioners, as well as teachers, to train persons with disabilities in remote and rural areas, on the use of their assistive technologies.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure access for all persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies at an affordable cost, particularly in rural areas, and to provide the National Solidarity Support Fund with sufficient financial resources to enable it to fulfil its mandate on promoting the mobility of persons with disabilities;

(b) Train and deploy adequate numbers of orientation and mobility instructors for persons with disabilities.

Burkina Faso (2024)

38. The Committee is concerned that the benefits of the legislation concerning mobility of persons have been limited, in particular that:

(a) Requests for exemption from custom taxes and VAT are not systematically satisfied and the reduction in acquisition costs provided for by the texts for the benefit of non-indigent people with a disability remains unapplied in reality;

(b) The costs of acquiring mobility equipment remain out of reach for many persons with disabilities, and the State's allocations of mobility equipment are both one-off and derisory;

(c) Persons with disabilities and staff working with persons with disabilities are not trained in mobility skills.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the necessary measures for the effective application of Law No. 012-2010/AN of 1 April 2010 on the exemption from import fees for motor or non-motorized vehicles intended for the use of disabled persons, in particular to adopt the necessary regulatory texts to allow the effective application by the competent technical services of these social measures and extend these exemptions to all types of mobility aids, assistive devices and assistive technologies;

(b) Eliminate all barriers hindering persons with disabilities from acquiring affordable and high-quality mobility aids, assistive devices and assistive technologies and services, including accessible transportation and infrastructure, so as to aid their personal mobility, and provide the necessary information and training on their usage and maintenance. It also recommends that the State party create an enabling environment whereby persons with disabilities can procure such devices by developing the means of manufacturing and repairing such devices at an affordable cost;

(c) Provide training to persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and specialist staff on mobility skills and raise awareness among persons with disabilities and their representative organizations on the legal measures and services for accessing mobility aids and the provision of mobility aids, assistive devices and other assistive technologies and forms of assistance.

Ghana (2024)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The inapplicability of tax exemption to manufacturers of technical aids or appliances for the use of persons with disabilities given the lack of regulations for Section 36 of the Persons with Disability Act, and the lack of Assistive technologies, including appliances, orthopaedic, prosthesis and optical aids and hearing aids which are not covered by the National Health Insurance Scheme;

(b) The significant and increasing challenges faced by persons with disabilities, in accessing quality and affordable mobility and assistive technologies, live assistance and intermediaries, especially in remote and rural areas, and the lack of orientation and mobility practitioners, as well as teachers, to train persons with disabilities on the use of their assistive technologies to enhance their dignity and respect in society;

(c) The Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention, 1944) which has provisions relating to travel by air for persons with disabilities has not been ratified.

39. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Expedite the development and implementation of regulations for Section 36 of the Persons with Disability Act to ensure tax exemptions for manufacturers of technical aids and appliances are put into effect, and amend the National Health Insurance Scheme, to explicitly require the provision of access to essential assistive devices and technology, in line with the Convention, and ensure these are affordable and accessible to all persons with disabilities;

(b) Adopt measures to facilitate the acquisition of the necessary mobility and assistive technologies, live assistance and intermediaries, particularly for persons with physical and vision impairments , especially in remote and rural areas;

(c) Adopt an effective national strategy for the training and retraining of orientation and mobility practitioners and teachers in the use of devices for persons with physical and vision impairments, particularly in remote and rural areas;

(d) Ratify the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention, 1944) and work with domestic air carriers to address insurance and aircraft design issues, ensuring that air travel is accessible to persons with disabilities, including those using wheelchairs.

Mauritius (2024)

33. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The financial support provided for assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing aids and spectacles is largely insufficient to afford the devices;

(b) The duty-free purchase of adapted cars is only available for persons with disabilities who are employed and under the age of 60 years;

(c) There are limitations in physical access to public transportation, both in urban and rural areas, such as the incomplete accessibility of semi-low floor buses to all persons using mobility aids and assistive devices and the physical difficulty to reach metro stations.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revert back to the original scheme of directly providing assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing aids and spectacles, in lieu of financial support;

(b) Expand the eligibility for duty-free purchase of any type of car to all persons with disabilities requiring a vehicle;

(c) Review the public procurement of transport facilities, vehicles and equipment to ensure that the specifications include accessibility criteria, such as ramps for persons using mobility aids and assistive devices, and take measures to facilitate physical access to the metro stations.

Netherlands (2024)

45. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That public transport is not yet fully accessible for persons with disabilities, limiting their ability to move freely and independently, and the problems encountered when combining different types of transport, leading to coordination problems and inconsistent accessibility; the partial replacement of public transport with neighbourhood buses run by volunteers that are not accessible, leading to reliance on segregated target group transport;
- (b) The reported problems with target group transport persons with disabilities are still very much reliant on, such as lacking availability, punctuality, significantly longer travel time compared to regular public transport;
- (c) The different laws and regimes applicable, and the different authorities responsible for the provision of mobility aids, leading to fragmentation and administrative obstacles, such as the need for reapplication upon retirement or moving between municipalities; the contractual limitations in the range of mobility aid instruments provided by support provision organisations in asylum centres and the resulting lower quality.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expeditiously ensure full accessibility of public transport, regardless of mode of transportation or provider;**
- (b) Minimize the need for target group transport by ensuring all public transport is fully accessible; improve the reliability and efficiency of target group transport;**
- (c) Harmonize laws and regulations concerning the provision of mobility aids to maintain continuity of support and services; ensure that all asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations have access to high-quality mobility aids that meet their specific requirements.**

Ukraine (2024)

40. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive strategy and plan to provide timely assistive technology products to persons with cognitive, communication, hearing, mobility, and vision impairments in urban and rural areas and conflict-affected territories.

41. The Committee recommends that the State Party adopt a comprehensive strategy and plan to ensure timely access by all persons with disabilities, in particular those with disabilities living in the conflict-affected territories, to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and all forms of live assistance, including by making them available at an affordable cost.

Azerbaijan (2024)

45. The Committee notes with concern the absence of information about access to quality mobility aids, devices by persons with disabilities, training on mobility skills, particularly in rural areas.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to quality mobility aid, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries at affordable cost;**
- (b) Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of initiatives in improving accessibility and personal mobility for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Increase public investment in supports such as affordable assistive devices and accessible public transportation to further promote personal mobility and independence of persons with disabilities.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

40. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mobility training programs for persons with disabilities. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mobility training programs for

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

persons with disabilities and the lack of clear mechanisms to provide them with aids and assistive technologies to help them move independently and safely.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party, through close consultation and the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations, develop specialized mobility training for children and adults with disabilities and provide the necessary assistive technology, tools and aids to enable persons with disabilities to exercise their right to mobility safely and independently.

Kazakhstan (2024)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of national strategy and action plan to promote personal mobility for persons with disabilities and differentiate it from medical rehabilitation and medical aids provision;
- (b) The lack of specialized training for persons with disabilities in particular persons with visual impairment on the orientation skills;
- (c) The lack of training on using the provided technical assistive devices for persons with disabilities to promote their personal mobility and the lack of maintenance services.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, a national strategy and action plan on personal mobility, including the provision of training and assistive devices;**
- (b) Develop affordable and accessible services to repair and improve the function of the mobility assistive devices for persons with disabilities.**

Nicaragua (2024)

40. Al Comité le preocupa:

- a) La falta de información sobre medidas específicas para mejorar la movilidad de las personas con discapacidad, y que estas se enfocan casi exclusivamente hacia personas con discapacidad física;
- b) Que el Programa “Todos con Voz” tenga un enfoque médico contrario a la Convención y no cuente con medidas que faciliten el acceso a tecnologías de alta calidad y fácil uso para las personas con discapacidad y que tampoco cuente con cobertura nacional ni recursos humanos capacitados para atender a todas las personas con discapacidad en el Estado parte.

41. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que en coordinación y estrecha consulta con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan:

- a) Implemente medidas para mejorar la movilidad de personas con discapacidad y estas se extiendan a todos los tipos de discapacidad, incluidas las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial;**
- b) Reoriente el Programa “Todos con Voz” al modelo de derechos humanos que establece la Convención e implemente medidas que garanticen la disponibilidad de tecnologías de alta calidad, el acceso y la asequibilidad de los dispositivos de fácil uso, incluida la capacitación y formación del personal, así como el incremento de presupuesto para ampliar la cobertura del programa a todo el territorio nacional.**

Sweden (2024)

45. The Committee is concerned about the lack of ‘accompanying person service’ to support personal mobility, including for persons in special accommodation for older persons and in group homes and for persons who are blind.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party enhance measures to support personal mobility, including a national program for the provision of ‘accompanying person service’ to support personal mobility, in particular for persons in special accommodation for older persons and in group homes and for persons who are blind.

Zambia (2024)

39. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) At the lack of adequate funding of the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities, which impedes it to fulfil its mandate to supply the needed mobility aids and other assistive devices for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) That there is a limited number of professionals and teachers able to train persons with disabilities in the use of available devices and equipment;
- (c) That only vehicles which are already adapted from the source and which can be personally driven by the importing individuals are exempted from taxes and additional duties, limiting this benefit to only those who can drive themselves.

40. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Take necessary measures, in cooperation with relevant national and international actors, to facilitate access for all persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies at an affordable cost, particularly in rural areas, and provide Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities with sufficient financial resources to enable it to fulfil its mandate;**
- (b) Train and deploy adequate numbers of orientation and mobility instructors for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure affordability of vehicles and assistive devices, including by applying incentive measures and tax and custom exemptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and devices for persons with disabilities, and provide fiscal and capacity support for local enterprises with the interest and ability to manufacture aids for the local market at affordable prices, and review taxation laws to allow tax exemption for vehicles for use by persons with all categories of disabilities irrespective of whether or not they can personally drive themselves.**

Andorra (2023)

41. The Committee notes a range of mobility options available to persons with disabilities, such as a card for free access to public transportation, a parking card to allow persons with reduced mobility to park in reserved spaces, and financial assistance for adapting vehicles of persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, it is concerned about:

- (a) The limited information on the resources invested to improve accessibility in all communes (comuns) according to the Accessibility Catalogue;
- (b) The insufficient access to quality mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies, and forms of life assistance for persons with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the accountability of the resources used to improve accessibility in all communes (comuns) according to the Accessibility Catalogue;**
- (b) Enhance efforts to ensure that mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies are affordable for all persons with disabilities, including by promoting local repairs, providing government and tax subsidies, and waiving taxes and customs charges.**

Austria (2023)

47. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) State party subsidies for the adaptation of vehicles, including cars of persons with disabilities, are granted solely to employed people, jobseekers, apprentices, and pensioners, that there is no legal right to such subsidies, and that there is insufficient data on them;
- (b) The shortage of training personnel for assistive devices, including mobility devices, and the high cost of assistive devices and equipment restrict access of persons with disabilities to the appropriate assistive devices, modification services and quality mobility aids.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Guarantee a legal right to mobility subsidies and extend it to persons with disabilities outside of the employment context;**
- (b) Ensure the availability of sufficient qualified training personnel for mobility issues and the affordability of appropriate assistive devices, modification services and mobility aids, including assistive technology, for all persons with disabilities.**

Germany (2023)

45. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comprehensive and consistent mechanisms across all Länder to ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with affordable, quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and other forms of assistance based on individual requirements.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party establish comprehensive and consistent mechanisms across all Länder to facilitate the provision of affordable, quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and other forms of assistance based on the individual requirements of persons with disabilities.

Malawi (2023)

41. The Committee observes with concern the absence of mechanisms for ensuring access by persons with disabilities, including children, to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries. It also notes the absence of training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures, including through public procurement, to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to necessary personal mobility aids, devices and other assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries that are affordable, of acceptable quality, based on universal design and responsive to individualized requirements and that enhance the autonomy of persons with disabilities;**

(b) Adopt programmes to promote research, developing, design and production of mobility aids, devices and other assistive technologies to consider all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities;

(c) Provide training to persons with disabilities, including children, and to specialist staff, on mobility skill and raise awareness among persons with disabilities and their representative organizations of legal measures and services enabling access to mobility aids and the provision of mobility aids, assistive devices and other assistive technologies and forms of assistance.

Mongolia (2023)

41. The Committee remains concerned at the lack of progress concerning measures taken to ensure personal mobility of persons with disabilities, including the lack of access to quality and affordable mobility devices and technologies, in particular in rural and remote areas.

42. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/MNG/1, para.33) and recommends that the State party review the List of assistive devices (Ordinance No. 363/2021) and develop a regulation on quality assistive devices, technologies and services, and adopt other appropriate measures, with the support of national and international cooperation, to facilitate the access to necessary and quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, especially in rural and remote areas, free of charge or at an affordable cost.

Paraguay (2023)

37. Al Comité le preocupa que no existe una estrategia nacional para el suministro de tecnología de asistencia, además los costos de acceso a los dispositivos y tecnologías de asistencia de calidad sean inasequibles y recaigan principalmente en las propias personas con discapacidad y sus familias, lo que dificulta la provisión de todos los aspectos de la movilidad personal en igualdad de condiciones que los demás.

38. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que elabore una estrategia para garantizar la disponibilidad, el acceso y la asequibilidad de los dispositivos y tecnologías de asistencia de calidad en todo el país, incluso proporcionando ayuda financiera para cubrir los costos de los dispositivos y tecnologías de asistencia, ya sea total o parcialmente.

Angola (2023)

33. The Committee notes that the Angolan Executive supports the mobility of persons with disabilities through the provision of Assistive Aid Grants, however, it is concerned that only those who are registered can benefit from the grants, that many of the assistive devices are not locally made yet and therefore depend on importation by private suppliers with high prices, as well as that are reported delays in the delivery of the assistive devices due to long process to approve applications. The Committee also notes that the Angolan Executive intend to build a facility to produce assistive devices to lower the cost of those technologies however, it is concerned that persons with disabilities are not aware of this.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take available measures to ensure access to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies for all persons with disabilities irrespective of their registration status, in particular those who are unemployed or are low-income earners;

(b) Ensure appropriate budget allocations for assistive aid grants to meet the costs and demand for assistive devices and to ease the burden on the part of the individuals who need them;

(c) Consider the introduction of measures to reduce the costs of acquiring assistive equipment and devices, such as tax or customs exemptions for the purchases, and fiscal and capacity support for local enterprises with the interest and ability to manufacture aids for local markets;

(d) Ensure that persons with disabilities through their representative organisations are meaningfully consulted in the construction of facilities to produce assistive devices for their benefit.

Argentina (2023)

39. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) Las empresas prestadoras no cumplen con el Decreto 38/04, reglamentario de la Ley 22.431, que dispone la gratuidad del transporte a larga distancia para las personas con discapacidad, y en su lugar, se alinean con el Decreto 118/06 que establece un cupo de asientos para las personas con discapacidad en este tipo de transporte;
- b) La falta de inclusión de las personas con discapacidad en el Sistema de Boleto Único Electrónico del Área Metropolitana de Buenos Aires;
- c) El poco acceso a ayudas para la movilidad, ayudas técnicas y tecnologías de apoyo de calidad, y a las formas de asistencia humana o animal e intermediarios, especialmente fuera de las grandes ciudades;
- d) La falta de participación de las personas con discapacidad en el Comité de Asesoramiento y Contralor de la Ley 24.314 sobre accesibilidad de personas con movilidad reducida.

40. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:**

- a) **Derogar el Decreto 118/06 que, al establecer un cupo de asientos para las personas con discapacidad en el transporte de larga distancia, limita la posibilidad de obtener pasajes gratuitos, y asegurar que los prestadores de servicio cumplan con el Decreto 38/04;**
- b) **Incluir a las personas con discapacidad en el Sistema Único de Boleto Electrónico del Área Metropolitana de Buenos Aires y promover la aplicación de medidas similares en otras provincias;**
- c) **Asegurar que las ayudas para la movilidad, las ayudas técnicas y las tecnologías de apoyo estén al alcance de las personas con discapacidad en todas las jurisdicciones, entre otras cosas mediante el fomento de la reparación local, la concesión de ventajas fiscales y subvenciones públicas, y la exoneración de impuestos y de tasas aduaneras;**
- d) **Garantizar la participación de personas con discapacidad en el Comité de Asesoramiento y Contralor de la Ley 24.314.**

Georgia (2023)

41. The Committee is concerned about the lack of available and affordable assistive devices and related support services for all persons with disabilities. Particularly, it observes the limited coverage of the wheelchair voucher scheme under the sub-program on the "provision of supporting equipment", which is restricted to one type of bus transport organization and accessible to only one type of wheelchair. It is also concerned that personal mobility in public transport is not ensured for persons with visual or hearing impairments.

42. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Strengthen its measures to ensure that private entities providing transport services introduce a range of measures to facilitate personal mobility, such as guide dogs, mobility aids, devices, and live assistance;**
- (b) Develop public policies at the national and municipal level to ensure the availability, equal distribution and affordability of assistive devices for all persons with disabilities and support the development of mobility skills by children with disabilities.**

Peru (2023)

40. Al Comité le preocupa que a pesar de la obligación de proporcionar tecnologías de asistencia, particularmente para la movilidad personal, que establece el artículo 33 de la Ley General de la Persona con Discapacidad, no existe una estrategia nacional para el suministro de dicha tecnología, tras identificarse la necesidad y haberse certificado la discapacidad, incluso a las personas suscritas al sistema contributivo o al SIS, por lo tanto las personas con

discapacidad a menudo dependen de donaciones de las autoridades locales, del CONADIS, o tienen que comprar sus propios dispositivos de apoyo, lo que dificulta la provisión de todos los aspectos de la movilidad personal en igualdad de condiciones con los demás.

41. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que elabore e implemente una estrategia coordinada entre el Ministerio de Salud, el Seguro Integral de Salud del Ministerio de Salud y el CONADIS para garantizar la disponibilidad, el acceso y la asequibilidad de los dispositivos y tecnologías de asistencia, incluyendo de movilidad personal, en todo el país, incluso proporcionando ayuda financiera para cubrir los costes de los dispositivos y tecnologías de asistencia, ya sea total o parcialmente.

Togo (2023)

41. The Committee is concerned that vehicles meant for use by persons with disabilities need to be modified before their importation to the country, which results in high costs and additional taxes and duties, and complex bureaucratic procedures to request exemption of these vehicles and other assistive devices from importation taxes and duties, even when all the conditions have been fulfilled.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure access to quality mobile aids, devices and assistive technologies for all persons with disabilities and simplify procedures to obtain vehicles and other assistive device to ease the burden on the individuals who need them;

(b) Ensure affordability of vehicles and assistive devices, including by applying incentive measures and tax and custom exemptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and devices for persons with disabilities, and provide fiscal and capacity support for local enterprises with the interest and ability to manufacture aids for the local market at affordable prices.

Tunisia (2023)

35. The Committee is concerned by the article 47 of decree n°2022-79 related to the finance law for the year 2023, which may negatively affect persons with disability in need of motor vehicles specially adapted for their personal mobility, in contradiction with the Convention. It is further concerned about the alleged lack of facilities to ensure accessible transport for blind and visually impaired persons.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review article 47 of the decree n°2022-79 related to the finance law for the year 2023 to ensure that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their categories of disabilities, have a right to be exempted from paying any fees and taxes on vehicles or medical and assistive devices and equipment;

(b) Review article 47 of the decree n°2022-79 related to the finance law for the year 2023 to ensure that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their types of disabilities, have the right to be exempted from paying any fees and taxes on vehicles or medical and assistive devices and equipment;

(c) Provide all necessary mobility assistive devices including prosthetic for persons with disabilities and include them in the system of materials supported by the State party;

(d) Take measures to make public transportation accessible to persons with disabilities, especially to persons with physical disabilities as well as the visually impaired persons.

Bangladesh (2022)

41. The Committee is concerned about the barriers often experienced by persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities, in obtaining, using and maintaining mobility aids, assistive devices and assistive technologies and services, including accessible transportation and infrastructure, necessary for their personal mobility, particularly in rural areas.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party eliminate all barriers in the way of persons with disabilities acquiring affordable and quality mobility aids and assistive devices, assistive technologies and services, including accessible transportation and infrastructure, to aid their personal mobility, and provide necessary information and training on their usage and maintenance. It further recommends that the State party create an enabling environment whereby persons with disabilities can procure these devices through reduced customs tariffs from overseas and, in consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, continue developing the means to manufacture and repair such devices at affordable cost.

Indonesia (2022)

46. The Committee notes the lack of access to quality mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies that are available at an affordable cost, and the lack of locally made aids and devices which leads to importation with high prices and the imposition by the State Party of additional taxes.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure affordability of assistive devices, including by adopting tax and customs exemptions for the purchase of mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies, and provide financial and capacity support for local enterprises to manufacture aids for the local market.

Japan (2022)

43. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Legal restrictions do not allow using community living support services for purposes such as commuting to and from work or school, or for an extended period;
- (b) Insufficient access to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of life assistance and intermediaries for persons with disabilities, in particular, in regions outside of major cities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Eliminate the restrictions under the Act on the Comprehensive Support for the Daily and Social Life of Persons with Disabilities to ensure unrestricted personal mobility of persons with disabilities in all regions;**
- (b) Reinforce efforts to ensure that necessary mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies are affordable for all persons with disabilities, including by promoting local repairs, providing government and tax subsidies, and waiving taxes and custom charges.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in acquiring and maintaining the mobility aids and assistive devices, technologies and services necessary for their personal mobility, particularly in rural and remote areas;
- (b) The "good health" certificate as a requirement for driver license applications, which exclude persons with disabilities;
- (c) Limited trained personnel to impart mobility skills to persons with disabilities;
- (d) Insufficient financial support for the Centre of Medical Rehabilitation, the Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Factory 686, and the provincial rehabilitation centres to producing and providing assistive devices.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities can acquire quality and affordable or free of charge mobility aids and assistive devices, technologies and services necessary for their personal mobility, as well as appropriate information on how to use and maintain them;**
- (b) Remove discriminatory requirements in driving license applications that exclude persons with disabilities;**

- (c) Guarantee training for orientation and mobility practitioners and teachers in the use of mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies for persons with physical disabilities and persons who are blind or partially sighted;
- (d) Increase budget allocations for the Centre of Medical Rehabilitation, the Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Factory 686, and the provincial rehabilitation centres to meet the demand for the assistive devices.

New Zealand (2022)

41. The Committee is concerned that as a result of funding caps and the high cost of assistive devices and equipment, persons with disabilities are unable to afford the appropriate assistive devices, modification services and mobility aids.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure the affordability of necessary assistive devices, modification services and mobility aids, including assistive technology for persons with disabilities.

Hungary (2022)

42. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of life assistance and intermediaries for persons with disabilities, resulting from their compulsory linkage with health insurance, including the lack of involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the licensing of measures aimed at facilitating personal mobility.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, revise the mobility aids system for persons with disabilities, including its mechanism for quality assurance, and facilitate the provision of quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies for all persons with disabilities, based on their individual needs, with the aim of promoting their autonomy and independent life.

Jamaica (2022)

36. The Committee notes that the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities supports the mobility of persons with disabilities through the provision of Assistive Aid Grants, however it is concerned that the financial support only covers from 25 to 50 per cent of the total cost of some assistive devices, that only persons with disabilities who are registered with the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities can benefit from the grants, that many of the assistive devices are not locally made and therefore depend on importation by private suppliers with high prices, and that are reported delays in the delivery of the assistive devices due to a long process for approving applications.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure access to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies for all persons with disabilities irrespective of their registration status, in particular those who are unemployed or are low-income earners;**
- (b) Increase budget allocations for the Assistive Aid Grants to meet the increased costs and demand for the assistive devices and to ease the burden on the individuals who need them;**
- (c) Ensure affordability of assistive devices, including by introducing incentive measures and tax and customs exemptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and devices for persons with disabilities, and provide fiscal and capacity support for local enterprises with the interest and ability to manufacture aids for the local market.**

Djibouti (2021)

35. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to mobility aids and assistive devices for persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas, and the limited availability of

practitioners and teachers to train persons with disabilities on the use of available assistive aids and devices.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt appropriate measures, with the support of national and international cooperation, to facilitate the access to necessary and quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, especially in rural areas, at an affordable cost for all persons with disabilities.

France (2021)

42. The Committee is concerned about the lack of progress concerning measures to ensure personal mobility of persons with disabilities, including the lack of access to quality and affordable mobility devices.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures, including regulations and programmes in metropolitan and in overseas territorial collectivities to ensure accessibility of persons with disabilities to:

- (a) Transport and public places for persons with disabilities with a guide dog;**
- (b) Free parking for holders of mobility inclusion cards;**
- (c) Quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them free or available at affordable cost.**

Estonia (2021)

40. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access for persons with disabilities and the lack of consideration of the individual needs of persons with disabilities for quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies due to bureaucratic barriers, particularly for children with disabilities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies for all persons with disabilities by eliminating administrative barriers and addressing individual requirements, including age-related requirements.

Albania (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a transparent system for providing assistive devices and aids, and training on their use, without discrimination. The Committee also notes the absence of sufficient funding to support personal mobility and to guarantee universal access to appropriate assistive devices and aids. It is also concerned that there is no comprehensive strategy, action plans or strategies to strengthen individual safety of persons with disabilities in public transport.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Legislate and take any other appropriate measures to ensure the creation of a fund to support personal mobility and to guarantee universal access to appropriate assistive devices as well as to appropriate training in how to use them;**
- (b) Improve access to mobility aids, devices and other assistive technologies;**
- (c) Adopt a strategy on public transport standards and services taking into account the requirements of persons with disabilities in rural and urban areas.**

Australia (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned about the lack of locally available solutions to address, enhance and promote the use of mobility aids and equipment among persons with disabilities, especially within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and in remote areas.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations and in their communities, develop locally relevant solutions to address the underlying

structural obstacles that can preclude the use of aids and equipment within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and in remote areas.

El Salvador (2019)

40. The Committee notes that there is no comprehensive mobility plan that includes technical aids, subsidies for the repair and maintenance of such aids and ergonomics for the individual manufacture of wheelchairs, particularly for persons who do not benefit from any social security programme or scheme.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a comprehensive mobility plan, for both urban and rural areas, which takes into account the individual technical assistance requirements of persons with disabilities, including those who do not benefit from any social security programme or scheme.

Greece (2019)

30. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a transparent system for granting transport benefits and ensuring the mobility of persons with disabilities without any discrimination. It is particularly concerned about the limited and impeded access to parking space and reported instances of denial of exemption from fees and taxes for vehicles of persons with disabilities owing, inter alia, to the requirement for certification of lifelong disability under the current secondary legislation.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to improve the system of personal mobility support, ensuring its transparency and the equal access of all persons with disabilities to benefits and means facilitating their personal mobility. It also recommends that the State party provide specific training in mobility skills for persons with disabilities and specialized staff working with them.

India (2019)

42. The Committee is concerned about the lack of available and affordable assistive devices and related support services for all persons with disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas, and the lack of involvement of persons with disabilities to act as experts on assistive devices and technology and to encourage the development of local manufacture.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure the availability, equal distribution and affordability of assistive devices. It also recommends that the State party develop training on quality standards and promote the inclusion of local or indigenous manufacturers for the production, maintenance and distribution of assistive devices and appliances, ensuring the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities at the local level and in rural areas.

Iraq (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about the difficulties that persons with disabilities face in accessing affordable and high-quality mobility-related technical aids, appliances, equipment and medical devices.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce the necessary measures to enable persons with disabilities to access high-quality personal mobility equipment and aids that are affordable or free of charge.

Kuwait (2019)

40. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a national policy on mobility for persons with disabilities that provides for audible signal indicators at street crossings, especially for blind persons;
- (b) The lack of personnel trained in imparting mobility skills to persons who are blind or otherwise visually impaired.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national policy with adequate measures, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, to address the mobility needs of persons with disabilities, including the acquisition of mobility devices;**
- (b) Train the necessary personnel to impart mobility skills to persons who are blind or visually impaired.**

Myanmar (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned about the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in acquiring and maintaining mobility aids and assistive devices, technologies and services necessary for their personal mobility.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities can acquire quality and affordable or free of charge mobility aids and assistive devices, technologies and services necessary for their personal mobility, as well as appropriate information and training on how to use and maintain them. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure that the technology and services necessary for the repair of mobility aids and assistive devices are available locally and at an affordable cost.

Niger (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a policy on mobility for persons with disabilities; and the lack of trained personnel to impart mobility skills to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a policy on mobility in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities that addresses the mobility requirements of persons with disabilities, including the acquisition of mobility devices at affordable cost; and train necessary personnel to impart mobility skills to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Rwanda (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient access to affordable mobility aids and assistive devices for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas. It is also concerned about the limited availability at the local level of the necessary technology to produce appropriate assistive devices.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that the technology and services necessary for the repair and manufacturing of quality mobility aids, assistive devices, be made available locally and at an affordable cost, including through subsidies, taking into consideration individual requirements and choice.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) Challenges faced by persons with disabilities in acquiring necessary mobility aids and assistive devices, including due to the complex nature of the administrative procedures regarding the special tax and customs exemptions for the purchase of adapted motor vehicles;
- (b) The lack of involvement of organizations led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities in the development and allocation of mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party

(a) Take all appropriate measures to ensure the affordability of necessary mobility aids and devices as well as assistive technologies, live assistance and intermediaries, and means of transportation for persons with disabilities, through government subsidies and simplification of administrative procedure;

(b) Ensure the participation of organizations led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities in the development and allocation of mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies, forms of live assistance and intermediaries.

Senegal (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned about the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in acquiring necessary mobility aids and assistive devices, including assistive technologies, and the lack of orientation and mobility practitioners and teachers to train persons with physical disabilities and persons who are blind or visually impaired, particularly in remote and rural areas, on the use of their assistive aids and devices.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all necessary steps in partnerships with local, national and international partners to ensure the affordability of necessary mobility aids, assistive devices and technologies for persons with disabilities, including promoting local promotion, the provision of government and tax subsidies, as well as waiving taxes and custom charges;

(b) Provide training for orientation and mobility practitioners and teachers in the use of mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies for persons with physical disabilities and persons who are blind or visually impaired, particularly in remote and rural areas.

Vanuatu (2019)

34. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to personal assistive devices for persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas. It is also concerned at the insufficient financial support for the provisions of assistive devices by the State party.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures in the framework of the Community-based rehabilitation Action Plan (2014-2024) to facilitate access to mobility aids, assistive devices and technologies, especially in rural areas, at an affordable cost for all persons with disabilities;

(b) Include persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of provisions on assistive devices and continue strengthening partnerships with their organizations and provincial governments;

(c) Introduce tax and customs exemptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and devices for persons with disabilities.

Algeria (2018)

34. The Committee is concerned about the difficulties that persons with disabilities face to access free personal mobility equipment or to purchase it as well as the insufficient clarity in the eligibility criteria for persons with disabilities to benefit from personal mobility aids.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce the necessary measures to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities to personal mobility equipment and aids that are affordable or free of charge.

Bulgaria (2018)

41. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities still face challenges in accessing mobility related, affordable technical aids, appliances, equipment and medical devices they require.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to enhance personal mobility and enable persons with disabilities to access mobility related technical aids,

appliances, equipment and medical devices that are affordable and/or free, including by increasing resources for it.

Philippines (2018)

36. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a non-discriminatory and systematic framework with adequate public budgets dedicated to the acquisition of mobility aids and assistive technologies, which are crucial in ensuring the unrestricted personal mobility of persons with disabilities.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a policy framework including fixed and sufficient human, technical and financial resources to ensure that persons with disabilities acquire quality and affordable mobility aids and assistive devices, technologies and services necessary for their personal mobility. It also recommends that the State party establishes targets to provide universal access to appropriate orthopedic, technological and other assistive devices as well as appropriate information and training on how to use them.

Poland (2018)

34. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Barriers that persons with disabilities face when applying for driving license because of lack of accommodation, including sign language interpretation, at the examination;
- (b) The lack of support for persons with disabilities for purchasing adapted vehicles and means of transportation;
- (c) Undue restrictions imposed on blind persons using a guide dog in accessing public buildings, transport and services for persons with disabilities;

35. The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure:

- (a) Full availability of accommodation measures for persons with disabilities at driving examination centers;**
- (b) Relevant support for persons with disabilities for purchasing adapted vehicles and means of transportation, or for adding adaptive equipment to a vehicle;**
- (c) Access to buildings, transport and services opened to the public for blind persons using a guide dog.**

South Africa (2018)

36. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The significant and increasing challenges faced by persons with disabilities, particularly those with mobility impairments, blind and visually impaired persons, in accessing quality and affordable mobility and assistive technologies, live assistance and intermediaries, especially in remote and rural areas;
- (b) The lack of orientation and mobility practitioners as well as teachers to train persons with motor impairment, blind and visually impaired persons, particularly in remote and rural areas, on the use of their assistive technologies that will enhance their dignity and respect in society.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to facilitate the acquisition of necessary mobility and assistive technologies, live assistance and intermediaries, particularly for persons with motor impairments, blind and visually impaired persons, especially in remote and rural areas;**
- (b) Adopt an effective national strategy for the training and retraining of orientation and mobility practitioners and teachers in the use of devices for motor impaired, blind and visually impaired persons, particularly in remote and rural areas.**

North Macedonia (2018)

36. The Committee notes the efforts taken by the State party to promote access to assistive devices for persons with disabilities. However it is concerned about cost of participation for

orthopedic and other mobility aids which makes them unaffordable for persons with disabilities.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure the provision of mobility and assistive devices, including assistance technologies, at affordable costs, for persons with disabilities.

Nepal (2018)

31. The Committee is concerned that a majority of public infrastructure, including, government offices, hospitals, schools, colleges, banks, roads, public buildings and public transportation are not easily accessible for persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that streets are not paved to accommodate users of crutches and wheelchairs. The Committee is further concerned that the situation is even worse in cases where houses, schools and health facilities are located in mountainous and hilly regions where wheelchairs and other devices cannot be used.

32. The Committee urges the State party to adopt appropriate measures to ensure mobility of all persons with disabilities in order to facilitate their participation, inclusion in community in general and in particular, to engage in education and livelihood activities, including access to quality and affordable mobility aids and assistive devices, technologies and services necessary for their unrestricted personal mobility.

Oman (2018)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a national policy on mobility for persons with disabilities that recognises the provision of audible signal indicators at street crossings for accessibility, especially for persons who are blind;
- (b) The non-inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Transportation and Communication Subcommittee under the National Committee for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled;
- (c) The absence of trained personnel to impart mobility skills to persons who are blind and visually impaired.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a national policy with adequate measures to address the mobility needs of persons with disabilities, including the acquisition of mobility devices;**
- (b) Include persons with disabilities in the Transportation and Communication Subcommittee under the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled to give them an opportunity to contribute to the development of a national policy on mobility for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Train necessary personnel to impart mobility skills to persons who are blind and visually impaired.**

Russian Federation (2018)

42. The Committee is concerned that there is no equal access to technical and other means and quality equipment for individualized process of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities living in different regions based on the Technical Means of Rehabilitation system.

43. The Committee urges the State party to revise the current legislation and practice in order to provide equal access to rehabilitation based on services and to quality products provided by the public and regional funds.

Seychelles (2018)

35. The Committee is concerned about the shortage of personal mobility equipment and qualified personnel. It is also concerned that the eligibility criteria for the provision of assistive devices for personal mobility and tax exemptions for such equipment may not be in line with

the Convention, and that taxes on certain mobility equipment constitute a burden to persons with disabilities.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to increase the availability of personal mobility equipment and build the capacity of relevant personnel. It also recommends that the State party formulate clear policy guidelines, in line with the Convention, on eligibility for assistive devices and that it exempt persons with disabilities from taxes on the personal mobility aids and assistive devices, technologies and services they require

Slovenia (2018)

33. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient quality mobility aids available for persons with disabilities and the insufficient support for the acquisition of quality mobility aids and assistive technologies.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the availability and support for the acquisition of quality mobility aids and assistive technologies, tailored to individual requirements.

Sudan (2018)

41. The Committee notes the efforts taken by the State party to promote access to assistive devices, but is concerned about the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in acquiring necessary mobility aids and assistive devices including assistance technologies, as their cost remain prohibitive.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure the provision of mobility and assistive devices, including assistance technologies, at affordable costs, for persons with disabilities.

Latvia (2017)

32. The Committee is concerned about the lack of availability and support for the timely acquisition of quality mobility aids, devices and adaptations in accordance with the individual needs of persons with disabilities, particularly for women and children with disabilities.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party facilitate access to quality mobility aids, assistive equipment, devices and technologies for all persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, in accordance with the needs of the individuals concerned.

Montenegro (2017)

38. The Committee is concerned that the distribution of mobility aids is not universal and notes that there are insufficient measures to ensure personal mobility.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party improve transparent access to assistive devices and technologies and ensure accessible and fair reimbursement schemes in order to prevent any additional costs and/or administrative burden for persons with disabilities.

Morocco (2017)

40. The Committee notes with concern the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in acquiring necessary mobility aids and assistive devices, including assistance technologies, and live assistance and intermediaries, as well as the complex nature of the administrative procedures regarding the special tax and customs exemptions granted for the purchase of adapted motor vehicles.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to facilitate the acquisition of necessary mobility aids and devices, including assistance technologies, and

live assistance and intermediaries, and establish concrete measures to simplify the administrative procedures regarding the special tax and customs exemptions granted for the purchase of adapted motor vehicles.

Armenia (2017)

33. The Committee is concerned about the lack of availability of and support for mobility aids, devices and other assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries and about the lack of an individualized approach to their acquisition.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party create a mechanism for facilitating access to quality mobility aids, assistive equipment, devices and technologies at an affordable cost for all persons with disabilities, taking into consideration their individual requirements.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

36. The Committee is concerned that a transparent and non-discriminatory system for providing assistive devices and aids is lacking.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party improve transparent access to assistive devices and technologies. It recommends that the State party legislate and take any other appropriate measures to ensure a fund for a transparent system of services to support personal mobility, including universal access to appropriate orthopaedic, typhlotechnical and other assistive devices as well as to appropriate training in how to use them.

Jordan (2017)

39. The Committee notes the absence of a systematic framework and public budget dedicated to the acquisition of mobility aids and assistive technologies necessary for the unrestricted personal mobility of persons with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a dedicated systematic framework and budget to ensure that persons with disabilities can acquire quality and affordable mobility aids and assistive devices, technologies and services necessary for their unrestricted personal mobility.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

38. The Committee is concerned about the lack of availability and support for the acquisition of quality mobility aids, devices and adaptations, including driver's licences and vehicle equipment for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that persons with visual impairments are excluded from programmes that offer assistive equipment.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a mechanism for facilitating access to quality mobility aids, assistive equipment, devices and technologies at an affordable cost for all persons with disabilities, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends regular training and capacity-building for staff working on personal mobility.

Serbia (2016)

41. The Committee is concerned that taking part in driving lessons and passing exams with the use of sign language is still limited and that medical assessments of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing for driving courses is not transparently standardised and applied. The Committee is further concerned that, despite the recent adoption of the Guide Dog Assistance Law (2015), there is a lack of trained guide dogs for blind or vision-impaired persons and insufficient availability of training centres for guide dogs.

42. The Committee urges the State party to adopt universally applied measures and harmonise the practice of courses for the deaf and hard of hearing persons using sign language, and to prevent them from being denied driving licences on the basis of their impairment. It further recommends the State party increase its efforts to improve access to trained guide dogs for blind or vision-impaired persons.

Slovakia (2016)

59. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient affordability of aids and adaptations and the difficulties encountered in the process of granting allowances to receive assistive devices, in particular for people with complex physical disabilities.

60. The Committee recommends that all aids, adaptations and assistive devices be available, affordable and of good quality for all persons with disabilities, in particular for people with complex physical disabilities.

Uganda (2016)

40. The Committee is concerned about barriers hindering personal mobility of persons with disabilities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the enactment of the draft rehabilitation and health-care policy on disability, in line with the Convention, and ensure all appropriate provisions and a public budget for mobility requirements of persons with disabilities.

European Union (2015)

52. The Committee is concerned about the varied practice of different National Enforcement Bodies in charge of implementing the rights of passengers with disabilities in different European Union Member States, which may lead to unequal treatment and restricts the enjoyment of rights of passengers with disabilities.

53. The Committee recommends that the European Union strengthen the monitoring of the implementation of passenger rights' legislation and to harmonise the work of the National Enforcement Bodies in order to ensure the effective and equal enjoyment of rights of all passengers with disabilities across the European Union, including the implementation of the European Mobility Card. It further recommends that the European Union harmonise its existing passenger rights' legislation to be in line with regulations concerning maritime passengers' rights.

Gabon (2015)

46. The Committee is concerned about the lack of affordable assistive devices available to persons with disabilities.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party establish, for all persons with disabilities, the mandatory provision and maintenance of assistive devices which are affordable or free of charge according to those persons' means.

Mongolia (2015)

33. The Committee is concerned about the quality of subsidised mobility and assistive devices and the amount of subsidies which do not reflect today's market prices.

34. The Committee recommends that quality assistive devices and technologies, services (including for repair and manufacturing) are made available through increased subsidies, and to permit persons with disabilities to make their own choices in this regard.

El Salvador (2013)

43. The Committee is concerned that the distribution of mobility aids is not universal and notes that measures ensuring personal mobility are either insufficient or non-existent.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to equipment and various other forms of mobility aids, technical aids, live assistance and support technologies for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas and those who do not benefit from any specific social security or insurance.

Paraguay (2013)

51. The Committee is concerned at the lack of any comprehensive strategy for the provision of mobility equipment and aids for persons with disabilities, and including the development of low-cost universal-design appliances.

52. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that persons with disabilities have ready access to the high-quality equipment and aids they need in order to exercise their right to mobility and freedom of movement autonomously and independently. The Committee also urges the State party to encourage research and development into low-cost mobility appliances.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 21 CRPD
(Freedom of expression and opinion,
and access to information)*

September 2025

Article 21 - Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, including by:

- a) Providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost;*
- b) Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions;*
- c) Urging private entities that provide services to the general public, including through the Internet, to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities;*
- d) Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;*
- e) Recognizing and promoting the use of sign languages.*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)

Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)

Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)

Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
New Zealand (2014)
Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
China (2012)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on Mexico, Lithuania, Mauritius, Germany, Mongolia, Belgium, Ecuador, Mexico, Sweden, Austria, Argentina, Hungary, Peru, Spain and Tunisia.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of laws and policies that promote and protect the freedom of expression and opinion of persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and disability activists;
- (b) Credible reports of general inaccessibility of information, including a lack of captioning and sign language on news and other television programmes and other mass media events, the unavailability of screen readers, the insufficiency of Braille documentation information, on charges and procedures for persons with hearing or visual impairments in detention, and of online services and digital platforms.

40. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize the role of civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, as human rights defenders;
- (b) Prohibit any reprisals against individuals and organizations and take effective measures to protect the free exchange of ideas in the civic space.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) **Revise its national in accordance with general comments No. 34 (2011) and No. 37 (2020) of the Human Rights Committee and adapt accordingly the jurisprudence of all administrative bodies and courts applying it;**
- (b) **Enact legislation and policies that guarantee the right to freedom of expression and opinion and access to information of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and disability activists, including measures against surveillance, censorship, and acts of reprisals;**
- (c) **Take all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services as well as ensuring that all government websites and digital platforms are accessible, for example by complying with accessibility standards, such as W3C/WAI/WCAG 2.2 or equivalent, for all persons with disabilities. Provide accessible information and communication formats, such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles, and allocate adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, ensuring access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities, including in places of detention and rural and remote areas.**

Finland (2025)

40. The Committee is concerned at persistent barriers to access to information for persons with disabilities, particularly deaf persons, deaf-blind persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and Sámi persons with disabilities whose mother tongue is Finland Swedish, at the limited scope of public information service programming and at the low availability of Finland Swedish sign language interpreters.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations ensure the implementation of the European Union Web Accessibility Directive (2016) and guarantee that official information and websites are accessible, including in audio description, Easy Read, and in Finnish and Finland Swedish sign language and that qualified sign language interpreters in Finnish and Finland Swedish are available, including in the Åland Islands, develop a plan for the implementation of recommendations from the Council for the Study of Sign Language and expand the programming of public information services.

Kiribati (2025)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of recognition in law of Kiri Sign Language as an official language, the limited training in the use of sign language and the limited sign language interpretation in all areas of life;
- (b) The absence of legal measures for person with disabilities to seek and receive information in accessible formats, as well as about the gaps in providing information to and supporting the communication of persons with disabilities, particularly persons who are deaf, deafblind, blind and persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (c) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to public information and communication, including information through television programs, websites and other media services and digital means.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Legally recognize Kiri Sign Language as an official language, promote access to and the use of sign language in all areas of life, and ensure the training and availability of qualified sign language interpreters;**
- (b) Adopt legal measures to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to seek, receive and impart information on an equal basis with others, ensuring sufficient budget for the provision of information in accessible formats, including accessible digital formats and in Braille, Easy Read, audio, captioning, and augmentative and alternative communication;**
- (c) Ensure accessibility of all public information and communication platforms, including television programmes, websites, and other media services, by adopting accessibility legislation with reference to accessibility standards, mandating captioning and sign language interpretation in broadcasting, and ensuring compliance through monitoring mechanisms.**

Maldives (2025)

41. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That despite the fact that articles 27 and 29 of the Maldivian Constitution guarantee the right to freedom of speech and expression, as well as freedom of thought, conscience, and access to information for all individuals, persons with disabilities, particularly persons who are deaf, blind, deafblind, and persons with intellectual disabilities, face significant barriers in accessing public information and communication, including information through television programmes, websites, and other media services, such as eFaas, the national digital identity portal;
- (b) The lack of a comprehensive regulatory framework to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to seek, receive, and impart information in accessible formats, as well as limited awareness among public officials of the State party's obligations under article 21 of the Convention;
- (c) About the lack sign language specialists to train persons with disabilities throughout the State party in the use of sign language.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive, time-bound national strategy with measurable targets to effectively enforce constitutional provisions to ensure that all public information—including information disseminated via websites, broadcast media, print, and digital platforms such as eFaas is accessible to persons with disabilities, and establish a mechanism, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, to monitor its implementation;**
- (b) Develop and implement legislative and policy measures to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to access to public information and communication in accessible formats, such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio**

description, captioning and subtitles, and raise awareness among public officials about the State party's obligations under article 21 of the Convention;
(c) Develop a sign language development strategy and a pool of qualified sign language interpreters to teach sign language, including on the outer islands.

Canada (2025)

41. The Committee notes that some progress has been made by recognizing American Sign Language, Quebec Sign Language, and Indigenous sign languages as the primary languages for communication by deaf persons in the Accessible Canada Act. However, it is concerned about:

- (a) sign language not being recognized as an official language (American Sign Language, Quebec Sign Language, and Indigenous sign languages);
- (b) Persistent communication barriers and disparities in access to information and technology for persons with disabilities across jurisdictions, the limited nationwide reach of the Video Relay Service and the insufficient compliance with the policy on Communications policy and Federal Identity;
- (c) The lack of comprehensive measures to ensure that all information is available in modes and formats accessible for blind persons, deafblind persons, persons with vision impairment and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and the insufficient implementation of closed captioning by Canadian English and French language broadcasters;
- (d) The shortage of sign language interpreters, particularly in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis territories, as well as disparities in training and accreditation programmes throughout provinces and territories.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities including Indigenous persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

- (a) Recognize sign language as an official language, including American Sign Language, Quebec Sign Language, and Indigenous sign languages;**
- (b) Exercise federal leadership to ensure equal access to information for persons with disabilities throughout its territory and in First Nations, Inuit and Métis territories, nationwide access to Video Relay Service for all persons who are deaf and the implementation of the Communications and Federal Identity policy;**
- (c) Implement laws and policies to ensure the accessibility of information, communications, including digital technology and public services for the diversity of persons with disabilities in all provinces and territories, including in formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles, and ensure that all programmes aired by English and French broadcasters are closed captioned for persons who are deaf and hard-of-hearing;**
- (d) Allocate sufficient funding and resources to develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters, including in Indigenous sign languages.**

Dominican Republic (2025)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The shortage of certified National Sign Language interpreters and the delays in implementing a sign language training strategy and certification, despite the legal recognition of National Sign Language as an official language of the State party;
- (b) No appropriate consideration has been given to communication and linguistic needs of persons who are deaf-blind;
- (c) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to public information and communications, including on official websites and in media services.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Implement a sign language training strategy and an adequate certification process and redouble efforts to increase the number of certified Sign Language interpreters;**
- (b) Put in place appropriate supportive measures to facilitate the communication, access to information and linguistic needs of persons who are deaf-blind;**
- (c) Approve the National Standard of Universal Accessibility without delay, take measures to ensure their application and promptly allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion and use of different accessible communication formats on official websites and media services.**

European Union (2025)

52. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Many persons with disabilities lack equal access to information and communication due to limited availability of accessible formats, and national sign languages (NSLs) are not considered part of the EU's multilingualism;**
- (b) The Audiovisual Media Services Directive lacks timelines and targets for implementation, and does not ensure accessibility of video-sharing platforms, social media, and the audiovisual sections of news websites;**
- (c) EU institutions' websites and social media, including of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Council, are not compliant with web accessibility guidelines;**
- (d) The fragmentation of assistive technologies across the EU, with different certification schemes and provision models, creates barriers to access and choice.**

53. The Committee recalls its previous Concluding Observations and Recommendations (para. 55) and recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Amend the Rules of Procedure of EU institutions to reflect the rights of deaf persons; recognize the 29 NSLs of the EU as official EU languages and increase availability of information in Easy Read format;**
- (b) Set timelines and harmonized EU-wide criteria for audiovisual accessibility in the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, including quantitative and qualitative targets;**
- (c) Ensure application of web accessibility standards to all EU institution websites and online platforms in line with the Web Accessibility Action Plan and Web Accessibility Directive;**
- (d) Guarantee the availability and affordability of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities across the EU.**

Palau (2025)

39. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The lack of recognition in law of Palauan Sign Language as an official language, the lack of training in the use of sign language and the lack of sign language interpretation in all areas of life;**
- (b) At the lack of legal measures for person with disabilities to seek and receive information in accessible formats, as well as about the gaps in providing information to and supporting the communication of persons with disabilities, particularly persons who are deaf, deafblind, blind and persons with intellectual disabilities;**
- (c) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to public information and communication, including information through television programs, websites and other media services.**

40. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Recognize in law Palauan Sign Language as an official language, promote access to and the use of sign language in all areas of life, and ensure the training and availability of qualified sign language interpreters;**
- (b) Establish regulations to ensure the accessibility of public communications and information for persons with various disabilities, and allocate sufficient funding for the**

development, promotion, and use of accessible communication formats, including Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, video transcription, captioning, and tactile, augmentative, and alternative means of communication;

(c) Develop a strategy with benchmarks, indicators, and adequate resources to ensure that the information provided to the public, including on websites, television, and other media formats, is accessible to persons with disabilities, and establish a monitoring mechanism.

Tuvalu (2025)

39. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the lack of sign language specialists to develop national sign language and to train persons with disabilities throughout Tuvalu in the use of sign language;

(b) About the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, and in particular on the websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technology by persons with disabilities;

(c) The insufficient number of accessible private and public websites as well as captioning and sign language, and audio-description on television for deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a sign language development strategy and a pool of qualified sign language interpreters to teach sign language, including on the outer islands;

(b) Take all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities, including in rural and remote areas;

(c) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures aimed at ensuring that television stations provide their programmes in accessible formats, including captioning, sign language and audio-description for deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons, including ensuring that public and private websites are made accessible.

Viet Nam (2025)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Limited compliance of government websites with accessibility standards and insufficient availability of accessible content, including subtitles and sign language interpretation on national television;

(b) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly indigenous persons with disabilities and those living in rural and remote areas, to access public information and digital tools;

(c) The adequacy of qualified sign language interpreters available to serve in all public services where they are needed by persons with hearing impairments, such as health, justice, education, and work;

(d) The lack of official recognition of Vietnamese Sign Language;

(e) The lack of accessible modes and methods of information, such as easy-to-read, Braille, sign language and others for persons with disabilities;

(f) Decrees Nos. 15/2020/ND-CP and 119/2020/ND-CP, which have established new and harsher penalties than those already provided for in the Penal code for people who disseminate content classifiable as “divergent political opinions” or “reactionary ideologies” on social media platforms, affecting defenders of the rights of persons with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that all government websites and digital platforms are accessible, for example by complying with accessibility standards, such as W3C/WCAG 2.2, or equivalent, and mandate accessible content on all television channels;**
- (b) Implement strategies to improve access to public information, especially in rural and remote areas and among indigenous communities, and increase awareness and training programmes on digital accessibility tools for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Establish official training and professionalization of sign language interpreters to ensure their availability in any public service required by persons with hearing impairments;**
- (d) Recognize Vietnamese sign language as an official language;**
- (e) Introduce legislation to require official documents and public information to be available in easy-to-read formats for persons with intellectual disabilities;**
- (f) Revise and reform the Penal Code and decrees 15/2020/ND-CP and 119/2020/ND-CP to eliminate prison sentences for those who freely express their opinions, and remove the concepts of “divergent political opinions” or “reactionary ideologies” that hinder defenders of the rights of persons with disabilities from exercising their freedom of expression, including the founders and members of Christian associations supporting persons with disabilities who face persecution and expulsion.**

Belarus (2024)

41. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The legal and practical restrictions on the freedom of expression of a number of persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, in regard to their participation in public demonstrations, of the reported administrative detention and the excessive use of force against them;**
- (b) Limitations on access to disability-related information in the State party, including the information about the situation of persons with disabilities under adjudication or those in the prisons due to allegations related to freedom of expression;**
- (c) The amendments to the Criminal Code concerning “discreditation of the Republic of Belarus”, classifying any criticism of the State actions and/or activities as a punishable crime, which restrict persons with disabilities from exercising their right to express their views on public affairs, including on matters regarding their rights;**
- (d) That sign language is still not considered as a formal language in the State party, insufficient levels of accredited sign interpreters, which restrict deaf persons from exercising their basic freedoms and fundamental rights, including their right to education, access to information, health, freedom of expression.**

42. The Committee recommends that in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, the State party:

- (a) In line with General Comment No. 34 of the Human Rights Committee on Freedoms of opinion and expression, respect the right of persons with disabilities to exercise their freedom of expression on an equal basis with others and not be harassed and/or arrested under the false grounds that they are protesting for “political reasons”;**
- (b) Ensure public access to all available information about the situation of persons with disabilities, as well as transparent dialogues on their situation regarding the ongoing trials and in prisons;**
- (c) Remove all legal and practical barriers including those in the amended criminal law and ensure persons with disabilities are able to exercise their right of freedom of expression on an equal basis with others;**
- (d) Develop plan with a stipulated timeline to adopt sign language as official language in the State party and a national program for trainings of adequately qualified sign interpreters to support deaf persons and their representative organizations.**

Belgium (2024)

42. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About insufficient public information by public authorities, private services providers, and the media, in accessible formats such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;
- (b) About the lack of recognition of sign languages as official languages in all regions and communities, and about the insufficient number of certified sign language interpreters in the various languages;
- (c) About the limited accessibility of public sector websites and mobile applications, and that the private sector has no legal obligation to render its websites or applications accessible;
- (d) About the insufficient support measures, in particular access to learning sign language, for persons with hearing and visual impairments, for their family members and for their close social circle, and, as a consequence, their severely restricted access to communication and information.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Provide a legal framework requiring public entities providing general services to the public, to offer information in accessible formats, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;**
- (b) Expedite the enactment of legislation to recognize sign languages as official languages in all regions and communities, increase financial support for sign language interpretation services, and render the profession of sign language interpreter more attractive;**
- (c) Monitor the implementation of the European directive on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies at federal, regional and community levels by adopting the necessary legal framework, extend this obligation to the private sector and provide remedies in the event of non-compliance, and extend implementing legislation to appliances not covered by the Directive.**

Benin (2024)

41. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the national sign language is not yet recognized as an official language;
- (b) The insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of information and communications technologies, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, in particular on websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technologies for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The insufficient number of accessible private and public websites and the lack of captioning and sign language and of audio description on television.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize the national sign language as an official language;**
- (b) Adopt legislation and public policies to ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technologies that are appropriate for all persons with disabilities, including in rural areas;**
- (c) Ensure that television stations provide their programmes in accessible formats, including captioning, sign language and audio description for persons with disabilities, and that public and private websites are made accessible;**

(d) In close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, provide financial resources for the training of qualified sign language interpreters, including relevant professionals in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats, and develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and professionals trained in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats.

Burkina Faso (2024)

40. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and the lack of access to information and communications technology by persons with disabilities;
- (b) The fact that the use of sign language in the audiovisual media and at major events is not mandatory.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Take and implement all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services and administrative information for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication, such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles, by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensuring access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities, in rural and remote areas, as well as in emergency situations;**
- (b) Make it compulsory for all public and private television stations to offer sign language interpretation, in particular on news and national events broadcasts.**

Denmark (2024)

59. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) It is difficult to access sign language interpretation due to the shortage of sign language interpreters, and that professionals working in nursing homes and residential facilities are not systematically trained in the use of Danish Sign Language, limiting the possibility of persons with hearing disabilities to express themselves and participate in everyday life;
- (b) There are insufficient resources, particularly financial resources, for promoting and enhancing the knowledge and use of Braille.

60. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark:

- (a) Take measures to guarantee the right to access interpretation in Danish Sign Language in Denmark, Greenlandic Sign Language in Greenland and Faroese Sign Language (Føroyskt Teknmál) on the Faroe Islands, especially through the training of a sufficient number of sign language interpreters, and provide the requisite funding for the use of Danish Sign Language. It also recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark take measures to ensure training for Danish Sign Language professionals working in nursing homes and residential facilities.**
- (b) Take measures to ensure adequate funding for promoting, preserving and enhancing the knowledge and use of Braille, especially through the introduction of common teaching methods.**

Ghana (2024)

40. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Article 21 of Ghana's Constitution which guarantee the right to freedom of speech and expression, freedom of thought, conscience and information for all persons is not enforced in regard to persons with disabilities as they continue to face barriers in accessing public information and communication, including information through television programmes, websites and other media services;
- (b) The Right to information act 989 of 2019" lack provision for person with disabilities to seek and receive information in accessible formats in accordance with the Convention and

there are gaps in providing information to and supporting the communication of persons with disabilities;

(c) Limited steps are being taken to officially recognise Ghanaian Sign Language in the law, and the lack of or insufficient number of trained and qualified sign language interpreters;

(d) Accessible communication methods such as braille, sign language, and Easy Read formats are not widely used or available, making it difficult for persons with disabilities to access essential services and information in the community.

41. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) **Develop a comprehensive plan with benchmarks, indicators and timeline, to implement all aspects of article 21 of the Convention at all levels and to ensure the accessibility of information provided to the public, including on websites, television and in other media formats is accessible to persons with disabilities and establish a mechanism to monitor its implementation in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**

(b) **Review and amend The Right to Information act 2019 to align it with the Convention and to ensure the accessibility of public communications and information to persons with different disabilities, and allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion and use of accessible communication formats, such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, video transcription, captioning, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;**

(c) **Officially recognize Ghanaian Sign Language and take steps to provide training and certification for professional Ghanaian Sign Language interpreters and**

(d) **Develop and implement training programmes to increase the number of professionals who are proficient in the use of braille, sign language, and Easy Read to enhance communication and service to persons with disabilities.**

Mauritius (2024)

35. The Committee is concerned that the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2024 omits the right to information in accessible formats, with limited measures in place to promote the accessibility and affordability of printed and electronic information and communications.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) **Establish accessibility standards for information and communication media and technologies, as well as websites, in line with universal standards;**

(b) **Ensure that printed and electronic information and communication are provided in accessible formats such as Braille, Easy Read, sign language, plain language, captioning and tactile, augmentative and alternative forms of communication, and that assistive communication technology is made affordable for persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Promote the development and use of the Mauritian Sign Language, including its recognition as an official language in law, the training and deployment of professional interpreters and the expanded use on national television and other media services.**

Netherlands (2024)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a national legislation on audio description;

(b) The shortage of Dutch sign language interpreters and the increased restrictiveness in the allocation of interpreting hours by the Netherlands Employee Insurance Agency (UWV);

(c) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to public information and communication, including on websites and in media services.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Enact legislation to guarantee audio description across public and private media;
- (b) Take measures against the shortage of Dutch sign language interpreters and ensure a fair and sufficient allocation of interpreting hours for persons with hearing disabilities;
- (c) Allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion and use of different accessible communication formats, including but not limited to Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, video transcription, captioning and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication.

Ukraine (2024)

42. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That sign language has not yet been officially recognized by the State party;
- (b) The lack of measures to ensure that all public information, including on health, emergency, security and protection, is available in modes and formats that are accessible, especially to blind persons, deafblind persons and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) The insufficient number of sign-language interpreters for the users of public services including in the judiciary, health facilities and television broadcasting.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Recognize Ukrainian sign language as an official language and adopt capacity-building programmes, including the training of sign language interpreters, ensure their availability in sufficient numbers, and promote the use of sign language to entities that provide services to the public, including through the internet and mass media;
- (b) Increase the provision of accessible information and communication formats and technologies for persons with disabilities, including internet accessibility, sign language, subtitles, Braille, Easy Read, plain language, and tactile, augmentative, and alternative means of communication in relation to all public services, giving special attention to access to information and communication for persons with disabilities in conflict zones.

Azerbaijan (2024)

47. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That Easy Read and augmentative and alternative communication have yet to be developed;
- (b) That sign language is yet to be accepted as official language;
- (c) The absence of information about measures taken by private service providers to develop Apps and other digital tools in accessible formats;
- (d) Information about restrictions in freedom of expression affecting persons with dissenting views on official position, including on living conditions, on discrimination, differing religious views, and views on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Strengthen its efforts to develop and implement a wide range of accessible communication formats and technologies, including sign language, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, tactile communication, and Easy Read. The State party should allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion, and use of these formats;
- (b) Recognize sign language as an official language and develop professional training for sign language interpreters and school teachers, in close consultation and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with hearing impairments.
- (c) Ensure that private service entities provide information in accessible formats;
- (d) Ensure participation of persons with disabilities in the civic space, ensuring peaceful, open and free participation of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations.

Bahrain (2024)¹

42. The Committee is deeply concerned that:

- (a) The restriction of freedom of expression against a number of persons with disabilities, who have been arrested and sentenced to long prison terms of up to life imprisonment for their political views, with no information revealing their conditions in detention.
- (b) Failure to provide information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities in facilities and institutions.
- (c) The absence of a right to information law that guarantees accessibility and access to information for persons with disabilities.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Respect the right of persons with disabilities to freedom of expression and not to harass and detain persons with disabilities for their political views, and to disclose the situation of persons with disabilities in detention.**

Costa Rica (2024)

35. El Comité expresa su preocupación por:

- a) La falta de implementación del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo de las Telecomunicaciones (PNDT) 2015-2021, específicamente la meta No. 14, cuyo objetivo es instar a las instituciones del Gobierno Central a aplicar criterios de accesibilidad y diseño universal que permitan a las personas con discapacidad el acceso a la información y comunicación publicada en portales y sitios web, así como a los servicios públicos en línea;
- b) Que los sitios web y los canales de televisión no proporcionan información en formatos accesibles para las personas con discapacidad, en particular las personas ciegas y sordas.

36. El Comité solicita al Estado parte:

- a) Adoptar las medidas necesarias para la ejecución efectiva del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo de las Telecomunicaciones 2022-2027, en particular la aplicación de los criterios de accesibilidad y diseño universal que permitan a las personas con discapacidad el acceso a la información y comunicación;**
- b) Establecer una obligación legal de los proveedores de servicios de telecomunicaciones, incluidos los servidores de sitios web y los canales de televisión, de hacer que sus servicios de comunicación sean accesibles para las personas con discapacidad, incluidas las personas con discapacidad auditiva y visual, establecer estándares de accesibilidad vinculantes e implementarlos de manera efectiva.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

45. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Reports about administrative detention and the excessive use of force against persons with disabilities participating in public demonstrations, including mass meetings, processions, and pickets;
- (b) Barriers faced by persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to access information;
- (c) The low number of sign language interpreters, the unavailability of “Surdo-Online” service in rural areas, and the insufficient number of screen-readers for persons with visual impairments;
- (d) Limited accessibility of helplines, SMS messages and emergency messengers for persons with disabilities who are victims of violence.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion on an equal basis with others, provide redress to persons with disabilities arbitrarily detained, prevent arbitrary detention and excessive use of force in the context of**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

public demonstrations (see Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 37 on Article 21 ICCPR, CCPR/C/GC/37), including by prohibiting detention for the participation in peaceful assemblies;

(b) Introduce requirements and standards for accessible printed and electronic information by State authorities, and strengthen efforts to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to all public information, including through augmentative and alternative communication, Easy Read, plain language, tactile communication, sign language interpretation and accessible digital services;

(c) Strengthen its efforts to expand Surdo-Online portals and to train sign language interpreters across the country, including in rural areas, and to increase availability and affordability of screen-readers for persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure full coverage and accessibility of helplines, SMS messages and other means of reporting and referral mechanisms for women and girls with disabilities facing violence.

Nicaragua (2024)

42. Al Comité le preocupa que, a pesar de estar contemplada en el artículo 30 de la Constitución y en el artículo 30 de la Ley de los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad, la libertad de expresión y de opinión no sea un derecho que se pueda ejercer libremente en el Estado parte, al Comité le preocupa en particular:

a) La cancelación de la personalidad jurídica y el cierre forzoso entre 2018 y 2022 de al menos 212 organizaciones de la sociedad civil que trabajan en favor de las mujeres, incluyendo mujeres con discapacidad;

b) Que la Ley No.1040, aprobada en octubre de 2020, exige a las organizaciones no gubernamentales que se abstengan de realizar actividades relacionadas con asuntos políticos en el Estado parte y prohíbe la financiación de las que trabajan en asuntos políticos, que agrupan también a personas con discapacidad;

c) Informes de al menos 7.000 casos de agresiones contra defensoras de los derechos humanos, entre las cuales existen mujeres con discapacidad, que son consideradas traidoras, enemigas de la paz y "golpistas" por el Estado parte, que incluyen intimidación, acoso, represalias, amenazas de muerte, violación, lesiones personales a familiares y daños materiales y de detención arbitraria, arresto y enjuiciamiento de defensores de los derechos humanos, líderes religiosos, periodistas, estudiantes universitarios y jóvenes activistas entre las cuales hay personas con discapacidad, por expresar sus opiniones.

43.El Comité solicita al Estado parte:

a) Se devuelva la personalidad jurídica a las organizaciones defensoras de derechos humanos, específicamente a aquellas de personas con discapacidad;

b) Derogar la Ley 1040 y toda legislación que discrimine por motivos de opiniones políticas y adoptar un plan de acción para proteger la vida y la integridad de los defensores de los derechos humanos, incluidas aquellas de personas con discapacidad y garantizar que tengan acceso a recursos efectivos, para que las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en general y las de personas con discapacidad puedan participar libremente en actividades políticas;

c) Poner inmediatamente en libertad a los defensores de los derechos humanos, incluidos aquellos con discapacidad, detenidos por sus opiniones políticas y su participación en la vida política y pública, garantizar que se salvaguarde su derecho a la vida, a la libertad y a la integridad física y psicológica durante la detención y tras la puesta en libertad.

44. Al Comité también le preocupa:

a) La carencia de medidas para asegurar que toda la información pública, incluyendo en servicios de salud y emergencias, de la policía nacional y de atención a la violencia, esté disponible en los modos y formatos accesibles, particularmente respecto a personas ciegas, sordociegas o con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial;

b) Las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad para acceder a los medios de información y comunicación pública, como los programas de televisión o los sitios web;

c) Que, aunque se cuenta con la Ley del Lenguaje de Señas Nicaragüense (Ley No. 675), a la fecha no existe un registro de intérpretes de lengua de señas, persiste la poca formación de intérpretes y los escasos servicios de interpretación de la lengua de señas en todos los ámbitos de la vida.

45. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, en consulta estrecha y colaboración activa con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan:

a) Asegure que toda la información pública, incluida la información de los servicios de salud y emergencias, sea accesible para las personas con diferentes tipos de discapacidad, y asignar fondos suficientes al desarrollo, promoción y uso de formatos de comunicación accesibles, como el braille, la interpretación para personas sordociegos, la lengua de señas, los formatos de lectura fácil, el lenguaje sencillo, la audiodescripción, la transcripción en vídeo, el subtulado y los medios de comunicación táctiles, alternativos y aumentativos;

b) Garantice la accesibilidad de la información de los medios de información y comunicación pública, incluyendo la televisión, radio y los sitios web como espacios libres para que las personas con discapacidad expresen su opinión de manera libre;

c) Promueva el acceso y el uso de la lengua de señas en todos los ámbitos de la vida, garantizar la formación y disponibilidad de intérpretes cualificados de lengua de señas, elaborar un Registro Nacional de Intérpretes en cumplimiento de la Ley del Lenguaje de Señas Nicaragüense (Ley No. 675).

Sweden (2024)

47. The Committee is concerned about shortcomings in the dissemination of government information in accessible formats, such as accessible information in minority languages, Plain Swedish, sign language, Easy Read, Braille and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, take all necessary measures, based on international and European standards, to ensure that information intended for the general public is available in accessible formats and through assistive technology for all persons with disabilities, in a timely manner and without additional costs, in particular during emergencies.

Zambia (2024)

41. The Committee notes the State party's efforts to develop a sign language dictionary. However, it is concerned:

(a) That the sign language is not yet recognized as an official language;

(b) About the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, and in particular on the websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technology by persons with disabilities;

(c) The insufficient number of accessible private and public websites as well as captioning and sign language, and audio-description on television for deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize the Zambian sign language as an official language;

(b) Take all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensure

access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities, including in rural and remote areas;

(c) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures aimed at ensuring that television stations provide their programmes in accessible formats, including captioning, sign language and audio-description for deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons, including ensuring that public and private websites are made accessible;

(d) In close consultation and active involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, provide financial resources for the training of qualified sign language interpreters, including relevant professionals in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats and develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and professionals trained in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats.

Andorra (2023)

43. The Committee observes the following with concern:

(a) The delay in amending the Accessibility Act to improve the communication system, especially in the public media and in access to information and communication technologies;

(b) The lack of recognition of Catalan sign language as an official language and the limited number of certified sign language interpreters;

(c) The insufficient progress in the provision of information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities and the limited provision of information and communications technology, both in public and private media outlets, in particular, on websites that provide public information.

44. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Expedite the amendments to the Accessibility Act to improve the communication system, especially in the public media and in access to information and communication technologies;**

(b) **Recognize Catalan sign language as an official language, ensure financial resources for the training of sign language interpreters, and develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters in all areas of life;**

(c) **Ensure the availability of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities, in accessible communication formats, such as Braille, interpretation for deafblind persons, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles, as well as tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, by allocating adequate funding for their development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities.**

Austria (2023)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Shortcomings in the dissemination of government information in accessible formats, such as Plain German, sign language, Easy Read Braille, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;

(b) The lack of support measures, including financial support, for organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, of women with disabilities, and of children with disabilities, to facilitate their communicative activities;

(c) The lack of close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and review of measures planned or taken to ensure accessibility of information.

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure the dissemination of information, particularly of information by the government, in accessible formats and technologies, fully implement the Web Accessibility Directive, and render all websites and mobile applications of public sector entities accessible, in line with European Standard EN 301 549;**

(b) **Provide support, including financial assistance, to organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual**

disabilities, of women with disabilities, and of children with disabilities, to facilitate their communicative activities;

(c) Closely consult with and actively involve of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and review of measures planned or taken to ensure accessibility of information.

Germany (2023)

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a national standard for, and effective monitoring of, the accessibility of information, leading to a lack of effective access to information in particular in the private broadcasting and websites and the limited accessibility of information during the COVID 19 pandemic, in particular for deaf and hard of hearing and persons with intellectual disability.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, take all necessary measures, including the adoption of inclusive media regulations and the development and implementation of a national standard of accessibility, and mechanisms of monitoring and sanctioning, based on international and European standards, to ensure that the information intended for the general public is available in accessible formats and via the assistive technology for all persons with disabilities, in a timely manner and without additional costs, in particular during emergency crisis.

Israel (2023)

45. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That Israeli Sign Language is not recognised as an official language in the State party and that there is no requirement for qualified sign language interpreters in many areas of life;

(b) The limited public information available in a range of accessible formats;

(c) The limited compliance of public and private websites with accessibility requirements and guidelines, and the exception allowed under the duty of private service providers to meet accessibility requirements.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Recognize Israeli Sign Language as an official language, allocate public resources to provide training and increase the availability of qualified sign language interpreters in all areas of life, including in court proceedings, police interviews, on TV broadcasts, and in health-care, education, leisure, religious and cultural services;

(b) Implement measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to all public information and services, including through augmentative and alternative communication, Easy Read, plain language, tactile communication and sign language interpretation, and accessible digital Internet-based services, taking account of internationally recognized accessibility standards;

(c) Raise awareness and ensure compliance with the Israeli Standard IS 5568 relating to the international web content accessibility guidelines of the international organization W3C, and remove exceptions to the duty of private service providers to meet accessibility requirements.

Malawi (2023)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of recognition of Malawi sign language in law, that private media still do not feature sign language in their broadcast and information about the shortage of qualified sign language interpreters;

(b) The lack of measures to ensure availability of information meant for the general public in accessible formats;

(c) The lack of progress in updating official websites and to make them accessible for persons with disabilities, including persons with vision impairments.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize Malawi Sign language in law as one of the official languages and adopt measures to set up training programmes to Malawi sign language interpreters, ensuring that training is available in all 32 districts;
- (b) Make it compulsory for all public and private TV stations to offer sign language interpretation in particular during news time and in National events broadcast;
- (c) Take measures to ensure availability of information for the general public in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities including in Braille, sign language, Easy Read and other augmentative means of communication;
- (d) Work in consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities to make the State party's websites accessible to all persons with disabilities, including persons with vision impairments.

Mauritania (2023)

35. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, and in particular on the websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technology by persons with disabilities;
- (b) The insufficient number of accessible private and public websites as well as captioning and sign language, and audio-description on television for deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons.

36. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Take all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities, including in rural and remote areas;
- (b) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures aimed at ensuring that television stations provide their programmes in accessible formats as captioning, sign language and audio-description for deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons, including ensuring that public and private websites are made accessible;
- (c) In close consultation with and active involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, provide financial resources for the training of qualified sign language interpreters, including relevant professionals in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats and develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and professionals trained in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats.

Mongolia (2023)

43. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, and in particular on the websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technology by persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities belonging to Kazakh and Tuva ethnic minorities. It is also concerned that the sign language interpretation on national and private broadcasting channels is limited only to news programs.

44. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, hotlines and websites, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio

description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities, including for Kazakh and Tuva ethnic minorities;

(b) Ensure access to public and private broadcasting services and audio-visual content, through the sign language interpretation, subtitles, audio-description and in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities.

Paraguay (2023)

39. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) La carencia de medidas para asegurar que toda la información pública, incluyendo en servicios de salud y emergencias, de la policía nacional y de atención a la violencia, no esté disponible en los modos y formatos accesibles, particularmente respecto a personas ciegas, sordociegas o con discapacidad intelectual;

b) Si bien la lengua de señas paraguaya tiene reconocimiento legal, sigue habiendo una falta de intérpretes debido a la ausencia de programas de formación y acreditación descentralizados;

c) La escasez de recursos y personal capacitado en el Centro de Relevos para proporcionar eficazmente el Sistema de Interpretación en Línea (SIEL) a las personas con discapacidad auditiva en todo el territorio del Estado parte;

d) El incumplimiento a la implementación del Tratado de Marrakech.

40. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) **Asegurar que toda la información pública, incluyendo en servicios de salud y emergencias, sea accesible para las personas con diferentes tipos de discapacidad, asignar fondos suficientes al desarrollo, promoción y uso de formatos de comunicación accesibles, como el braille, la interpretación para personas sordociegas, la lengua de señas, los formatos de lectura fácil, el lenguaje sencillo, la audio descripción, la transcripción en vídeo, el subtítulo y los medios de comunicación táctiles, alternativos y aumentativos;**

b) **Promover el acceso y el uso de la lengua de señas en todos los ámbitos de la vida, garantizar la formación, acreditación y disponibilidad de intérpretes cualificados de lengua de señas en todos los departamentos y municipios y elaborar un Registro Nacional de Intérpretes;**

c) **Dotar de recursos suficientes al Centro de Relevos para que pueda desempeñar sus funciones eficazmente, incluyendo los servicios de SIEL y asegurar que estén disponibles, incluido para las personas sordas indígenas y las que habitan en lugares remotos y rurales, durante las 24 horas del día los 7 días a la semana;**

d) **Aplicar eficazmente la legislación sobre derechos de autor promulgada para implementar el Tratado de Marrakech.**

Angola (2023)

35. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio-description and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, and in particular on the websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technology for persons with disabilities.

36. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deaf-blind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles, such as through the allocation of adequate funding for their development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technology adapted to the diversity of persons with disabilities. It further recommends that the State party continues to strengthen and expand sign language training.**

Argentina (2023)

41. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) Las deficiencias en la información y el apoyo a la comunicación para las personas con discapacidad, incluidas aquellas que necesitan un apoyo más intenso;
- b) Las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad para acceder a los medios de información y comunicación pública, como los programas de televisión, los sitios web y la aplicación móvil Mi Argentina;
- c) La falta de reconocimiento legal de la Lengua de Señas Argentina como idioma oficial y de la creación de un Registro Nacional de Intérpretes prevista por el Estado parte, así como la poca formación de intérpretes y los escasos servicios de interpretación de la lengua de señas en todos los ámbitos de la vida;
- d) La inaccesibilidad de los servicios de banca a domicilio y los cajeros automáticos.

42. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:**

- a) **Asegurar el cumplimiento de la Ley de Servicios de Comunicación Audiovisual, y asignar fondos suficientes al desarrollo, promoción y uso de formatos de comunicación accesibles, como el braille, la interpretación para personas sordociegas, la lengua de señas, los formatos de lectura fácil, el lenguaje sencillo, la audiodescripción, la transcripción en vídeo, el subtitulado para personas sordas y los medios de comunicación táctiles, alternativos y aumentativos;**
- b) **Garantizar la accesibilidad de la información de los medios de información y comunicación pública, incluyendo la televisión, los sitios web, y la aplicación móvil Mi Argentina;**
- c) **Reconocer por ley la Lengua de Señas Argentina como idioma oficial a nivel nacional, promover el acceso y el uso de la lengua de señas en todos los ámbitos de la vida, garantizar la formación y disponibilidad de intérpretes cualificados de lengua de señas y elaborar el Registro Nacional de Intérpretes;**
- d) **Garantizar que las entidades bancarias cumplan con la normativa para la inclusión financiera de las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo la accesibilidad de la banca a domicilio y los cajeros automáticos.**

Georgia (2023)

43. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The absence of a national standard and effective monitoring of the accessibility of information, leading to a lack of accessible written, verbal and electronic communication, and information about the lack of resources for the translation of legal documents and public information in municipalities into native languages and in accessible formats, creating barriers for persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minority groups;
- (b) Limited financial resources for the implementation of Georgian Sign Language, and training of Sign language interpreters being very limited in all regions and fully absent in some of them, in mainstream schools and in Free Legal Aid Service institutions;
- (c) Low wages and the absence of licensing standards for sign language interpreters;
- (d) The slow progress in the promotion of accessibility of websites of public and private entities.

44. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Develop and implement a unified standard of accessibility, based on international standards, to provide information intended for the general public in accessible formats and technologies accessible to all persons with disabilities, in a timely manner and without additional costs;**
- (b) **Create and implement monitoring and evaluation of accessibility projects and provide persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities, with free, professional interpretation services in administrative procedures before State agencies, as well as with social workers;**

- (c) **Allocate sufficient funding to the training and employment of sign language interpreters and define licensing standards. Establish an action plan to ensure sufficient coverage of sign language interpreters, particularly in schools and public services;**
- (d) **Enact and implement the "Law on Web and Mobile Applications Accessibility" obliging providers of information on the Internet to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities.**

Peru (2023)

42. El Comité nota que la televisión pública ofrece interpretación en lengua de señas peruana, sin embargo, al Comité le preocupa que:

- a) La accesibilidad a la información sea aún incipiente y muy básica; no se garantice la interpretación de la lengua de señas peruana en los medios de comunicación ni en las instituciones públicas prestadoras de servicios, tampoco se guíe a intérpretes para personas sordociegas y se carezca de programas de comunicación aumentativa y alternativa;
- b) Si bien la lengua de señas peruana está reconocida, sigue habiendo una falta de intérpretes debido a la ausencia de programas de formación y acreditación;
- c) Existen barreras a las que se enfrentan las personas con discapacidad para acceder a la información y la comunicación públicas, incluidos los sitios web y los servicios de los medios de comunicación, y ausencia de normas de información y comunicación jurídicamente vinculantes que garanticen la accesibilidad a la información facilitada al público.

43. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:**

- a) **Asigne recursos financieros y humanos en las instituciones públicas prestadoras de servicios para que cuenten con intérpretes calificados en lengua de señas, así como la implementación de medidas y monitoreo para que los medios de comunicación difundan en todo momento información acompañada de interpretación en lengua de señas, en toda la programación televisiva más allá de la televisión pública, con un seguimiento regular por parte del Ministerio de Transportes y Comunicaciones;**
- b) **Desarrolle e implemente una estrategia para la formación y la acreditación de intérpretes y guías intérpretes, así como sobre comunicación aumentativa y alternativa;**
- c) **En consulta con las organizaciones que representan a las personas con discapacidad, promulgue normas de información y comunicación jurídicamente vinculantes para los sitios web públicos y privados y los servicios de los medios de comunicación, a fin de garantizar la accesibilidad de la información facilitada al público para todas las personas con discapacidad, incluso a través de la comunicación aumentativa y alternativa.**

Togo (2023)

43. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) At the lack of recognition of Togolese sign language as an official language, and the limited number of trained and certified sign language interpreters;
- (b) About the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, and in particular on the websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technology by persons with disabilities;
- (c) The insufficient number of accessible private and public websites as well as captioning and sign language, and audio-description on television for deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons.

44. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Take immediate steps to recognise Togolese sign language as an official language;**

(b) Take all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, interpretation for deafblind persons, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities, including in rural and remote areas;

(c) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures aimed at ensuring that television stations provide their programmes in accessible formats as captioning, sign language and audio-description for deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons, including ensuring that public and private websites are made accessible;

(d) In close consultation with and active involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, provide financial resources for the training of qualified sign language interpreters, including relevant professionals in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats and develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and professionals trained in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats.

Tunisia (2023)

37. The Committee is concerned that the use of sign language by the electronic media remains very limited thus depriving the deaf of information provided through televisions. It is also concerned about the limited or lack of public information in braille and other augmentative means of communication.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Urge the media to increase the presence of sign language interpretation in all television programs;

(b) Provide important public information in braille, Easy Read and other augmentative means of communication.

Bangladesh (2022)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient recognition of Bangla sign language as an official language of deaf persons, and the limited number of trained sign language interpreters for use in the judicial process and at public functions;

(b) The absence of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including Braille, Easy Read, tactile communication, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology, particularly in rural and remote areas;

(c) The insufficient number of accessible private and public websites as well as captioning and sign language, and audio-description on television for deaf, blind and visually impaired persons respectively;

(d) The lack of financial resources to provide training for sign language interpreters and for professionals in the application of Braille and Easy Read formats, tactile communication, accessible multimedia as well as other augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognise Bangla sign language as an official language;

(b) Take all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure that information provided to the general public is available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language, captioning, Easy Read, audio-description and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, including in rural and remote areas;

- (c) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures aimed at ensuring that television stations provide their programmes in accessible formats as captioning, sign language and audio-description for deaf and blind and visually impaired persons, including ensuring that public and private websites are made accessible;
- (d) In consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, provide financial resources for the training of qualified sign language interpreters, including relevant professionals in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats.

China (2022)

42. The Committee observes with concern the lack of access to media, telecommunication and information and communications technology services for persons with disabilities, in particular for persons with visual impairments.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 and take appropriate measures to:

(a) Recognize the Chinese sign language at the constitutional level, promote access to and the use of sign languages (Chinese sign language and the Natural sign language) in all areas of life; ensure the availability of qualified sign language interpreters; and ensure close consultation and engagement with the deaf community, especially in schools and universities;

(b) Allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion and use of accessible communication formats, such as Braille, interpretation for the deafblind, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, video transcription, captioning and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication.

44. The Committee is deeply concerned about the reports of continuing pressure on, and censorship of, human rights defenders and civil society organizations for their advocacy work on disability rights; and of reprisals against them, in particular for their cooperation with the United Nations.

45. The Committee urges the State party to take all measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to enjoy the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, including in their cooperation with the United Nations.

Hong-Kong (2022)

73. The Committee is deeply concerned about the reports of reprisals against and continuing pressure on human rights defenders and civil society organizations for their advocacy work, including on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee further notes with concern the use of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to brand human rights defenders as "foreign agents" and to bring charges of terrorism and sedition against them; to restrict human rights organizations' access to foreign funding; and to restrict and repress the legitimate activities of human rights organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities.

74. The Committee urges Hong Kong SAR, China to:

(a) Urgently repeal and independently review the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security Law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to ensure it is both human rights and international law compliant;

(b) Take prompt action to release human rights defenders with disabilities who were arbitrarily deprived of their liberty under charges of terrorism and subversion of national security;

(c) Adopt measures to ensure that human rights organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities operate in safe environments and can seek, receive and use funding from foreign or international sources, without undue impediments.

Indonesia (2022)

48. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of age-appropriate mechanisms to ensure access to information, communication, assistive devices and assistive technologies and sign language for children with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of sign language interpreters and programs to ensure that Deaf people have access to sign language interpreters of their choice in official interactions;
- (c) The lack of information in accessible formats, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication from government, public and private media outlets, and on websites that provide public information.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish age-appropriate mechanisms to ensure access to information, communication, assistive devices and assistive technologies and sign language for children with disabilities;**
- (b) Implement measures, in close consultation and active involvement of the Deaf community to increase the number of sign language interpreters and to facilitate access to sign language interpreters of choice for official interactions;**
- (c) Establish a legal and policy framework to ensure the accessibility of all public information, including from television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles, and allocate adequate funding for implementation.**

Japan (2022)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Lacks in providing information and supporting communication of all persons with disabilities, including those with more intensive support, such as the deafblind;
- (b) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to public information and communication, including on television programmes and websites, and gaps among local governments;
- (c) The lack of recognition in law of Japanese sign language as an official language, lack of training of sign language and lack of sign language interpretations across all areas of life.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop legally binding information and communication standards at all levels to ensure the accessibility of information provided to the public, including on websites, television and media services;**
- (b) Allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion and use of accessible communication formats, such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, video transcription, captioning and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;**
- (c) Recognize in law Japanese sign language as an official language at the national level, promote access to and the use of sign language in all areas of life, and ensure the trainings and availability of qualified sign language interpreters.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

38. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of communications technology, in both public and private media outlets, and absence of accessible websites that provide public information;
- (b) The lack of recognition of the Lao sign language as an official language;
- (c) The lack of professionals trained in the use of sign language and tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats, particularly for persons who are deaf, deafblind, blind or visually impaired, persons with intellectual disabilities, and autistic persons;

(d) The cancellation of the radio programme “Friends of the Disabled” dedicated to disseminating essential information to and about persons with disabilities, due to insufficient funding in 2010.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that information provided to the general public is available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, captioning, audio-description and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, and ensure that websites are accessible and comply with the standards developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium;

(b) Recognize the Lao sign language as official language, promote the access to and the use of sign language in all areas of life, and ensure the availability of qualified sign language interpreters;

(c) Guarantee a pool of qualified relevant professionals trained in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(d) Re-establish the “Friends of the Disabled” radio programme, and consider integrating broadcasting and community engagement across social media platforms, and similar initiatives led by persons with disabilities.

New Zealand (2022)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Gaps in the provision of government information in accessible formats, such as Easy Read, sign language, Braille, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;

(b) The shortage of New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) interpreters, including trilingual interpreters who can interpret between NZSL, English and Te Reo Māori.

(c) The limited television channels that provide captioning and audio description with funding only provided on a yearly basis;

(d) The lack of specific initiatives to increase the provision of accessible information and communications for Māori persons with disabilities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen implementation of the Accessibility Charter by expanding its coverage to local authorities and district health boards, and increasing funding and capacity for the provision of accessible information and communication formats and technologies;

(b) Implement incentives and increase funding for the training and employment of sign language interpreters, including trilingual interpreters who can interpret between NZSL, English and Te Reo Māori, and adopt a national standardised accreditation framework for sign language;

(c) Adopt legislation to ensure captioning and audio description is provided on television channels with funding security;

(d) Develop specific initiatives to increase the provision of culturally appropriate, accessible information and communications for Māori persons with disabilities.

Republic of Korea (2022)

43. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, and in particular on the websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technology by persons with disabilities;

(b) That the provision of Broadcast Programs Accessible for the Persons with Disabilities fails to include requirement for provision of adequate accessible information through easy-to-read/easy-to-understand content and through other access formats, modes and means of communication.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Review the Guidelines on the Provision of Broadcast Programs Accessible for the Persons with Disabilities to include standards on providing adequate accessible information through Easy-to-Read/Easy-to-Understand content and through other access formats, modes and means of communication.

Singapore (2022)

39. The Committee is concerned about the infringement on freedom of expression and opinion, peaceful assembly and freedom of association of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the national legislation and its practical application, and about reports of reprisals against and continuing pressure on civil society organizations for their advocacy work on the rights of persons with disabilities.

40. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and recommends that the State party recognize the role of civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, as human rights defenders, prohibit any reprisals against individuals and organizations and take effective measures to protect the free exchange of ideas in the civic space. It also recommends that the State party revise its national legislation, in particular the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019, the Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act 2021, the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act 2016 and the Public Order Act 2009, in accordance with the Human Rights Committee's General Comments No. 34 (2011) and No. 37 (2020), and adapt the jurisprudence of all administrative bodies and courts applying it accordingly.

41. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of recognition of the Singapore sign language as an official language;
- (b) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to public information and communication, including to websites and media services, and the absence of legally binding information and communication standards for non-governmental websites and media services to ensure accessibility to information provided to the public.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize the Singapore sign language as an official language and promote access to and the use of sign language in all areas of life, ensure the availability of qualified sign language interpreters, and ensure close consultation and engagement with the deaf community, especially in schools, universities and other settings;
- (b) Enact legally binding information and communication standards for public and private websites and media services to ensure the accessibility of information provided to the public for all persons with disabilities.

Hungary (2022)

44. The Committee observes with concern the lack of access to media, telecommunication and information and communications technology services for persons with disabilities, in particular for persons with visual impairments, in the State party.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 and take appropriate measures to:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice, including but not limited to sign language, Braille, Easy Read, symbol systems, induction loops,

subtitles, audio description, transcription and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication;

(b) Fully transpose the Audiovisual Media Services Directive ((EU) 2018/1808) into the State party's legislation.

Jamaica (2022)

38. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and of information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets, and in particular on the websites that provide public information, and the lack of access to information and communications technology by persons with disabilities;

(b) That despite the widespread use of Jamaican Sign Language, it has not been recognized as a national language, and that the Special Education Policy in which it would be made official is pending adoption.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use, and ensure access to information and communications technology appropriate for the diversity of persons with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen sign language training, and that sign language be recognized as an official language of the State party.

Switzerland (2022)

41. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of recognition of the three Swiss sign languages as official languages;

(b) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to public information and communications, including on websites and media services.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize the three Swiss sign languages as official languages at both the federal and the cantonal levels, promote access to and the use of sign languages in all areas of life, ensure the availability of qualified sign language interpreters, and ensure close consultation and engagement with the deaf community, especially in schools, universities and other settings;

(b) Develop legally binding information and communications standards at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels to ensure the accessibility of information provided to the public, including at public events and on websites, television and media services;

(c) Allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion and use of accessible communication formats, such as Braille, deafblind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, video transcription, captioning and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication.

Venezuela (2022)

38. It is of concern to the Committee that:

(a) There is no information on compliance with the Act on Social Responsibility in Radio, Television and Electronic Media, which makes compulsory the use of subtitles, translation into Venezuelan sign language and other necessary measures, and that not all official websites are accessible;

(b) Venezuelan sign language is not recognized as an official language;

(c) Certified interpreter training courses are inadequate or insufficient to meet the demand for translation services from deaf persons;

(d) Persons with disabilities do not have accessible and easily available information on the implementation of programmes and policies that concern them or on the action taken by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take steps to promote access to information and communications in public services and in the media in accessible formats, including news broadcasts and television and radio programmes;

(b) Recognize Venezuelan sign language as an official language of the State party;

(c) Increase the number of certified interpreter training courses with the effective participation of organizations of deaf persons in identifying their specific needs;

(d) Disseminate widely information on the implementation of programmes for persons with disabilities by the Government and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in accessible media and formats.

Djibouti (2021)

37. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of a national sign language;

(b) The insufficient level of information in accessible format for persons with disabilities, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read formats and the lack of teachers and relevant professionals trained in the use of such assessable means and formats;

(c) Limited accessible information over websites and television channels for persons with disabilities, including those who are blind, deaf or hard of hearing.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Support deaf persons and their representative organizations to develop a national sign language and recognize it as an official language;

(b) Develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and teachers trained in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats;

(c) Adopt measures to strengthen the work of the National Commission on Communication, including through allocating adequate budget, to ensure the accessibility of information on television and websites, for all persons with disabilities, particularly for blind or partially sighted persons.

France (2021)

44. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) Information about the lack of access to broadcasting services and audio-visual content, including public debates, movies in French on media (TV);

(b) That sign language is recognised only in certain areas, such as education;

(c) That sign language interpretation is not recognised as a profession, and the lack of professional requirements and specific training for sign language interpreters;

(d) The lack of information about measures aimed at facilitating the exercise of the right of persons with disabilities to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice.

The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure access to public and private broadcasting services and audio-visual content, through the sign language interpretation, subtitles audio-description and in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities;

(b) Recognise French Sign Language as an official language, including at the constitutional level, and promote access to and the use of sign languages in all areas of life;

(c) Recognise professional status to sign language interpreters, set up the professional standards of sign language interpretation, and deliver systematic and extensive trainings of language interpreters;

(d) Develop augmentative and alternative, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities, including Braille, Easy Read and autism referent persons.

Estonia (2021)

42. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) Information about the lack of access to sign language interpretation and speech-to-text services for hard-of-hearing and deaf persons, particularly in education programmes, employment, health services and cultural activities, and in rural areas;
- (b) The low number of sign language interpreters;
- (c) The lack of measures to facilitate the use of Braille;
- (d) The barriers faced by persons with vision impairments, deaf or hard-of-hearing persons and persons with intellectual disabilities in gaining access to public information and mass media, including television and public media services.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure access to sign language interpretation and speech-to-text services for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in all areas of life;**
- (b) Strengthen measures, including through grants and other incentives, to increase the official training of sign language interpreters, including at the university level, and adopt measures to raise awareness about deaf culture and the Estonian sign language;**
- (c) Adopt a strategy to promote the teaching and use of Braille in society and allocate financial resources to facilitate access to the equipment necessary for producing information in Braille;**
- (d) Ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, for all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats such as Braille, deaf-blind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning and subtitles by allocating adequate funding for its development, promotion and use;**
- (e) Take measures to transpose into the State party's legislation Directive 2018/1808 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) in view of changing market realities.**

Albania (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That there is a lack of data on national action plans or long-term strategies to strengthen the availability of accessible services and information, including media services and Internet pages provided to the public in sign language, captioning, Braille, Easy Read and plain language;
- (b) That sign language is not adequately recognized as an official language of the State party;
- (c) About the insufficient measures to increase access to sign language interpretation services and other means and modes of communication for persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement national action plans or long-term strategies with a clear roadmap to strengthen the availability of accessible information and communications services open to or provided to the public, including media services, telecoms operators and the Internet pages in sign language, captioning, Braille, Easy Read and plain language;**
- (b) Adopt effective legislation and strategies to ensure the full recognition of sign language and provision of Braille with the involvement of the relevant organisations of persons with disabilities;**

(c) Adopt capacity-building programmes, including training on accessible modes, means and formats, including Easy Read and sign language, and provide sign language interpretation for services open to the public.

Australia (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned that, besides a provision under the Disability Discrimination Act, there are no legally binding information and communications standards that require information to be fully accessible.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a plain language law requiring government agencies to use clear communication and that it also develop legally binding information and communications standards so that information, particularly all information about significant changes to laws, policies, systems and obligations, is provided in accessible modes, means and formats, including Braille, Easy Read and sign language (Auslan), and that communication supports are routinely available. It also recommends that the State party promote and support the use of sign language (Auslan) and take steps to ensure the availability of qualified sign language interpreters.

Ecuador (2019)

39. It is of concern to the Committee that:

- (a) Measures to promote access to information provided in the media in accessible formats are lacking and not all government websites are accessible;
- (b) Ecuadorian Sign Language is not recognized as an official language of the State party;
- (c) Qualified interpreter training courses are not sufficient or adequate given the number of deaf persons.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take steps to promote access to information and communications in public institutions and in the media in accessible formats, including news broadcasts and television and radio programmes;**
- (b) Recognize Ecuadorian Sign Language as an official language of the State party;**
- (c) Increase the number of certified interpreter training courses with the effective participation of organizations of deaf persons in identifying their specific needs.**

El Salvador (2019)

42. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) By several government websites that continue to be inaccessible, and that there is no legal provision ensuring the existence and availability of information in accessible formats;
- (b) About the limited availability of professional Salvadoran Sign Language interpreters, and the lack of an official register of Salvadoran Sign Language interpreters and of technical aids for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that all government sites are accessible, and adopt measures to promote the use of accessible communication formats by the media sector such as websites and television and radio programmes that are provided to or open to the public;**
- (b) Increase training courses for qualified Salvadoran Sign Language interpreters, and establish a register of Salvadoran Sign Language interpreters.**

Greece (2019)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The barriers that persons with disabilities face in accessing information, particularly in the public sector, owing, inter alia, to the lack of documents in accessible formats and the lack of sign language interpretation;

(b) Insufficient information on national action plans or long-term strategies to improve the accessibility of persons with disabilities to information, including audiovisual media services and the Internet, by, inter alia, providing sign language interpretation, captioning and documentation in Braille and Easy Read formats.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that providers of services to the public, particularly public broadcasters, telecommunications operators and public libraries, progressively provide information for persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as sign language, Braille, Easy Read formats and captioning, based on an established and monitored action plan. It also recommends that the State party adopt effective measures to facilitate the use of sign language, Easy Read formats and Braille, with the active involvement of the relevant organizations of persons with disabilities.

India (2019)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of recognition of sign language as an official language and the very low number of sign language interpreters;
- (b) The lack of measures to provide Easy Read and tactile forms of communications and to improve information services, particularly for augmentative and alternative communication;
- (c) The low number of television channels that provide closed captioning and sign language interpretation, and the attitudinal barriers in private broadcast service providers regarding accessibility of information for persons with disabilities.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize sign language as official language, allocate public resources to provide training and increase the availability of sign language interpreters in court proceedings and in health-care, education, leisure, religious and cultural services;**
- (b) Ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to all public information and services using augmentative and alternative communication, Easy Read, plain language, tactile communication and accessible digital Internet-based services, taking account of internationally recognized accessibility standards;**
- (c) Enforce the national broadcast legislation that introduced sanctions for lack of compliance with the accessibility requirements.**

Iraq (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of official recognition of Iraqi sign language, the insufficient number of vocational training programmes in sign language interpretation and the limited involvement of persons with disabilities in the teaching of sign language and in the certification of sign language interpreters;
- (b) The insufficient provision of information and communications technologies and of information in accessible formats such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio-description and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;
- (c) The inaccessibility of most television programmes and websites.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Officially recognize Iraqi sign language, increase the number of vocational training programmes in sign language interpretation and of persons with disabilities among sign language teachers and establish, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with hearing impairments through their representative organizations, a mechanism to certify the quality of sign language interpretation services;**
- (b) Promote and facilitate the use of Easy Read and other accessible formats, modes and means of communication and facilitate persons with disabilities' access to information and communications technologies, including through the provision of low-cost software and assistive devices to all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;**

(c) Redouble its efforts to ensure the accessibility of television programmes and government websites, ensure that private entities providing services to the public through the Internet do so in accessible formats and also ensure that websites comply with the standards developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium.

Kuwait (2019)

42. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of a coherent policy to promote and protect the right of access to information and communications in accessible formats, including Braille, accessible digital formats and Easy Read;

(b) The limited use of sign language and the lack of recognition of Kuwaiti sign language.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a coherent policy to ensure access to information and communications in accessible formats, including Braille, accessible digital formats and Easy Read;

(b) In close consultation with and with the active participation of organizations of deaf persons, raise awareness about sign language and promote the learning of sign language, the availability of qualified sign language interpreters and the use of sign language in all settings, particularly in education, the workplace and community settings;

(c) Recognize and use Kuwaiti sign language as an official language, having due regard for the language of communication of choice of persons with disabilities.

Myanmar (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The shrinking space for the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, that affects persons with disabilities;

(b) The insufficient provision of information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies, in both public and private media outlets;

(c) The lack of access to information and communication technology and the absence of accessible websites for persons with disabilities;

(d) The lack of relevant professionals trained in the use of sign language and tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats, particularly for persons who are deaf, deafblind, blind or visually impaired and persons with intellectual disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to enjoy the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, including in its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16;

(b) Adopt and implement legislative and policy measures to ensure that information provided to the general public is available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, audio-description and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;

(c) Ensure access to information and communications technology taking into account the diversity of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring that websites are accessible and comply with the standards developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) ;

(d) Develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and other relevant professionals trained in the use of tactile, Braille and Easy Read formats, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Cuba (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and information and communications technology, such as Easy Read, plain language,

subtitles, sign language, Braille, audio-description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication, in both public and private media outlets.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that information provided to the general public through mass media is available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as Braille, Easy Read and sign language, and technologies appropriate for different impairments, including by ensuring that websites are accessible and comply with the standards developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium. It further recommends that training on sign language is strengthened and that sign language be recognized as an official language of the State party.

Niger (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned about the absence of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read; the low level of information provided to persons with disabilities in the electronic media; the lack of accessible websites for persons with disabilities; the absence of a national sign language; and the lack of trained teachers in sign language, tactile, translators on Easy Read and Braille.

36. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Support deaf persons and their representative organisations to develop a national sign language and recognize it as an official language; and establish a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and teachers in tactile, Braille and Easy Read translation skills;**
- (b) Adopt appropriate legislation and measures to ensure that website owners and designers make their websites accessible to persons with disabilities, especially for blind or visually impaired persons, and ensure that television stations provide news and programmes in accessible formats, especially for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.**

Norway (2019)

33. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient provision of information and communication in accessible formats and technologies, such as Easy Read, plain language, captioning, sign language, Braille, and audio-description, particularly in official interactions;
- (b) The lack of accessibility of most television live broadcast and mass media;
- (c) The Broadcasting Act that only requires commercial television broadcasters with more than five percent viewers to caption their broadcasts for a limited time from 6pm to 11pm.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Increase the provision of accessible information and communication formats and assistive technologies available, which are appropriate for persons with disabilities, including web accessibility, sign language, captioning, Braille, Easy Read and plain language in relation to all public services;
- (b) Increase the accessibility in mass media, particularly in live broadcasting;
- (c) Strengthen requirements of the Broadcasting Act to ensure captioning of all broadcasters at all times.

Rwanda (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities is not mandatory under article 2 of the Ministerial Order No. 01/09/MININFOR of 10 August 2009;
- (b) Sign language is not recognized as an official language under the law, that the Rwanda sign language dictionary is yet to be finalized and that sign language interpretation services are not fully available;
- (c) Persons with disabilities do not have access to public information and mass media in accessible formats, and to information technology, on an equal basis with others.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review article 2 of the aforementioned ministerial order to make mandatory for both public and private media to provide information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;
- (b) Recognize Rwandan sign language as an official language, expedite the completion of the Rwanda sign language dictionary and put into place training, standardization and certification programmes for sign language interpreters and ensure that sign language interpretation services are available to persons who are deaf;
- (c) Ensure access to public information for all persons with disabilities, and develop and use accessible communication formats and technology for mass media, including websites and software applications, and ensure access to information technology for persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The non-recognition of Saudi sign language as an official language in the State party's legislation, as well as at the absence of certification programmes and code of ethics for sign language interpreters;
- (b) The insufficient number of teachers trained in sign language and tactile formats, and of translators able to render texts in Easy Read and Braille;
- (c) The absence of captioned services in Arabic language on TV programmes and public events, the small display of sign language interpreters on TV, and female sign language interpreters covering their faces in public meetings resulting in inaccessibility;
- (d) Slow progress in the implementation of accessibility standards for websites.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legislation to ensure the full recognition of the Saudi sign language as an official language, teach it in schools, and develop a mandatory certification programme and code of ethics for sign language interpreters;
- (b) Reinforce training of teachers at all educational levels in tactile format, Braille and Easy Read translation skills;
- (c) Ensure that public broadcasters, telecom operators and organizers of public events provide information in accessible forms such as Easy Read, captioning for all persons with disabilities, and that sign language interpreters are displayed large enough on TV, as well as that their faces are visible to ensure accessibility;
- (d) Redouble efforts to ensure the implementation of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to all public websites, and encourage private entities providing services through the internet do so in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities.

Senegal (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of recognition of sign language as an official language in the State party;
- (b) The limited number of trained teachers in sign language, tactile, Braille and translators on Easy Read, particularly for persons who are deaf, deafblind, blind or visually impaired and persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (c) The inaccessibility of websites and television channels to provide information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, particularly those who are blind, deaf or hard of hearing.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt concrete measures to recognize and promote sign language as an official language;
- (b) Develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters, and teachers in tactile, Braille and Easy-Read translation skills;
- (c) Adopt appropriate legislation and effective measures to ensure that all websites are accessible to persons with disabilities, especially persons who are blind and visually

impaired and that television channels provide news and programmes in accessible formats, including audio-description, sign language and captioning, especially for persons who are blind, deaf or hard of hearing.

Spain (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned about the limited availability of:

- (a) Sign language interpreters in the State party;
- (b) Technical aids for persons with hearing impairments due to the eligibility age limits and lack of measures to ensure affordability;
- (c) Public information and mass media in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure full access to sign language interpretation services for persons who are deaf and increase the training of sign language interpreters, particularly in rural areas;**
- (b) Ensure all persons with hearing impairments are eligible for affordable technical aids;**
- (c) Take measures to promote accessibility of websites and mobile applications in the private sector;**
- (d) Develop and use accessible communication formats, such as Braille, deaf-blind interpretation, sign language, Easy Read and plain language, audio description, captioning, subtitles and others, for mass media and public information, and allocate adequate funding for their development, promotion and use, in accordance with articles 24 (3) and 29 (b) of the Convention, as well as general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility and art. 7 of the European Union Directive 2018/1808.**

Türkiye (2019)

44. The Committee is concerned about the absence of:

- (a) A mechanism to certify qualified Turkish Sign Language interpreters, and insufficient measures to disseminate and promote the use of Turkish Sign Language in public offices, schools, cultural facilities;
- (b) Sufficient measures to provide persons with disabilities living in rural areas with information in accessible formats, including in Braille, Easy Read and accessible information and communications technology;
- (c) The insufficient enforcement of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and the low percentage of public websites compliant with these guidelines and that only some broadcasters apply sign language interpretation and audio description.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) In conjunction with organizations of Deaf persons, establish a mechanism to ensure the quality of interpretation services;**
- (b) Promote and facilitate the use of accessible formats, modes and means of communication, including in Braille, Easy Read, and grant persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, access to information and communications technology, including the provision of low-cost software and assistive devices;**
- (c) Redouble its efforts to ensure accessibility of government websites, ensure that private entities providing information service through the internet do so in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities, and apply sanctions to broadcast companies in case of lack of compliance with accessibility standards.**

Vanuatu (2019)

36. The Committee is concerned about the challenges faced by persons with disabilities to exercise their right to freedom of expression and access to information due to the lack of information in accessible formats and communication barriers. It is also concerned at the lack of official recognition of sign languages.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Continue its efforts to facilitate that the local Deaf community, in cooperation with the regional and international Deaf community, develop a national sign language for recognition by the State party, provide training of sign language interpreters and introduce a certification system;**
- (b) Adopt legislative and other measures to improve the availability of all public information in accessible formats, such as the use of Braille and Easy Read.**

Algeria (2018)

36. The Committee is concerned by the absence of a coherent policy to promote and protect the right of access to information in accessible formats including Braille, Easy Read and to officially recognize Algerian sign language.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a coherent policy for the promotion and protection of information in accessible formats including Braille, accessible digital formats, Easy Read and the recognition of Algerian sign language.

Bulgaria (2018)

43. The Committee notes with concern that Bulgarian Sign Language is still not officially recognized and that Bulgarian Sign Language Act is yet to be adopted. It is also concerned about lack of government support for the work being done to provide information in Easy Read. Furthermore, it is concerned about insufficient implementation of the EU Directive 2016/2102 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Officially recognizes Bulgarian Sign Language by adopting and implementing the Bulgarian Sign Language Act;

(b) Take measures to provide information in Easy Read and strengthen the efforts and entities that are already supporting and using Easy Read and other accessible formats;

(c) Take measures to progressively implement the European Union Directive 2016/2102 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies in order to ensure full accessibility of websites.

Malta (2018)

31. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and information and communication technologies, such as Easy Read, plain language, subtitles, sign language, Braille, audio-description, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication;

(b) The lack of accessibility of most television broadcast and mass media, beyond news bulletins and political debates;

(c) The limited number of sign language interpreters.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase the provision of accessible information and communication formats and technologies, which are appropriate for persons with disabilities, including web accessibility, sign language, subtitles, Braille, Easy Read, plain language, and tactile, augmentative and alternative means of communication in relation to all public services;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to television broadcast and mass media;

(c) Adopt capacity-building programmes, including the training of sign language interpreters, and ensure the availability of sufficient sign language interpreters.

Philippines (2018)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of recognition and support of the specific cultural and linguistic identity of persons who are deaf through the promotion of the Filipino Sign Language and deaf culture;

(b) The lack of Easy Read materials available for persons with intellectual disabilities;

(c) The fact that the Sign language interpreter subtitles were not enacted by the Congress, and that the bill of Filipino Sign Language has yet to be adopted.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt R.A. No. 7277 Section 22, and Rule VI A and other related measures to ensure persons with hearing impairments be provided with language subtitles in its newscast program.

Poland (2018)

36. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

- (a) Promotion of Braille, augmentative and alternative modes of communication, including Easy Read;
- (b) Accessibility of public e-services for persons with disabilities;
- (c) Effective implementation of the Act on sign language due to its narrow scope, lack of clarity and obligations for public and private service providers to make sign language interpretation available, especially in health care services;
- (d) Clear obligation within the Broadcasting Act for the use of sign language interpretation, subtitles and audio description at TV and radio programmes; it is further concerned by formal requirements in the Copyright Act that hinder the use of sign language.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop the use of Braille, augmentative and alternative modes of communication and Easy Read across all sectors;**
- (b) Expedite the adaptation of websites of public institutions to the needs of all persons with disabilities and carry out regular monitoring;**
- (c) Update and give effect to the Act on sign language to ensure effective implementation of the rights of deaf persons, including access to sign language interpretation in all sectors at the expense of the State;**
- (d) Develop clear and progressive obligations for public and private broadcasters within the Broadcasting Act for the use of sign language interpretation, subtitles and audio description, and amend the Copyright Act to ensure unrestricted access to interpretation into sign language for all broadcasts.**

South Africa (2018)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The slow pace in amending the Constitution to reflect the adoption of the South African Sign Language as an official language of deaf persons;
- (b) The lack of sufficient teachers trained in sign language, tactile, translators on Easy-Read Braille, the inaccessibility of websites and inability of television stations to provide information in accessible formats for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing;
- (c) The lack of meaningful consultation with representative organisations of deaf persons in assigning sign language interpreters at important national functions.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the amendment of the constitution to reflect the adoption of the South African Sign Language as the 12th official language and conduct effective training for sign language interpreters;**
- (b) Adopt legislative provisions to ensure that information provided to the general public through the mass media is available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats, such as Braille, Easy-Read and sign language, and technologies appropriate to different impairments, including by ensuring that websites are accessible and comply with the standards developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C);**
- (c) Make the rights of persons with disabilities as an integral part of the teacher-training courses mandatory and ensure that television stations provide news and programmes in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities, including deaf persons.**

North Macedonia (2018)

38. The Committee is concerned about the very limited public information that is accessible to persons with disabilities, including through sign language interpretation, tactile, braille and Easy Read and other alternative forms of communication in both public and private media outlets. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of standardisation, recognition and implementation of sign language as an official language.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Consider adopting the bill on the right to access information and eliminate any limitation that hinders the exercise by persons with disabilities of their freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that website owners and designers make their websites accessible to persons with disabilities, especially blind, and visually impaired persons;

(b) Adopt concrete legal and implementation measures to standardise, recognize and use sign language as an official language and to be taught in schools; develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters, and teachers in tactile, Braille and Easy Read skills and ensure that television stations provide news and programmes in accessible formats, especially for deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing persons.

Haiti (2018)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Delays in the development and recognition of Haitian sign language and the limited number of sign language interpreters;

(b) The insufficient provision of information in accessible formats and technologies such as Easy Read, plain language, subtitles, sign language, Braille, and audio-description, particularly in official interactions;

(c) Inaccessible information in the media, including radio, television, newspapers and public websites.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Codify Haitian sign language and expedite the enactment of legislation to recognize it as an official language for official interaction;

(b) Take measures to improve accessibility of information and communication formats and technologies, which are appropriate for persons with disabilities, including web accessibility, sign language, subtitles, Braille, Easy Read and plain language in relation to all public services and implement capacity-building programmes for personnel delivering services to persons with disabilities, including training in Braille, Easy Read, tactile communication and sign language;

(c) Increase accessibility in the media, particularly in live broadcasting.

Nepal (2018)

33. The Committee is concerned at the absence of a Centre for Sign Language Research and Training of Sign Language Interpreters, and at the absence of a state system for certification and approval of sign language interpreters' qualification.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to establish a Centre for Sign Language Research and Training of Sign Language Interpreters, and ensure their certification involving representative organisations for the deaf.

Oman

39. The Committee is concerned about the absence of standards to ensure the accessibility by persons with disabilities of information provided to the public, including through the media, in particular for persons that are blind, visually impaired, deaf or have a hearing disability, and persons with intellectual disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the insufficient number of teachers trained in sign language, tactile, Easy Read and Braille to ensure accessible formats to persons with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legislative provisions to ensure that information provided to the general public through mass media is also available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of impairments, for example, Braille, sign language and Easy-Read, including by ensuring that web sites are accessible and comply with the standards developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C);

(b) Continue to promote sign language, including by expanding the “Understand Me” programme and through the establishment of a visual communication service, as well as intensify training and accreditation programmes for sign language interpreters.

Russian Federation (2018)

44. The Committee welcomes that the number of sign language interpretation hours has recently increased. It is however concerned about the insufficient number of sign language interpreters and non-transparent monitoring of quality of their services with special regards to public service providers. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of public service information available in Easy Read format. It is furthermore concerned about the lack of information on the implementation of the recently ratified Marrakesh treaty.

45. The Committee urges the State party to establish clear and binding obligations and standards for public services in ensuring info-communication accessibility with regard to all types of disabilities with the relevant and effective safeguards after consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities. In relation to this, according to paragraph 141 of written replies (CRPD/C/ RUS /Q/1/Add.1) to the list of issues, the Committee recommends to set up a national register to monitor in a transparent manner the facilities of particular importance to persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends that the State party provide information on the progressive implementation of the Marrakesh treaty based on a clear roadmap in its next periodic report.

Seychelles (2018)

37. The Committee is concerned about the insufficiency of studies carried out by the State party to promote the recognition of Creole sign language as an official language and about the insufficient efforts to ensure that public information is accessible to persons with disabilities, including through accessible formats such as Braille, sign language interpretation, audio description and Easy Read. It is also concerned about the lack of accessibility of information in the mass media.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Formally develop Creole sign language, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities and academia from other neighbouring Creole language-speaking countries, and officially recognize Creole sign language;

(b) Take measures to improve the accessibility of information and communications formats and technologies that are appropriate for persons with disabilities, including web accessibility, sign language, subtitles, Braille, Easy Read and plain language, in relation to all public services;

(c) Increase the accessibility of the mass media, particularly with respect to live broadcasting.

Slovenia (2018)

35. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient accessibility to all, public and private services of information and communication, including TV and Internet, for all persons with disabilities, especially for persons with intellectual disabilities;

(b) The insufficient provision of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, including Easy Read, by public authorities at the national and municipal level;

(c) The lack of implementation of the Law on the use of the Slovenian sign language.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party develop time-bound strategies and allocate budget for ensuring:

(a) Accessibility of information and communication provided by all, public and private, mass media services, including TV and Internet, for all persons with disabilities;

(b) The development of standards of the use of sign language, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, including Easy Read, and all other accessible means, modes

and formats of communication, including mobile applications, and its implementation in overall public and municipal sector;

(c) Recognition of the Slovene sign language as an official language in the State party, and training of sign language and tactile interpreters as well as teachers, public authorities, parents on Slovenian sign language.

Sudan (2018)

43. The Committee is concerned about how little public information is accessible to persons with disabilities, including through sign language interpretation, tactile, braille and Easy Read and other alternative forms of communication in both public and private media outlets. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of recognition of sign language as an official language.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Consider adopting the bill on the right to access information and eliminate any limitation that hinders the exercise by persons with disabilities of their freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that website owners and designers make their websites accessible to persons with disabilities, especially blind and visually impaired persons;

(b) Adopt concrete measures to recognize sign language as an official language and to be taught in schools; develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters, and teachers in tactile, Braille and Easy Read skills and ensure that television stations provide news and programmes in accessible formats, especially for deaf and hard of hearing persons.

Latvia (2017)

34. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a comprehensive legal framework to ensure that both public and private entities providing services to the general public and mass media providing information, including through the Internet, do so in accessible forms and formats for all persons with disabilities, including Easy Read formats on websites, subtitling and sign language interpretation on television.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive legal framework to ensure that all information and communications provided to the general public are available to all persons with disabilities, including access to the Internet, Easy Read texts, subtitling, Braille and sign language interpretation.

Luxembourg (2017)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient provision of information and communication in accessible formats and technologies, such as Easy Read, plain language, subtitles, sign language, Braille, and audio-description, particularly in official interactions;

(b) The lack of accessibility of most television live broadcast and mass media;

(c) The lack of official recognition of sign language and the limited number of interpreters;

(d) The insufficient number of Easy Read translators.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase the provision of accessible information and communication formats and technologies, which are appropriate for persons with disabilities, including web accessibility, sign language, subtitles, Braille, Easy Read and plain language in relation to all public services;

(b) Expedite the enactment of legislation to recognize German sign language with a possibility of using it in official interaction, and promoting other sign languages to respect the multilingual character of the State party;

- (c) **Adopt capacity-building programmes, including the training of Easy Read translators and sign language interpreters, and provide sign language interpretation for services open to the public;**
- (d) **(d) Increase accessibility in mass media, particularly in live broadcasting.**

Montenegro (2017)

40. The Committee is concerned about the largely insufficient availability of public information and mass media for persons with disabilities in accessible and usable formats, such as Braille, deaf-blind interpretation, sign language, easy and plain language, audio description, captioning, subtitles and others. It is also concerned about:

- (a) The non-recognition of Montenegrin sign language as an official language and the State party's insufficient efforts to effectively promote and facilitate the use of sign language, as well as the use of all other alternative methods and accessible formats of communication, particularly when persons with disabilities are engaged in official interactions;
- (b) The absence of information about the established and reliable procedures to apply for sign language interpretation in public proceedings and in public life events.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party develop and use accessible communication formats, as listed above, for mass media and public information, and allocate adequate funding for their development, promotion and use, in accordance with articles 24 (3) and 29 (b) of the Convention, as well as general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility. In this regard, it also recommends that the State party provide for the full legal recognition of the sign language of the Montenegrin deaf community and of Braille.

Morocco (2017)

42. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a unified sign language in Morocco that can be taught in public and private schools and recognized as an official language of deaf persons. It is also concerned about the lack of teachers trained in sign language and tactile formats and of translators able to render texts in Easy Read and Braille, the inaccessibility of websites and the inability of television stations to provide information in accessible formats for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Adopt concrete measures to develop a unified Moroccan sign language that will be recognized as an official language of deaf persons and taught in schools, develop a pool of qualified sign language interpreters and teachers trained in tactile format, Braille and Easy Read translation skills and ensure that television stations provide news and programmes in accessible formats, especially for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing;**
- (b) **Adopt appropriate legislation and measures to ensure that website owners and designers make their websites accessible to persons with disabilities, especially blind and visually impaired persons;**
- (c) **Expedite action on the adoption of the bill on the right of access to information and eliminate any limitation therein that hinders the enjoyment by persons with disabilities of that right.**

Panama (2017)

44. The Committee regrets how little public information is accessible to persons with disabilities, including through sign language interpretation, audio description and Easy Read on television.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party make accessible the broadcasting of all public information, especially with regard to national processes of concern to all inhabitants and to emergency situations and/or natural disasters, irrespective of the media used, for all persons with disabilities, through accessible formats and technology adapted

to the various types of disabilities, which should also be available in the native languages of the country's indigenous communities.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

46. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The limited provision of accessible information from public services and authorities and the insufficient obligatory standards for making websites accessible and for monitoring ICT-accessibility;
- (b) The insufficient resources for the education and training of sign language interpreters and the insufficient availability of and access to high-quality educated sign language interpreters, especially in relation to education, employment, health and leisure activities;
- (c) The lack of training and education for families, classmates and co-workers in high-quality sign language communication in order to better provide for the inclusion within the community of deaf persons and hard of hearing persons.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations representing persons with disabilities:

- (a) Identify outstanding gaps in the implementation of obligatory accessibility standards on information channels based on ICT;**
- (b) Ensure that legislation provides for the right to high-quality sign language interpretation and other forms of alternative communication in all spheres of life for deaf persons and hard of hearing persons, in accordance with the Convention;**
- (c) Allocate resources for the education of children with hearing impairments, their families and others, such as classmates and co-workers, in British Sign Language and tactile language.**

Armenia (2017)

35. The Committee is concerned that accessibility of information and communication is very limited for persons with disabilities, and that:

- (a) Training of sign language interpreters is insufficient, resulting in an inadequate number of interpreters in public and private services, and that television programmes lack subtitles for persons with hearing impairment;
- (b) Accessible technologies and formats of information and communication, including Internet websites and easy-read formats, are critically limited, particularly for persons with visual impairments and those with intellectual disabilities, and the use of Braille is restricted to specialized, segregated settings;
- (c) Sign language is not recognized as an official language of the State party.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Invest in the systematic training of sign language interpreters and provide sign language interpretation in public and private services, and ensure that television programmes are duly interpreted and subtitled for persons with hearing impairment;**
- (b) Adopt accessible information and communication formats and technologies that are appropriate for persons with disabilities, including web accessibility, Braille and easy-read and plain formats, in relation to all public services;**
- (c) Recognize the use of sign language in official interactions.**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

38. The Committee is concerned that there is a lack of data on the existence of a standardized unified Braille code to enhance its usage in education and employment, as well as on available applications of information and communications technology. It is also concerned that there is a lack of information on procedures for deaf persons to request sign language interpretation

in public proceedings and in public life events, with the exception of in the justice system and as regards effective access to electronic media.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that public broadcasters and telecoms operators provide information in accessible forms such as Easy Read, closed captioning and subtitling for all persons with disabilities, and that it adopt effective legislation to ensure full recognition of sign language(s) and Braille.

Canada (2017)

39. The Committee is concerned by:

- (a) The lack of official recognition of sign languages and that the training programmes for sign language interpreters do not meet minimum requirements to provide a high quality of interpretation;
- (b) The limited amount of information in easy-read or any other augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and communication technologies for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The absence of information about compliance with standards of accessibility for websites in the public and private sectors.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize, in consultation with organizations of deaf persons, American Sign Language and Quebec Sign Language (Langue des signes Québécoise) as official languages and their use in schools, and establish jointly with organizations of deaf persons a mechanism to certify the quality of interpretation services and ensure that opportunities for continuous training are provided for sign language interpreters;**
- (b) Promote and facilitate the use of easy-read and other accessible formats, modes and means of communication and grant persons with disabilities access to information and communications technology, including through the provision of software and assistive devices to all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Redouble its efforts to ensure the accessibility of government websites and ensure that private entities providing services through the Internet do so in formats accessible to all persons with disabilities;
- (d) Translate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into sign languages.

Cyprus (2017)

45. The Committee notes with concern that funding for sign language interpreters is inadequate and that their appearance in broadcasting is limited. It is furthermore concerned about the insufficient availability of sign language interpretation in public services and leisure and cultural facilities, and about the limited opportunities to learn and communicate in Cypriot sign language and tactile communication.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Allocate sufficient financial resources for high quality education of sign- language interpreters in the area of public services, leisure and cultural activities and in broadcasting;**
- (b) Recognize and promote the right for persons with hearing and/or visual impairments, including deaf and deafblind persons, and their environment, including family members, to learn and communicate in Cypriot sign language and tactile communication, including by developing a Cypriot sign language dictionary, to ensure their participation and recognition in all spheres of life on an equal basis with others.**

47. The Committee is concerned about the absence of any effectively guaranteed access to information by persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in accessible, alternative and augmentative modes and formats of communication.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party support the development and promotion of augmentative and alternative modes of accessible communication for and to

persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. It also recommends that the State party monitor effectively the compliance of the use of augmentative and alternative modes of communication with international standards, especially regarding persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

Honduras (2017)

47. Al Comité le preocupa la no aplicación de las normas sobre la accesibilidad en programas oficiales televisivos, relativos a procesos electorales o en situaciones de emergencia y desastres naturales, así como la ineficacia de los mecanismos administrativos y judiciales en caso de incumplimiento. Le preocupa también que las normas y los procedimientos sobre el uso del braille, la lectura fácil y otras formas de comunicación no se ajusten a lo dispuesto en la Convención. Asimismo, le preocupa la falta de formatos accesibles y tecnologías adecuadas a los diferentes tipos de discapacidad.

48. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas necesarias para asegurar la aplicación de la normativa relevante y que transmita, en medios y formatos accesibles y tecnologías adecuadas a los diferentes tipos de discapacidad, toda información pública destinada a la población en general, particularmente la referida a procesos nacionales y a situaciones de emergencia y/o desastres naturales. Asimismo, le recomienda que promueva el reconocimiento oficial de la lengua de señas hondureñas, y del sistema braille como código oficial de lectoescritura de las personas ciegas y sordociegas.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

42. The Committee is concerned by:

- (a) The lack of recognition of Persian Sign Language and the limited provision of sign language interpreters;
- (b) The lack of availability of accessible information and communications technology for persons with disabilities, including easy-read; and
- (c) The lack of accessible public information, including accessible websites.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognise Persian Sign Language as official language and its use in schools, and establish jointly with organizations of deaf persons a mechanism to certify the quality of interpretation services ensuring opportunities for continuous training for sign language interpreters;**
- (b) Promote and facilitate the use of easy-read, other accessible formats, modes and means of communication and grant persons with disabilities access to information and communications technology, including the provision of assistive technologies to all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas; and**
- (c) Ensure accessibility of government websites and those of private entities which provide public services.**

Jordan (2017)

41. The Committee notes the absence of standards to ensure the accessibility by all of information provided to the public, including through the mass media. It is concerned that the State party has not formally recognized sign language.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legislative provisions to ensure that information provided to the general public is also available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of impairments, in a timely manner and at no additional cost;**
- (b) Officially recognize sign language and promote its use, including by intensifying training and accreditation programmes for sign language interpretation.**

Republic of Moldova

40. The Committee is concerned that sign language is not adequately recognized as an official language of the State party, that insufficient training given to sign language interpreters has resulted in an inadequate number of interpreters in public and private services and that deaf children lack access to bilingual education. It is also concerned that the provision of technology and accessible information and communication formats, including easy read, is severely limited, particularly for persons with visual impairments and those with intellectual disabilities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize sign language as a means of communication in official interactions;

(b) Invest in training sign language interpreters and provide sign language interpretation for services open to the public and ensure that deaf children have equal access to quality, inclusive education;

(c) Use accessible information and communication formats and technologies that are appropriate for persons with disabilities, with special regard for children with disabilities in inclusive education, including web accessibility, Braille, easy-read and plain formats in relation to all public services.

Bolivia (2016)

51. The Committee is concerned that Bolivian sign language is not recognized as an official language of the State party, which limits the freedom of expression and communication of persons with disabilities, particularly in terms of accessing and availing themselves of public services such as health, education, justice and others.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the recognition of Bolivian sign language as an official language, promote the accreditation of qualified Bolivian sign language interpreters throughout the State party, and increase the availability of sign language interpreters in public services in order to promote the integration of the culture and linguistic identity of deaf persons, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Colombia (2016)

50. The Committee is concerned about the limited progress made to provide persons with disabilities with access to information, using accessible modes, means and formats of communication, and the lack of resources for implementing Act No. 1680 of 2013.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the provision of adequate economic, human, technical, digital and other resources to facilitate access to information in accessible modes, means and formats of communication and to adequately implement Act No. 1680 of 2013, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Ethiopia (2016)

45. The Committee is concerned that freedom of expression of persons with disabilities is restricted and that necessary support is not provided for them to fully enjoy that right.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that freedom of expression is protected in law and in practice for persons with disabilities, and that necessary support is provided for them to fully enjoy that right, including by the provision of reasonable accommodation.

47. The Committee is concerned that Ethiopian Sign Language is not recognized as an official language of the State party and at the lack of or insufficient number of trained and qualified sign language interpreters.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative and other measures to significantly increase the number of trained and qualified sign language interpreters throughout the territory and to recognize and promote the use of sign language as an official language.

Guatemala (2016)

55. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are limited in their communication and access to information due to the lack of accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities. It is also concerned that indigenous persons with disabilities are not provided with any such support for communication and access to information in their native languages.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of its legislation on access to information and communication in order to facilitate the access of all persons with disabilities to accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities. The latter should also be available in the native languages of the country's indigenous communities. The Committee further recommends promoting the official recognition of Guatemalan Sign Language and of Braille as the official reading and writing code for blind and deaf-blind persons.

Italy (2016)

49. The Committee is concerned at the lack of official recognition of sign language, and its limited use in broadcast purposes. It is also concerned about the lack of acknowledgement of Braille and tactile communication as effective tools for the education of blind or deaf-blind persons.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the enactment of legislation on the proposed provisions to remove communication barriers, recognize the Italian sign and tactile languages and promote inclusion for deaf and deaf-blind persons and those with hearing disabilities in general. It also recommends that the State party significantly increase the provision of sign language in public broadcasting, and that it take concrete measures to ensure the teaching of standardized Braille to blind persons and tactile communications to deaf-blind persons to enable them to gain access to information, rather than assistive technology alone.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

39. The Committee is concerned that the sign languages of the United Arab Emirates are not officially recognized and that efforts to train qualified sign language interpreters have been insufficient.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to officially recognize the sign languages of the United Arab Emirates and to intensify its efforts to train qualified sign language interpreters.

Uruguay (2016)

47. Al Comité le preocupa la no aplicación de las normas sobre la accesibilidad en programas oficiales televisivos, relativos a procesos electorales o en situaciones de emergencia y desastres naturales, así como la ineficacia de los mecanismos administrativos y judiciales en caso de incumplimiento. Preocupa también que las normas y los procedimientos sobre el uso del Braille, la lengua de señas y otras formas de comunicación no se ajusten a lo dispuesto en la Convención.

48. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas necesarias para asegurar la aplicación de la normativa relevante y que transmita, en modos, medios y formatos de comunicación accesibles, toda información pública destinada a la población en general, particularmente la referida a procesos nacionales y la relativa a situaciones de emergencia y/o desastres naturales.

Chile (2016)

45. Al Comité le preocupa que la lengua de señas chilena y el sistema Braille no sean reconocidos como oficiales en el Estado Parte. También le preocupa la no aplicación de las normas sobre la accesibilidad en programas oficiales televisivos (Ley núm. 20422), relativos a procesos electorales o en situaciones de emergencia y desastres naturales, y la ineficacia de los mecanismos administrativos y judiciales en caso de incumplimiento.

46. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que reconozca como oficiales la lengua de señas chilena y el sistema Braille y haga accesible la transmisión de toda información pública en cualquiera de los medios de información, particularmente la referida a procesos nacionales que afectan a todas las personas, y la relativa a situaciones de emergencia y/o desastres naturales.

Portugal (2016)

40. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access to information and Communication for persons with disabilities in the State party due to the lack of accessible formats and appropriate technologies for different types of disabilities, such as sign language, including tactile-sign language and braille, augmentative and alternative communication modes, and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication chosen by persons with disabilities, including easy- read formats.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the necessary measures to ensure enforcement of its legislation regarding access to information and communication in order to facilitate access by persons with all types of disability to accessible formats and appropriate technologies for all kinds of disability, such as sign language and interpreters of tactile-sign system, braille, augmentative and alternative communication modes, and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication chosen by persons with disabilities, including easy- read formats. Furthermore, it recommends that the State party promotes the official recognition of Portuguese sign language and the braille system.

Serbia (2016)

43. The Committee is concerned that a national Braille authority has not been established yet in Serbia to guarantee the existence of a standardized unified Braille code needed for extensive enhancement of its use in education, employment and applications of ICT.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party take necessary steps to establish the Serbian national Braille authority and ensure creation of the standardized Serbian Braille code.

Slovakia (2016)

61. The Committee is concerned about the lack of registered sign language interpreters and the lack of sign language interpretation on public television, in courts of justice and in public services such as education, health and social care.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party significantly increase the numbers of trained sign language interpreters to provide services in public broadcasting, courts of law, and other public areas.

63. The Committee is concerned that a national Braille authority has not yet been established to guarantee the existence of a standardized unified Braille code needed for extensive enhancement of its use in education, employment and information and communications technology applications.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party encourage the establishment of a Slovak national Braille authority and ensure the creation of a standardized Slovak Braille code.

Thailand (2016)

41. The Committee is concerned at the lack of availability of public information and mass media for persons with disabilities in accessible and usable formats, that Thai Sign Language is only recognized in a government resolution of 17 August 1999 signed by the Permanent Secretary for Education on behalf of the Government, and that provision of sign language interpreters in public offices is very limited, especially in rural and remote areas.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party develop and use accessible communication formats, such as Braille, tactile formats, sign language, easy-read and others, for mass media and public information ensure the accessibility of government websites, and take with concrete and effective measures to control and monitor accessibility and apply sanctions for non-compliance. It also recommends that the State party officially recognize Thai Sign Language in legislation to ensure its full and effective application in the State party and increase training and certification initiatives to ensure the availability of professional Thai Sign Language interpreters.

Uganda (2016)

42. The Committee is concerned about the lack of public information in Braille and of sign language interpreters, the non-recognition of Ugandan Sign Language as legally enforceable, the lack of trained teachers in sign language, tactile communication, easy-read teaching material and Braille to make it beneficial to persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the inaccessibility of websites, the absence of easy-to-read information and the inability of television stations to provide information in accessible formats for deaf persons and persons with visual impairments.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to recognize Ugandan Sign Language as an official language with enforceable duties in the State party, improve access to information through, inter alia, Braille, public information, increasing the number of sign language interpreters and recognizing that deaf persons have a substantive right to use Ugandan Sign Language as an official language, train teachers in sign language, tactile communication, Braille and easy-to-read formats;

(b) Require television stations to provide news and programmes of national importance in accessible formats, in particular for deaf persons.

(c) Ensure that government websites and websites targeting the public are accessible to persons who require easy-to-read texts, and ensure that owners and designers of websites make them accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly persons with visual impairment;

(d) Invest significant resources in training of sign language interpreters and introduce a certification system, particularly in rural areas, to ensure greater availability and enhanced quality of sign language interpretation in public services, and develop a sign language dictionary.

Brazil (2015)

38. The Committee is concerned that information intended for the general public, including official pronouncements and political campaigns, is still not fully available in accessible formats, such as Braille, Brazilian sign language (LIBRAS), and other accessible modes, means and forms of communication, including easy to read format.

39. The Committee recommends the State party to provide the necessary resources and training to ensure that all information intended for the general public is available in a timely manner in accessible formats and technologies.

European Union (2015)

54. The Committee is concerned that across the European Union persons with disabilities cannot always access information and communication in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities, including in sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice, including easy-to-read formats.

55. The Committee recommends that the European Union take measures and enforce the implementation of its legislation on access to information and communication to facilitate access in accessible languages, formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities, including in sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice, including easy-to-read formats, for all persons with all types of disabilities and to promote official recognition of sign language and braille.

EU Institutions compliance with the Convention (as public administrations)

82. The Committee is concerned that not all websites of various European Union institutions are fully implementing accessibility standards. It furthermore notes with concern the lack of information in sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication, including easy-to-read format.

83. The Committee recommends that the European Union take necessary measures to ensure full application of web accessibility standards to websites of all European Union institutions and to offer information in sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of persons with disabilities' choice, including in easy-to-read format, in official interactions.

Gabon (2015)

48. The Committee is concerned at the lack of availability of public information and mass media for persons with disabilities in accessible and usable formats such as Braille, sign language, easy to read, and others and at the absence of steps being taken to officially recognise Gabonese Sign Language in the law.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party develop and use accessible communication formats, as listed above, for mass media and public information, allocating adequate funding accordingly, and officially recognising Gabonese Sign Language and Braille and taking steps to establish training and certification for professional Gabonese Sign Language interpreters.

Kenya (2015)

39. The Committee is concerned by:

(a) The limited provision of sign language interpreters in public offices and to facilitate access to public services free of charge; and

(b) The lack of information on information and communication technologies at low cost for persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish jointly with organizations of deaf persons and Kenyan sign language interpreters, a mechanism to certify the quality of interpretation services and ensure that opportunities for continuous training are provided for interpreters; and

(b) Strengthen measures to grant access by persons with disabilities to technologies of information and communication, including by the provision of low cost software and assistive devices for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas.

Qatar (2015)

39. The Committee is concerned about the State party's actions, without the full participation and consultation of persons with hearing impairments, to standardize sign language in the Arabic region.

40. The Committee urges the State party to recognize and promote the use of Qatari Sign Language and to ensure the involvement of and consultation with the Qatari Deaf community in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of all sign language policies, projects and activities of the State party at the national and regional levels.

Ukraine (2015)

38. The Committee notes with concern the lack of accessible public broadcasting services, as well as limited number of sign language interpreters for the users of public services.

39. The Committee calls upon the State party to allocate sufficient financial resources for training and hiring of sign language interpreters in the area of public services and ensure sufficient amount of broadcasting services accessible to persons with hearing impairments.

40. The Committee is concerned about the significant reduction of government support for Braille and audio publication as well as the absence of Ukrainian language audio description and captioning from video content.

41. The Committee calls upon the State party to take measures to invest in Braille and audio publications as well as make available Ukrainian language audio description and captioning of video content.

Cook Islands (2015)

41. The Committee is concerned at the lack of access to ICT, the availability of Braille, sign language, easy read and digital communication.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with General Comment No. 2:

(a) Enact legislation to ensure that all information and communications provided to the general public are available to all persons with disabilities in accessible formats, including sign language, Braille and other accessible modes, means and formats of communication, and ICTs;

(b) Make sign language and Braille training available so sign language and Braille can be used by Deaf and Blind cook islanders in schools and in public;

Croatia (2015)

31. The Committee remains concerned by the failure to provide all information in accessible formats and to effectively promote and facilitate the use of Croatian sign language as Croatia's official sign language, as well as the use of all other forms of accessible formats of communication.

32. The Committee recommends the State party to further its effort to adapt the e- citizens project to meet the need of people with disabilities and to ensure that they have access to information on equal basis with others by promoting and facilitating the use of easy to read, Braille, audio formats, and other augmentative and alternative communication in official interactions, and by making public websites accessible. It further recommends that the State party adopt and foresee measures to effectively and timely implement the Act on Croatian Sign Language and Other Forms of Communication Support for the Deaf and Deaf-blind Persons, including its regulation, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities. It is also recommended to ensure that deaf persons are provided with sign language interpretation in all judicial procedures.

Czech Republic (2015)

40. The Committee notes with concern the lack of investment of resources into sign language interpretation and lack of trained sign language interpreters, which restricts the effective enjoyment of right to use the Czech Sign Language by the deaf persons and their families.

41. The Committee calls upon the State party to allocate sufficient financial resources for training and hiring of sign language interpreters that would enable deaf persons to effectively enjoy the right to use the Czech Sign Language.

42. The Committee notes that the State party still has not amended the Act No. 231/2001 Coll., which should make audiovisual content of broadcasts accessible to persons with hearing or visual impairments.

43. The Committee calls upon the State party to amend the Act No 231/2001 Coll., and ensure the accessibility of audiovisual content of broadcasts to persons with hearing or visual impairment.

Dominican Republic (2015)

40. Preocupa al Comité que todavía no se haya reconocido la lengua de señas dominicana como lengua oficial en el país, y la ausencia de estrategias para la formación profesional de intérpretes de lengua de señas dominicana y una entidad que los certifique.

41. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte adoptar inmediatamente legislación que reconozca la lengua de señas dominicana como lengua oficial e implemente una estrategia de formación en lengua de señas dirigida a personal del sector público, promueva la formación profesional de intérpretes de lengua de señas y aliente la inclusión de la enseñanza de lengua de señas en instituciones educativas desde el nivel de primaria.

Turkmenistan (2015)

39. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient measures taken to ensure that all information is provided to persons with disabilities in accessible formats. It is also concerned that standards and procedures on the use of Braille, sign language and other forms of communication, are not in compliance with the Convention. It is particularly concerned that sign language is only considered as a means of interpersonal communication and not as an official language on its own.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to ensure accessible communication formats in line with international standards by allocating adequate funding for their development, promotion and use with the involvement of the relevant DPOs, as well as for professional training for sign language interpreters, teachers, parents and family members of the deaf included. The State party should also recognize State sign language as an official language.

New Zealand (2014)

41. The Committee notes the limited number of sign language interpreters in the State party.

42. The Committee recommends that the Sign Language Board work to ensure funding for the training and employment of sufficient numbers of sign language interpreters, as well as an increased use of New Zealand Sign Language in all aspects of life, including educational and cultural activities.

43. The Committee is concerned that it is still the case that Maori people with disabilities find it more difficult to access information in their own language. Maori people who are deaf find accessing information in New Zealand Sign Language even more difficult, owing to the lack of interpreters from Maori into New Zealand Sign Language.

44. The Committee recommends that greater efforts be made to enable Maori and Pacific people with disabilities, and especially those who are deaf and deaf-blind, to access information.

Denmark (2014)

44. The Committee is concerned that certain groups of deaf persons, in particular children born deaf who have been implanted with cochlear implants, are reportedly prevented from learning and communicating in Danish Sign Language. The Committee is also concerned that the recent amendment to the Danish Language Council Act does not promote Danish Sign Language through research or training.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party recognize the right of all deaf persons and born deaf persons to have the possibility to learn and communicate in Danish Sign Language, regardless of medical treatments undergone; take effective measures to promote Danish Sign Language as a communication method, without necessarily resorting to speech therapy; carry out research into Danish Sign Language, including the development of a Danish Sign Language dictionary; and promote the use of Danish Sign Language in all areas of deaf persons' lives to ensure their participation in particular in employment, education and cultural life. The Committee furthermore recommends that the Government of the Faroe Islands recognize Faroese sign language as an official language.

46. The Committee acknowledges that Braille is an important communication tool for blind persons in education and employment. It is, however, concerned that education in Braille is not systematically provided to all blind pupils, as they are scattered and few in number. The Committee is also concerned that the decentralized structure and responsibility of municipalities may not be appropriate to maintaining such a specialized tool, and that the State party perceives a risk of dilution of knowledge in education with specialized support, as indicated during the dialogue.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a Braille Council tasked with promoting, preserving and enhancing knowledge and use of Braille as a communication tool for blind persons, including in education.

48. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not effectively guarantee provision of information to people with intellectual and mental disabilities, in accessible, alternative and augmentative modes and formats of communication.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party accord equal recognition to the development and promotion of augmentative and alternative modes of communication that are accessible to people with intellectual and mental disabilities. The State party should take appropriate measures to ensure that all actors are familiar with the established standards for using augmentative and alternative modes of communication and should put into place effective monitoring procedures that prevent acts of substituted information and communication, especially in decision-making mechanisms regarding people with intellectual and mental disabilities.

Republic of Korea (2014)

41. The Committee is concerned that the sign language used in the Republic of Korea is not recognized as an official language in the State party and that the draft law declaring Braille as an official script is still pending before the National Assembly. It is also concerned that the regulation ensuring access to broadcast material for persons with disabilities, in particular television programmes, includes a standard on programming quantity but fails to include standards to ensure the quality of the programmes and to provide adequate accessible information through sign language, closed-captioning, descriptive video/audio description, easy-to-read/easy-to-understand content and through other access formats, modes and means of communication.

42. The Committee encourages the State party to recognize Korean Sign Language as an official language of the Republic of Korea, and to adopt the draft law recognizing Braille as an official script of the State party. It further recommends that the regulation on ensuring access to broadcast material for persons with disabilities include standards on programming quality and on providing adequate, accessible information through sign language, closed-captioning, descriptive video/audio description, easy-to-read/easy-to-understand content and through other access formats, modes and means of communication.

Azerbaijan (2014)

34. The Committee also notes that while progress has been made to provide information in accessible formats and to effectively promote as well as to facilitate the use of braille and sign language, gaps still persist.

35. It should also develop the use of other accessible formats of communication in line with international standards by allocating adequate funding for their development, promotion and use as well as for professional training of sign language interpreters and teachers including for the public service, in accordance with articles 9, 21, 24, paragraph 3, and 29 (b) of the Convention in cooperation with DPOs including deaf persons' organisations.

Costa Rica (2014)

41. The Committee is concerned that information disseminated through the media is not accessible in Costa Rican sign language and that institutions – in particular, institutions working to protect the rights of persons with disabilities – do not have sign language interpreters.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party comply with legislation on the Costa Rican sign language interpretation of news programmes broadcast by the media, and on the hiring of Costa Rican sign language interpreters in institutions, in particular those working to safeguard human rights.

Australia (2013)

43. The Committee is concerned by the failure to provide all information in accessible formats and to effectively promote and facilitate the use of Australian sign language (Auslan) as Australia's official sign language and the use of all other forms of accessible formats of communication (deafblind interpretation, braille, easy and plain English, audio description), in particular when persons with disabilities are in official interactions.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party recognizes Australian Sign Language as one of the national languages of Australia and develops the use of other forms of accessible formats by allocating adequate funding for their development, promotion, and use in accordance with Articles 24(3) and 29 (b) of the Convention.

El Salvador (2013)

45. The Committee is concerned that Salvadoran sign language does not enjoy official recognition and that insufficient steps have been taken to develop and provide augmentative and alternative communication. It is also concerned at the limited access to and promotion of Braille and other forms of accessible communication for persons with visual impairments, especially new information technologies.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize Salvadoran sign language as an official language and encourage its dissemination, including through the training of professional interpreters, and its use as a means of ensuring access to information for persons with hearing impairments;

(b) Ensure that the necessary resources are available to provide public information in accessible formats, including augmentative and alternative communication for persons with intellectual or psychosocial impairments and accessible information technologies for persons with visual impairments.

Paraguay (2013)

53. The Committee takes note with satisfaction of the adoption of Act No. 4336 of 2011, making it compulsory to use sign language in information and news broadcasts in the audiovisual media. It is nevertheless concerned that this effort is not sufficient to guarantee freedom of expression and opinion and access to information, in particular in public and private services and institutions for the general public.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the Act giving official recognition to sign languages used by persons with disabilities and ensure that all public information is available in accessible forms and formats, in accordance with the Convention.

China (2012)

71. The Committee takes note of the difficult situation of persons with hearing impairments in accessing information due to lack of official recognition of the significance of sign language by Hong Kong, China. The Committee is concerned about the lack of training for and services provided by sign-language interpreters.

72. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China, increase training for and the services provided by sign-language interpreters. It should also recognize the public examination and assessment of such interpreters.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 22 CRPD
(Respect for privacy)*

September 2025

Article 22 – Right for privacy

1. No person with disabilities, regardless of place of residence or living arrangements, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Persons with disabilities have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

2. States Parties shall protect the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
China (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Singapore (2022)

Switzerland (2022)

France (2021)

India (2019)

Spain (2019)

Latvia (2017)

Armenia (2017)

Uganda (2016)

Denmark (2014)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 22 on Dominican Republic (2025), Tuvalu (2025), Burkina Faso (2024), Costa Rica (2024), Mongolia, Paraguay, Angola, Argentina, Togo, New Zealand, Djibouti, Estonia, Cuba, Niger, Norway, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey, Vanuatu, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, South Africa, Poland, Philippines, Malta, Bulgaria, Algeria, Haiti, Nepal, Oman, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Slovenia, Sudan, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Panama, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Bolivia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Chile, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Thailand, Brazil, European Union, Gabon, Kenya, Mauritius, Qatar, Ukraine, Cook Islands, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Germany, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Belgium, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Australia, Austria, El Salvador, Paraguay, Argentina, China, Hungary, Peru, Spain, Tunisia, Hungary, Jamaica, Mexico, Venezuela, Bangladesh, Indonesia and New Zealand.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

42. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities in detention are subjected to strip searches and groping under the guise of hygiene checks without privacy, explanation or justification.

43. The Committee recommends that the State Party prohibit and prevent any form of invasive physical searches or hygiene checks in detention unless strictly necessary for a legitimate purpose and carried out in accordance with the principles of dignity, autonomy, privacy, and non-discrimination.

Finland (2025)

42. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The lack of awareness of mechanisms to protect the privacy of persons with disabilities in institutions, including the lack of awareness of complaint and accountability mechanisms;

(b) The potential invasive nature of procedures to evaluate personal assistance requirements and other in-home supports.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) **Considering that access to justice is key to deinstitutionalization, develop awareness of procedures for persons with disabilities in institutions to lodge complaints in cases of violation of their rights, including their right to privacy, for the investigation of such violations and to ensure accountability;**

(b) **Ensure that evaluation procedures for personal assistance and other in-home supports respect the right to privacy and carry out capacity building for public officers on the matter.**

Kiribati (2025)

41. The Committee is concerned about the absence of legal and policy measures to protect the privacy and confidentiality of persons with disabilities, particularly with regard to personal, health, and rehabilitation information and that existing safeguards rely on informal ethical practices rather than enforceable standards.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt legal and policy measures guaranteeing the right to privacy of persons with disabilities, including explicit provisions on the confidentiality and protection of personal, health, and rehabilitation information within the draft Disability Inclusion Act and other relevant legislation, and establish clear standards and protocols for the handling of such data including the explicit request of informed consent of persons with disabilities.

Maldives (2025)

43. The Committee is concerned that the existing legislation does not fully ensure the confidentiality and protection of the privacy of persons with disabilities, particularly for those lodging complaints, who are at increased risk of retaliation.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its legislation on data protection for persons with disabilities to ensure their privacy, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, by safeguarding information such as personal medical records held by institutions and within mental health systems and services, and especially in relation to those lodging complaints.

Canada (2025)

43. The Committee is concerned about insufficient information on measures to protect the right to privacy of persons with disabilities, including migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities in migration and cross-border processing of personal data.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations,

establish privacy protection procedures and develop policies to guarantee that migration and cross-border processing of personal data of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities respects their right to privacy.

European Union (2025)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Privacy risks from emerging technologies, including the use of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making, data practices linked to assistive technologies that may reveal sensitive disability-related information and the restriction of full access to vital features of assistive devices if data collection permissions are not granted;
- (b) Persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities cannot effectively provide or refuse consent to data processing due to substitute decision-making arrangements.

55. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities receive clear, accessible information about their data rights, that data collection is limited to what is necessary for the purpose, and that assistive technology remains available, regardless of data-sharing decisions;**
- (b) Amend legal provisions to ensure that persons with disabilities have effective rights to consent or object to data processing and can control their health data, and provide user-friendly, accessible interfaces that allow for opting out of data sharing.**

Palau (2025)

41. The Committee is concerned that confidentiality and protection of the privacy of persons with disabilities are not fully ensured by existing legislation.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its legislation on data protection for persons with disabilities to ensure the privacy of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and or psychosocial disabilities, including protection of information on their personal medical records in institutions and mental health systems and services.

Viet Nam (2025)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Unlawful sharing of personal and medical information of persons with disabilities, especially in medical and social service settings;
- (b) Surveillance or monitoring of persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, without consent in institutional settings;
- (c) Digital privacy risks, including unauthorized use of personal data and images, and online exploitation or abuse;
- (d) Unauthorized use of images and personal stories of persons with disabilities for fundraising purposes;
- (e) Data collection practices in institutions and public services that may violate privacy protections;
- (f) The persecution of organizations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement measures to prevent unauthorized disclosure of personal and medical records, ensuring privacy protections in all settings;**
- (b) Ensure that monitoring and surveillance of persons with disabilities in institutional settings comply with legal safeguards;**
- (c) Strengthen digital privacy protections for persons with disabilities, including measures against online exploitation and unauthorized data sharing;**
- (d) Prevent the unauthorized use of personal images and stories for fundraising or promotional purposes;**
- (e) Ensure that data collection practices respect privacy rights and allow persons with disabilities to control how their personal information is used;**

(f) Cease the persecution and suppression of digital platforms that advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, and refrain from modifying anti-terrorism laws to unjustly target these organizations.

Belarus (2024)

43. The Committee is concerned about the lack of privacy in information, for persons with disabilities, in particular, persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities;

44. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its legal provisions for the protection of personal data and privacy of persons with disabilities, including by establishing safeguards in the Online Platforms and Online Advertising Act and other relevant legislation, including by setting up data protection protocols and securing systems to guarantee the privacy on matters of personal details, health and rehabilitation, while providing effective remedies for any breaches of privacy.

Belgium (2024)

44. The Committee is concerned about the low level of protection of privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation records of persons with disabilities declared incompetent under the Law on Patients' Rights.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

(a) Ensure that personal, health, and rehabilitation data is protected from any use not within the purposes for which it was obtained, is updated and validated at regular intervals, and is deleted once its purposes have been achieved;

(b) Incorporate the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act into national law and establish a monitoring body with expertise in the rights of the Convention, data protection and privacy, to oversee its implementation.

Benin (2024)

43. The Committee notes with concern the restrictions on the privacy of persons with disabilities in institutions.

44. The Committee remands the state party to :

(a) Raise awareness among persons with disabilities and their families with regard to the legislation on the protection of personal data;

(b) Raise awareness among persons with disabilities and their representative organizations and families on respect for privacy and data protection.

Denmark (2024)

61. The Committee is concerned that no efforts have been made to amend the Psychiatric Act, which allows psychiatric hospitals to transfer strictly private and confidential information to third parties without the consent of the person concerned.

62. The Committee recalls its previous recommendation and urges Denmark to amend the Psychiatric Act so as to prohibit the transfer of the private and confidential information of patients in psychiatric hospitals to third parties without the consent of the person concerned, in order to comply with the principle of respect for privacy. It recommends the Faroe Islands and Greenland adopt analogous legislation.

Ghana (2024)

42. The Committee is concerned that Confidentiality and protection of the privacy of persons with disabilities is not fully ensured by existing legislation, including the Data Protection Act, 2012 (Act 843).

43. The Committee recommends that the State Party strengthen its legislation on data protection for persons with disabilities to ensure the privacy of persons with disabilities, in

particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including protection of information on their personal medical records in institutions and mental health systems and services.

Mauritius (2024)

37. The Committee is concerned that the Data Protection Act 2017 and other relevant laws fail to explicitly protect and facilitate the privacy of persons with disabilities and neglect procedures to ensure the confidentiality of their data, including in health-related situations.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce legal provisions to protect the privacy and integrity of all persons with disabilities in all situations, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and develop a clear and accessible legal mechanism to protect their personal data and respond to reports of privacy breaches.

Netherlands (2024)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of legislation regulating the exchange of non-medical privacy-sensitive data, and the lack of clarity in the rules on processing of medical and non-medical data outside of the WZD and the WVGZZ.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party establish clear rules to minimize the personal and medical data required from persons with disabilities when applying for welfare, insurance, and other entitlement, ensuring that only essential information is collected, and provide measures to protect individuals from undue pressure to disclose personal data.

Ukraine (2024)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The processing, under the Martial Law, of sensitive and high-risk data related to court convictions, counterintelligence activity and fight against terrorism;
- (b) The absence of comprehensive provisions for the protection of personal data and records about persons with disabilities, including in health-related situations.

45. The Committee recommend that the State party adopt legislation and protocols to protect the privacy of personal data, health, and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and to prohibit arbitrary and unlawful interference to their privacy and families.

Azerbaijan (2024)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information concerning protection of personal data and records about persons with disabilities, including health related situations.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Protect the right of persons with disabilities to respect for privacy, family life, correspondence, honour and reputation on an equal basis with others, regardless of disability, sex, gender, age and place of residence;**
- (b) **Introduce the duty for public and private actors to safeguard personal data, digitalized databases and records of persons with disabilities from unlawful and arbitrary interference, including health records and rehabilitation-related information;**
- (c) **Ensure implementation of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CETS No. 108) and ratify the Protocol amending it (CETS No. 223) amendments to the Council of Europe Convention 108+.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

The Committee is concerned about the following:

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

(a) The exceptions contained in Law No. 30 of 2018 promulgating the Personal Data Protection Law in its fifth article, which allows access to and processing of personal data without the consent of the data subject, including its classification, use and disclosure to third parties, for the purposes of medical diagnosis, treatment and prevention, as well as for persons under guardianship and trusteeship; (b) The lack of mechanisms to protect the personal data of persons with disabilities who are users of mental health services and in care homes and beneficiaries of the disability allowance.

(b) The lack of personal data protection mechanisms for persons with disabilities using mental health services, in care homes, and benefiting from the disability allowance.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party

(a) Repeal the exceptions contained in the Personal Data Protection Law No. 30 of 2018 that allow access, circulation, disclosure and publication of data without the consent of the data subject for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment and prevention and for those under guardianship and wardship;

(b) Develop a clear and accessible mechanism to protect the personal data of persons with disabilities who are users of mental health services, care homes and beneficiaries of the disability allowance.

(c) Develop a clear and accessible mechanism for persons with disabilities to protect their personal data and report any breaches of privacy.

Kazakhstan (2024)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Cross-border processing of personal data of persons with disabilities accessing medical, health and rehabilitation services and of information on their health to third countries, and its impact on the right to privacy of persons with disabilities.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen legal provisions for the protection of personal data and privacy of persons with disabilities, including by establishing safeguards in the Law on Online Platforms and Online Advertising and other relevant legislation, setting up data protection protocols and secure systems to guarantee the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities, and by providing effective remedies for breaches of privacy.

Nicaragua (2024)

46. Al Comité le preocupa que no exista la información necesaria en formatos y modos alternos de comunicación y/o intérpretes de lengua de señas nicaragüense, lo que obliga a las personas con discapacidad a recurrir a terceros en sus asuntos judiciales, bancarios y crediticios, correspondencia privada o a asuntos de otra índole, violando su derecho a la privacidad contemplado en el artículo 27 de la Ley de los Derechos de Personas con Discapacidad (Ley 763).

47. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente los artículos 24 y 27 de la Ley de los Derechos de Personas con Discapacidad (Ley 763) y tome medidas para que el uso de formatos de comunicación accesibles, como el braille, la lengua de señas, los formatos de lectura fácil, el lenguaje sencillo, la audio descripción, la transcripción en vídeo, el subtítulo para personas sordas y los medios de comunicación táctiles, alternativos y aumentativos, estén disponibles para las personas con discapacidad cuando los requieran para poder acceder a las diferentes instituciones con respeto a su privacidad.

Sweden (2024)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comprehensive measures ensuring data protection and the right to privacy concerning the personal, medical and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities, in particular with regard to assessments of needs for services, including personal assistance.

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all necessary measures, including the revision of data protection laws, to ensure data protection and the right to privacy, and set up data protection protocols and secure systems to guarantee the privacy of the personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others.**

Zambia (2024)

43. The Committee notes with concern the absence of provisions to protect the privacy of persons with disabilities in the Persons with Disabilities Act, the National Policy on Disability or any legislation.

44. **The Committee recommends that the State party amend its national legislation to introduce legal provisions to protect the privacy of all persons with disabilities in all situations, in line with the Convention.**

Andorra (2023)

45. The Committee expresses its concern about insufficient protection of data of persons with disabilities in the health-care system, including in private practices, hospitals and institutions.

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party implement effective measures to ensure the privacy of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including the confidentiality of information and of their personal medical records, in institutions and mental health systems and services.**

Austria (2023)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The constraints for persons with disabilities in institutions to decide on and enter into a personal relationship, especially same-sex relationships, largely due to a lack of privacy and stymieing interference by personnel and legal representatives;

(b) The deterring effect of anti-prostitution laws of the Länder on publicly funded facilitation services of sexual companionship for persons with disabilities.

52. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Ensure respect for the right to private life, including sexual self-determination, of persons with disabilities living in institutions, and end deterring interference by personnel and guardians;**

(b) **Harmonize federal and Länder legislation on prostitution and sexual companionship to ensure the provision of publicly funded facilitation services of sexual companionship for persons with disabilities.**

Germany (2023)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comprehensive measures ensuring data protection and the right to privacy concerning personal, medical and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities in institutions and sheltered workshops, and the absence of confidentiality protocols concerning data protection of disability certificate holders vis-à-vis data exchange amongst institutions and service providers.

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all necessary measures, including the revision of data protection laws, to ensure the data protection and the right to privacy in hospitals, institutions and sheltered workshops, and set up data protection protocols and secured systems to guarantee the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others.**

Israel (2023)

47. The Committee is concerned that the medical records and personal data of persons with psychosocial disabilities who are current or former patients of the Sheba Medical Center have been released to doctors without the consent of patients and without notification of this disclosure of information.

48. **The Committee calls upon the State party to recall medical records and personal data of current and former patients of the Sheba Medical Center, strengthen and adopt data and privacy protection measures, including in relation to arbitrary or unlawful interference, and provide information about this situation and a formal apology to current and former patients.**

Malawi (2023)

45. The Committee is concerned about the absence of provisions regarding the protection of privacy of persons with disabilities, in areas, such as health care, support services for persons with disabilities, and other situations in which data is collected.

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party make provision in law for the protection of the privacy of all persons with disabilities in all situations in line with the Convention.**

Mauritania (2023)

37. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information related to the laws on data protection and the lack of awareness on the part of persons with disabilities about their rights to data protection and privacy.

38. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Adopt measures to train and sensitize persons with disabilities and their families with regard to the legislation on the protection of personal data;**
- (b) **Raise awareness among persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, as well as their families, on the respect for privacy and data protection;**
- (c) **Set up a national strategy, in close consultation with, and the active involvement of, persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, to ensure the respect for their privacy and the protection of their personal data as well as of their families.**

Georgia (2023)

45. The Committee expresses concern about the lack of comprehensive measures ensuring data protection and privacy practices in hospitals and institutions for persons with disabilities.

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party review and revise the Law on Personal Data Protection to include data protection and privacy practices of hospitals and institutions and set up data protection protocols in both health and institutions for persons with disabilities, guaranteeing the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others.**

Peru (2023)

44. Preocupa al Comité que el Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil (RENIEC), a petición de empresas privadas, facilita, sin previo consentimiento informado, datos confidenciales de personas con discapacidad e información sensible, lo que supone una clara violación de su derecho a la privacidad con altas posibilidades de excluirles de algunos servicios que prestan estas empresas por razón de su discapacidad.

45. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que prohíba expresamente en la ley al Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil (RENIEC) la divulgación a terceros de datos de su registro, incluidos los datos relacionados con la discapacidad de las personas, a través de su sistema, y que se adopten disposiciones de confidencialidad y privacidad, incluidas medidas correctivas para dichas infracciones.**

Tunisia (2023)

39. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information related to the laws on data protection and the lack of awareness on the part of persons with disabilities about their right to data protection and privacy.

40. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Adopt measures to train and sensitize persons with disabilities and their families with regard to the legislation on the protection of personal data;**

- (b) **Raise awareness among persons with disabilities and their representative organisations as well as their families on the respect for privacy and data protection;**
- (c) **Set up a national strategy, with close consultation with and meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, to ensure the respect for their privacy and protection of their personal data as well as of their families.**

China (2022)

46. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient information provided on measures taken to protect persons with disabilities from arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, to protect the privacy of personal data and records of persons with disabilities from arbitrary or unlawful interference, including in the registration system of persons with “mental disorders”, and on the available remedies in case of violation of the right to privacy.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the privacy of personal data of persons with disabilities is comprehensively protected by data protection laws across the State party, including a right of action and access to a remedy.

Japan (2022)

47. The Committee is concerned that information about persons with disabilities may be collected without neither their consent nor reasonable purpose by service providers within private and public sectors, and that confidentiality and the protection of privacy of persons with disabilities are not fully ensured by existing legislation, including the My Number Act and the Act on the Protection of Personal Information.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its legislation on data protection for persons with disabilities by ensuring that it is processed either on the basis of the personal, free and informed consent of the data subject or other legitimate non-discriminatory basis laid down by law, and that it is collected for explicit, specified and legitimate purposes and not processed in a way incompatible with those purposes, that it is processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, and that the data subject has a right to an effective remedy.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

40. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information in the State party on progress made as regards the protection of the right to privacy of persons with disabilities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the privacy of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including the confidentiality of information and of their personal medical records, in institutions and mental health systems and services.

Republic of Korea (2022)

45. The Committee observes with concern that in order to prevent disappearances GPS tracking devices are being issued to autistic persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities without their free and informed consent, violating their right to privacy.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to respect the privacy of persons with disabilities, in particular autistic persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, neurodivergent persons, and to ensure that GPS tracking devices are issued based on their consent;
- (b) Take appropriate measures, including policies to prevent disappearances, which are in line with the Convention and the human rights model of disability.

Singapore (2022)

43. The Committee is concerned about the protection of data of persons with disabilities in the health care system, including in private practices, hospitals and institutions. It is also concerned about practices that require persons with disabilities to disclose their impairments in relationships with private entities such as employers and insurance providers.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party substantially strengthen its legislation on data protection for persons with disabilities, particularly in the health care system, by ensuring that it is processed either on the basis of the personal, free and informed consent of the data subject or some other legitimate non-discriminatory basis laid down by law, and that it is collected for explicit, specified and legitimate purposes and not processed in a way incompatible with those purposes, that it is processed without discrimination, lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, and that the data subject has a right to an effective remedy.

Switzerland (2022)

43. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The unnecessarily large amount of personal data required from persons with disabilities who apply for social insurance and other entitlements;
- (b) The lack of a right of action, given that the Disability Discrimination Act does not apply to services provided by cantons and municipalities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure, through legislation and policy at the federal and cantonal levels, that data collection is limited to data that are specifically relevant, that personal data are disclosed with the consent of the individual only, and that data protection covers the personal data of those living in institutions;
- (b) Ensure that the privacy of the personal data of persons with disabilities is comprehensively protected by data protection laws across all cantons, including a right of action and access to remedy.

France (2021)

46. The Committee notes with concern provisions in the Decree 2019-412 of 2019 and the Decree 2018-383 of 23 2018, so-called HOPSYWEB hindering the protection of personal data particularly concerning persons with psychosocial disabilities relating them with high risk of radicalisation and terrorism, and reinforcing surveillance and control of their activities, in the areas of employment and public housing.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal regulations and cease discriminatory data collection concerning persons with psychosocial disabilities, including in relating them with high risk of radicalisation and terrorism, and prevent the use of their personal data and their medical records without their consent or following the consent provided by third parties.

India (2019)

46. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities who are Aadhaar (unique identification number) holders have experienced interference in their privacy, with their personal data having been compromised.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that all identification processes guarantee individuals' privacy, and enact legislation for the protection of the privacy of person with disabilities, particularly in their interaction with service providers or personnel providing support.

Spain (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned that the right to privacy of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities is widely violated in institutions and mental health facilities, including by depriving persons of their personal belongings, and an inflexible and minimal regime of visits and contacts with people outside the facilities. The Committee is also concerned by reports of video surveillance cameras placed in the rooms of patients and leaks of confidential information about patients through the mental health care sector.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party implement effective measures to ensure the privacy of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in institutions and mental health systems and services including the confidentiality of information and of their personal medical records.

Latvia (2017)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of safeguards in place to protect the privacy of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities who are listed on the register of patients suffering from certain diseases and the consequent adverse impact of being so listed when accessing particular services or applying for jobs;

(b) The allegedly ineffective means of recourse to contest third-party access to the personal data of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities that is collected by hospitals without the authorization of the individuals concerned;

(c) The practice of public officials demanding medical certificates as proof of disability and their consequent disregard of State-issued disability certificates.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reinforce the protection of privacy, including personal data, in, among other places, psychiatric hospitals and institutions;

(b) Improve public officials' awareness of a human rights-based approach to disability and sanction the reported practice of demanding medical certificates to prove disability.

Armenia (2017)

37. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are publicly displayed for medical or charity purposes.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party protect the privacy of all children with disabilities, in particular in relation to their personal, health, habilitation and rehabilitation status.

Uganda (2016)

44. The Committee is concerned about the lack of provision of sign language interpreters and information in accessible formats in the health and banking sectors.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the protection of personal data of persons with disabilities in protocols in the health and banking sectors.

Denmark (2014)

50. The Committee is concerned that psychiatric hospitals are allowed, under the Psychiatric Act, to transfer strictly private and confidential information to third parties without the consent of the person concerned.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the Psychiatric Act so as to prohibit the transfer of the private and confidential information of patients in psychiatric hospitals to third parties without the consent of the person concerned, in order to comply with the principle of respect for privacy.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 23 CRPD
(Respect for home and the family)*

September 2025

Article 23 - Respect for home and the family

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that:

a) The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses is recognized;

b) The rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education are recognized, and the means necessary to enable them to exercise these rights are provided;

c) Persons with disabilities, including children, retain their fertility on an equal basis with others.

2. States Parties shall ensure the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship, adoption of children or similar institutions, where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the best interests of the child shall be paramount. States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realizing these rights, and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.

4. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents.

5. States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family, and failing that, within the community in a family setting.

Democratic People's Republic Of Korea (2025)

Finland (2025)

Kiribati (2025)

Maldives (2025)

Canada (2025)

Dominican Republic (2025)

European Union (2025)

Palau (2025)

Tuvalu (2025)

Viet Nam (2025)

Belarus (2024)

Belgium (2024)

Benin (2024)

Burkina Faso (2024)

Denmark (2024)

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Bahrain (2024)

Costa Rica (2024)

Kazakhstan (2024)

Nicaragua (2024)

Sweden (2024)

Zambia (2024)

Andorra (2023)

Austria (2023)

Germany (2023)

Israel (2023)

Malawi (2023)

Mauritania (2023)

Mongolia (2023)

Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)

Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Poland (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom Of Great Britain And Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia And Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic Of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic Of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)

United Arab Emirates (2016)

Uruguay (2016)

Chile (2016)

Lithuania (2016)

Portugal (2016)

Serbia (2016)

Slovakia (2016)

Thailand (2016)

Uganda (2016)

Brazil (2015)

European Union (2015)

Gabon (2015)

Kenya (2015)

Qatar (2015)

Ukraine (2015)

Croatia (2015)

Czech Republic (2015)

Dominican Republic (2015)

Germany (2015)

Mongolia (2015)

Turkmenistan (2015)

New Zealand (2014)

Republic Of Korea (2014)

Belgium (2014)

Mexico (2014)

Sweden (2014)

Azerbaijan (2014)

Costa Rica (2014)

El Salvador (2013)

Paraguay (2013)

Argentina (2012)

China (2012)

Hungary (2012)

Peru (2012)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding observations on art. 23 on Indonesia, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Philippines, Nepal, Cyprus, Mauritius, Cook Islands Denmark, Ecuador, Australia, Austria, Spain, Tunisia, Indonesia and Republic of Korea.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

44. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) According to credible reports, persons with disabilities face restrictions on marrying, and social stigma continues to discourage marriages between persons with and without disabilities;
- (b) Persons with disabilities are denied the opportunity to be adoptive parents, guardians, or trustees of children, and it is unknown whether parents of children with disabilities are provided with financial support, counseling, and personal assistants to provide their children with the universal rights outlined in their laws;
- (c) There is no mechanism to monitor implementation of provisions of the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Provision of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of persons with disabilities regarding respect for their home and the family.

45. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Conduct public awareness campaigns to foster understanding that persons with disabilities have the right, on an equal basis with others, to marry persons of their choice, with or without disabilities, and to have or adopt children, if they so wish;**
- (b) Ensure that laws, policies, and practices protect the right of parents with disabilities to raise their children on an equal basis with others, and establish comprehensive support services, including financial assistance, personal assistance, counselling, and care to enable families to remain together;**
- (c) Take the necessary legislative measures to ensure monitoring of the right to respect for home and the family of persons with disabilities.**

Finland (2025)

44. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Information on family planning, artificial fertilization procedures, or adoption is not accessible and not available in sign language, including Finland Swedish sign language;
- (b) General and specialized family services lack sufficient training to provide support to persons with disabilities, whether parents or children.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that all policies and information on family planning, including artificial fertilization procedures and adoption procedures, are accessible for persons with disabilities and available in sign language, including Finland Swedish sign language;**
- (b) Increase awareness and capacity building on the rights of persons with disabilities for officers providing general and family services and ensure adequately funded community-based services for children with disabilities and their families to prevent out-of-home placement and to support parents with disabilities in caring for their children.**

Kiribati (2025)

43. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Despite the absence of legal restrictions, persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, face stigma, discrimination, and barriers in exercising their right to marry, found a family, and decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children;
- (b) There is a lack of accessible sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disabilities and an absence of measures to support parents with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities, and the risk of family separation in the absence of adequate state support services.

44. The Committee recommends that the State Party in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Take measures to eliminate stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities in marriage and family life, including through legislative measures and awareness-raising**

campaigns, particularly addressing negative stereotypes about women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that sexual and reproductive health services are accessible to persons with disabilities, including through training of health workers, provision of information in accessible formats, and physical accessibility of facilities;

(c) Develop and implement support services for parents with disabilities and for families of children with disabilities, to enable them to exercise their parental responsibilities and obligations on an equal basis with others, and to ensure that children with disabilities can grow up in their families, with access to appropriate community-based support.

Maldives (2025)

45. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, continue to face persistent barriers in exercising their rights to marriage, family, parenthood, and relationships, due to stereotypes, stigma, and misconceptions, and that in many cases family members make decisions related to healthcare and family planning on behalf of persons with disabilities, and confine them to the home;

(b) At the lack of adequate support for parents with disabilities in exercising their parental rights, as well as for parents of children with disabilities, including households with members with disabilities, who face multiple barriers such as discrimination by association, social isolation, limited societal support, economic hardship, and disproportionate caregiving responsibilities, as well as the about the marginalization of families of persons with disabilities living in the outer islands, with extremely limited access to essential services and support.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Raise awareness in society of the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to sexual expression, choice of relationships, family and parenthood, and remove all obstacles preventing persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, from exercising their rights on an equal basis as others;

(b) Adopt programmes and policies to provide persons with disabilities, in particular persons with disabilities living on the outer islands, with family planning education in accessible formats and age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive rights;

(c) Adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure support for families of children with disabilities and for parents with disabilities, in particular those on the outer islands, to enable them to raise their children in the family settings.

Canada (2025)

45. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The inconsistencies in federal, provincial and territorial legislation on the legal capacity of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to marry and adopt children, as well as discrepancies in judicial interpretation on the legal capacity of persons with psychosocial disabilities to marry and divorce;

(b) The insufficient support to children with disabilities and their families, and to parents with disabilities, to carry out their parental responsibilities, especially in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis territories.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Recognise the legal capacity of persons with disabilities to ensure their right to marry, divorce, adopt and raise children;

(b) Adopt policy measures, to ensure adequate support to children with disabilities and their families, to parents with disabilities and to prevent separation of children from their families

on the basis of disability of either the child or one or both of their parents, including in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis territories.

Dominican Republic (2025)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of sufficient support provided to children with disabilities and their families and to parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities;
- (b) The lack of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to age-appropriate and gender-responsive information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Reinforce measures to ensure effective support for families of persons with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting;**
- (b) Adopt policies to provide persons with disabilities, with age-appropriate and gender-responsive information and education in accessible formats on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning.**

European Union (2025)

56. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The EU Care Strategy and the two accompanying Regulations do not encourage Member States to provide persons with disabilities with self-directed services in their home and in the community;
- (b) During the COVID-19 pandemic, persons with disabilities in institutions were often separated from their families;
- (c) None of the matters related to the home and the family of persons with disabilities raised in the European Semester process were carried through to the Country-Specific Recommendations.

57. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Provide guidance on and encourage Member States to provide persons with disabilities with self-directed services in their home and their community, and closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in its implementation;**
- (b) Support Member States to prevent the separation of persons with disabilities in institutions from their families in emergencies;**
- (c) Strengthen support for persons with disabilities in the next cycle of the European Semester.**

Palau (2025)

43. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, are often deprived of their right to marry, to sexual expression, to exercise their choice of relationship, family and parenting rights, due to discriminatory and negative perceptions in the society;
- (b) The fact that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, especially those deprived of their legal capacity under the Palau Family Protection Act RPPL 8-51 (2012), may be denied the right to marry, establish a family, and adopt and raise children.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Raise awareness in the society on the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to sexual expression, choice of relationships, family and parenthood, including adoption, and remove all obstacles preventing persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to exercise their rights on an equal basis with others;**

(b) Repeal provisions in existing legislations including Palau Family Protection Act, that restrict the rights of persons with disabilities and provide adequate support services to ensure that families with parents and/or children with disabilities have the right to a family and a home.

Tuvalu (2025)

41. The Committee is concerned about the information received on the constraints faced by persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities with regard to all discriminatory provisions that impede the access of persons with disabilities to the exercise of their freedom to marry and found a family.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Raise awareness in the society on the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to sexual expression, choice of relationships, family and parenthood, including adoption, and remove all obstacles preventing persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to exercise their rights on an equal basis with others;

(b) Repeal the discriminatory provisions and include assisted decision-making in marriages, family planning and other rights for persons with disabilities.

Viet Nam (2025)

45. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of periodic evaluation of foster families by a State agency to assess the conditions in which they keep children with disabilities and their needs;

(b) The absence of specific support for persons with disabilities who wish to marry and have children, and the lack of systematic training in sexual and reproductive rights and health for persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of adequate counselling in regard to genetic tests, which may coerce persons with disabilities into considering abortion if they are going to have a child with a disability.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a mechanism for evaluating and following up with families with children with disabilities and foster families, ensuring their inclusion into family and community life and identification of their needs for financial, counselling, or other support;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to the necessary support services to effectively fulfil their roles as parents, and provide systematic sexual and reproductive health and rights education to young persons with disabilities;

(c) Accompany genetic tests offered to the general population, and particularly to persons with disabilities, with appropriate counselling, and ensure that parents have the right to make their own decisions without coercion.

Belarus (2024)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of parental rights and barriers in exercising parenthood, including the right to adopt children, particularly for persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, autistic persons and those who are living in rural areas;

(b) Insufficient measures to support parents with disabilities to retain custody and to prevent the voluntary and involuntary abandonment of their children with disabilities, in particular affecting women with disabilities.

(c) The prevalence of forced abandonment of children with disabilities.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop legislation, policy and effective mechanism for implementation regarding the right to parenthood including the right to adopt children for persons with disabilities;
- (b) Ensure support, awareness raising and dissemination of information for parents with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting, including for those living in rural areas;
- (c) Take legal and practical measures to eliminate child abandonment, in particular on the basis of disability, and provide support that is practically effective for children with disabilities and their families.

Belgium (2024)

46. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of legal measures to ensure persons with disabilities have access to age-appropriate and gender-responsive information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning;
- (b) Persons with disabilities often being left with no alternative than to rely on informal caregivers, due to a lack of personal assistance;
- (c) The lack of support for parents of children with disabilities, and for parents with disabilities confronted with a lack of support services that would allow them to exercise the right to be a parent, on an equal basis with others.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Adopt measures to train and sensitize health personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities and on how to provide unbiased guidance and support to prospective parents following prenatal diagnoses of Down syndrome or other impairments in order to allow them to take fully informed decisions on the pregnancy;
- (b) Adopt policies to provide persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, with age-appropriate and gender-responsive information and education in accessible formats on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning;
- (c) Ensure access of persons with disabilities to the services of personal assistants and not of those of informal caregivers to exercise their right to family life and to live independently and being included in the community, and, to this end, review the Law of 17 May 2019 on recognition of informal caregivers and explicitly recognize the support requirements of persons with disabilities;
- (d) Adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure adequate support for parents of children with disabilities, to allow them to raise their children in a family setting without having to leave the labour market.

Benin (2024)

45. The Committee is concerned by the information received on constraints for persons with disabilities living in institutions in terms of deciding on and entering into personal relationships,, largely owing to a lack of privacy and to interference by personnel and legal representatives; The Committee also regrets the lack of information on measures to promote inclusive foster care in family settings for children with disabilities without parental care, and the increasing number of cases of separation of children with disabilities to live in segregated residential settings;

46. The Committee recommends the State party to :

- (a) Ensure respect for the right to private life, including sexual self determination, of persons with disabilities still living in institutions, and end interference in this regard by staff and legal representatives;

- (b) Increase resources to ensure that children with disabilities receive the support that they require to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Encourage foster care in family settings for children with disabilities without parental care, and reduce the institutionalization and number of cases of separation of children with disabilities from their families.**

Burkina Faso (2024)

42. The Committee noted with concern:

- (a) That Articles 243, 264 and 265 of the Personal and Family Code restrict the right to marry for persons with disabilities under guardianship, and article 518 of the Code concerning the restriction of parental rights;**
- (b) The lack of sufficient support provided to children with disabilities and their families, and to parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities, which provision is limited to the support of children with intense support needs.**

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the revision of the Personal and Family Code and amend articles 243, 264 and 265 which restricts the right to marry for persons with disabilities under guardianship, as well as article 518 concerning the restriction of parental rights to allow free will and preference of individual and adopt supported decision-making in place of restriction;**
- (b) Provide support services for children with disabilities to live with their families and provide parents with disabilities the support they require to exercise their parental responsibilities.**

Denmark (2024)

63. The Committee is concerned about situations in which parents with disabilities receive insufficient or belated support, which may significantly influence the assessment of their parenting skills and, as a consequence, may deny them their right to exercise parental responsibility. It is also concerned about the increase in the number of adoptions carried out without the consent of the parents in recent years.

64. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure effective and timely support for parents with disabilities and for parents of children with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting. It also recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark further improve its measures to ensure that the disability of a parent or the disability of a child is not a permissible ground for adoption, and monitor the adoption process accordingly.

Ghana (2024)

44. The Committee note with concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities face challenges in exercising their rights to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, due to stereotypes and stigma about them;**
- (b) Parents with disabilities do not have adequate support to exercise their parental rights and parents of children with disabilities face such barriers as discrimination by association, isolation, lack of societal support, economic challenges;;**
- (c) There is lack of promotion of inclusive alternative care in family-based, rather than institutional settings for children with disabilities who lack parental care.**

45. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Develop and implement targeted awareness raising campaigns to combat cultural and religious misconceptions, myths and stereotypes about marriage, family, parenthood and relationships of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism and promote the rights, inclusivity and respect for individual with disabilities choices and preference;**
- (b) In close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, establish comprehensive support programmes with adequate resources for parents with disabilities and parents with children with disabilities, ensuring that the parents exercise their full parental rights and providing them with early and comprehensive information, and support services ensuring they are safeguarded against stigma, abuse and discrimination on the basis of disability;**
- (c) Establish a robust system to address violations of the rights of children with disabilities throughout the country in all settings.**

Mauritius (2024)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of express recognition in the law of the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to family, parenthood and relationships;**
- (b) The challenges faced by families in raising their children, including parents with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and single parents;**
- (c) The absence of information in accessible formats on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities.**

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize explicitly in the law the rights of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to marry, found a family and exercise parental responsibilities on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Strengthen measures to provide appropriate support and accessible training programmes to ensure that all parents with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities can exercise their parental rights and fulfil their child-rearing responsibilities, including in the areas of child development, health and education;**
- (c) Adopt programmes and policies to provide persons with disabilities with family planning education in accessible formats and age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health and rights.**

Netherlands (2024)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The interpretative declaration to art. 23 of the Convention;**
- (b) Restrictions in national legislation of the right to custody, the right to marriage and the right to parenthood for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (c) Professionals evaluating persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities as 'not good enough for parenting', and supporting the use of contraception as well as discouraging them to start a family.**

52. The Committee welcomes the information received by the State party during the Constructive dialogue about the ongoing discussion concerning the withdrawal of the interpretative declaration to art. 23, and recommends the State party:

- (a) Withdraw its interpretative declaration to art. 23 of the Convention;**
- (b) Take concrete steps to review the provisions contained in the national legislation restricting the right to custody, to marriage and to parenthood of persons with intellectual**

and/or psychosocial disabilities and replace them with provisions establishing a supported decision-making model;

(c) Take measures to safeguard the reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities, including education and awareness programs and training for healthcare professionals on the reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities and their right for autonomous decision-making without any form of discrimination.

Ukraine (2024)

46. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The legal framework of the State party (Articles 24 and 39 of the Family Code of Ukraine) sets forth that the marriage with a person deprived of their legal capacity is void and its registration invalid;

(b) The State party does not ensure the right of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, to have access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education;

(c) During the conflict, children and older persons with disabilities are involuntary displaced and separated from their parents, families, and friends without keeping official records of these cases. This practice amounts to a relocation of orphaned children, adult, and older persons with disabilities from one institution to another.

47. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Repeal articles 24 and 39 of the Family Code, and all other regulations that discriminate against persons with disabilities in matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, and fully recognize the legal capacity of all persons with disabilities to get married, adopt or have children, form a family and have access to related information on an equal basis with others;

(b) Guarantee the respect of the right to sexual and reproductive health of persons with disabilities and ensure that they have all the conditions to enforce them, especially women and girls with disabilities, including the right to retain fertility–;

(c) Provide parents of children with disabilities the necessary information and support to raise them in the most appropriate and facilitating way, including financial support and personal assistants;

(d) Adopt measures to ensure that no children and older persons with disabilities are separated from his or her parents, families, and friends against their will, as well as ensure access to alternative care where the immediate family is unable to care for them.

Azerbaijan (2024)

51. The Committee notes the information about the Decree “On some issues related to prevention of children’s deprivation of parental care and strengthening the protection of their rights” (No.1599) adopted in February 2022 and the competencies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in this realm. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That guardianship deprives persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to enter into marriage and the exercise of their parental rights;

(b) The secondary legislation that retains disability and guardianship among the criteria for prohibiting adoption and the lack of information about applications and consideration of persons with disabilities as adoptive or foster parents;

(c) The lack of information and support to parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities and the fact that they are told that because of their condition, they should not have children;

(d) Separation from parents and abandonment of children with disabilities in residential institutions.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Recognize equal rights of persons with disabilities in relation to marriage, family and parenthood;**
- (b) Repeal legislation that restrict the right to adopt children on the basis of disability, in particular paragraph 7 of the "List of Diseases Prohibiting Adoption, Guardianship, and Custody," (Resolution No. 141) of the Cabinet of Ministers;**
- (c) Ensure support and provide information for parents with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting, including for those living in rural areas;**
- (d) Respect the right of children with disabilities to family life on an equal basis with others, including by repealing legislation and practices allowing for separation of children from their parents on the basis of disability and by developing support for children with disabilities and their families in the community, including information centres and tools to develop parental skills, counselling and in-home support.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

46. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that the marriage of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities is subject to the approval of the Sharia Court, noting that Family Law No. 19 of 2017 uses discriminatory language against them in articles 21 and 22.
- (b) Denying persons with disabilities their right to custody on the basis of disability in accordance with the provisions of Articles 126 and 136 of Family Law No. 19 of 2017, which sets vague and interpretable requirements such as "freedom from contagious and dangerous diseases" (Article 126-f);
- (c) Allowing the marriage of children with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities, noting the use of discriminatory language against them in Articles 21 and 22.
- (c) Allowing the marriage of children 16 years old and younger with the permission of the court, especially for girls.
- (d) Lack of measures to allow persons with disabilities to access sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disabilities independently and privately
- (e) The decriminalization of marital rape, which puts women with disabilities, especially women with psychosocial disabilities and women with intellectual disabilities, at risk of marital rape.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party should

- (a) Repeal provisions that restrict the right of persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities to marry and found a family**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities are not denied custody on the basis of disability and provide them with family support programs.**
- (c) Repeal legal provisions and eliminate social practices that allow for the marriage of children under the age of 18 and repeal any powers given to the court to marry girls under the age of 16.**
- (d) Provide sexual and reproductive health services for persons with disabilities, especially for women with disabilities in remote areas**
- (e) Taking into account the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/4, Para. 27-A), criminalize marital rape and consider disability as an aggravating circumstance.**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

Costa Rica (2024)

37. El Comité toma nota de las aclaraciones por escrito proporcionadas por el Estado parte al concluir el dialogo constructivo. Sin embargo, le preocupa la persistencia de los procedimientos mediante los cuales las mujeres con discapacidad son declaradas madres no aptas.

38. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte ampliar sus esfuerzos para revisar los procedimientos en los cuales se declara a mujeres con discapacidad como madres no aptas, y restituya plenamente el derecho a tener un hogar y conformar una familia, asegurando que cuenten con los apoyos necesarios para hacer tales derechos efectivos, conforme la recomendación CRPD/C/CRI/CO/1, párr. 44.

Kazakhstan (2024)

49. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Severe restrictions of marriage for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in the Marriage and Family Code;

(b) Barriers for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, to exercise their autonomy on the number and spacing of children, including the low prevalence in the use of contraception among women and men with disabilities, in particular in rural areas, insufficient information and education about reproductive and family planning, affecting in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, persons with disabilities in institutions and persons with hearing, vision and/or speech impairments, and that women and men with disabilities are not considered in fertility programmes;

(c) The denial of parental rights, including the right to adopt children, to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(d) Insufficient measures to support parents of children with disabilities to prevent abandonment, and to provide pregnant women whose foetus has been diagnosed with an impairment with human rights-based information on the impairment and on health and support service options, including peer support;

(e) A widely held perception in society that children with disabilities should be separated from their parents and the insufficient support for parents and families of children with disabilities in the community.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Repeal provisions in the Marriage and Family Code restricting the right to marry of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and establish mechanisms for supported decision-making on marriage and family relations, including by providing information on the right to marriage and parental rights, in accessible formats;

(b) Develop and provide age-appropriate reproductive and family planning information and education for persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, across the State party, including in rural areas, and ensure that contraception and assisted reproductive technologies and fertility programmes are available, accessible and affordable for women and men with disabilities;

(c) Guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to adopt children on an equal basis with others, in law and in practice;

(d) Provide continuous support and information to parents of children with disabilities and to pregnant women whose foetus has been diagnosed with an impairment;

(e) Prevent the removal of children with disabilities from their parents, recognize the right of parents to decide on the upbringing of their children with disabilities, take measures to return children with disabilities taken from their parents, foster public-private partnerships to improve the availability and accessibility of support for families with children with disabilities to live in the community, including family-based and community-based support.

Nicaragua (2024)

48. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) Que el Código Civil, particularmente su artículo 111(2), contenga descripciones peyorativas hacia las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, incluso prohibiendo su derecho a contraer matrimonio y considerando esto un motivo de disolución del mismo (artículo 145), también le preocupa que no se contemple ninguna referencia a la adopción, todo esto en contravención al Artículo 31 de la Ley para Personas con Discapacidad (Ley 763) que consagra el derecho a contraer matrimonio, a formar un hogar, a decidir sobre su fertilidad y de no ser separados de sus hijos;

b) La falta de reconocimiento legal, en virtud del Código de Familia, del matrimonio y/o las uniones de hecho de parejas **LGBTTIQ+**, lo que afecta a personas con discapacidad de ese colectivo;

49. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, en consulta estrecha y colaboración activa con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan:

a) **Reformar el Código Civil, eliminando toda descripción peyorativa referida a personas con discapacidad y armonizarlo con la Ley para Personas con Discapacidad, permitiendo que ejerzan su derecho al matrimonio, formar un hogar y a tener hijos, especificando la posibilidad de adopción de niños y niñas con discapacidad por personas con y sin discapacidad;**

b) **Reformar el Código de Familia para permitir el matrimonio y/o la unión de hecho de parejas **LGBTTIQ+** , incluyendo personas con discapacidad, contemplando la posibilidad de formar una familia teniendo o adoptando hijos.**

Sweden (2024)

51. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the lack of resources and adequate support mechanisms from the municipal authorities to support parents with disabilities and families with children with disabilities.

(b) About the discrimination of persons with disabilities during family reunification procedure, as the right to family unification is conditional on detailed income and housing requirements.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

(a) **Ensure the realization of the right to family life, to support parents with disabilities, to support parents of children with disabilities and to eradicate prejudices among the service providers in the municipal authorities, particularly in remote areas;**

(b) **Review the rules on family reunification to ensure that persons with disabilities are not disadvantaged by the maintenance requirement.**

Zambia (2024)

45. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, are often deprived of their right to marry, to sexual expression, to exercise their choice of relationship, family and parenting rights, due to discriminatory and negative perceptions in the society;

(b) That article 17 of the Marriage Act requires a person with intellectual and/or psychosocial disability to obtain the consent of a guardian to contract a marriage;

(c) The absence of information in accessible formats on the sexual and reproductive rights and health of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities;

(d) The lack of sufficient support to children with disabilities and their families, and parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities, and the risk for children with disabilities being separated from their parents.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Raise awareness in the society on the rights of persons with disabilities with respect to sexual expression, choice of relationships, family and parenthood, and remove all obstacles preventing persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to exercise their rights on an equal basis with others;

(b) Amend the Marriage Act to repeal the discriminatory provisions and include assisted decision-making in marriages, family planning and other rights for persons with disabilities;

(c) Adopt programmes and policies to provide persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas, with family planning education in accessible formats and age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health;

(d) Adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure support for families of children with disabilities, including support for parents with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting, including for those in rural areas.

Andorra (2023)

47. The Committee notes that the Act 30/2022, Qualified Act on the Person and the Family replaces the Qualified Marriage Act of 1995. However, it observes with concern:

(a) The limited awareness about the right of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to marry owing to discriminatory and negative perceptions in society;

(b) The insufficient support for children with disabilities and their families and for parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities.

48. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure the right of all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, who are of marriageable age to marry and to have a family on the basis of the free and full consent of the intending spouses;**

(b) **Reinforce measures to guarantee support and services for children with disabilities and their families in the community, including training on parental skills, information centres and tools to develop parental skills in Easy Read, the provision of appropriate levels of income, counselling, in-home care support and information about such services in accessible formats.**

Austria (2023)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The denial of the right to marry to persons with disabilities under adult or court-appointed representation without the consent of their legal representative;

(b) The lack of support services for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and their children and the latter's removal from their parents.

54. **The Committee recalls its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities, and recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Recognize the right to marry of all persons with disabilities on the basis of their personal consent;**

(b) **Provide the support services necessary for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to effectively exercise their right to family life with their children, and cease the latter's removal from their parents and their placement in institutions, including in residential specialist schools.**

Germany (2023)

51. The Committee is concerned about certain provisions of the Civil Code BGB, which may lead to violations of the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and persons with intellectual disabilities, to home and family life, namely:

(a) Section 1304 of the Civil Code BGB, which prohibits a person who is "incapable of contracting" to enter into marriage;

(b) Section 1673 of the Civil Code BGB, which determines the suspension of the parental custody of persons who are "incapable of contracting";

(c) Section 1748 of the Civil Code BGB, which foresees substituted consent for adoption in cases of parents' "serious psychological illness or a particularly serious mental or psychological handicap";

(d) Section 1905 of the Civil Code BGB, which foresees the possibility of sterilization of a person under custodianship without free and informed consent.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the Civil Code BGB and abolish all provisions which may restrict persons with disabilities' full enjoyment and exercise of the right to marriage, parenthood and reproductive rights and to promote the supported decision-making model in all matters related to home and family life.

Israel (2023)

49. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Reports about insufficient support for persons with disabilities to exercise their parental rights and support them in child rearing responsibilities;

(b) The health sector priority for 'healthy parents' that devalues persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and prevents access to available fertility procedures and technologies, adoption and foster care;

(c) Provisions in the Child Adoption Law (Section 13 (A) (7)), that allows adoption of children born to parents with intellectual disabilities without their informed personal consent;

(d) Decisions taken by welfare authorities and courts to separate children from their parents with disabilities, in particular parents with intellectual disabilities, on the basis of parental capacity assessments;

(e) Reports of lack of support to parents of children with disabilities leading to abandonment and institutionalization.

50. The Committee recommends that, in close consultation and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, the State party:

(a) Implement measures for the provision of appropriate support and accessible training programmes to ensure all parents with disabilities can exercise their parental rights and to support them in child rearing responsibilities, including in the area of child development, health and education and review eligibility criteria to access to disability allowances and economic support to ensure that all parents with disabilities benefit from them;

(b) Adopt programmes to address stigma, ableism and discrimination in the health sector, and provide persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities with access to available fertility procedures and technologies, adoption and foster care on an equal basis with others;

(c) Repeal provisions in adoption legislation that allows for adoption of children born to parents with intellectual disabilities without their informed personal consent;

(d) Implement measures to prevent the removal of children from parents on the basis of disability, including by adopting measures to replace parental capacity assessments with evaluation of the support needs of parents with disabilities for parenting and child-rearing responsibilities, and providing legal aid and appropriate procedural accommodations.

(e) Raise awareness among parents of children with disabilities about the equal rights of children with disabilities with respect to family life and ensure that parents and families of children with disabilities have access to adequate support to raise their children.

Malawi (2023)

47. The Committee is concerned that Section 14 and 77 (C) of Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act of 2015, denies the legal capacity of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to marry. It also notes with concern the lack of support available for parents with disabilities and for families with children with disabilities, including women heads of household and that children with disabilities are denied the right to be raised by their parents and subjected to institutionalization in special needs centers and orphanages.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Revise Sections 14 and 77 (C) of Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act of 2015 and withdraw measures denying the legal capacity of persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities to marry;**
- (b) Provide support to single women with disabilities who are heads of household and prevent separation from their children on the grounds of disability;**
- (c) Withdraw alternative care placement of children with disabilities in institutions and provide support for families to raise their children and adopt measures to ensure availability of alternative care within the wider family.**

Mauritania (2023)

39. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) The lack of express recognition in the State party's legislation of the right of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities placed under guardianship, with respect to family, parenthood, and relationships;**
- (b) The absence of information in accessible formats on the sexual and reproductive rights and health of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities;**
- (c) The lack of sufficient support to children with disabilities and their families, and parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities.**

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Remove all obstacles preventing persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities who are deprived of their legal capacity from entering into marriage, exercising their family and parental rights and all forms of adoption of children on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Adopt programmes and policies to provide persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas, with family planning education in accessible formats and age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health;**
- (c) Adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure support for families of children with disabilities, including support for parents with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting, including for those living in rural areas.**

Mongolia (2023)

45. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the Family Law limits the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities placed under guardianship, with respect to family, parenthood, and relationships;**
- (b) The lack of sufficient support to children with disabilities and their families, and parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities, in particular for children with disabilities who require a high level support, including children with severe palsy and children with swallowing difficulties.**

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend its legislation to explicitly recognize the right of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to marry, found a family and exercise parental responsibilities on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Repeal the laws and regulations that prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their parental rights and adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure effective support for families of persons with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting, in particular for children with disabilities who require a high-level support, including children with severe palsy and children with swallowing difficulties.**

Paraguay (2023)

41. El Comité reconoce los esfuerzos realizados para encontrar familias de acogida para las personas con discapacidad, sin embargo, le preocupa el poco seguimiento y apoyo financiero que se le da a las mismas.

42. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte instituir un sistema de seguimiento estrecho a las familias de acogida, crear iniciativas para alentar a más familias a sumarse y asegurarse de proporcionar los recursos necesarios.

Angola (2023)

37. The Committee is concerned about the level of support for persons affected by leprosy and persons with albinism, and the extent to which they are supported by their families.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure support for persons affected by leprosy and persons with albinism, including support for their families.

Argentina (2023)

43. El Comité observa con preocupación lo siguiente:

a) El artículo 403 del Código Civil y Comercial establece como uno de los impedimentos matrimoniales a la falta permanente o transitoria de salud mental;

b) La separación de madres y padres con discapacidad, en particular aquellos en situación de pobreza, de sus hijos o hijas debido a prejuicios sobre su supuesta incapacidad para cuidarlos, y el insuficiente apoyo para las familias de padres o madres con discapacidad y/o que tienen niños o niñas con discapacidad.

44. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Derogar el artículo 403 inciso (g) del Código Civil y Comercial que incluye una disposición discriminatoria afectando el derecho de las personas con discapacidad psicosocial a contraer matrimonio;

b) Prestar la oportuna asistencia, en particular en términos de intervención temprana y apoyo a la inclusión, a las familias de los niños y las niñas con discapacidad y a los padres y las madres con discapacidad para que puedan ejercer sus responsabilidades parentales, con el fin de evitar que las familias se separen por motivos de discapacidad y, cuando la familia inmediata no pueda ocuparse de ellos, haga todo lo posible para proporcionarles modalidades alternativas de cuidado en la comunidad en un entorno familiar.

Georgia (2023)

47. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The restriction of parental rights to persons with psychosocial disabilities, particularly women living in institutions, solely on the basis of medical assessments and entailing separation from their children;

(b) Limited coverage of programmes to support the inclusion of children with disabilities and their families in the community, resulting in heightened exposure to abandonment and institutionalization;

(c) That programmes and subprogrammes on the rehabilitation of children and on child care lack measures to support parents with disabilities in their child-rearing responsibilities.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Withdraw legislation and practices restricting parental rights of persons with disabilities whose legal capacity has been restricted and enforce provisions in the Code of the Rights of the Child prohibiting separation of children from their parents on the basis of disability of the child or the parent, as indicated by the State party in its replies to the list of issues to the Committee (CRPD/C/GEO/RQ/1, para. 115);

(b) Conduct consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, at the national and municipal level to adopt strategies in the short- and long-term aimed at providing support and services for children with disabilities and their families in the community, including training on parental skills, information centres and tools to develop parental skills in Easy Read, the provision of appropriate levels of income,

counseling, in-home care support, and information about these services in accessible formats;

(c) Support parents with disabilities in their child rearing responsibilities, and monitor periodically programmes and subprogrammes on child rehabilitation and child care, and introduce the necessary adjustments.

Peru (2023)

46. Preocupa profundamente al Comité la falta de apoyo a las familias para evitar la separación familiar y la retirada de los niños con discapacidad y su ingreso en centros de acogida residencial (CAR), donde los niños permanecen más allá de la mayoría de edad. También le preocupa que, entre 2015 y 2021, solo se adoptó a un niño con discapacidad y muy pocos tienen acceso a las familias de acogida, no hay una estrategia clara para promover la adopción de niños con discapacidad para ser reubicados en hogares y familias con dignidad y que a las mujeres con discapacidad que acuden a parir se les desincentive a tener más hijos.

47. El Comité insta al Estado parte que preste apoyo a las familias de las personas con discapacidad, incluidos los padres con discapacidad, para que cumplan sus responsabilidades parentales y garanticen el derecho de las niñas y niños, incluidos los niños con discapacidad, a crecer en el seno de una familia o en un entorno familiar cuando su familia inmediata no pueda ocuparse de ellos, y a que se comprometa con un plan de inversión en servicios comunitarios de apoyo a las familias, incluidas las familias extensas, y la promoción de familias de acogida, así como la puesta en marcha de campañas de información y sensibilización de la población, promoviendo la adopción de niños con discapacidad y capacite al personal de salud y a la sociedad en general en el respeto del derecho de las personas con discapacidad a tomar sus propias decisiones, incluyendo en temas sexuales y reproductivos.

Togo (2023)

45. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That despite the existing legal provisions stating that “spouses marry by mutual consent” (art 81 of the Individuals and Family Code), persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities are often deprived of their right to marry due to discriminatory and negative perceptions in the society;

(b) At the lack of measures to prevent separation of children from their parents on the basis of disability, particularly article 39 of Act No. 2004-005, which results in mothers with disabilities losing custody of their children owing to their disability;

(c) The absence of information in accessible formats on the sexual and reproductive rights and health of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities.

(d) The lack of express recognition in the State party’s legislation of the right of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities placed under guardianship, with respect to family, parenthood, and relationships;

(e) The lack of sufficient support to children with disabilities and their families, and parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to ensure the implementation of article 81 of the Individuals and Family Code and ensure the right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses;

(b) Amend article 39 of Act No. 2004-005 to ensure that mothers with disabilities do not lose custody of their children owing to their disability and can exercise parental responsibilities on an equal basis with others;

- (c) Adopt programmes and policies to provide persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas, with family planning education in accessible formats and age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health;
- (d) Adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure support for families of children with disabilities, including support for parents with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting, including for those in rural areas.

Tunisia (2023)

41. The Committee is concerned about the legislation and the practice that allows a judge to remove the parenthood from a parent with disability while granting the responsibility to larger family relatives or to social affairs centre, which is contrary to the provisions of the Convention that no child shall be separated with the parents on the grounds of either their disability or that of the parent.

42. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Repeal any legislation that allows the judge to remove the parenthood from a parent with a disability and to place the child away from close family;
- (b) Strengthen the mechanisms of protection and support of the families, especially where either member has intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, against abuse and deprivation of their parenthood.

Bangladesh (2022)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Religious laws that discriminate against or deny the right to marriage of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including laws allowing for divorce on grounds of disability and restrictions on rights and responsibilities of parents with disabilities and their right to adopt children;
- (b) The lack of measures to prevent separation of children from their parents on the basis of disability;
- (c) The absence of information in accessible formats on the sexual and reproductive rights and health of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, including lack of training for personnel as well as the lack of meaningful consultation and effective participation of persons with disabilities in any initiatives on family education.

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Eliminate religious laws that discriminate against and deny the right to marriage of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and enact legislation against arbitrary divorce of women with disabilities, and laws to enable parents with disabilities to adopt children;
- (b) Adopt and implement effective measures to prevent separation of children from their parents on the basis of disability, and provide all necessary support services, including financial support, counselling, and community-based support and services for children with disabilities, their parents and families as well as for parents with disabilities, to guarantee their enjoyment on an equal basis with others of their rights with respect to family life;
- (c) Adopt and implement measures to provide comprehensive information and support services to children with disabilities and their families, including programmes and policies to provide persons with disabilities, including those living in rural and remote areas, with family planning education in accessible formats and accessible and age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health;

China (2022)

48. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of measures to support parents with disabilities to carry out parental responsibilities, to prevent the separation of children from their parents on the basis of the disability of the parents or the child, and to ensure that alternative care is provided by the wider family or an alternative family instead of placement in institutions;

(b) The lack of in-home and community-based services for families with a member with disability, particularly those with autistic children and children requiring higher levels of support, especially in rural areas.

49. The Committee recalls its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities (2022) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement the provisions of the National Population Development Plan (2016–2030) prioritizing increased support for families of persons with disabilities to strengthen home education support services for children with learning disabilities, provide regularized and professionalized family support as well as the referral services needed for children with disabilities, and reinforce the responsibilities of parents as the primary guardians of children;

(b) Ensure the accessibility and availability of in-home and community-based services for families with a member with disability across the territory of the State party;

(c) Provide specific support services to parents with disabilities, prohibit the separation of children from their parents on the basis of the disability of either the child or one or both of the parents, and ensure that alternative care is only provided within the extended family or an alternative family instead of placement in institutions.

Macao

86. The Committee is concerned about the legal restrictions in the Civil Code depriving persons with disabilities, who have been placed under substitute decision-making, of their rights to marriage and family life.

87. The Committee recommends that Macao SAR, China repeal all legal restrictions on marriage and family life for persons with disabilities on the grounds of their impairment and ensure their rights in relation to marriage, family and parenthood on an equal basis with others.

Indonesia (2022)

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of support for children with disabilities and their families, in particular children who require high levels of support in rural and remote areas, and for parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt legislative and other measures to ensure adequate support for children with disabilities and their families, including those who require high levels of support in rural and remote areas, and to ensure support for parents with disabilities to raise their children, including for those in rural and remote areas.

Japan (2022)

49. The Committee notes with concern the:

(a) Provision of the Civil Code (Article 770), discriminating persons on the grounds of their psychosocial disability as setting it as condition of divorce;

(b) Separation of children with disabilities from their families and their institutionalization in particular living arrangements on the basis of their disability.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal discriminatory provisions against persons with disabilities, including Article 770 Paragraph 1 item iv of the Civil Code that sets psychosocial disability as a condition of divorce;

(b) Recognise the right of children with disabilities to family life and render appropriate assistance, including early intervention and inclusive support, to parents of children with disabilities, including to parents with disabilities, in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities to prevent families from being separated on the basis of disability, and, when the immediate family is unable to care for them, undertake every effort to provide them alternative care within the community in a family setting.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

42. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The limited support for the parents and families of children with disabilities and for parents with disabilities to ensure their right to a family life and prevent involuntary family separation on the basis of disability;
- (b) The lack of information on whether the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to enter into marriage, exercise parental responsibilities and adopt children are ensured on an equal basis with others;
- (c) The fact that many ethnic groups consider the marriage between the perpetrator of a rape and the victim as the only remedy for restoring harmony;

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Support children with disabilities and their families and prevent separation of children from their families on the basis of disability of either the child or one or both of their parents, including for those in rural areas;**
- (b) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, may enter into marriage, exercise parental responsibilities and adopt children on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Adopt measures to eradicate patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes that justify the marriage between the perpetrator of a rape and the victim, especially in rural and remote areas in Northern Lao and within some ethnic groups.**

New Zealand (2022)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of response by the State Party to the Committee's 2014 concluding observations to repeal section 8 of the Adoption Act 1955, which allows for children to be removed for adoption from parents with disabilities without their consent;
- (b) The lack of suitable family placements for children with disabilities taken into care, including the ability for siblings to be placed together in families;
- (c) The lack of comprehensive information, services and supports for children with disabilities and their families resulting in out of home placements, including placements in residential specialist schools;
- (d) The lack of specific policies and guidelines concerning parents with disabilities within Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children) and a limited human rights understanding of disability resulting in the removal of children, including newborn babies from their parents with disabilities, particularly parents with intellectual disabilities and Māori parents with disabilities.

46. The Committee recalls the Joint Statement of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal section 8 of the Adoption Act 1955 and amend the statute to ensure that parents with disabilities are treated on an equal basis with other parents with respect to adoption;**
- (b) Implement strategies to increase family placements for children with disabilities and to ensure that siblings can remain together in these placements;**

- (c) Significantly increase and resource comprehensive information, services and supports for children with disabilities and their families to prevent out of home placements and placements in institutions, including residential specialist schools;
- (d) Take immediate action within Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children) to implement the recommendations from the 2020 Ombudsman report, “A Matter of Urgency”, and increase disability, gender and culturally appropriate expertise, policies and guidelines that adhere to the Convention in order to ensure that newborn babies and children are not removed from parents with disabilities, particularly parents with intellectual disabilities and Māori parents with disabilities, on the basis of impairment.

Singapore (2022)

45. The Committee is concerned that the State party does that persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities deprived of the right of equal recognition before the law cannot enter into marriage and exercise their family and parental rights and adopt children on an equal basis with others.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party remove all obstacles preventing persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities deprived of their legal capacity from entering into marriage, exercise their family and parental rights and adopt children on an equal basis with others.

Hungary (2022)

40. The Committee is concerned about the lack of support for children with disabilities and their families, in particular children who require high levels of support in rural areas, and for parents with disabilities to carry out their parental responsibilities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts by adopting legislative and other measures to ensure support for families of persons with disabilities, including support for parents with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting, including for those in rural areas.

Jamaica (2022)

46. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Legal restrictions under the Civil Code depriving persons with disabilities, who have been placed under substitute decision-making, of their rights to marriage and family life;
- (b) The lack of in-home and community-based services for families with a member with disability, particularly those with autistic children and children requiring higher levels of support, especially in areas outside the capital and in rural areas;
- (c) The risk for children with disabilities of being separated from their parents based on their impairment or socioeconomic status and resulting in their institutionalization.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all legal restrictions on marriage and family life for persons with disabilities on the grounds of their impairment and ensure their rights in relation to marriage, family and parenthood on an equal basis with others;
- (b) Ensure the accessibility and availability of in-home and community-based services for families with a member with disability across the territory of the State Party;
- (c) Prevent the separation of children with disabilities from their parents based on their impairment or socioeconomic status and ensure all necessary community-based support and services in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

Mexico (2022)

52. The Committee is concerned that the Civil Code restricts the right of some persons with disabilities to marry, and their right to have custody and guardianship of their children on an

equal basis with others. It is further concerned about the lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the Civil Code to ensure that all persons with disabilities have the right to marry and to have custody or guardianship of their children, and can in fact exercise it;**
- (b) Provide support to parents with intellectual disabilities and parents with psychosocial disabilities for the discharge of their responsibilities towards their children;**
- (c) Provide financial, organizational and administrative support to effectively guarantee the right of children with disabilities to live with their families or to family life;**
- (d) Establish family support mechanisms, in keeping with the recommendation made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, following its consideration of the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Mexico;**
- (e) Compile disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, who are victims of domestic violence.**

Switzerland (2022)

45. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The insufficient support available for children with disabilities and their families to ensure the enjoyment by children with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, of their rights with respect to family life, and to prevent institutionalization;
- (b) The lack of measures to support parents with disabilities to carry out parental responsibilities, to prevent the separation of children from their parents on the basis of the disability of the parents or the child, and to ensure that alternative care is provided by the wider family or an alternative family instead of placement in institutions.

46. Recalling its joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the rights of children with disabilities (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the enjoyment by children with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, of their rights with respect to family life, including by providing appropriate support and assistance to children with disabilities and their families to prevent institutionalization;**
- (b) Provide specific support services to parents with disabilities, prohibit the separation of children from their parents on the basis of the disability of either the child or one or both of the parents, and ensure that alternative care is only provided within the extended family or an alternative family instead of placement in institutions, including group homes.**

Venezuela (2022)

40. The Committee is concerned that there are statutory restrictions on the rights of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities to start a family, raise their children or adopt.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party review its legislation and explicitly recognize the right of persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, to marry, start a family, assume parental responsibilities and adopt on an equal footing with others.

Djibouti (2021)

39. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities placed under guardianship in light of the Civil Code, with respect to family, parenthood, and relationships;
- (b) The lack of support to children with disabilities and their families, and parents with disabilities to carry out their parental support.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal discriminatory provisions in the Family Code and Civil Code and recognize the right of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to found a family and exercise parental responsibilities on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure support for families of persons with disabilities, including support for parents with disabilities to raise their children in a family setting, including for those in rural areas.**

France (2021)

48. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That marriage of persons with disabilities under guardianship or with restricted legal capacity are subject to objection by guardians;
- (b) That the disability allowances, particularly the Disability Compensation Allowance and the education allowance for children with disabilities remain insufficient, are unevenly applied across the territory of the State party, and do not cover all required expenses;
- (c) The negative effects of the calculation of the adult disability allowances hindering the autonomy of women with disabilities, by taking into account the spouse's income or combining allowances of married women with disabilities with those of their partners, and the impact of the reduction of income support for couples of persons with disabilities living together, and parents of children with disabilities;
- (d) Information about separation of a child from his or her parents against their will on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents;
- (e) Lack of early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families, in particular parents with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Raise awareness about the equality of persons with disabilities concerning marriage and family matters and adopt measures to prevent opposition to marriages of persons with disabilities by third parties, due to stigma;**
- (b) Identify, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, actual barriers to exercise parental rights, and undertake plans to eliminate stereotypes that undermine the rights of persons with disabilities to establish a family;**
- (c) Undertake legal reforms to the Disability Compensation Benefit in order to ensure access to allowances by all eligible parents with disabilities, eliminate disparities in its recognition across the territory of the State party, and ensure an increase in the support provided in accordance with actual disability costs;**
- (d) Reform the regulations of the adult disability allowance in order to separate the income of persons with disabilities from that of their spouses, and take measures to ensure and promote autonomy and independence of women with disabilities who live in couples, and strength measures to support couples composed by persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities;**
- (e) Prohibit the separation of children from their parents on the basis of disability of either the child or one or both of the parents, and ensure that alternative care is only provided within a safe family environment for children with disabilities;**
- (f) Provide early and comprehensive information and support to children with disabilities and their families, especially autistic parents, parents with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to exercise their rights with respect to family life.**

Estonia (2021)

44. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The provisions in the Registered Partnership Act denying the right of persons with disabilities subject to guardianship to marry, on the assumption that persons with disabilities lack understanding about the legal consequences of marriage or registered partnership contracts, and the provisions in the Family Law Act requiring a guardian's consent for persons with disabilities to exercise parental responsibilities;
- (b) The insufficient in-home and inclusive community services for biological and foster families of children with disabilities, in particular families of children with autism, and single-parent families;
- (c) The provisions in the Social Welfare Act allowing for the provision of alternative care for children with disabilities, including institutional settings, on the basis of disability.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Remove discriminatory provisions in the Registered Partnership Act and the Family Law Act and recognize the right of persons with disabilities to found a family and exercise parental responsibilities on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Provide biological and foster families of children with disabilities and single-parent families of children with disabilities with the support required to exercise their rights with respect to family life;**
- (c) Set up a legal and policy framework to promote a safe family environment for children with disabilities, in line with the principle of the best interest of the child, prohibit the separation of children from their parents on the basis of disability and ensure that alternative care is only provided within the biological, extended, foster or adoptive family.**

Australia (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that parents with disabilities are more likely than other parents to have their child removed from their care, often on the basis of disability, and about the lack of support provided to parents with disabilities in the exercise of parental responsibilities;
- (b) The reported discrimination suffered, in particular by women with disabilities and by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities, in accessing assisted reproductive technologies.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that no child is separated from his or her parents because of the disability of either the child or one or both of the parents;**
- (b) Adopt comprehensive and gender- and culturally-specific parenting and family support measures for parents with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that women with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities have equal access to assisted reproductive technologies.**

Ecuador (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned at the lack of express recognition in the State party's laws of the right of persons with disabilities to marry or of respect for home and the family.

42. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party amend its legislation so that it explicitly recognizes the right of persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to marry, found a family, exercise parental responsibilities and adopt children on an equal footing with others.

El Salvador (2019)

44. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That laws, particularly articles 171, 292 and 301 of the Family Code and articles 1317 and 1318 of the Civil Code, continue to restrict rights and declare persons with disabilities incapable of marrying, forming a family and being parents on an equal basis with others;
- (b) About the lack of information on the rights of persons with disabilities to retain parental responsibility, as well as on rights to adoption on an equal basis with others.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party review and repeal any legislation or policy, particularly the Family Code and the Civil Code, that restricts the rights of persons with disabilities to marriage, to form a family and to be a parent, including adoption on an equal basis with others.

India (2019)

48. The Committee is concerned about religious personal laws restricting the right to marriage of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and persons affected by leprosy, those at the state level allowing for divorce on grounds of disability and restricting parental responsibilities of persons with disabilities and their right to adopt children. It is also concerned at the lack of measures to prevent the separation of children from their parents on the basis of disability.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Repeal from personal laws on marriage and divorce all restrictions relating to the marriage and family of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and those requiring higher levels of support;**
- (b) **Repeal provisions from the Adoption Regulations (2017) under which persons with disabilities may be declared ineligible for the adoption of children based on assessments of physical, mental, emotional or life-threatening medical conditions, and ensure human rights-based monitoring of adoption procedures by the Central Adoption Resource Authority;**
- (c) **Adopt policy measures, in accordance with article 23 (3) and (4) of the Convention, to support children with disabilities and their families and prevent separation of children from their families on the basis of disability of either the child or one or both of their parents.**

Iraq (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned about restrictions to the rights of persons with disabilities related to marriage, family and parenthood, such as those set out in article 7 of Law No. 188 (1959).

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Amend or repeal legislation that prevents persons with disabilities from exercising their right to marriage and parenthood on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) **Adopt measures to support parents with disabilities to raise their children at home and to eliminate social stigma against persons with disabilities regarding marriage and parenthood.**

Kuwait (2019)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) (a) **Legislation that restricts marriage on the basis of disability and requires a prenuptial medical examination;**
- (b) (b) **The lack of information on the measures taken to prevent the abandonment, neglect and institutionalization of children with disabilities.**

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) (a) **Repeal legislation restricting marriage on the basis of disability and requiring a prenuptial medical examination, ensure that all women and men with disabilities are able to enjoy their rights to marriage, a family, adoption and parenthood on an equal basis with others and with their free consent;**

(b) Ensure support to parents with disabilities and to families of children with disabilities, including Bidoon families, families of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaiti nationals and non-Kuwaiti families, and ensure access to inclusive community-based services and alternative care in family settings for all children with disabilities, regardless of their origins.

Myanmar (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that sexual and reproductive health and rights of women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities is subject to the consent of their parents or guardians, under article 27 (f) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law;
- (b) The limited support for the parents and families of children with disabilities and for parents with disabilities to ensure their right to a family life and prevent involuntary family separation on the basis of disability.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal the legislation that allows for non-consensual intervention regarding the sexual and reproductive rights of women with disabilities, and take all legal and policy measures necessary to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, may enter into marriage, exercise parental responsibilities and adopt children, on the basis of free and full consent, on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Abolish the practice of involuntary family separation on the basis of disability and provide the necessary support, including financial support, counselling, and community-based support and services for children with disabilities, their parents and families as well as for parents with disabilities, to guarantee their enjoyment on an equal basis with others of their rights with respect to family life.**

Cuba (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Article 4 of the Family Code (1975) still contains provisions that deny persons with intellectual disabilities or with psychosocial disabilities the right to marry and to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses;
- (b) There is a lack of necessary support for persons with disabilities to exercise their reproductive rights on an equal basis with others;
- (c) Article 138 of the Family Code (1975) provides for guardianship of 'incapacitated persons'.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal legal provisions that prohibit persons with intellectual disabilities or psychosocial disabilities to marry;**
- (b) Adopt the necessary support measures, including personal assistance, with a view to enabling persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, to exercise their right to maternity or paternity free from prejudice and on an equal basis with others, and ensure the availability of community-based support for parents with disabilities and families with children with disabilities to guarantee enjoyment of the right to family on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Repeal or amend article 138 of the Family Code.**

Niger (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures to ensure the right to marry and have a family for persons with disabilities, including those placed under guardianship; the lack of information in accessible formats on the right to marry and on sexual and reproductive health; and the lack of support services to protect the parental rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legislative measures to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in marriage and family matters, especially persons with disabilities placed under guardianship, women, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that information is provided in accessible formats to persons with disabilities on the right to marry and have a family, including information on sexual and reproductive health;**
- (c) Protect the parental rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities and ensure that parents of children with disabilities are provided with adequate information, awareness, support and training to allow them to raise their children in the family setting.**

Norway (2019)

35. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The State party does not provide adequate support for parents with disabilities to bring up their children and exercise their parental responsibilities;**
- (b) One of the factors contributing to children being separated from parents and placed in care homes or taken by child welfare services, is their own or their parents' disability.**

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that accessible and inclusive community support and safeguard mechanisms are available for parents with disabilities to exercise parental responsibilities;**
- (b) Take measures to ensure explicitly in the law the prohibition of the removal of children from their parents on the basis of their parents' or their own disability.**

Rwanda (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Cases where children have been taken away from their parents on the ground of disability, inter alia owing to poverty;**
- (b) The lack of awareness, especially in the justice system and the child protection system, about the rights of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities.**

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Provide adequate and appropriate information, services and support to families that have members with disabilities, including in the form of social protection to families living in poverty headed by persons with disabilities and those with children with disabilities, ensuring that children can enjoy their right to be raised within families and at home;**
- (b) Increase awareness in the general community, in the justice system and agencies involved in child protection about the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular the right to respect for home and the family, especially for persons with psychosocial disabilities.**

Saudi Arabia (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The absence of a legally prescribed minimum age of marriage, and at the consequently high proportion of girls with disabilities who marry before the age of 18 years;**
- (b) The lack of information on whether the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to enter into marriage, exercise guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adopt children are ensured on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) The obligation imposed on couples aiming to marry to undergo prenuptial medical examinations, which restricts the right of all persons with disabilities to marry on an equal basis with others due to impairment;**
- (d) The practice of collective marriages for persons with disabilities.**

42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with its General comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities:

- (a) Define and enforce a legal minimum age of marriage of 18 years for both women and men, including persons with disabilities (CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4, para. 64 (c));**
- (b) Take all necessary legal and policy measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, may enter into marriage, exercise guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adopt children on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Repeal the Marriage Contract Licensing Regulations imposing the obligation to undergo prenuptial medical examinations to enter into marriage so as to allow persons with disabilities to freely choose their partner, irrespective of impairment;**
- (d) Introduce the necessary safeguards to ensure that all marriages, including collective marriages, respect the right of persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to freely choose their partner**

Senegal (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The reported insufficiency of support to families with members with disabilities and its inavailability to all such families;**
- (b) The absence of education and information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities on sexual and reproductive health and rights and family planning and the right to marry for persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities.**

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to ensure support to families with persons with disabilities, including parents with disabilities, to raise their children at home; and**
- (b) Take measures to provide access to information, in accessible formats, to persons with disabilities on the right to marry and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning.**

Spain (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Lack of adequate policies and related services to support families of children with disabilities;**
- (b) Persistence of biases and stereotypes by staff of the justice and social service administrations on the parenthood capacity of parents with disabilities.**

44. The Committee recommends to:

- (a) Develop adequate policies and provide the support necessary for children with disabilities to remain in the family, including through the promotion of foster family-related services;**
- (b) Provide support for parents with disabilities to retain full parental responsibility of their children and promote a positive image of their capacities and rights to parenthood and family life.**

Türkiye (2019)

46. The Committee is concerned about provisions in the Civil Code restricting the rights of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to marry and found a family by requiring health reports certifying absence of 'medical impediments'. It is also concerned about stigmatization of persons with disabilities preventing their parenthood roles, and the limited access to support for parents of children with disabilities, which is limited only to parents of children with high support requirements.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal provisions in the Civil Code that deny the right of persons with disabilities to marry, and ensure they can exercise their rights relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Adopt measures to support parents and families with disabilities to raise their children at home and to eliminate social stigma against persons with disabilities regarding parenthood, including through an adequate provision of allowances and support.**

Vanuatu (2019)

38. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory legislation on family and marriage, including sections 1 and 2 of the Matrimonial Causes Act (1986) that prohibit marriage on grounds of disability including psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and the insufficient support services provided for children with disabilities and their families, especially in rural areas.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal or amend legislation on family and marriage that discriminates against persons with disabilities, including sections 1 and 2 of the Matrimonial Causes Act (1986);**
- (b) Provide adequate support for parents and families of children with disabilities, including counselling services, to ensure that children with disabilities are not separated from their family on the grounds of disability and that children are not separated from their parents with disabilities.**

Algeria (2018)

38. The Committee is concerned with the lack of financial and counseling support as well as the absence of community-based support to parents and families of children with disabilities and for parents with disabilities.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party provide the necessary financial and counseling support and ensure the availability of community-based support for parents with disabilities and families with children with disabilities to guarantee enjoyment of the right to family on an equal basis with others.

Bulgaria (2018)

45. The Committee notes with concern that the network of primary support services for children with disabilities and their families is not sufficiently and evenly developed across the State party.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party increase human, technical and financial resources at the national and local level for providing primary support services for children with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party involve organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of children with disabilities concerning the implementation of support services.

47. The Committee notes with concern that the Family Code restricts the right of persons with disabilities under full guardianship to marry.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its Family Code and withdraw any restriction of the right to marry for persons with disabilities of marriageable age.

Malta (2018)

33. The Committee is concerned about the existence of discriminatory laws relating to the right to marry and found a family, in particular the Marriage Act (Cap. 255), which contradict the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413).

34. The Committee recommends that the State party amend or repeal all legislations, which do not respect and protect persons with disabilities from enjoying to right to marry and found a family, in particular The Marriage Act (Cap. 255).

Poland (2018)

38. The Committee is concerned about the reservation by the State Party to article 23(1)(a) of the Convention; it is further concerned by the:

- (a) Practice to take children away from their parents with disabilities arguing that the family is incapable of providing care for them;
- (b) Prohibition to marry for persons deprived of their legal capacity, as well as for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities or with cerebral palsy, considering disability as an aggravating factor for a marriage and children; also the prohibition for deaf persons to obtain custody of children through adoption.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw its reservation to Article 23(1)(a) and (b) of the Convention and abolish all legal provisions preventing persons with disabilities to marry and to found a family. The Committee also recommends to develop inclusive support systems to assist families with children with disabilities as well as parents with disabilities, in supporting their parenthood.

North Macedonia (2018)

40. The Committee is concerned about the legal provisions in the Law on Family that discriminate against persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or persons with intellectual disabilities to marry and form a family. The Committee is further concerned about the provisions in the aforementioned Law that requires a person with intellectual disabilities and/or a person with psychosocial disabilities to be certified as 'knowledgeable and understanding'.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Review the Law on Family to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their rights relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships on an equal basis with others and on the basis of their free and informed consent;**
- (b) **Adopt measures to promote adequate legal protection and training of judicial and social workers to ensure that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against during legal and administrative proceedings concerning their sexual and reproductive rights, right to create a family and legal custody of their children.**

Haiti (2018)

40. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Discriminatory legislation, including article 8 of the Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2012), which provides for the exceptional removal of the custody of a child from a person with a disability and the civil Code, which restricts persons declared "interdicted" to enter into acts of civil life, including marriage;
- (b) The insufficient support services to strengthen the capacity of parents and families of children with disabilities, particularly single mothers of children with disabilities;
- (c) The reinforcement of the medical model to disability resulting from the legal requirement of a prenuptial certificate from couples prior to marriage to prevent impairments;
- (d) The absence of education and information programmes for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, on sexual and reproductive health and rights and family planning in accessible formats.

41. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) **Take all measures necessary to repeal or amend legislation that discriminates against persons with disabilities, including article 8 of the Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2012) and the Civil Code;**
- (b) **Allocate sufficient resources to support parents and families of children with disabilities - especially single mothers - and parents with disabilities;**

(c) Consider modifying the focus of premarital medical examinations to sexually transmitted diseases;

(d) Ensure equal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as set out in target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and provide information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights and family planning for persons with disabilities in accessible formats, including Easy Read.

Oman (2018)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of measures to ensure the right of persons with disabilities, including those placed under guardianship, and in particular women and persons with psychosocial disabilities, to freely marry and have a family;

(b) The lack of provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities on the right to marry and information on sexual and reproductive rights;

(c) The lack of support services to protect the parental rights of persons with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legislative measures in order to abolish all legislation and practices that discriminate against women with disabilities in marriage and family matters, especially those persons with disabilities placed under guardianship, and in particular women and persons with psychosocial disabilities, to marry and have children;

(b) Take measures to ensure that information is provided in accessible formats to persons with disabilities on the right to marry and have a family, including information on reproductive health and rights;

(c) Adopt measures to protect the parental rights of persons with disabilities and further adopt measures to ensure that parents of children with disabilities are provided with adequate support and training to allow them to raise their children in the family home.

Russian Federation (2018)

46. The Committee is concerned about the Government's decision of 2013 and the Family Code of the Russian Federation, which do not allow a person with certain types of intellectual and/or psychosocial disability to marry and adopt a child irrespective of the possible best interest of the child concerned.

47. The Committee urges the State party to review the current legislation and available safeguards as well as provide incentives for ensuring the right of all persons with disability to marry and to have a family on an equal basis with others.

Seychelles (2018)

39. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient support services available to strengthen the capacity of parents and families of children with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources to support parents and families of children with disabilities, especially single parents and parents with disabilities.

Slovenia (2018)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of support and services for families with members with disabilities, including children, especially single female-headed families, increasing their risk of poverty and social exclusion;

(b) Barriers to marry and to raise children for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities when assessing their capacities for the exercising of their rights.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and develop support measures for families, including single female-headed families, that have a member with a disability to ensure their decent standard of living and social inclusion;**
- (b) Repeal all discriminatory provisions and practices preventing the right to marry and parental responsibilities for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and ensure support for them for exercising their responsibilities.**

Sudan (2018)

45. The Committee is concerned about provisions in the Personal Status Act of 1991 which limit the rights of persons with disabilities to forming families and exercising parental rights, by stipulating legal capacity as a pre-requisite or to do so through their guardian.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the Personal Status Act of 1991 to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their rights relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships on an equal basis with others and on the basis of their free and informed consent;**
- (b) Adopt measures to support parents with disabilities to exercise their parental rights at home and to eliminate social stigma against persons with disabilities regarding marriage and parenthood.**

Latvia (2017)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Persons with disabilities living in institutions who are married and are forced to live separately either in the same institution or in a different one if either of the spouses is transferred;
- (b) The disability of a parent being used by courts as justification to discontinue or remove custody rights;
- (c) The lack of support services for parents with intellectual disabilities, including appropriate services for mothers, depriving them of their parental rights.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the right to marriage, family and parenthood for all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities, providing them with inclusive support services and an adequate standard of living.

Luxembourg (2017)

40. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory laws and policies that restrict the rights of persons with disabilities relating to marriage, the family, parenthood and relationships.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party take the measures necessary, including the repeal of legislation, to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships.

Montenegro (2017)

42. The Committee notes with grave concern that:

- (a) Montenegrin legislation restricts the right of persons with disabilities under guardianship to marry and restricts their parental rights;
- (b) Parents with disabilities, particularly women, lack sufficient measures of support from the State in their exercise of parental responsibility for their children and, when raising their children alone, may risk having them taken away from them.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party speedily harmonize its legislation with the Convention and ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to marry, their parental rights and their right to adopt on an equal basis with others, and that support services are provided in the community for parents with disabilities. In this regard, it also

recommends that the State party take all necessary measures, including legislative measures, to ensure that women with disabilities under no circumstances lose custody of and/or contact with their children based on their disability or on the fact that they are raising their children on their own, and provide these mothers with community support if needed.

Morocco (2017)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of support services available to families of children with disabilities and the absence of education and information on sexual and reproductive health and family planning for persons with disabilities;
- (b) Restrictions in the Family Code placed on persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in particular the requirement to obtain prior judicial authorization before marriage.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to ensure support for families of persons with disabilities, including parents with disabilities, to raise their children at home;
- (b) Take measures to provide persons with disabilities with access to information, in appropriate formats, on sexual and reproductive health and family planning and amend the Family Code to ensure the enjoyment of the right to marriage by persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

Panama (2017)

46. The Committee is concerned that the Civil Code still contains provisions that prevent persons with disabilities from exercising the right to marry and to find a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending spouses, and that there is a lack of necessary support for persons with disabilities to exercise their reproductive rights on an equal basis with others.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party eliminate barriers to marriage for persons with disabilities and that it adopt the necessary support measures, including personal assistance, with a view to enabling persons with disabilities, especially women, to exercise their right to maternity or paternity free from prejudice and on an equal basis with others. In addition, it should introduce a review mechanism to restore custody of children to women with disabilities whose children were removed on grounds of disability. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to provide appropriate support to families that include persons with disabilities.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

48. The Committee is concerned that parents with disabilities do not receive appropriate services and support, resulting in children being removed from the family environment and placed in foster care, group homes or institutions. It is also concerned at the insufficient funding for parents of deaf children to learn sign language.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure appropriate support for parents with disabilities to effectively fulfil their role as parents and ensure that disability is not used as a reason to place their children in care or remove them from the family home;
- (b) Ensure that local authorities have the legal duty to allocate and provide funds for parents wishing to learn sign language.

Armenia (2017)

39. The Committee is concerned about provisions in the Family Code that prevent persons with specific forms of impairments from adopting children and exercising parental rights and

that prevent persons who have been deprived of their legal capacity from marrying. It is also concerned about the lack of services for families that have members with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party take the measures necessary, including the repeal of legislation, to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family and parental rights. It also recommends that the State party develop the inclusive support measures necessary in this regard, including access to personal assistance and mainstream services, to ensure adequate support for families that have a member with a disability.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

40. The Committee is concerned that women with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, can be separated from their children on the grounds of their disability.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party provide sufficient resources to support families with children with disabilities so that the family can remain together. This means providing sufficient support to allow children with disabilities to remain in the family, including through the promotion of foster family-related services, and support for parents with disabilities to retain full parental responsibility of their children.

Canada (2017)

41. The Committee is concerned that parents with disabilities do not receive adequate and appropriate services and support from provincial and territorial child welfare agencies, resulting in children being removed from the home. It is also concerned that parents of children with disabilities do not receive adequate support to maintain their children in their home, which at times forces them to place their child in foster care, group homes or institutions.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party work with the provinces and territories to ensure that parents with disabilities have access to the support and services they require to fulfil effectively their role as parents and that disability is not used as a reason to place their children in care or remove their child from the home. The Committee further recommends that the State party consider the provision of timely support necessary to maintain the optimal family environment for children with disabilities.

Honduras (2017)

49. Al Comité le preocupa que aún existen normas vigentes en el Código Civil que impiden el matrimonio a personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial y niegan el derecho al matrimonio y a formar una familia sobre la base de la voluntad de las parejas. También preocupa al Comité la ausencia de apoyos necesarios para que las personas con discapacidad puedan ejercer su derecho a fundar una familia en igualdad de condiciones con las demás.

50. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que derogue las disposiciones que limitan el matrimonio a personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial y que adopte las medidas de apoyo necesarias para que las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las mujeres, puedan ejercer sus derechos a la maternidad o paternidad libre de prejuicios y en igualdad de condiciones con las demás.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

44. The Committee is concerned about restrictions in the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities related to marriage, family, and parenthood, particularly in relation to persons deprived of their legal capacity. It is further concerned about restrictions to adoption by

persons with disabilities and the lack of measures to prevent removal of children born to parents with disabilities.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal laws that prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their right to marriage and parenthood;**
- (b) Provide access to reproductive and family planning education for all persons with disabilities; and**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their parental rights and adopt children.**

Jordan (2017)

43. The Committee notes with concern that article 12 of the Personal Status Law (No. 36 of 2010) require that persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities obtain judicial authorization in order to marry.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal article 12 of the Personal Status Law to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to marry on an equal basis with others and found a family on the basis of their full and free consent.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

42. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory laws and policies that restrict the rights of persons with disabilities relating to marriage, the family and parenthood, and that:

- (a) The lack of services for families that have members with disabilities, particularly persons with autistic spectrum disorders, places an undue burden on families, especially single female-headed families, increasing their risk of poverty and social exclusion;
- (b) Prejudice against persons with disabilities persists, particularly against women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in matters relating to family and parenthood;
- (c) There are reports that child protection authorities request that mothers with disabilities be deprived of their legal capacity and separated from their children.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party take the measures, including the repeal of legislation, necessary to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in all matters relating to marriage, family and parenthood. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop the inclusive support measures necessary in this regard, including personal assistance and respite care services, for families that have a member with a disability, to ensure an adequate standard of living and social participation;**
- (b) Take measures to ensure that parents with disabilities have the means necessary to exercise their rights, including the right to motherhood.**

Bolivia (2016)

53. The Committee is concerned that persons under legal interdiction cannot exercise their right to marry or start a family.

54. The Committee urges the State party to repeal any legal provision that restricts the right of persons with disabilities to marry freely and on the basis of the consent of the couple, and their access to information enabling them to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.

Colombia (2016)

52. The Committee expresses its concern that persons with disabilities whose legal capacity is restricted owing to a declaration of judicial interdiction cannot marry or form a family without judicial authorization.

53. The Committee urges the State party to repeal any restrictions that limit or prevent persons with disabilities from marrying and forming a family on the basis of the prior consent

of the couple. It further recommends that the State party take steps to explicitly prohibit by law the placement of children outside their families on the basis of disability and to ensure that community support mechanisms are available to parents with disabilities.

Ethiopia (2016)

49. The Committee is concerned that legislation of the State party entails discrimination on the basis of disability regarding the rights of the family, namely, articles 34, 51 and 220 of the Family Code. The Committee notes with concern the inadequate availability of community-based support for families with children with disabilities and also for parents with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the provisions of the Family Code that entail discrimination on the basis of disability, such as articles 34, 51 and 220 and other legislation based on negative stereotypes of persons with disabilities regarding family life. It also recommends that the State party ensure the availability of community-based support for parents with disabilities and families with children with disabilities to guarantee enjoyment of the right to family on an equal basis with others.

Guatemala (2016)

57. The Committee notes that the Civil Code restricts the right to marry and the parental rights of some persons with disabilities. It further notes that children with disabilities living in poverty are at greater risk of abandonment and institutionalization.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review and harmonize the Civil Code to guarantee the right to marry and the parental rights of all persons with disabilities;
- (b) Set up programmes to provide appropriate assistance to mothers with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities;
- (c) Establish support mechanisms for families of children with disabilities to prevent abandonment;
- (d) Replace measures to institutionalize all abandoned children with disabilities with measures to promote their adoption or placement in foster care and ensure that foster families receive the requisite support for their care.

Italy (2016)

51. The Committee is concerned at the lack of specific measures to support families of children with disabilities or adults with high levels of support, including financial support.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate specific financial, social and other resources across all regions to ensure all families with members with disabilities, including those members with high support needs, can gain access to all the support they require, beyond the list of tax exemptions listed by the State party (see CRPD/C/ITA/Q/1/Add.1, para. 52), to ensure the right to home and family and to inclusion and participation in their local communities, and to eliminate resorting to institutionalization.

53. The Committee is deeply concerned that administrative barriers, including inaccessible procedures, still exist to parents with disabilities to adopt children with or without disabilities.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party review current laws, policies and practices relating to adoption, and provide support to parents with disabilities to retain full parental responsibility for their children.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

41. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The national legislation restricts marriage on the basis of disability and requires a prenuptial medical examination for persons with disabilities to receive a financial assistance grant;
- (b) Discriminatory laws and policies prevent persons with disabilities, in particular women, from enjoying their rights on an equal basis with others in all matters relating to marriage, the family, parenthood and relationships;
- (c) The State party has not adopted any measures to ensure adequate support to families of children with disabilities or adults who require a high degree of support.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Repeal legislation restricting marriage on the basis of disability and requiring a prenuptial medical examination for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) **Repeal the discriminatory provisions in family and other law to ensure that all women and men with disabilities are able to enjoy, on an equal basis with others, their rights in matters related to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships;**
- (c) **Ensure support to parents with disabilities and to families of children with disabilities, including adults who require a high degree of support.**

Uruguay (2016)

49. Al Comité le preocupa que aún existen normas vigentes en el Código Civil que impiden el matrimonio a personas con discapacidad psicosocial e intelectual y niegan el derecho al matrimonio y a formar una familia sobre la base de las preferencias de las personas con discapacidad de contraer matrimonio y a formar una familia. También preocupa al Comité la ausencia de apoyos necesarios para que las personas con discapacidad puedan ejercer sus derechos reproductivos en igualdad de condiciones con las demás.

50. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que derogue las disposiciones que limitan el matrimonio a personas con discapacidad psicosocial e intelectual y que adopte las medidas de apoyo necesarias para apoyar a las familias que tienen niños con discapacidad y para que las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las mujeres, puedan ejercer su maternidad o paternidad sin discriminación y en igualdad de condiciones con las demás.

Chile (2016)

47. Preocupa al Comité:

- (a) La vigencia de normas en el Código Civil que impiden el matrimonio a personas con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial, y a personas sordas y sordociegas;
- (b) La discriminación y las prácticas de negar el derecho al matrimonio y a formar una familia sobre la base de la voluntad de las parejas;
- (c) La ausencia de apoyos necesarios para que las personas con discapacidad puedan ejercer sus derechos reproductivos en igualdad de condiciones con las demás, como se evidencia en el caso de Valeria Riveros.

48. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte:

- (a) **Derogue las disposiciones discriminatorias que limitan el matrimonio a las personas con discapacidad;**
- (b) **Adopte las medidas de apoyo necesarias, que incluyan la asistencia personal, con el propósito de que las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las mujeres, puedan ejercer sus derechos libres de prejuicios y en igualdad de condiciones con las demás;**
- (c) **Instaure un mecanismo de revisión para el restablecimiento de la custodia de los hijos a las mujeres con discapacidad a quienes se les ha privado por motivo de la discapacidad.**

Lithuania (2016)

43. The Committee is deeply concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those deprived of their legal capacity, can be denied the right to marry, found a family and adopt and raise children.

44. The Committee calls upon the State party to repeal provisions restricting these rights and to provide adequate support services to ensure that families with parents with disabilities and/or children with disabilities have the right to a family and a home.

Portugal (2016)

42. The Committee notes that the Civil Code in the State party restricts the right of certain persons with disabilities to marry, to hold custody of their sons and daughters, and to adopt. It also noted that austerity measures have resulted in cutbacks, among other things, in social services and financial support for families, with particularly negative consequences for women “carers” of persons with disabilities.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party review and harmonise its Civil Code to safeguard the rights of all persons with disabilities to marry, to hold custody of their sons and daughters, and to adopt. It further recommends that States Party adopts appropriate steps to ensure that its financial and social austerity policies and measures promote financial support for families with a member with disabilities, providing particular protection and support to women personal assistants of persons with disabilities.

Serbia (2016)

45. The Committee is deeply concerned that women with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, are separated from their children on grounds of their disability

46. The Committee urges the State party to review the procedures by which women with disabilities are declared unfit mothers on the basis of disability and fully restore their rights to have a home and found a family, ensuring that they have the support necessary to make these rights effective.

Slovakia (2016)

65. The Committee is deeply concerned that section 12 of the Family Act restricts the right to marriage of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of provision of support to children with disabilities to remain in the family and of means to avoid their placement in institutions, and the lack of measures to support parents with disabilities.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal section 12 of the Family Act; provide adequate support for children with disabilities to reside in the family; and provide support to parents with disabilities to retain full parental responsibility for their children.

Thailand (2016)

43. The Committee is concerned that family law (Commercial and Civil Code, book V) prevents some persons with disabilities from marrying and founding a family. It is also concerned that parents of children with disabilities encounter obstacles to gaining access to specific support for exercising their parental responsibilities and preventing abandonment.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal section 1449 and related provisions of the family law that discriminate against certain persons with disabilities with respect to their right to marry and found a family, and that it increase the availability of early

and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.

Uganda (2016)

46. The Committee is concerned about the legislation that infringes the right to marry of persons with disabilities, such as the Divorce Act (1904) and the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act 1961. It is further concerned about the absence of information on sexual and reproductive health and family planning for persons with disabilities due to lack of accessible formats, means and modes of information, negative attitudes, myths and stereotypes against them.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal discriminatory provisions of the marriage and divorce acts and guarantee persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, regardless of their legal capacity status, the right to marry and to adopt on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Enact legislation which prohibits the separation of children from their parents on the basis of the disability of either the child or one or both of the parents;**
- (c) Ensure support to families with persons with disabilities for raising their children at home;**
- (d) Ensure access to information, in appropriate formats, to persons with disabilities on sexual and reproductive health and family planning.**

Brazil (2015)

40. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are separated from their children on the basis of impairment.

41. The Committee recommends the State party to take legal action to explicitly prohibit the removal of children on the basis of their parents' impairment, including where the parent is subject to interdiction.

42. The Committee is concerned at the lack of disaggregated data on the number of families of children with disabilities who have access to community-based supports, such as the Specialized Social Assistance Reference Centers (Centro de Referência Especializado da Assistência Social – CREAS).

43. The Committee recommends the State party to collect and report disaggregated data on the availability of community-based supports for families of children with disabilities, and the number of families who access those services.

European Union (2015)

56. The Committee is concerned that austerity measures have resulted in cuts in social services and support to families and community-based services, among others, which restrict the right of persons with disabilities to family life and the right of children with disabilities to live in family settings.

57. The Committee recommends that the European Union take measures to ensure that its economic and social policy and its recommendations promote support to families with persons with disabilities and ensure the right of children with disabilities to live in their communities.

58. The Committee is concerned that the long awaited maternity leave directive has been withdrawn, and is further concerned that equal rights for women, for mothers, for fathers, and for children and adults with disabilities are not adequately addressed in European Union work and life-balance policy.

59. The Committee recommends that the European Union ensure that people with disabilities and families of persons with disabilities be included in the newly announced roadmap "New start to address the challenges of work-life balance faced by working families".

Gabon (2015)

50. The Committee is concerned that Article 204 of the Civil Code restricts persons with psychosocial disabilities ("aliénés interdits") from marrying on an equal basis with others. In addition, the Committee is concerned about: a) Inadequate support measures for parents with disabilities to exercise their parental rights; and b) The fact that parents of children with disabilities are not able to access specific support for health, education and training.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately repeal Article 204 and related provisions of the Civil Code restricting marriage on an equal basis with others. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party a) Provide support to parents with disabilities to exercise their full parental rights, and b) Allocate adequate resources to strengthen services for children with disabilities, to support their families and for training of professionals in the field.

Kenya (2015)

41. The Committee is concerned about the absence of measures to return children with disabilities currently in orphanages to a family setting. It is also concerned about the measures of the Marriage Act (2014) that prevent persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to get marriage.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take steps to increase information and support to families of children with disabilities to ensure they can be raised within the family home, and expand the scope of the transfer fund for children with "severe" disabilities to benefit all children with disabilities and that it establishes a monitoring mechanisms on the effective disbursement of the resources through the country; and

(b) Review the Marriage Act 2014 in order to repeal provisions that discriminate against persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities on their right to marriage.

Qatar (2015)

41. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory laws and policies which restrict the rights of persons with disabilities, in particularly women, in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal discriminatory provisions of family and other laws to ensure equal rights of all women and men with disabilities in matters related to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships.

Ukraine (2015)

42. The Committee is concerned about the reports of pressure on families imposed by public officials and professionals to place their children with disabilities in institutions and deny the right of persons with disabilities to a family life.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to provide necessary support to families with children with disabilities in order to guarantee the right of children with disabilities to grow up in a family environment and right to have a family life.

Croatia (2015)

33. The Committee is concerned that parental rights of persons with disabilities have not been recognized.

34. The Committee recommends the State party to take legal and practical action to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their parental rights and adopt children on an equal basis with others. It recommends that the State party provide accessible information

on the sexual and reproductive rights to all persons with disabilities and to provide access to adoption services and to community-based support services for parents with disabilities.

Czech Republic (2015)

44. The Committee is concerned that provisions of the new Civil Code and the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children (Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on Social and Legal Protection of Children, as amended.) explicitly allow for restriction of legal capacity in family matters, especially the right to marriage, parental responsibility, and adoption.

45. The Committee recommends that these provisions of the Civil Code and the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children are repealed to ensure that persons with disabilities exercise their right to marry, parental rights and right to adopt on an equal basis with other and that support services are provided to parents with disabilities in the community.

Dominican Republic (2015)

42. Al Comité le preocupa la ausencia en el Estado parte de políticas para la protección de padres y madres con discapacidad referidas a la custodia de sus hijos e hijas; también le preocupan las prácticas discriminatorias contra personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres que desean mantener su fertilidad.

43. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte adoptar medidas para proteger a padres y madres con discapacidad para mantener la custodia de sus hijos e hijas; también le recomienda proteger los derechos sexuales y reproductivos de las personas con discapacidad, en igualdad de condiciones con las demás personas para que puedan mantener su fertilidad y fomentar la toma de conciencia de profesionales de la salud en esta materia.

Germany (2015)

43. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not provide adequate support to parents with disabilities to bring up their children, exercise their parental rights and to facilitate the adoption of children with disabilities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party: a) Take measures to ensure explicitly in the law the prohibition of removal of children from their parents on the basis of their parents' disability; b) Ensure accessible and inclusive community support and safeguard mechanisms are available for parents with disabilities to exercise parental rights; c) Provide increased opportunities for the adoption of children with disabilities.

Mongolia (2015)

35. The Committee notes that the State party does not ensure the rights and responsibilities of all persons with disabilities, with regard to guardianship, wardship and trusteeship of their sons and daughters, including access to adoption. It also notes that it does not render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

36. The Committee urges the State party to review and repeal all existing laws that prevent people with disabilities from exercising their parental rights, including the right to adoption, and to render appropriate assistance to people with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

Turkmenistan (2015)

41. The Committee is concerned that some persons with disabilities are not allowed to enter marriage based on the State party's concept of legal capacity. It also notes that the State party does not provide adequate assistance to persons with disabilities in performing their child-rearing responsibilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party review and repeal all existing legislation that prevents persons with disabilities from marrying or adopting children on the

basis of disability of a person alone and adopt a new legislative framework and financial incentives that includes additional measures to enhance their parenting skills.

New Zealand (2014)

45. The Committee is concerned that sections 141, 142, and 144 (2) of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 appear not to give children with disabilities the same protections as other children when they are placed in out-of-home care. The Committee notes the passage of the Vulnerable Children Act 2014.

46. The Committee recommends that these two statutes be re-examined to ensure that children with disabilities have the same safeguards as other children when they are placed in out-of-home care.

47. The Committee is concerned that section 8 (1) (b) of the Adoption Act 1955 subjects disabled birth parents to differential treatment based on their disability. This provision enables consent to an adoption order to be dispensed with if the court is satisfied that the parent or guardian is unfit, by reason of any physical or mental incapacity, to be entrusted with the care and control of the child.

48. The Committee recommends that section 8 of the Adoption Act 1955 be repealed and that the statute be amended to ensure that parents with disabilities are treated on an equal basis with other parents with respect to adoption.

Republic of Korea (2014)

43. The Committee is concerned that support services provided to families of children with disabilities is limited to low-income families that include persons with severe disabilities. Due to short supply, even such services are insufficient. The Committee is furthermore concerned that the Government provides more subsidies and benefits to families adopting children with disabilities than to their families of origin, which encourages the abandonment of children with disabilities by their own families, in particular by single mothers who face compounded stigmatization, and denies the child's right to family.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party provide the legal basis for, and implement, comprehensive policies to enable parents, including single mothers, of children with disabilities to receive support to raise their child within the family and to ensure the child's rights to family and to participation in the community on an equal basis with other children.

Belgium (2014)

34. The Committee is concerned about the lack of support for parents of children with disabilities, particularly mothers, who often leave their jobs to care for their children. It is also concerned that the minimum requirements for protecting the private life of persons with disabilities living in institutions are not guaranteed. Similarly, it regrets that persons with disabilities do not have access to age-appropriate information and education on reproduction and family planning matters.

35. The Committee strongly recommends the establishment of a support mechanism for families of children with disabilities with a view to preventing their abandonment or institutionalization. The Committee recommends that the State party take adequate measures to ensure that service providers respect and protect the right of persons with disabilities to a private and family life. It also recommends that access to age-appropriate information and education on reproduction and family planning should be made available to all persons with disabilities.

Mexico (2014)

45. The Committee notes that the Civil Code restricts the right of some persons with disabilities to marry and their right to custody and guardianship of their children. It further

notes that children with disabilities living in poverty are at greater risk of abandonment and placement in institutions.

46. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Review and harmonize the Civil Code to ensure that all persons with disabilities have the right to marry and to have custody or guardianship of their children;**
- (b) Set up programmes to provide sufficient support to mothers with psychosocial disabilities so that they may discharge their responsibilities towards their children;**
- (c) Establish family support mechanisms in keeping with the recommendation made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child following the consideration of the third periodic report (CRC/C/MEX/CO/3, para. 55); and**
- (d) Opt for the placement of all abandoned children with disabilities in foster care instead of in institutions and ensure that foster families receive the requisite support for their care.**

Sweden (2014)

45. The Committee is concerned that social services can, upon requirement by a country of origin, deny the international adoption of a child to families where one partner has a disability; it is also concerned about families with disabilities being subjected to additional investigations, carried out by local authorities and social services in the framework of the national adoption system, to assess their parenting ability.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability in adoption procedures.

Azerbaijan (2014)

36. The Committee is concerned about the existing laws that prevent persons with specific forms of disability to adopt children and have a family.

37. The Committee urges the State party to repeal all existing legislation that prevents persons with disabilities from adopting children and provide a new legislative framework that includes support for parenting.

38. The Committee also expresses its concern about the legislation in force in the State party which allows parents of a new born boy or girl to place them under the custody of the State solely on the basis of their disability, without taking into account the best interests of the child. The Committee is further concerned that legislation in the State only allows for the adoption of children who are under five years old, which limits their rights under article 23.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party prohibit the placement of new born boys and girls with disabilities under the custody of the State by their fathers and mothers solely based on their disability. It further recommends that such a prohibition should be complemented with the strengthening of support measures so that mothers and fathers can take care of their children with disabilities, and that in those cases in which the possibility of placement is considered as a measure of protection, the best interests of the child should be duly respected. Furthermore, the Committee urges the State party to widen the age limit for adoption purposes.

Costa Rica (2014)

43. El Comité expresa su preocupación porque mujeres con discapacidad, especialmente con discapacidad psicosocial e intelectual, sean separadas de sus hijos por motivo de su discapacidad;

44. El Comité exhorta al Estado Parte revisar los procedimientos en que se declare a mujeres con discapacidad como madres no aptas, y restituya plenamente el derecho a tener un hogar y conformar una familia, asegurando que cuenten con los apoyos necesarios para hacer tales derechos efectivos.

El Salvador (2013)

47. The Committee is concerned about the rules depriving persons with intellectual, psychosocial or hearing impairments of their legal capacity and about other barriers preventing them from entering into marriage and exercising their rights regarding family, maternity and personal relationships.

48. The Committee urges the State party to put in place adequate measures to make it easier for persons with disabilities to exercise their family and maternity rights.

Paraguay (2013)

55. The Committee is concerned at the State party's expansion of its schemes for homes for children with disabilities, undermining their right to live in a family.

56. The Committee urges the State party to adopt measures to encourage foster families and to provide financial support to low-income families with children with disabilities to enable the children to live with their families and be active members of the community. The Committee also urges the State party to guarantee equality of treatment for children with disabilities in the Family Placement Programme for Children and Adolescents requiring Protection and Support, and to revise the draft rules on subsidies to foster families and residential care institutions and bring them into line with the provisions of article 23 of the Convention.

Argentina (2012)

35. The Committee notes with concern that the right to form a family is denied to some persons with disabilities, especially those declared "insane" or "lacking legal capacity", in accordance with article 309 of the State party's Civil Code.

36. The Committee urges the State party to amend the Civil Code to bring it into line with article 12 and article 23, paragraph 1 (b), of the Convention and to make support services to assist with the demands of parenthood available to persons with disabilities who require them.

China (2012)

33. The Committee is deeply concerned that both the state party's laws as well as its society accept the practice of forced sterilization and forced abortion on women with disabilities without free and informed consent

34. The Committee calls upon the State party to revise its laws and policies in order to prohibit compulsory sterilization and forced abortion on women with disabilities.

Hungary (2012)

36. The Committee notes with concern that persons with disabilities still face various financial, physical and attitudinal barriers to founding a family and that scarcity of the support services for independent living, as elaborated in the above paragraphs 34 and 35, presents a de facto barrier to the full and effective enjoyment of the rights laid out in article 23 of the Convention.

37. The Committee calls upon the State party to take appropriate measures to enable men and women with disabilities who are of marriageable age to marry and found a family, as well as to provide adequate support services to men and women, boys and girls with disabilities to enable them to live with their families, with a view to prevent and reduce the risk of placement in an institution.

38. The Committee calls upon the State party to take appropriate and urgent measures to protect persons with disabilities from forced sterilisation.

Peru (2012)

34. The Committee is deeply concerned that, according to the technical Norm for Family Planning 536/2005 - MINSA from 26 July 2005, persons with “mental incompetence” can be sterilized without their free and informed consent, as a method of contraception.

35. The Committee urges the State party to abolish administrative directives on forced sterilization of persons with disabilities.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 24 CRPD
(Education)*

September 2025

Article 24 – Education

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning directed to:
 - a) The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity;
 - b) The development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential;
 - c) Enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society.
2. In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:
 - a) Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability;
 - b) Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live;
 - c) Reasonable accommodation of the individual's requirements is provided;
 - d) Persons with disabilities receive the support required, within the general education system, to facilitate their effective education;
 - e) Effective individualized support measures are provided in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion.
3. States Parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community. To this end, States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including:
 - a) Facilitating the learning of Braille, alternative script, augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and orientation and mobility skills, and facilitating peer support and mentoring;
 - b) Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;
 - c) Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.
4. In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.
5. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities.

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Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

46. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The promotion of a segregated learning environment in the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Provision of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- (b) Insufficient progress in the provision of inclusive education, including the transition from segregated, special education to inclusive education and the lack of quality inclusive education, particularly due to the inadequate allocation of resources and the lack of reasonable accommodation based on individual requirements, leading to the seclusion of children with disabilities;
- (c) Insufficient training of teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education, proficiency in Braille, sign language and disability-inclusive modes of teaching;
- (d) Limited accessible materials, adaptive learning environments, lack of sign language, alternative and augmentative modes and methods of communication;
- (e) The challenges faced by persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities and persons with intellectual, psychosocial or multiple disabilities, in accessing tertiary education and obtaining reasonable accommodation;
- (f) The absence of accurate, reliable data on students with disabilities receiving non-inclusive education, disaggregated by age, sex, school level and type of impairment, in both urban and rural areas.

47. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and targets 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close consultation and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, learners with disabilities and their families, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Review its legislation and policies in the field of education, including the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Provision of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to bring them in line with the Convention, and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, including children and youth, in its implementation and evaluation;**
- (b) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy with clear targets, indicators, and a concrete timeframe for the effective implementation of inclusive education policies, by reviewing existing strategies, ensuring adequate budgetary allocations, and mobilizing technical and human resources to provide all students with disabilities with reasonable accommodation and individualized support at all levels of education. The strategy should include a detailed plan to phase out segregated learning environments through the implementation of transition programmes that facilitate the systematic transfer of children from special to inclusive schools;**
- (c) Ensure the training of regular education teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education and raise their awareness about the human rights model of disability;**
- (d) Provide students with disabilities with learning support based on individual requirements, including classroom support and accessible learning environments, teaching methods and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and other modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology;**
- (e) Take measures to ensure the full and equal inclusion of persons with disabilities in tertiary education, including through the provision of inclusive curricula, reasonable accommodations, and accessible physical environments, as well as by implementing targeted programmes aimed at expanding and diversifying vocational training and employment opportunities beyond traditional or stereotypical fields. Particular attention should be given to the requirements of persons who are deafblind, women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and those with multiple disabilities;**
- (f) Establish a comprehensive data collection system to gather accurate, disaggregated information on the educational participation of persons with disabilities at all levels, capturing participation rates by mainstream schools, special schools, rehabilitation centres,**

education at home and other types of schooling, disaggregated by age, sex, type of impairment, school level, and geographic location, to inform inclusive education policies and monitor their implementation.

Finland (2025)

46. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The lack of implementation of inclusive education, leading to the prevalence of segregated education;
- (b) The lack of qualified teachers to provide inclusive education;
- (c) The inaccessibility of the education system on the Åland Islands as well as the lack of retention, and limited educational development of students with disabilities;
- (d) The denial of enrolment to students with disabilities in higher education based on safety criteria and by the inaccessibility of university student information systems and websites.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Transform the education system into an inclusive education system, by, inter alia, implementing capacity building programs on the right to inclusive education of persons with disabilities, converting segregated education centers into support centers for inclusive education, reorienting the resources to support mainstream educational centers, ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities, including individualized learning plans, and guaranteeing educational performance evaluations without discrimination;**
- (b) Improve training in educational settings on the rights of persons with disabilities and inclusive education, expand the number of qualified teachers, increase the recruitment of teachers with disabilities and ensure they are provided with reasonable accommodation, including in the Åland Islands;**
- (c) Ensure that the regulatory review of the Åland Islands education system is in line with the Convention, and allocate sufficient resources to ensure all students with disabilities can access, remain, and pursue their education on an equal basis with others;**
- (d) Review admissions procedures in higher education to ensure access for students with disabilities and that they can pursue their professional training on an equal basis with other students, eliminate requirements restricting or limiting their academic training based on the student's disability, and ensure that student information systems and university websites are accessible, including for blind students and students with visual impairments.**

Kiribati (2025)

45. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That many children with disabilities, particularly on the outer islands, continue to face barriers to inclusive, quality education;
- (b) About the lack of accessible school infrastructure, limited number of trained teachers, insufficient learning materials and the inadequate provision of assistive devices;
- (c) That the Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs, which was established and continues to be operated by a faith-based organisation, is not formally integrated into the national education system, relies heavily on external donor support and has insufficient and unstable funding, staffing, and resources, which limits its capacity to provide quality education to children with disabilities and to contribute effectively to advancing inclusive education across the country.

46. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure the full implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy and allocate adequate financial and human resources for its effective application on all islands;**

- (b) Allocate sufficient resources to make all schools, including those on the outer islands, physically accessible and adequately equipped, through upgrading infrastructure in line with international accessibility standards, expanding teacher training in inclusive education, and ensuring the provision of adequate and accessible learning materials and assistive devices, including accessible digital formats, Braille, audio, Easy Read, and augmentative and alternative communication as well as ensure that funding provided by donors is spent in a disability inclusive manner and ensures accessibility for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Integrate the Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs into the formal national education system, to ensure sustainable funding, adequate staffing, and alignment with inclusive education policies, while at the same time strengthening its role in supporting and complementing inclusive education in mainstream schools, including on the outer islands;**
- (d) Closely monitor and report on the enrolment and educational attainment of all children with disabilities and evaluate the results obtained through the Kiribati Inclusive Education Policy as well as undertake audits at schools in relation to compliance with the Convention and adjust their policies to address shortcomings and improve the results.**

Maldives (2025)

47. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the Inclusive Education Policy (2021) does not cover all types of disabilities, and does not provide for reasonable accommodation, individualized assessment mechanisms and accessible formats of information and communication;**
- (b) That despite the adoption of the Inclusive Education Policy (2021), many children with disabilities remain at home and do not receive support to access inclusive education due to barriers to inclusive education, including discriminatory attitudes towards children with disabilities that prevent them from enrolling in school, bullying, , resistance on the part of teachers, the school community and families, inaccessibility of school premises and recreational areas, including playgrounds;**
- (c) About insufficient training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education, proficiency in Braille, sign language and accessible modes of teaching;**
- (d) About barriers faced by students with disabilities in accessing higher education.**

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Review existing legislation and policies in the field of education, including the Inclusive Education Policy (2021), with a view to harmonizing them with the Convention and ensure the monitoring of its implementation;**
- (b) Develop and implement a strategy with clear targets, indicators, timeframe for the effective implementation of inclusive education policy providing adequate budgetary allocation, technical and personal resources to ensure that all students with disabilities are provided with reasonable accommodation and individualized support at all levels of education and also ensure that schools do not deny admission of children with disabilities on the bases of lack of necessary facilities;**
- (c) Strengthen training and awareness-raising on the rights of children with disabilities, including to inclusive education, among children with disabilities themselves, their parents and relatives, teachers and members of local communities and in society as a whole, and establish and enforce clear anti-bullying policies within all educational settings, including mandatory training for teachers and staff on disability rights and inclusive education and ensure that all reports of bullying or mistreatment of students with disabilities are promptly and effectively investigated and addressed to prevent recurrence of such incidents;**
- (d) Provide students with disabilities with learning support based on individual requirements, including classroom support and accessible learning environments, teaching methods and**

learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and other modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology, and make sure that there are enough teachers proficient in Sign Language, especially in the outer islands;

(e) Take concrete measures to ensure that all schools and learning centres, including those in the outer islands, are physically accessible to students with disabilities, and ensure that accessibility is integrated into organizational policies, not as a temporary solution but as a fundamental and permanent requirement, to enable the full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of school life, including extracurricular activities;

(f) Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the root causes hindering equal opportunities for students with disabilities in accessing higher education, and develop and implement an inclusive policy that ensures equitable access by addressing specific barriers, including those related to university entrance examinations, admission procedures, accessibility, and the provision of reasonable accommodations throughout the academic study.

Canada (2025)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of segregated educational systems, inconsistent access to inclusive education across provinces and territories, the lack of culturally-appropriate inclusive education for Indigenous persons with disabilities, the insufficient funding and qualified personnel for educational services for persons with disabilities, as well as the lack of adequate pedagogical approaches to guarantee inclusive education;

(b) Unequal access to post-secondary education for persons with disabilities, with official numbers indicating that only 19.6 per cent have a university or higher-level degree.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recalling its Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/CAN/CO/1, para. 44), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations establish a national inclusive education action plan to transition from segregated education to quality, inclusive education, including measures that:

(a) Ensure consistent policies on inclusive education throughout its provinces and territories, track the implementation of inclusive education across provinces and territories, including a database to capture comprehensive data on students with disabilities at the pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary levels;

(b) Ensure that inclusive education policies include and address the distinctions-based needs, experiences, and cultural context of Indigenous persons with disabilities, including regarding their representation in school curricula;

(c) Include strategies to increase the enrolment of persons with disabilities at secondary and tertiary level of education.

Dominican Republic (2025)

43. The Committee takes note of the progress being made for the implementation of inclusive education, however it is concerned about:

(a) The National Model for Inclusive Education, approved by the National Education Council on 20 June 2024, has not fully reached the whole territory of the State party, with resources to implement it mostly allocated to the capital and prominent provinces and the lack of a mechanism to track and monitor its implementation;

(b) The lack of accessibility of schools and shortcomings in the transport services provided for students with disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas;

(c) The low number of children with disabilities identified at the pre-primary level of the education system;

(d) The limited training provided to general education teachers on the right of children with disabilities to inclusive education and on inclusive methods of teaching such as modern assistive technologies;

(e) Reports of attitudinal barriers, including discriminatory attitudes towards children with disabilities that prevent them from enrolling in education, with resistance on the part of teachers, the school community and families.

44. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) and targets 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including learners with disabilities, through their representative organizations, and their families:

(a) Strengthen efforts to implement the National Model for Inclusive Education across the State party, paying particular attention to rural and remote areas and establish a mechanism to monitor its implementation;

(b) Redouble efforts to ensure accessibility in mainstream schools, to provide the necessary aids for educational activities, and to adapt transport services for students with disabilities, including in rural and remote areas;

(c) Gather adequate data on the number of students with disabilities at all levels of the education system, including the pre-primary level;

(d) Improve the curricula and teaching methods used by mainstream education teachers with regard to the rights of children with disabilities to inclusive education and inclusive education methods of teaching;

(e) Address the attitudinal barriers in the school community towards students with disabilities, including by raising awareness of the right to inclusive education.

European Union (2025)

58. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Many Member States segregate education of children with disabilities; children with disabilities face difficulties to access regular schools due to a lack of qualified teachers and educational support staff, reasonable accommodation, accessible school buildings, standardized curricula that fail to meet the diverse needs of students with disabilities, and prejudice against them;

(b) The EU Regulation on artificial intelligence permits the use of AI for educational decision-making despite discrimination risks;

(c) The Erasmus+ program does not fully cover disability-related expenses.

59. The Committee recalls its previous Concluding Observations and Recommendations (para. 61) and its General Comment No. 4 (2016) and recommends that the European Union:

(a) Encourage Member States to fulfill their obligation to provide quality inclusive education throughout the entire education cycle and support them in their respective efforts;

(b) Ensure that the use of AI for decision making in education does not discriminate against persons with disabilities, as mentioned in the European Commission's 2022 Ethical guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and data in teaching and learning for Educators;

(c) Ensure that the implementation of the Digital Education Action Plan guarantees accessibility for students with disabilities;

(d) Ensure that the Erasmus+ program covers all disability-related expenses.

Palau (2025)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The fact that the national legal and policy framework regulating education for children with disabilities in the State party, is not fully compliant with the Convention, as it uses derogatory terminology such as "handicapped children," "children with severe problems," and "severe impairment", and promotes a segregated learning environment;

(b) The insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities;

- (c) Insufficient training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education, proficiency in Braille, sign language and accessible modes of teaching;
- (d) Limited accessible materials, adaptive learning environments, lack of sign language, alternative and augmentative modes and methods of communication;
- (e) Lack of accessibility in physical environments of schools, including Palau Community College;
- (f) Barriers faced by students with disabilities in accessing higher education.

46. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and targets 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close consultation and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, learners with disabilities and their families, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review its legislation and policies in the field of education including the Special Education Policy, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Palau Public Law 3-9, the Programs and Services for Handicapped Children Act, to bring them in line with the Convention, and take measures to increase human, material and financial resources and to facilitate access and enjoyment of a quality inclusive education for all pupils with disabilities to ensure the inclusion of all students with disabilities in mainstream classrooms;**
- (b) Provide reasonable accommodation for all children with disabilities to meet their individual educational requirements and to ensure inclusive education;**
- (c) Ensure the training of regular education teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education and raise their awareness about the human rights model of disability;**
- (d) Provide students with disabilities with learning support based on individual requirements, including classroom support and accessible learning environments, teaching methods and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and other modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology;**
- (e) Take measures to ensure physical environments of all types of schools are accessible and free from any barriers;**
- (f) Analyse the root causes of unequal opportunities for persons with disabilities regarding access to higher education, and develop a comprehensive policy to promote access to higher education, addressing barriers for students with disabilities in higher education, including university entrance exams and the study process.**

Tuvalu (2025)

43. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That many children with disabilities remain at home and do not receive support to access inclusive education;
- (b) Discriminatory attitudes towards children with disabilities that prevent them from enrolling in school, bullying, threats to be sent to a special school, resistance from teachers, the school community and families, inaccessibility of school premises, low number of staff, inadequate teaching materials, lack of water and sanitation, insufficient material and financial resources and lack of reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities.

44. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Adopt a national policy on inclusive quality education and ensure that inclusive quality education covers all children with disabilities, regardless of their type of disability throughout the country, and adopt a timetable for the transition from special schools to inclusive mainstream education;**
- (b) Strengthen training and awareness-raising on the rights of children with disabilities, including to inclusive education, among children with disabilities themselves, their parents and relatives, teachers and members of religious communities and in society as a whole;**

(c) Provide students with disabilities with compensatory functional aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, as well as modes and means of communication, including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technologies.

Viet Nam (2025)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistence of segregated special education settings for all children with disabilities, especially those who need a higher level of support, and indigenous persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of comprehensive plans for accessibility and reasonable accommodations and educational materials at all levels for students with disabilities who have diverse support needs;
- (c) Limited training for teachers, social workers, and school staff on different types of disabilities, reasonable accommodations, and strategies to create inclusive and equitable learning environments free from bullying and other forms of violence;
- (d) The shortage of teachers with disabilities in mainstream schools;
- (e) The absence of physical accessibility and access to information and communication in mainstream schools, which hinders educational inclusion.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close consultation and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, learners with disabilities and their families, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Approve, implement, and monitor policies for inclusive and quality education at all levels nationwide, eliminating segregated special education settings, focusing especially on members of indigenous communities and those living in remote and rural areas;**
- (b) Adopt a strategy to render schools and other educational institutions accessible by providing accessible educational materials and utilizing relevant technology, and provide reasonable accommodations, including through classroom support;**
- (c) Ensure that teachers are trained in inclusive education techniques at all levels, including sign languages and other accessible formats of information and communication;**
- (d) Recruit teachers with disabilities in mainstream schools;**
- (e) Adopt a national plan to ensure physical accessibility and access to information and communication in mainstream educational institutions at all levels.**

Belarus (2024)

47. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Despite the formal commitment to inclusive education in the draft Law for inclusive education, there are still significant barriers to its effective implementation, including lack of resources, inadequate monitoring, and a prevailing medical and charity-based approach to disability;
- (b) A large number of students with disabilities are still learning in segregated schools and those who are learning in public schools, lack the necessary accommodations;
- (c) Most students with disabilities are not able to complete their high school nor higher education.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) and target 4.5 and indicator 4. of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Realize the commitment to inclusive education at the legal level and at the policy level with the aim of eliminating all discriminatory provisions regarding the education of students with disabilities, and explicitly provide for quality inclusive education to ensure that no child with disabilities is excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability;**

- (b) Ensure access to the general education system in the community and provide the necessary reasonable accommodations for all students with disabilities on an equal basis with other children;**
- (c) Guarantee access to regular education facilities and transportation for children with all kind of disabilities in their communities, including in rural areas;**
- (d) Provide comprehensive and focused training for general education teachers and administrative staff on the principles and methods of inclusive education, the capacities of children with disabilities and the individualized support measures required by children with disabilities;**
- (e) Develop effective measures and budget for accommodations, including at the university levels for all students with disabilities, regardless of the type of impairment.**

Belgium (2024)

48. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The State party has the highest percentage of students in special education in the European Union, and that efforts to build public support for inclusive education are lacking, while high levels of negative attitudes and low expectations towards students with disabilities persist;**
- (b) There is no comprehensive plan with clear objectives and methodologies for the realisation of quality inclusive education in all areas of education;**
- (c) There are limited provisions of accessibility, reasonable accommodation, individualized support and assistance in classrooms in the existing framework of inclusive education.**
- (d) Regular school may refuse enrolment of children with disabilities if they consider that the provision of reasonable accommodation would be too burdensome, thus often excluding children with complex support requirements from regular education.**

49. Recalling its General Comment No. 4 (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Remove the barriers and meet the challenges that have prevented effective transition from special education to inclusive mainstream education, including, but not limited to, through raising awareness of the right to inclusive education, combatting negative attitudes and low expectations towards students with disabilities, promoting research on inclusive education methodologies, and defining best practices of inclusive educational facilities in the State party;**
- (b) Develop a comprehensive transition plan and strategy, including a detailed timeline and the requisite funding, to promote coordinated quality inclusive education across different policy areas, with specific steps outlined to evolve toward a quality inclusive education system;**
- (c) Render training on inclusive education and its implementation mandatory for all teaching and non-teaching personnel in all schools, and train and employ a sufficient number of qualified professionals to support students with disabilities, including students with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (d) Provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities at all educational levels, including tertiary education.**

Benin (2024)

47. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are often excluded from the regular education system. It is particularly concerned about:

- (a) The fact that the national inclusive education policy does not cover all persons with disabilities and that segregated education for children with disabilities continues to be provided alongside inclusive education, in the absence of a time frame for full transition;
- (b) The pilot project for inclusive education for children with disabilities is limited to one region;
- (c) Discriminatory attitudes towards children with disabilities that prevent them from enrolling in education, resistance on the part of teachers, the school community and families, the inaccessibility of school premises, the low number of trained personnel, the inadequacy of teaching materials, the lack of water and sanitation, the long distances that must be covered to access schools and the inadequate road infrastructure, the insufficient number of teachers proficient in sign language, the inadequate material and financial resources and the lack of reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities, in particular students with intellectual disabilities, autistic children, and children with vision impairments;
- (d) The lack of disaggregated data on the number and proportion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools receiving individualized support and on the enrolment and dropout rates of children with disabilities.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement the national quality inclusive education policy and ensure that quality inclusive education covers all children with disabilities regardless type of impairment across the country, and adopt a timeframe for the transition from special schools to inclusive mainstream education;**
- (b) Scale up efforts to implement the inclusive education policy, including by allocating adequate financial resources;**
- (c) Modify the infrastructure in all learning institutions and ensure that new buildings meet the standards of universal design to make them accessible to persons with disabilities and that reasonable accommodation is provided;**
- (d) Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and modes and means of communication, including Easy Read, communication aids and assistive and information technologies;**
- (e) Collect data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, geographical location on the number of children with disabilities who have entered the mainstream school environment and been given adequate teaching support.**

Burkina Faso (2024)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that the national inclusive education policy does not cover all persons with disabilities and that segregated education for children with disabilities continues to be provided alongside inclusive education, in the absence of a timeframe for full transition (Act No. 012-2010/AN of 1 April 2010, arts. 9, 10 and 12);
- (b) The lack of implementation of the national strategy on the development of inclusive education 2018–2022 due to a security crisis that included schools closure;
- (c) The absence of standards for establishing inclusive schools and the lack of criteria and guidance to harmonize existing methodologies and implementation of inclusive education;
- (d) A revised legal framework which plans to authorize an assistant to be present with children in inclusive school but leaves the cost to be borne by the families in the majority of cases.

45. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close consultation and with active

involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, students with disabilities and their families, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the laws on education for children and adults with disabilities to align them with the Convention and to allow transition from segregated education to quality inclusive education;**
- (b) Re-introduce a national strategy on the development of inclusive education with adequate resources, measurable indicators of progress and timebound targets, to ensure physical accessibility for children with disabilities to educational facilities, including necessary facilities such as toilets, libraries and laboratories;**
- (c) Adopt national standards and norms for inclusive schools to provide education providers with guidelines to harmonise their actions in the field of quality inclusive education;**
- (d) Scale up efforts to implement the inclusive education policy, including by modifying the infrastructure in all learning institutions and ensuring that new buildings meet the required standards of universal design to make them accessible to persons with disabilities, and that reasonable accommodation is provided as required by allocating adequate financial resources to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy their right to education.**

Denmark (2024)

65. The Committee is concerned that the number of children attending school in segregated school settings has increased in the last 10 years, and that barriers to inclusive education, including the lack of reasonable accommodation and essential services, such as assistive devices and personal assistance, have resulted in school refusal and involuntary absence of children with disabilities, in particular students with intellectual disabilities and autism; it is also concerned that students with disabilities in vocational schools drop out at a much higher rate than their co-students without disabilities.

66. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Include children with disabilities in quality, inclusive education, and remove the barriers that have prevented effective transition from special education to quality inclusive education;**
- (b) Address attitudinal barriers preventing inclusion of children with disabilities in education, including by improving qualifications for teachers in inclusive education methodologies and training tools, and undertaking organizational changes at schools and system-wide;**
- (c) Provide the requisite support structures, including sign language;**
- (d) Produce a set of national guidelines for early identification of the risk of students with disabilities to drop out of school and ensure equal access to education for all children, on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that students with disabilities have the opportunity to take vocational education and disability-responsive training.**

Ghana (2024)

46. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Delay in launching of Implementation of the revised Inclusive Education Policy (2024), along with a comprehensive implementation plan, communication and resource mobilization strategy, monitoring and evaluation framework, and standards and guidelines, resulting in delay in the improvement of inclusive education;**
- (b) The continuation of segregated special education for children with disabilities, particularly, children who are blind, deaf and those who are deaf-blind, children with intellectual and/or**

psychosocial disabilities and those who require more intensive support, despite legislative and policy commitments to inclusive education;

(c) The report indicating that schools deny admission to some children with disabilities particularly children with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and those who need extensive support due to lack of accessible physical facilities, resources and reasonable accommodation to support inclusive education;

(d) Inadequate budgetary allocations for the promotion and implementation of inclusive education and the absence of systematic data collection, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number of students with disabilities enrolled in the education system and those who are out of education;

(e) Limited accessible materials, adaptive learning environments, lack of sign language, alternative and augmentative modes and methods of communication and individualized accommodation for students with disabilities at all levels, especially those in rural areas as well as the lack of accessible school transportation;

(f) Insufficient training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education, proficiency in Braille, sign language and accessible modes of teaching;

(g) Challenges faced by students with visual impairments at the secondary level of education in learning and teaching of science and mathematics;

47. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 and target 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee urges the State Party to:

(a) Accelerate the launch of the implementation of the revised Inclusive Education Policy (2024), along with a comprehensive implementation plan, communication and resource mobilization strategy, monitoring and evaluation framework, and standards and guidelines to facilitate acceleration towards inclusive education and ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in the implementation and monitoring of the policy;

(b) Develop and implement an action plan with timeframe for the transition from segregated education to quality inclusive education providing adequate budgetary allocation, technical and personal resources to ensure that all students with disabilities are provided with reasonable accommodation and individualized support at all levels of education;

(c) Ensure access to regular schools for all children with disabilities providing the schools with necessary facilities to ensure that they do not deny admission of children with disabilities on the bases of lack of necessary facilities;

(d) Guarantee allocation of appropriate resources for the promotion and implementation of inclusive education and the collection of systematic statistical data, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment including, the number of children with disabilities who are out of education system;

(e) Provide students with disabilities with learning support based on individual requirements, including classroom support and accessible learning environments, teaching methods and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and other modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology, and make sure that there are enough teachers proficient in Ghanaian Sign Language, especially in rural and remote areas, as well as ensure accessibility of school transportation and physical environment across the education system;

(f) Ensure continuous training of regular education teachers in sign language, Brail, Easy Read and other accessible modes of teaching in mainstream schools and raise awareness on other members of the school community on inclusive education and the human rights model of disability;

(g) Provide appropriate teacher training and adopt methods and curriculum adaptation including use of tactile and audio-visual learning tool to address the challenges in the learning and teaching of science and mathematics to students with visual impairments.

Mauritius (2024)

41. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) There is limited understanding of quality inclusive education, and there is a prevalence of and continued investment in segregated educational settings, such as the “special education needs institutions” and the “Integrated Units” in primary schools where children with disabilities are segregated;
- (b) There are challenges for students with disabilities to seek reasonable accommodation, individualized support and resources in schools to ensure equal education opportunities;
- (c) The accessibility of curricula, pedagogies and infrastructure in primary, secondary and tertiary education remain weak, especially in topics such as science and mathematics; there is a lack of a multisectoral evaluation system for students with disabilities; and official certificates are not always provided to students with disabilities upon completion of education curricula or programmes;
- (d) There is a lack of disaggregated data on children with disabilities deprived of education.

42. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to quality inclusive education, target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals and its previous recommendation, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, learners with disabilities and their families:

- (a) Ensure the inclusion of students with disabilities in mainstream education at all educational levels; promote a culture of inclusion among parents, educators and pupils; and adopt a strategy for the transition from the “special education needs” model to a quality inclusive mainstream education that is free at all levels;
- (b) Ensure that students with disabilities can easily seek individualized support and are provided with reasonable accommodation based on individualized human rights-based assessments of educational requirements;
- (c) Ensure that teaching materials are adapted to the requirements of students with disabilities; design and deliver curricula and pedagogies in accessible formats, including sign language, Easy Read, Braille and electronic formats, and in a manner that embraces digital technology; properly train educators at all levels; promote and implement an optimal multisectoral evaluation system for students with disabilities that is required by law; ensure that students with disabilities properly receive official certificates upon completion of education curricula or programmes; and improve the infrastructural and procedural accessibility in the schools;
- (d) Collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on students with disabilities, and use this information to inform educational planning and policies, particularly for children who were unable to enrol in mainstream schools, who participate in “special education needs institutions” and education programmes affiliated with non-governmental organizations, who are attending school on a part-time basis and who requested but were denied individualized support and accommodation, among others, as well as data on educational attainment, on completion and dropout rates, on suspension and expulsion rates and on the use of restrictive practices. Data should be disaggregated in relation to forms of intersecting discrimination against children and other relevant sociodemographic characteristics, including age, sex, gender, geographic location and migrant, asylum-seeker, refugee and refugee-like situations.

Netherlands (2024)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The perpetuation of the dual education system and the lack of concrete objectives, timelines and evaluations in the Working Agenda for Inclusive Education 2035 for developing quality inclusive education;
- (b) The high and increasing number of children placed in special education and the growing waiting lists at schools for special education, as well as the possibility and increasingly significant number of exemptions from compulsory education on the basis of article 5a of the Compulsory Education Act;
- (c) The limited training provided to general education teachers on the rights of children with disabilities to inclusive education and on inclusive education methods of teaching;
- (d) The lack of accessibility in mainstream schools to the supports necessary for inclusive education, especially the lack of reasonable accommodation, taking into account all different types of disabilities, namely for deaf pupils and students with hearing impairments;
- (e) Reports about stigma against students with disabilities, including discouraging persons with disabilities to access tertiary education.

54. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016), on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close consultation and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, learners with disabilities and their families, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Work towards a fully inclusive education system for all children, including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autistic children, that ends specialized education; review the current implementation plan; establish concrete objectives, timelines, and evaluation mechanisms to ensure effective transition towards inclusive education;**
- (b) Take immediate measures to reduce the number of children placed in special education by increasing the capacity of mainstream schools to accommodate students with disabilities, providing adequate resources and support to mainstream schools to facilitate inclusion, including specialised training; amend national legislation on exemptions from compulsory education for children with disabilities, including children with physical and intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, with high support requirements, ensuring that all children with disabilities can exercise their right to education;**
- (c) Improve the curricula and teaching methods provided to mainstream education teachers on the rights of children with disabilities to inclusive education and on inclusive education methods of teaching;**
- (d) Ensure that mainstream schools are fully accessible and provide reasonable accommodation for all types of disabilities, particularly for deaf pupils and students with hearing impairments;**
- (e) Ensure access to inclusive tertiary education, including vocational and higher education, for children and adults with disabilities.**

Ukraine (2024)

48. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the State party has not eliminated segregated schools as an educational model;
- (b) That the National Strategy for Inclusive Education Until 2029 and corresponding operational plan for 2024-2026 do not set forth a comprehensive inclusive education strategy that guarantees the right to education for persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities and internally displaced persons with disabilities;
- (c) The frequent unavailability of education for children with disabilities in residential institutions;

- (d) Online learning for children with disabilities has not been accessible and inclusive on account of limited access, insufficient resources, inadequate teacher training, and societal biases that continue to contribute to the exclusion of children with disabilities from educational settings;
- (e) The lack of measures to ensure reasonable accommodation and individualized support provided upon request in all education settings;
- (f) The lack of comprehensive implementation of article 7 of the Law of Ukraine on Education (No. 2145-VIII) that grants deaf persons the right to be taught in sign language and to learn Ukrainian sign language, as well as lack of official data on the recipients of this right;
- (g) The lack of social interaction, curricular and programs for students with and without disability to obtain direct experiences of human diversity, tolerant behaviour, and building communication skills.

49. Recalling its general comment No. 4 on the right to inclusive education (2016), and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party in close consultation and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, learners with disabilities and their families:

- (a) Ensure that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary and secondary education and in the communities in which they live;**
- (b) Guarantee reasonable accommodation in education, and that persons requiring a high level of individualized support receive it, as well as establish action plans to eliminate information and communication barriers in online schooling platforms;**
- (c) Implement article 7 of the Law of Ukraine on Education (No. 2145-VIII) and facilitate the learning of Braille, alternative script, augmentative and alternative models, means and formats of communication, orientation and mobility skills, as well as facilitate peer support and mentoring in schools settings at all levels;**
- (d) Take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education including in online school platforms;**
- (e) Adopt measures to facilitate the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community;**
- (f) Ensure social interaction, as well as curricular programs for students with and without disability to obtain direct experiences of human diversity, tolerant behaviour, and building communication skills. Refrain from building special schools for children with disabilities and any other form of institution that perpetuates their segregation and adopt comprehensive measures to implement an inclusive education strategy that considers the thoughts and opinions of all parents and students with disabilities.**
- (g) Adopt methods and allocate necessary resources, and infrastructure to accurately track and report the enrolment of children with disabilities in kindergartens and schools;**

Azerbaijan (2024)

53. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The limited understanding of inclusive education, and the prevalence of segregated educational settings, such as boarding schools, rehabilitation centers, special educational institutions and special classes, and “integrated inclusive schools” (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, para. 217 and written replies provided by the State party after the constructive dialogue);
- (b) The limited accessibility of teaching materials and methodologies as well as barriers to the physical environment and information, the lack of trained teachers on sign language and that sign language training is not required for school teachers;
- (c) The social isolation of children with disabilities, including autistic children preventing them from attending mainstream inclusive schools and emphasizing home-schooling model for them;
- (d) The lack of reasonable accommodation and of individualized support for children with disabilities in schools.

54. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.4, 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the State party:

(a) Ensure that the amendments to the Law "On education of persons with disabilities (special education)" (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, para. 216 (a)) recognize inclusive quality education for persons with disabilities, repeal regulations providing for special education, and ensure that children with disabilities are enrolled into regular inclusive education settings. The State party should establish monitoring mechanisms concerning inclusive education;

(b) Strengthen measures to prepare teaching material in accessible formats, including in kindergarten facilities, implement inclusive teaching methodologies and tools, ensure accessibility to textbooks and to information in digital formats for children with disabilities. The State party should ensure the use of sign language by teachers in schools, update recruiting mechanisms for teachers, and reinforce programmes, such as the pre-service teacher training course on inclusive education;

(c) Prevent stigmatization of children with disabilities and isolation at home due to disability and ensure that all children with disabilities have access to quality, inclusive education in regular education settings, on an equal basis with others;

(d) Recognize reasonable accommodation and individualized support at all levels of education and strengthen training for members of the Psychological-Medical-Pedagogical Commissions (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, para. 216 (b)) to work in line with the human rights model of disability and ensure early identification of support requirements and reasonable accommodation.

Bahrain (2024)¹

The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The absence of a national strategy for inclusive education and the absence of any provision in Law No. 74 of 2006 (on the care, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities) on the right of persons with disabilities to inclusive education.

(b) The adoption of restrictive educational environments and special education at the expense of inclusive education and the lack of clear data on the number and status of students integrated into general education schools.

(c) The lack of specialized training programs for educational and administrative staff to promote inclusive education.

(d) The lack of availability of school and university curricula in accessible formats, especially for students with intellectual disabilities and blind students, especially in science and mathematics.

49. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party should

(a) Develop a national strategy and implementation plan for the transition to inclusive education for all persons with disabilities at all levels of education.

(b) Provide reliable and disaggregated data on students with disabilities enrolled in special education centers and education programs attached to non-governmental associations, their academic status and the steps to be taken to transition them to inclusive education.

(c) Develop specialized training programs for teachers and administrators working in the education sector to enable them to understand inclusive education and the requirements of providing an inclusive and safe school environment for all.

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

(d) Provide school and university curricula in accessible formats, including sign language, easy reading, Braille, and electronic formats.

Costa Rica (2024)

39. Al Comité le preocupa:

- a) La falta de un marco estratégico para la implementación de un sistema educativo inclusivo, que tenga en cuenta las disparidades regionales así como los territorios indígenas, con metas, plazos y financiación para su finalización;
- b) Que aún esté pendiente la armonización del artículo 62 del Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia con el artículo 24 de la Convención de modo a garantizar el derecho de los niños y niñas con discapacidad a una educación inclusiva de calidad;
- c) La falta de accesibilidad en los centros educativos, las deficiencias en el servicio de transporte para estudiantes con discapacidad, y la falta de información sobre las ayudas necesarias para las actividades educativas;
- d) El número insuficiente de docentes capacitados dentro del modelo de educación inclusiva y de medidas para garantizar que la tecnología educativa digital sea accesible y esté adaptada al uso de los estudiantes con discapacidades;
- e) La falta de información detallada sobre el número y la proporción de estudiantes con discapacidad que están matriculados en entornos educativos inclusivos, y que han completado la educación primaria, secundaria y superior.
- f) Que las titulaciones y los certificados otorgados a los estudiantes con discapacidad en las escuelas especiales no corresponden a las titulaciones y los certificados otorgados en las escuelas regulares, restringiendo su acceso al mercado laboral y a las universidades.

40. Recordando su observación general núm. 4 (2016), sobre el derecho a la educación inclusiva, y las metas 4.5 y 4.a de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité urge al Estado parte a:

- a) Adoptar un marco estratégico para la implementación del sistema educativo inclusivo, en consulta con organizaciones de las personas con discapacidad, que tenga en cuenta las disparidades regionales así como los territorios indígenas, con metas, plazos y financiación para su finalización;**
- b) La armonización del artículo 62 del Código de la Niñez y la Adolescencia con el artículo 24 de la Convención para garantizar el derecho de los niños y las niñas con discapacidad a una educación inclusiva de calidad;**
- c) Redoblar esfuerzos para garantizar la accesibilidad en las escuelas regulares, las ayudas necesarias para las actividades educativas, y la adecuación de los servicios de transporte para estudiantes con discapacidad, incluyendo en áreas rurales y remotas;**
- d) Asegurar la capacitación continua, permanente y de calidad a los docentes, y que se apoye con maestros de educación especial como monitores a los alumnos que se integren a la educación regular para lograr una educación de calidad e inclusiva, y garantizar que la tecnología educativa digital sea accesible y esté adaptada al uso de los estudiantes con discapacidades;**
- e) Garantizar la recopilación sistemática de datos, desglosados por edad, sexo, tipos de discapacidad y ubicación geográfica para contar con datos estadísticos confiables sobre los alumnos con discapacidad y donde se encuentran recibiendo su educación, como también para conocer sobre los avances hacia el logro de una educación inclusiva;**
- f) Que se elimine la titulación diferenciada y que los estudiantes con discapacidad obtengan la titulación y/o certificación en igualdad de condiciones que los demás.**

Kazakhstan (2024)

51. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That children with disabilities, including children in institutions, continue to be enrolled in special education schools, in special classrooms in schools, or in home schooling (CRPD/C/KAZ/RQ/1, paras. 209, 210, 216);

(b) The lack of information about children with disabilities dropping out of mainstream educational settings and on measures to prevent such occurrences in the State Education and Science Development Programme for 2020-2025;

(c) Decisions based on the psychological and medical-pedagogical consultations depriving children with disabilities from their right to inclusive education;

(d) The insufficiencies of reasonable accommodation in educational settings at all levels.

52. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.4, 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the State party:

(a) Thoroughly review its approach to inclusive education and ensure that it recognises quality inclusive education for all children regardless impairment, take effective measures to end segregated educational settings, to remove existing integration practices in education, and home-schooling on the basis of disability, ensure accessibility of the learning environment and remove barriers, including attitudinal barriers against inclusion at all levels of education, render teaching and learning strategies fully inclusive, including through assistive technologies, and provide individualized support, reasonable accommodation and early intervention;

(b) Take urgent measures to end educational institutions and replace them with fully inclusive educational settings in mainstream schools;

(c) Effectively prevent children with disabilities from dropping out of inclusive education at all levels;

(d) Replace the Psychological-Medical-Pedagogical consultation mechanism with an individualized assessment based on the human rights model of disability, identifying the requirements and reasonable accommodation required, to ensure full inclusion of students with disabilities in education;

(e) Adopt legislative, policy and administrative measures for the provision of reasonable accommodation in mainstream education across public and private schools, including in tertiary education.

Nicaragua (2024)

50. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) La falta de un Plan Nacional de Inclusión Educativa, por lo que los esfuerzos que se realizan son aislados e insuficientes y no toman en cuenta ajustes razonables y que se priorice la educación especial, sobre todo en estudiantes con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, lo que dificulta una transición adecuada hacia una educación regular, lo que lleva a que el 40.98%, de los niños y niñas con discapacidad se encuentra sin recibir educación;

b) Que persisten barreras de accesibilidad al medio físico, en todas las escuelas y colegios del país y en términos de acceso a la información y comunicación, especialmente para estudiantes con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, y continua la falta de docentes y/o personal de apoyo especializado en el sistema braille y lengua de señas;

c) La brecha digital entre zonas rurales y urbanas en relación con la educación, que afecta también a los estudiantes con discapacidad;

d) La falta de información sobre los avances en la capacitación y formación a docentes de escuelas urbanas y las situadas en comunidades rurales o indígenas.

51. Recordando su observación general núm. 4 (2016), sobre el derecho a la educación inclusiva, y las metas 4.5 y 4.a de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité urge al Estado parte a que, en consulta estrecha y colaboración activa con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan:

a) Redoble esfuerzos para poner fin a la educación especial segregada, especialmente con respecto a estudiantes con discapacidad intelectual, del espectro autista y síndrome de Down, incluyendo por medio de un plan de acción nacional sobre la educación inclusiva de calidad, con objetivos específicos, plazos, recursos humanos y presupuesto suficiente, a fin

de asegurar la provisión de apoyos y ajustes razonables para estudiantes con discapacidad que lo requieran en todos los niveles educativos, garantizando el acceso a las escuelas regulares a todos los estudiantes con discapacidad incluyendo áreas rurales y remotas;

b) Garantice la accesibilidad plena de los establecimientos educativos, así como el uso de modalidades y sistemas alternativos y aumentativos de comunicación, como el braille, los formatos de lectura fácil, la educación en lengua de señas, el uso de pictogramas, protectores auditivos, y señalética accesible, asegurando la provisión de apoyos y ajustes razonables para los estudiantes con discapacidad que los requieran;

c) Ponga especial énfasis en las áreas rurales e indígenas para proporcionarles las herramientas digitales que les permitan una mejor educación, incluyendo para los estudiantes con discapacidad;

d) Fortalezca la formación y capacitación continua, permanente y de calidad a orientadores y personal docente actual y para la totalidad de los futuros docentes en sus procesos de formación, en materia de estudiantes con discapacidad.

Sweden (2024)

53. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the increase of segregation measures in education, as well as the lack of a clear mechanism to monitor and implement inclusive education;

(b) That the choice for professional and vocational education is restricted and limited only to segregated structures;

(c) At the decrease in allocation of resources for provision of reasonable accommodation in education, such as personal assistance and support services for students with disabilities;

(d) At the insufficient training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education, and the insufficient development of specific skills and teaching methodologies.

54. **Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4, target 4.5 and indicator 4(a), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, learners with disabilities and their families:**

(a) Develop a national inclusive education strategy to transition from segregated education to inclusive education, and establish a mechanism to monitor and enforce the implementation of national legislation on inclusive education;

(b) Ensure that children with disabilities can attend mainstream schools, including by enhancing accessibility and reasonable accommodation for all kinds of disabilities and providing appropriate arrangements for transportation, in particular in remote areas;

(c) Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, modes and means of communication, including Easy Read, communication aids and assistive and information technology and ensure that there are enough teachers fluent in Swedish Sign language;

(d) Guarantee ongoing training for teachers and non-teaching staff on inclusive education at all levels, including training in sign language and other accessible formats of communication, and develop a monitoring system to eliminate all forms of direct and indirect discrimination against children with disabilities and their families;

(e) Allocate further resources to provide reasonable accommodation and dedicated assistance programs in higher education institutions, including professional training for students with all types of disabilities.

Zambia (2024)

47. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are often excluded from the general education system. It is particularly concerned about:

- (a) The fact that the national inclusive education policy (Educating Our Future) does not cover all types of disabilities and that segregated education for children with disabilities continues to be provided alongside inclusive education, in the absence of a time frame for full transition;
- (b) Children with albinism are placed in special schools for blind and taught Braille;
- (c) Barriers to inclusive education, such as discriminatory attitudes towards children with disabilities that prevent them from enrolling in education, resistance on the part of teachers and the school community, families, the inaccessibility of school premises, the low number of trained personnel, the inadequacy of teaching materials, the lack of water and sanitation, the long distances that must be covered to access schools and inadequate road infrastructure, the insufficient number of teachers proficient in sign language, inadequate material and financial resources, lack of reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities, in particular students with intellectual disabilities, autism, blindness and deaf-blindness;
- (d) The lack of systematic data, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number and proportion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools receiving individualized support, and on the enrolment and dropout rates of children with disabilities, as well as the lack of multi-sector evaluation system for learners with disabilities which results in incorrect evaluations.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement the national inclusive education policy, ensure the full adoption of quality inclusive education and a transition from special schools to inclusive education with a timeframe;**
- (b) Ensure that children with albinism are not placed by default in the segregated schools for blind and not obliged to learn Braille, that they are provided necessary support and accommodation within mainstream educational settings;**
- (c) Address barriers and challenges that prevent a meaningful transition from special education to inclusive education and raise awareness as well as enforce the Persons with Disabilities Act and the national inclusive education policy;**
- (d) Take practical steps towards modifying infrastructure in all learning institutions and ensure that new buildings meet the required standards of universal design to make them accessible to learners with disabilities and ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided as required;**
- (e) Promote and implement an optimal intersectional assessment system for students with disabilities and provide for it in the legal system;**
- (f) Scale up efforts to implement the inclusive education policy, including allocating adequate financial resources to enable children with disabilities to fully enjoy their right to education on an equal basis with others, including creating awareness on the 10% bursaries slots to students with disabilities in higher education;**
- (g) Establish an effective programme for training of teachers on inclusive education, including learning sign language, Braille and Easy Read skills;**
- (h) Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology;**
- (i) Provide disaggregated data on the number of children with disabilities mainstreamed into the regular school environment with adequate teaching support measures.**

Andorra (2023)

49. The Committee acknowledges the progress in implementing inclusive education, as well as the provision of pedagogical adaptations for the student's personal project, assistants of life to facilitate autonomy of students with disabilities, and data on the number of students with disabilities par gender and educative level. However, it is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a long-term policy in the State party for implementing and monitoring inclusive education, with specific targets and timelines;

- (b) The limited inclusion of gender perspective and a disability perspective in its legislation and education policies, including Act No. 17/2018 on the Organization of the Andorran Education System (LOSEA);
- (c) The segregation of students with high requirements of support in special schools, through medical-based assessments;
- (d) The insufficient alternative and augmentative modes and methods of communication and information in regular schools;
- (e) Deaf children not having sufficient access to learning Catalan sign language.

50. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and target 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Formulate a comprehensive inclusive education policy, with strategies, measurable indicators and timelines, promoting a culture of inclusion in mainstream education at all levels, including individualized human-rights-based assessments of educational requirements and necessary accommodations, and provide appropriate training for teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education, and periodically evaluate inclusion measures;**
- (b) Strengthen the incorporation of a gender perspective and a disability perspective into its legislation and education policies, including Act No. 17/2018 on the Organization of the Andorran Education System (LOSEA);**
- (c) Reinforce measures to eliminate the segregation of students with high requirements of support and ensure their inclusion in mainstreaming schools;**
- (d) Enhance efforts to guarantee the use of augmentative and alternative modes and methods of communication in regular education settings, including Braille, Easy Read, sign language, tactile sign language, tracking, tactile fingerspelling and speech reading and communication aids and assistive information and communication technologies;**
- (e) Increase the sign language classes for deaf children, promote the deaf culture in inclusive educational environments, and allocate appropriate resources to ensure the availability of education in Catalan sign language.**

Austria (2023)

55. The Committee is gravely concerned about:

- (a) The regression in inclusive education, partly due to the termination of inclusive school policies, the prioritization of segregated schools over inclusive schools in the Education Reform Act (Bildungsreformgesetz 2017), the severe capacity shortages of inclusive kindergarten and elementary education, and a lack of funding and transfer of resources from the segregated school system towards inclusive education, resulting in increased enrolment of students with disabilities in segregated schools, including at the kindergarten level;
- (b) The lack of trained personnel for inclusive education, due to cuts at the primary and secondary levels, and the insufficiency of disability specific teacher training and recruitment;
- (c) The lack of reasonable accommodation in education, such as personal assistance and support services for students with disabilities, especially at the secondary and tertiary level, and the exclusion of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities from such supports;
- (d) Exceedingly complex and lengthy administrative procedures for access to inclusive education;
- (e) The non-admission of children with disabilities to extra-curricular pedagogical supervision services, such as complementary care facilities, and their inaccessibility;
- (f) The lack of an established, enforceable legal right for children with disabilities of age 14 and older, to attend inclusive schools at the secondary level;
- (g) The absence of Austrian Sign Language in the school programs, as a means of communication in class as well as a subject to be taught;

(h) The lack of comprehensive data on education of children with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, level of education, region and type of impairment, and the lack of comprehensive data on financial, organizational, educational and political measures taken to implement the objective of inclusive education in accordance with the Convention.

56. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promptly end the expansion of and phase out the segregated school system, transition resources, including funding, from segregated education to inclusive education, develop a nationwide strategy for inclusive education that encompasses all education systems of all levels of education, including those of the Länder and the municipalities, establish inclusive education policies and guidelines, including on the level of the Länder and the municipalities, develop harmonized inclusive education curricula, in close consultation with and the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, and implement them with all deliberate speed;**
- (b) Redevelop and expand teacher training for inclusive education;**
- (c) Provide reasonable accommodation, including personal assistance, for students with disabilities at all levels of education;**
- (d) Render administrative procedures for access to inclusive education fully accessible, easy to navigate, and speedy;**
- (e) Take measures at all federal levels, including the municipalities, to ensure access of all children with disabilities to extra-curricular pedagogical supervision services, such as complementary care facilities;**
- (f) Enact legislation providing an enforceable, legal right of all children with disabilities to attend inclusive education, including at the secondary and tertiary levels;**
- (g) Recognize the Austrian Sign Language in education and effectively implement it as a means of communication at school and as a subject to be taught;**
- (h) Comprehensively collect data on inclusive and non-inclusive education of all children with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, level of education, region and type of impairment, and on financial, organizational, educational and political measures taken to implement inclusive education in accordance with the Convention.**

Germany (2023)

53. The Committee is concerned about the lack of full implementation of inclusive education throughout the education system, the prevalence of special schools and classes, as well as the various barriers children with disabilities and their families encounter to enroll in and complete studies at mainstream schools, including:

- (a) The lack of clear mechanism to promote inclusive education in the Länder and at the municipal level;
- (b) The misconception and negative perception about inclusive education at some executive entities, which may take the parents' request to enroll their children in mainstream school as indication on "incapability to take care of their child";
- (c) The lack of accessibility and accommodation in public schools and the lack of accessible transportation, in particular in rural areas;
- (d) Insufficient training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education as well as the development of specific skills and teaching methodologies and reported pressure on parents to enroll children with disabilities in special schools.

54. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on inclusive education, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and active involvement of students with disabilities, their families and representative organizations:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive plan to accelerate the transition from special schooling to inclusive education at Länder and municipal levels, with specific timeframes, human, technical and financial resource allocation, and clear responsibilities for implementation and monitoring.**

- (b) Implement awareness raising and educational campaigns to promote inclusive education at the community level and among the relevant authorities;
- (c) Ensure that children with disabilities can attend mainstream schools, including through enhancing accessibility and accommodation to all kinds of disabilities and providing appropriate arrangements for transportation, in particular in rural areas;
- (d) Guarantee continuous training for teachers and non-teaching staff on inclusive education at all levels, including training in sign language and other accessible formats of information and communication, and develop a monitoring system to eliminate all forms of direct and indirect discrimination against children with disabilities and their families.

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of data on the access of refugee children with disabilities to education and to mainstream schools.

56. **The Committee recommends that the State party allocate sufficient resources for the regular collection of data, disaggregated by sex and type of disability, on the number and proportion of refugee children with disabilities who access education and are enrolled in mainstream and special schools as well as dropout rates.**

Israel (2023)

51. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the State party retains segregated education through the establishment of special classrooms for children with disabilities in regular schools, and the continued investment of human, technical and financial resources in segregated education;
- (b) The negative attitudes of parents and teachers that devalue and stigmatize children with disabilities, including autistic children, preventing them from enrolling in education;
- (c) The limited and inconsistent use of reasonable accommodation in mainstream schools for children with disabilities and for tertiary education students with disabilities;
- (d) Discontinuance of practices that improve accessibility to the learning environment, including distance learning and access to online classes and limited measures to ensure printed materials are available in alternative formats, such as Braille.

52. **Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and target 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that, in close consultation and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities, the State party:**

- (a) **Develop a strategy for the transition from special education to quality inclusive education for all children with disabilities, including by ensuring that the Convention underpins the mandate of the Shapira Committee;**
- (b) **Strengthen training and awareness-raising about the rights of children with disabilities, including to inclusive education, among children with disabilities, their parents and relatives, teachers, religious communities and in society at large;**
- (c) **Adopt legislative, policy and administrative measures for the provision of reasonable accommodation in mainstream education across public and private schools and in tertiary education, and recognise the denial of reasonable accommodation as form of discrimination.**
- (d) **Implement measures to ensure that the learning environment, including the physical environment, admission procedures, teaching resources and methodologies, online platforms for learning, classrooms and transport, are accessible for children with disabilities, and adopt measures to ensure the provision and availability of Braille, accessible digital material, augmentative and alternative communication and Easy Read.**

Malawi (2023)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that the national inclusive education policy does not cover all types of disabilities and that segregated education for children with disabilities still runs alongside with inclusive education, in absence of a timeframe for full transition;

- (b) Challenges to inclusive education, such as resistance by teachers and wide school community, inaccessibility of the school premises, few trained personnel, inadequacy of teaching material, lack of water and sanitation, long distance and inadequate road infrastructure to access schools, human, material and financial resources;
- (c) Information indicating that school-aged girls and adolescents with disabilities are often unable to attend class for a whole week at a time, due to a lack of access to essential menstruation products and taboos about menstruation;
- (d) Discriminatory attitudes towards children with disabilities preventing them from enrolling into education;
- (e) The absence of measures to track and record the participation and achievement of learners with disabilities in the inclusive setting.

50. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement the education related legal and policy framework to fully adopt quality inclusive education and transit from special and integrated schools;**
- (b) Include a component of inclusive education in regular teacher training such as the use of sign language and Braille and any other assistive techniques into their curriculum;**
- (c) Conduct regular needs assessment to ensure that children with disabilities in the inclusive education setting receive the appropriate support and attention;**
- (d) Ensure adequate funding towards inclusive education for persons with disabilities to cover materials and reasonable accommodation;**
- (e) Modify assessment methodologies to cater for individual needs of students with disabilities;**
- (f) Carry out an access audit for information and infrastructure for children with disabilities in regular schools.**

Mauritania (2023)

41. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About the slow progress towards achieving inclusive education, the prevalence of special schools and classes for students with disabilities, and the persistence of barriers to inclusive education faced by children requiring higher levels of support;
- (b) That there is insufficient training for educators, teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education, and that awareness-raising curricula as part of character and citizenship education are not based on the human rights model of disability.

42. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 4 (2016) and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a strategy for the implementation of quality inclusive education for all students with disabilities, including students with intellectual disabilities, students with psychosocial disabilities and autistic students, with specific targets, timelines and a budget, at all levels of education, including tertiary and vocational education;**
- (b) Ensure continuous training for educators, teachers and non-teaching staff on inclusive education at all levels, including training in sign language and other accessible formats of information and communication, including Braille and Easy Read, and ensure that awareness-raising curricula are based on the human rights model of disability.**

Mongolia (2023)

47. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the State party maintains special education which results in a high number of children with disabilities, who are still receiving segregated special education;
- (b) The lack of resources in mainstream schools to support inclusive education, including the lack of sign language interpretation, reasonable accommodation, accessible school text books in Braille, large print, easy to understand format and assistive learning devices for students with disabilities based on individual needs, in particular in rural and remote areas;

(c) That the number of teachers trained on teaching children with disabilities remains low and a lack of specific measures to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Formulate a comprehensive inclusive education policy with strategies and allocated budget to promoting a culture of inclusion in mainstream education at all educational levels, including individualized human-rights based assessments of educational requirements and necessary accommodation, and provide appropriate training for regular teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education;

(b) Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids, teaching and teacher aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology.

(c) Ensure the training of regular education teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education and raise their awareness about the human rights model of disability, and ensure access of persons with disabilities to general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others.

Paraguay (2023)

43. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) Que no se haya completado la transformación de las escuelas especiales en centros de apoyo a la inclusión educativa, acorde con la Ley No. 5136/13 de Educación inclusiva y la Resolución No. 17267/2018, en la que se aprueban los lineamientos para un sistema educativo inclusivo en el Paraguay;

b) Que los costos de maestros de apoyo individualizados frecuentemente recaen en las familias de los estudiantes con discapacidad;

c) La falta de un plan de acción encaminado al logro de los indicadores de derechos humanos sobre el eje/área 11 del Plan de Acción Nacional para los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad y de la inversión del Estado parte en materia de derecho a la educación de las personas con discapacidad;

d) Que no se haya reformado la legislación para que tanto maestros de educación especial como maestros de educación regular se jubilen con los mismos años de servicio;

e) El escaso cumplimiento de la Ley N.º 4934/2013 de accesibilidad al medio físico en todas las escuelas y colegios del país y en términos de acceso a la información y comunicación, especialmente para estudiantes con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, y estudiantes que requieren un apoyo mayor;

f) Que la Dirección General de Educación Inclusiva cuente con una mínima cantidad de personal, vehículos y presupuesto para cubrir alrededor de 8.000 escuelas en más de 250 Distritos;

g) La falta de datos fiables, disponibles y precisos de los estudiantes con discapacidad, cuantos se encuentran aún en escuelas especiales, cuantos están siendo incluidos con los apoyos necesarios y cuantos niños, niñas y adolescentes no escolarizados se han encontrado a través del Programa MAPE;

h) Los escasos resultados del Plan Educativo Indígena para los años 2013-2018, así como los pocos avances en la capacitación y formación a docentes de escuelas situadas en comunidades indígenas, de acuerdo a lo establecido en la Ley de Educación Inclusiva;

i) La publicación de la Resolución No. 29664 del Ministerio de Educación y Ciencias que prohíbe temas de ideologías de género en las instituciones educativas.

44. Recordando su observación general núm. 4 (2016), sobre el derecho a la educación inclusiva, y las metas 4.5 y 4.a de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité urge al Estado parte a:

- a) Redoblar esfuerzos para poner fin a la educación especial segregada, cumpliendo con la Ley No. 5136/13, incluyendo un plan de acción nacional sobre la educación inclusiva de calidad, con objetivos específicos, plazos, recursos humanos y presupuesto suficiente, a fin de asegurar la provisión de apoyos y ajustes razonables para estudiantes con discapacidad que lo requieran en todos los niveles educativos, garantizando el acceso a las escuelas comunes a todos los estudiantes con discapacidad incluyendo áreas rurales y remotas;**
- b) Incrementar el presupuesto público asignado para los maestros de apoyo, para que los estudiantes con discapacidad que los requieran puedan acceder a ellos sin costo;**
- c) Elaborar un plan de acción con presupuesto suficiente para el cumplimiento de los indicadores de derechos humanos sobre el eje/área 11 del Plan de Acción Nacional para los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad;**
- d) Modificar la legislación para que tanto maestros de educación especial como de educación regular se jubilen con los mismos años de servicio;**
- e) Garantizar la accesibilidad plena de los establecimientos educativos, así como el uso de modalidades y sistemas alternativos y aumentativos de comunicación, como el braille, los formatos de lectura fácil, la educación en lengua de señas, el uso de pictogramas, protectores auditivos, y señalética accesible, asegurando la provisión de apoyos y ajustes razonables para los estudiantes con discapacidad que los requieran;**
- f) Reforzar el presupuesto, el personal, y los recursos asignados a la Dirección General de Educación Inclusiva, para que cumpla con sus funciones en todo el territorio del Estado parte;**
- g) Establecer acciones que permitan contar con datos estadísticos confiables sobre los alumnos con discapacidad, donde se encuentran recibiendo su educación, así como información sobre niños, niñas y adolescentes con discapacidad no escolarizados;**
- h) Dar a conocer los resultados del Plan Educativo Indígena para los años 2013-2018 y los planes para su extensión, así como sobre los avances en la capacitación y formación a docentes de escuelas situadas en comunidades indígenas de acuerdo con la Ley de Educación Inclusiva;**
- i) Eliminar la Resolución No. 29664 del Ministerio de Educación y Ciencias que prohíbe temas de ideologías de género en las instituciones educativas, ya que se opone al empoderamiento de mujeres y niñas, especialmente a aquellas con discapacidad.**

Angola (2023)

39. The Committee notes that some measures have been taken by the State party to introduce inclusive education such as the establishment of the National Policy for Inclusive Special Education, however it is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of full implementation of the practice of inclusive education throughout the education system, the prevalence of special schools and classes and the greater barriers to education faced by children requiring higher levels of support;**
- (b) The lack of accessible transport for children with disabilities to reach school;**
- (c) Insufficient training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education;**
- (d) Insufficient accessible learning materials, alternative communication and information methods or teachers fluent in Angola sign language (ASL).**

40. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on inclusive education and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a strategy for implementing quality, inclusive education with specific targets, timelines and a budget and share responsibilities between the national and municipal levels, and ensure that children with disabilities consistently interact with those without disabilities.**

- (b) Take all measures to ensure that children with disabilities can attend school, including through appropriate arrangements for transportation;**
- (c) Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, modes and means of communication, including Easy Read, communication aids and assistive and information technology;**
- (d) Ensure continuous training for teachers and non-teaching staff on inclusive education at all levels, including training in sign language and other accessible formats of information and communication.**

Argentina (2023)

45. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) El 45,2% de estudiantes con discapacidad asiste a escuelas de la modalidad de educación especial, según lo reportado por el Estado parte en su informe actualizado;
- b) Los rechazos de inscripción en escuelas comunes estatales y privadas de estudiantes con discapacidad, pese a la Resolución CFE 311/16 del Consejo Federal de Educación que, entre otras cosas, prohíbe rechazar su inscripción o reinscripción por motivos de discapacidad;
- c) Los escasos apoyos y ajustes razonables otorgados para estudiantes con discapacidad en entornos educativos comunes;
- d) La poca accesibilidad de las instalaciones de los entornos educativos regulares y en términos de acceso a la información y comunicación, especialmente para estudiantes con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, y estudiantes que requieren un apoyo más intenso;
- e) El poco alcance de la formación docente y del personal educativo no docente sobre educación inclusiva;
- f) Las barreras existentes para acceder a una educación inclusiva en el nivel superior y la discontinuidad del programa de Accesibilidad Física en edificios y predios de las Universidades Nacionales.

46. Recordando su observación general núm. 4 (2016), sobre el derecho a la educación inclusiva, y las metas 4.5 y 4.a de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité urge al Estado parte a:

- a) Redoblar esfuerzos para poner fin a la educación especial segregada, incluyendo un plan de acción nacional sobre la educación inclusiva de calidad, con objetivos específicos, plazos, recursos humanos y un presupuesto suficiente, a fin de asegurar la provisión de apoyos y ajustes razonables para estudiantes con discapacidad que lo requieran en todos los niveles educativos;
- b) Garantizar el acceso a las escuelas comunes a todos los estudiantes con discapacidad, incluyendo, entre otras medidas, sanciones efectivas a las escuelas comunes estatales y privadas que rechazan su inscripción o reinscripción por motivos de discapacidad;
- c) Asegurar la provisión de apoyos y ajustes razonables para todos los estudiantes con discapacidad, incluyendo a quienes se encuentran en los entornos educativos comunes;
- d) Garantizar la accesibilidad plena de los establecimientos educativos comunes, incluyendo su infraestructura, así como el uso de modalidades y sistemas alternativos y aumentativos de comunicación, como el braille, los formatos de lectura fácil, la educación en lengua de señas, el uso de pictogramas, protectores auditivos, y señalética accesible;
- e) Incrementar los esfuerzos en la formación de todo el personal educativo docente y no docente en educación inclusiva de la Convención;
- f) Garantizar la educación inclusiva en el nivel superior, incluyendo el acceso a la educación a distancia y, retomar el Programa de Accesibilidad Física en edificios y predios de las Universidades Nacionales.

Georgia (2023)

49. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) That inclusive quality education has not been included in the Unified National Strategy for Education and Science of Georgia (2022-2030) and the prevalence of special education in executive provisions, such as the [Decree N05/N](#) on the Enrolment of Students in the Institutions of General Education and Termination of the Status of a Student, defining support to children with disabilities mainly on the basis of medical assessments, and the absence of monitoring, coordination and accountability mechanisms concerning implementation of inclusive education in early and pre-school education;
- (b) That children with hearing impairments and children with autism continue to be enrolled in special education, and the limited information about access to inclusive education of children with higher requirements of support;
- (c) That girls with disabilities are promoted less in their educational endeavors than boys with disabilities and face stereotyping, as do children with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities, and children with hearing impairments;
- (d) Statistical data on students with disabilities in education is limited or missing, including drop-out rates, qualified staff, including teachers, is scarce, classrooms are often overcrowded, and infrastructure is often not safe, accessible and properly equipped for children with disabilities, and classroom material is frequently inaccessible or insufficient;
- (e) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in designing, implementing and monitoring of the [Vocational Education and Training Development Strategy](#).

50. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 and target 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the implementation of the Unified National Strategy for Education and Science of Georgia (2022-2030) leads to inclusive, quality education for persons with disabilities, that organisations of persons with disabilities are involved in periodic monitoring of its progress and that experiences of students with disabilities of all ages inform the State party's action plans;
- (b) Implement inclusive quality education for all children with disabilities, including by developing accessible enrolment procedures, participatory assessments of students with disabilities' requirements aimed at the provision of individualized supports, including through reasonable accommodation, and periodically evaluate inclusion measures in early and pre-school education;
- (c) Adopt a strategy and allot appropriate human, technical and financial resources to ensure the availability of education in Georgian sign language, Easy Read, tactile sign language, tracking, tactile fingerspelling and speech reading;
- (d) Review national policies and administrative procedures concerning the admission and retention of students with disabilities in inclusive education with the aim of identifying and eliminating barriers and factors of drop-out. The Committee also recommends that the State party promote outreach strategies to facilitate children with disabilities to complete their studies, including through distance learning;
- (e) Take measures, including awareness-raising and specific measures to address intersecting discrimination against girls with disabilities in education and students with disabilities belonging to ethnic and religious minorities;
- (f) Collect data on enrolment and completion, disaggregated by disability status, ensure that education policies set-up measures to increase the number of qualified teachers with skills and teaching methodologies in inclusive education, and time-frames for ensuring accessibility of infrastructure and teaching materials in public and private regular schools;
- (g) Promote access of students with disabilities to vocational programmes and provide students with disabilities with sufficient financial means to apply for and complete vocational education.

Peru (2023)

48. Preocupa al Comité:

- a) El importante porcentaje de estudiantes con discapacidad que no acceden a los programas educativos y/o no permanecen en ellos debido a sus escasos recursos económicos y porque persiste la negación de admisión por motivos de discapacidad sin contar con los mecanismos que evidencien esta negativa de admisión y la escasa implementación y cobertura del Servicio de Apoyo Educativo (SAE);
- b) El limitado número y cobertura de los Programas de Intervención Temprana (PRITE), que sólo ofrecen servicios especializados a niños menores de tres años;
- c) Preocupa el aumento de casos de acoso escolar contra niños, incluidos niños con discapacidad, y que las escuelas no dispongan de protocolos ni de formación para prevenir, vigilar y combatir el acoso de niños con discapacidad.

49. Recordando su observación general núm. 4 (2016), sobre el derecho a la educación inclusiva, y las metas 4.5 y 4.a de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité insta al Estado parte a que:

- a) Asigne mayores recursos económicos para la realización de ajustes razonables para los estudiantes con discapacidad, así como para la implementación y aumento de cobertura del Servicio de Apoyo Educativo, y cree un mecanismo de monitoreo permanente que garantice el acceso a la escuela de todos los estudiantes con discapacidad;**
- b) Aumente los recursos humanos y financieros para crear más Programas de Intervención Temprana (PRITE) y aumente la edad de las niñas y los niños cubiertos para garantizar la transición a la educación inclusiva;**
- c) Adopte medidas para eliminar el abuso y el acoso contra los niños con discapacidad en las escuelas por medio de programas y protocolos contra el acoso.**

Togo (2023)

47. The Committee is concerned at the absence a policy for implementing inclusive education with specific targets and timelines in the State party, the lack of educational opportunities in mainstream schools and vocational and technical training for persons with disabilities, especially girls and children who are deaf, blind or have intellectual impairments, the lack of training for teachers on the skills and competencies required to promote inclusive education, and the insufficient number of teachers proficient in sign language. It is also concerned at the lack of systematic data, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number and proportion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools receiving individualized support, and on the enrolment and dropout rates of children with disabilities.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Formulate a comprehensive inclusive education policy with strategies, measurable indicators and timelines, promoting a culture of inclusion in mainstream education at all educational levels, including individualized human-rights based assessments of educational requirements and necessary accommodation, and provide appropriate training for teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education;**
- (b) Establish an effective programme for training of teachers on inclusive education, including learning sign language, Braille and Easy Read skills;**
- (c) Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology;**
- (d) Provide disaggregated data on the number of children with disabilities mainstreamed into the regular school environment with adequate teaching support measures to enable them to reach their full potential.**

Tunisia (2023)

43. The Committee is concerned that limited progress has been made in the field of education for children with disabilities over a decade since the last State party's review, in particular the continuous application of old legislation which supports segregated education. It is also concerned that the budget for inclusive education remains very low. It is further concerned that children with disabilities are only allowed in inclusive setting after assessing their abilities while reasonable accommodation in inclusive settings is not provided.

44. The Committee, recalling its General Comment No. 4 (2016) on Inclusive Education as well as SDG's Goal 4 on Education recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the current laws governing education of children with disabilities to recognise the right to inclusive education and to remove all environmental barriers to educational inclusion in accordance to the Convention and the Committee's General Comment No. 4 (2016) on inclusive education;

(b) Adopt unified programmes with specific goals and time frames in order to promote the access of persons with disabilities to inclusive schools, ensuring that children with disabilities can seek individualized support and have the provision of reasonable accommodation;

(c) Increase the budget for educational inclusion and recognise the duty of the State party to provide reasonable accommodation in the education sector and put in place procedures for requesting and granting the service;

(d) Modify the role of the local disability commission to make it responsible for the identification and the provision of personalised support necessary for the inclusion of children with disabilities in addition to their assessments role;

(e) Transform the specialised centres progressively to make them resource centres for inclusion instead of providing segregated education.

Bangladesh (2022)

47. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The overreliance on segregated and special education, including the Combined Special Education Policy on Disability of 2019, as opposed to developing inclusive education, including the lack of statistical data on the number of children enrolled in primary schools, particularly in rural and remote areas;

(b) The lack of available learning materials in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read for blind and deaf persons and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities respectively, as well as the lack of accessible school transportation and buildings;

(c) Insufficient training for professionals in the education system in Braille, sign language and Easy Read skills and deficient individualised support and reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities;

(d) The lack of sufficient budgetary allocations for the promotion of inclusive education and the absence of systematic data collection, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number of students with disabilities enrolled in the education system.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement a national action plan on inclusive education and develop statistical data on the number of children enrolled in the education system, particularly for children with disabilities in rural and remote areas;

(b) Intensify efforts to make learning materials in accessible formats available to all students with disabilities, and provide accessible school transportation and infrastructure across the education system;

(c) Establish an effective programme for training of teachers on inclusive education, including learning sign language, Braille and Easy Read skills and facilitate individualised support and reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities;

(d) Provide sufficient budgetary allocations for the promotion of inclusive education and systematic statistical data, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number of children with disabilities enrolled in the education system.

China (2022)

50. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The number of children in segregated educational settings remains high and there is a lack of resources in mainstream schools to support inclusive education, including lack of sign language interpretation, reasonable accommodation and teachers with specialist qualifications in inclusive education in mainstream schools, in particular in rural areas;

(b) That the updated Regulations of Education of Persons with Disabilities (2017) require that children with disabilities be evaluated by the quasi-governmental Expert Committee on the Education of Persons with Disabilities, which places children in schools according to their “physical conditions and ability to be educated and adapt to [mainstream] schools”.

51. Recalling its General Comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Introduce legislation containing an enforceable right to inclusive education and develop a comprehensive action plan for implementing high-quality inclusive education for all children with disabilities, including those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, with specific targets, time frames, budgets, the transfer of resources from special schools, and inclusive education curricula;

(b) Revise its Regulations of Education of Persons with Disabilities (2017) with the aim of eliminating all discriminatory provisions regarding the education of children with disabilities and explicitly provide for quality inclusive education to ensure that no child with disabilities is excluded from the general education system on the basis of impairment.

Indonesia (2022)

52. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The limited efforts towards achieving inclusive education, the prevalence of special schools and classes and the lack of mechanisms to ensure access to the education system at all levels for persons with disabilities;

(b) That there is a lack of accessible learning materials, alternative communication and information methods and training for teachers on Braille and sign language interpretation and other specialist services to improve the quality of inclusive education, particularly in rural and remote areas;

(c) The expulsion of children from school because they or their parents are affected by leprosy.

53. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop an inclusive education strategy, with specific targets, timelines and budget, and coordinated responsibilities between national, provincial, city and regency levels, covering all levels of education;

(b) Establish disability service units in all regions and at all educational levels to facilitate the provision of accessible learning materials, alternative communication and information methods, such as inclusive digital access, Easy Read, Braille, sign language, communication aids, and assistive and information technology, and to ensure teacher training in sign language and Braille, including in rural and remote areas;

(c) Develop policies and strategies to address stigma and misinformation about leprosy in the education system and to ensure participation of children affected by leprosy or children whose parents are affected by leprosy in inclusive education.

Japan (2022)

51. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Perpetuation of segregated special education of children with disabilities, through medical-based assessments, making education in regular environments inaccessible for children with disabilities, especially for children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and those who require more intensive support, as well as the existence of special needs education classes in regular schools;
- (b) Denials to admit children with disabilities to regular schools due to its perceived and factual unpreparedness to admit them, and the ministerial notification issued in 2022 by which students in special classes should not spend their time in regular classes for more than half of their school time;
- (c) Insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities;
- (d) Lack of skills of and negative attitudes on inclusive education of regular education teachers;
- (e) Lack of alternative and augmentative modes and methods of communication and information in regular schools, including sign language education for deaf children, and inclusive education for deafblind children;
- (f) Lack of national comprehensive policy, addressing barriers for students with disabilities at higher education, including university entrance exams and the study process.

52. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4, target 4.5 and indicator 4 (a), the Committee urges that the State party:

- (a) Recognize the right of children with disabilities to inclusive education within its national policy on education, legislation and administrative arrangement with the aim to cease segregated special education, and adopt a national action plan on quality inclusive education, with specific targets, time frames and sufficient budget, to ensure that all students with disabilities are provided with reasonable accommodation and the individualized support they need at all levels of education;**
- (b) Ensure accessibility to regular schools for all children with disabilities, and put in place a "non-rejection" clause and policy to ensure that regular schools are not allowed to deny regular school for students with disabilities, and withdraw the ministerial notification related to special classes;**
- (c) Guarantee reasonable accommodations for all children with disabilities for meeting their individual educational requirements and ensuring inclusive education;**
- (d) Ensure training of regular education teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education and raise their awareness on the human right model of disability;**
- (e) Guarantee the use of augmentative and alternative modes and methods of communication in regular settings of education, including Braille, Easy Read, sign language education for deaf children, promote the deaf culture in inclusive educational environments, and access to inclusive education for deafblind children;**
- (f) Develop a national comprehensive policy, addressing barriers for students with disabilities at higher education, including university entrance exams and the study process.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Slow progress towards achieving inclusive education, insufficient implementation of the national action plan on inclusive education due to limited resources, technical assistant, lack of subsidies for persons with disabilities, and the existence of two special schools for the deaf and blind in Vientiane and Luang Prabang province, under the Ministry of Health;
- (b) High illiteracy rate among persons with disabilities and high number of students with disabilities that drops out schools due to long distances to reach the school or limited public transportation, and lack of reasonable accommodation for students in the mainstream education system;

- (c) Insufficient training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education, in particular in rural settings, and negative attitudes toward the inclusion of students with disabilities into mainstream education among teachers, school administrative staff, students without disabilities, and their parents;
- (d) Limited accessible materials, adaptive learning environments and individualized accommodation for students with disabilities at all levels, especially those residing in remote areas and those belonging to ethnic groups;
- (e) Rejection from school of students with disabilities, particularly students with intellectual disabilities and autism, girls with disabilities, and those affected by leprosy;
- (f) Limited availability of higher education opportunities for persons with disabilities, given that many university programmes do not give admission to students with disabilities;
- (g) Data collection focused only on children with physical disabilities.

45. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt the necessary measures to implement the national action plan on inclusive education, involving all line ministries and stakeholders, with sufficient budgetary allocations, to ensure that all students with disabilities have access to quality inclusive education in the mainstream education system at all levels;
- (b) Redouble its efforts to reduce illiteracy and the drop-out rate from schools among persons with disabilities, including by ensuring the availability of schools close to the communities, accessible public transportation, and establishing a centralized mechanism to request reasonable accommodation in the educational system;
- (c) Ensure continuous training for teachers and non-teaching staff on inclusive education at all levels, including training in sign language and other accessible formats for information and communication, as well as undertake raise awareness on the importance of inclusive education at all levels, among the community;
- (d) Provide students with disabilities with individualized accommodation, including classroom support and accessible learning environments, teaching methods and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology, and make sure that there are enough teachers fluent in Lao Sign Language, especially in rural and remote areas;
- (e) Take measures to prevent the rejection and stigmatization of children with disabilities and ensure that all students with disabilities, in particular, students with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, girls with disabilities, autistic students, and those affected by leprosy, receive an education in mainstream school settings;
- (f) Ensure the accessibility of tertiary and vocational inclusive education, through measures of universal design and reasonable accommodation;
- (g) Collect and disaggregate, systematically, data on all students in and out of school, and school drop out by gender, age, and disability.

New Zealand (2022)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The increased enrolment of students with disabilities in separate learning environments, such as specialist schools, residential specialist schools and special education satellite units, despite legislative and policy commitments to inclusive education;
- (b) The proposal to change entry requirements for enrolment at residential specialist schools for children with disabilities rather than investing in inclusive education;
- (c) The high proportion of Māori children with disabilities in residential specialist schools.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and target 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop an inclusive education strategy that includes measures for the devolution of segregated education settings into a mainstream inclusive education system, to transition funding and resources from specialist education to inclusive education, to prioritise inclusive education in teacher training, to establish uniform inclusive education policies and guidelines, to develop an inclusive education curriculum, and to promote and raise community awareness;**
- (b) Withdraw the proposal to change entry requirements for enrolment in residential specialist schools and redirect funding and resources into an inclusive education system;**
- (c) Develop specific culturally appropriate strategies to address the high proportion of Māori children with disabilities in residential specialist schools, including the provision of supports to remain with whānau (extended family networks) in their local communities.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

49. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the State party maintains special education based on medical impairment-based approach and regularly increases the number of special schools which results in a high number of children with disabilities, including autism, intellectual, psychosocial or multiple disabilities, who are still receiving segregated special education;**
- (b) About the insufficient number of teaching and support staff trained in Braille, sign language and accessible mode of teaching and the level of training for teachers on skills and competencies required to promote inclusive education;**
- (c) That children with disabilities who attend the day care centres other than kindergarten do not receive support from the Ministry of Education.**

50. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/KOR/CO/1, para. 46) and urges the State party to:

- (a) Formulate a comprehensive inclusive education policy with strategies to promoting a culture of inclusion in mainstream education at all educational levels, including individualized human-rights based assessments of educational requirements and necessary accommodation, and provide appropriate training for teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education;**
- (b) Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology;**
- (c) Ensure that all children with disabilities attending segregated day-care centres operated under the Ministry of Health and Welfare are transferred to mainstream kindergarten operating under the Ministry of Education.**

Singapore (2022)

47. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About the slow progress towards achieving inclusive education, the prevalence of special schools and classes for students who are assessed as having “mild to moderate disabilities”, and the nearly insurmountable barriers to inclusive education faced by children requiring higher levels of support;**
- (b) That school certificates of students with disabilities contain information on curriculum adaptations, which may arouse prejudice and discrimination by potential employers;**
- (c) That there is insufficient training for Allied Educators, teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education, and that awareness-raising curricula under the Character and Citizenship Education are not based on the human rights model of disability.**

48. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and its links to target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a strategy for the implementation of quality inclusive education for all students with disabilities, including students with intellectual disabilities, students with psychosocial disabilities, and autistic students, with specific targets, timelines and a budget, at all levels of education, including tertiary and vocational education;

(b) Remove information on the adaptation of school curricula for students with disabilities from their school certificates, and strengthen measures, including by allocating financial resources, to provide for individualized support as well as reasonable accommodation in education, in order to attain full inclusion of all students with disabilities in mainstream schools;

(c) Ensure continuous training for Allied Educators, teachers and non-teaching staff on inclusive education at all levels, including training in sign language and other accessible formats of information and communication, including Braille and Easy Read, and ensure that awareness raising curricula are based on the human rights model of disability.

Hungary (2022)

48. The Committee notes with concern that children with disabilities are excluded from the general education system. In particular, it is concerned about:

(a) The Public Education Act, which provides for segregated education and omits the obligation to admit children with disabilities into general education schools, as provided in the Convention, and legitimizes both the education of children with high support requirements in residential institutions and at home and a reduced number of teaching hours for children with disabilities;

(b) The lack of access to regular education facilities and transportation for children with physical disabilities in their communities, providing reasonable accommodation for the requirements of individuals, including in rural areas;

(c) The limited knowledge and skills of teachers in the general education system that are necessary for inclusive education;

(d) The barriers experienced by deaf and hard-of-hearing children in accessing the general education system and the lack of opportunities for bilingual education within inclusive educational settings;

(e) The lack of accessibility of general vocational education facilities and programmes, particularly for autistic children and children with intellectual disabilities;

(f) The segregation of children with disabilities, including Roma children, through poor-quality education and in special schools.

49. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) and target 4.5 and indicator 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Revise its Public Education Act with the aim of eliminating all discriminatory provisions regarding the education of children with disabilities and explicitly provide for quality inclusive education to ensure that no child with disabilities is excluded from the general education system on the basis of impairment;

(b) Ensure access to the general education system in the community and provide the necessary reasonable accommodations for all children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children;

(c) Guarantee access to regular education facilities and transportation for children with physical disabilities in their communities across the State party;

(d) Provide comprehensive and focused training for general education teachers and administrative staff on the principles and methods of inclusive education, the capacities of children with disabilities and the individualized support measures required by children with disabilities;

(e) Provide access to the general education for deaf and hard-of-hearing children and promote bilingual education opportunities within an inclusive educational setting, particularly through quality sign language and other support that is required;

- (f) **Ensure the accessibility of regular vocational education facilities and programmes for all children with disabilities, particularly for autistic children and children with intellectual disabilities, through measures of universal design and reasonable accommodation;**
- (g) **Take measures aimed at ensuring access to inclusive, high-quality and free primary, secondary and vocational education for children with disabilities, including Roma children, on an equal basis with others.**

Jamaica (2022)

42. The Committee notes some measures taken by the State party to ensure online education during the COVID-19 pandemic, however it is concerned:

- (a) About the slow progress towards achieving inclusive education, the prevalence of special schools and classes, and the greater barriers to education faced by children requiring higher levels of support;
- (b) That many parents of children with disabilities keep them at home until the age of 12, while school starts at 6, and often are compelled to enrol their children in regular schools without the necessary support services;
- (c) That there is insufficient training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education;
- (d) That there are not enough accessible learning materials, alternative communication and information methods or teachers fluent in Jamaican Sign Language.

43. **Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Develop a strategy for implementing quality inclusive education, with specific targets, timelines and a budget, and share responsibilities between the national and municipal levels, at all levels of education, including tertiary and vocational education;**
- (b) **Strengthen measures, including financial resources, to provide individualized support as well as reasonable accommodation in education, when so required;**
- (c) **Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, and modes and means of communication including Easy Read, communication aids, and assistive and information technology, and make sure that there are enough teachers fluent in Jamaican Sign Language;**
- (d) **Ensure continuous training for teachers and non-teaching staff on inclusive education at all levels, including training in sign language and other accessible formats for information and communication.**

Mexico (2022)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistence of special education;
- (b) The lack of a strategy covering all levels of the State party aimed at ensuring inclusive education for all children with disabilities;
- (c) A high dropout level of children with disabilities from the education system after age 15;
- (d) Widespread exclusion of women and girls with disabilities from educational settings in both early and higher education, due to, inter alia, their disability and gender, a lack of accessibility and reasonable accommodations, and a lack of knowledge about the requirements of students with disabilities;
- (e) The lack of accessible schools and didactic materials, including textbooks in Braille, and sign-language interpretation.

55. **With reference to paragraph 48 of its previous concluding observations, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Establish, in law and policy, an inclusive education system at all levels – primary, secondary, post-secondary and life-long learning – including support measures, the provision of reasonable accommodation, adequate funding and training for educational staff;**

- (b) Adopt measures to ensure that all children with disabilities, in particular girls with disabilities, receive an education in mainstream school settings, including children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, blind-deaf children and children with disabilities from indigenous communities;
- (c) Implement measures for the accessibility of schools and didactic materials, including Braille and sign language, and ensure their use from the start of education;
- (d) Compile data on education, disaggregated by gender, national and ethnic origin, indigence, rural or urban living environment, and type of impairment, on enrolment in segregated school settings and in mainstream schools.

Switzerland (2022)

47. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The high number of children in segregated educational settings, and the application of the inter-cantonal agreement on special education to stream children with disabilities into special education;
- (b) The lack of resources in mainstream schools to support inclusive education, including lack of sign language interpretation, reasonable accommodation and teachers with specialist qualifications in inclusive education in mainstream schools;
- (c) The barriers in gaining access to vocational training and higher education faced by students with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

48. **Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Introduce a constitutional right to inclusive education and develop a comprehensive strategy for implementing high-quality inclusive education for all children with disabilities, including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and autistic children, with specific targets, time frames, budgets, the transfer of resources from special schools, and inclusive education curricula and teaching qualifications at the federal and cantonal levels;**
- (b) **Ensure that the application of the inter-cantonal agreement on special education and cantonal policies does not result in the streaming of children with disabilities into special education, and upholds their right to inclusive education;**
- (c) **Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate in accessible and inclusive higher education, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation, and that they have access to inclusive programmes for certified basic vocational and professional training.**

Venezuela (2022)

42. The Committee notes with concern that the State party still makes use of a special education model, with schools for persons with hearing impairments, visual impairments, intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities, and that there is a lack of information on the progress made in introducing Venezuelan sign language in educational institutions.

43. **The Committee recommends that the State party, on the basis of general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, bearing in mind target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and in line with the commitments made at the Global Disability Summit 2022:**

- (a) **Develop a national inclusive education plan for all persons with disabilities at all levels; redirect budget allocations from special education to the regular education system; provide personalized assistance starting from the preschool level and continuing on to higher education levels; provide appropriate training for teachers; and incorporate special education teachers into the regular education system as a form of support;**
- (b) **Ensure that support, specifically designed teaching materials in alternative accessible formats, modes and means of communication, and information and assistive technologies are provided and that reasonable accommodation for individual requirements is made in all educational institutions;**

(c) **Assess the progress made in introducing Venezuelan sign language, as well as other formats such as Braille and Easy Read, in all educational institutions.**

Djibouti (2021)

41. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The prevalence of segregated special education settings for persons with disabilities and children with disabilities, which is permitted under article 10 of Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018), the high literacy rate among women with disabilities, and the absence of a policy for implementing inclusive education with specific targets and deadlines;

(b) The insufficient number of teaching and support staff trained in Braille, sign language and accessible mode of teaching and the inadequate level of training for teachers on skills and competences required to promote inclusive education;

(c) The barriers faced by children with disabilities in accessing inclusive education, particularly girls with disabilities and children with disabilities in rural areas and refugee camps.

42. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Review Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018) to eliminate segregated special education for persons with disabilities, and develop and adopt a policy on inclusive education with specific targets and sufficient budget allocation, with a particular focus on women and girls with disabilities and children with disabilities in rural areas and in refugee camps;**

(b) **Strengthen the provision of training for teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education, including sign language;**

(c) **Pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of Sustainable Development Goal 4 to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training, and build or upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.**

France (2021)

50. The Committee is concerned about the high rate of children with disabilities in segregated education settings, including in residential medico-social institutions or in special separated classrooms in regular schools, perpetuating stigmatization and exclusion. It also notes with concern:

(a) Insufficient statistical information about children with disabilities, including in the Overseas territories, enrolled and attending school on full or part time basis, and about access of Roma children, asylum seeking, refugee children and children with disabilities in irregular migration to inclusive education;

(b) The refusal of children with intellectual, psychosocial disabilities or autistic children, at schools;

(c) The lack of individualised supports through the provision of reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities to meet with educational requirements, particularly affecting autistic children and children with Down syndrome;

(d) A failure to provide reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities in the context of closing schools during the pandemic COVID-19, especially for deaf children;

(e) Insufficient provision of education of and in French Sign Language;

(f) The absence of learning, teaching and use of Braille and Easy Read for persons who are blind and visually impaired and persons with intellectual disabilities;

(g) Information about violence against children with disabilities, including bullying in schools;

(h) Access to higher education for persons with disabilities; support for students with disabilities, accommodations for international mobility.

51. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the Right to inclusive education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4, target 4.5 and indicator 4 (a), and it recommends that the State party strengthen measures to attain quality, inclusive education for all children with disabilities, including in the overseas territories. The State party should

promptly implement the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (A/HRC/40/54/Add.1, see para. 81) in this realm. The Committee further recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop data collection systems on children with disabilities disaggregated by age, place of residence, sex and ethnic background, including information about the percentage of enrolment and attendance to school and ensure that Roma children with disabilities, asylum-seeking and refugee children with disabilities or in situation of irregular migration have effective access to education;**
- (b) Adopt measures for parents or legal tutors to complaints and seek redress in cases of refusal of children at schools, on the basis of disabilities;**
- (c) Develop a framework recognizing the right of persons with disabilities to seek individualised supports through the provision of reasonable accommodation to meet the individual educational requirements of children with disabilities, including accommodations for examinations for children with disabilities, particularly considering autistic children and children with Down syndrome;**
- (d) Adopt programmes at the municipal level and involving public and private actors to provide support for children with disabilities in the context of the pandemic COVID-19;**
- (e) Ensure that education in French Sign Language is provided at early stages of education and promote the deaf culture in inclusive educational environments;**
- (f) Ensure the effective learning, teaching and use of Braille and Easy Read for persons who are blind and visually impaired and persons with intellectual disabilities;**
- (g) Take measures to eliminate abuse and bullying against children with disabilities in school;**
- (h) Adopt programmes with specific goals and timeframes in order to promote access of persons with disabilities to higher education, ensuring that young persons with disabilities may seek individualised supports through the provision of reasonable accommodations in tertiary education, including for facilitating international mobility, and access to sign languages.**

Estonia (2021)

46. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The slow progress towards achieving inclusive education, as recognized in the Basic and Upper-Secondary School Act, the prevalence of special schools and classes and the greater barriers to education faced by children requiring higher levels of support;**
- (b) That reasonable accommodation for meeting individual requirements and providing individualized support has not yet been made fully available throughout the education system;**
- (c) That there are not enough accessible learning materials, alternative communication and information methods or teachers fluent in sign language;**
- (d) The barriers faced by children with disabilities in gaining access to quality, inclusive education within a context of distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on school attendance imposed for children with “chronic diseases” and experiencing symptoms similar to COVID-19.**

47. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) and target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a strategy for implementing quality, inclusive education with specific targets, timelines and a budget and share responsibilities between the national and municipal levels;**
- (b) Establish a policy framework that recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to seek individualized support as reasonable accommodation in education, when so required;**
- (c) Ensure that education is an area of life covered by anti-discrimination legislation and policies and that the denial of reasonable accommodation is included as a form of discrimination;**
- (d) Provide students with disabilities with assistive compensatory aids and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats, such as inclusive digital access, modes and means of communication, including Easy Read, communication aids and assistive and**

information technology, and make sure that there are enough teachers fluent in Estonian sign language;

(e) Take measures, including the provision of technical equipment and the adoption of regulations, to ensure that children with disabilities, especially those in rural areas and those facing economic hardship, receive the individualized support they need, within a quality, inclusive education system, during the COVID-19 pandemic and guarantee for children with chronic diseases equal access to school.

Albania (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of comprehensive legislation and strategy for quality inclusive education and that segregated education environments persist, especially for students with intellectual disabilities;

(b) The lack of data on the public resources allocated to inclusive education in primary, secondary and higher education institutions;

(c) The absence of data and indicators to monitor the quality of education and inclusion of students with disabilities at all levels of education, and accessibility standards of school infrastructures, information and communications, including information and communications technologies;

(d) The limited accessibility ensured in higher education for students with disabilities and the decreasing number of enrolled students with disabilities.

40. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.8, the Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to support the implementation of inclusive education, and in particular that it:

(a) Repeal and amend laws to recognise inclusive education as a right, and grant all students with disabilities, regardless of their personal characteristics, the right to access inclusive learning opportunities in the mainstream education system with individualized support, as required;

(b) Formulate, adopt and implement a comprehensive inclusive education policy with strategies for promoting a culture of inclusion in mainstream education, including individualized human-rights based assessments of educational requirements and necessary accommodation, guidance and support for teachers, respect for diversity in ensuring the rights to equality and non-discrimination, and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society;

(c) Ensure the accessibility of school environments, in line with the Convention, including through the provision of specific measures, such as accessible and adapted materials and inclusive curricula, the provision of individualized support and accommodation;

(d) Allocate effective and sufficient financial, material and adequately and regularly trained human resources, that include persons with disabilities;

(e) Incorporate inclusive education training into university curricula for future teachers and mandatory training programmes for current teaching staff, with an adequate budget;

(f) Increase data collection on, among others, the implementation of inclusive education laws and policies, and accessibility of school infrastructures, information and communications, including information and communications technologies, to inform inclusive education policies.

Australia (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of implementation of many of the recommendations of the 2015 review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005;

(b) The significant increase in students with disabilities experiencing a segregated education, seclusion, isolation and a lack of age-appropriate settings, and about insufficient funding for inclusive education in mainstream schools;

(c) The fact that there is no national disaggregated data on students with disabilities, including on the use of restrictive practices and cases of bullying.

46. In line with the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations on education (CRPD/C/AUS/CO/1, para. 46) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Conduct a robust review, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, of the Disability Standards for Education 2005, implement the recommendations arising from that review and develop a national action plan for inclusive education;

(b) Address the increasing rate of segregation, seclusion and isolation and the lack of age-appropriate settings for students with disabilities at all levels, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and redirect adequate resources to a nationwide inclusive education system for all students;

(c) Expand the collection of data on the number of students with disabilities who do not qualify for an adjustment and who are unable to enrol in local mainstream schools, as well as data on educational attainment, on completion, suspension and expulsion rates, on the use of restrictive practices and on cases of bullying.

Ecuador (2019)

43. The Committee notes with concern that the State party retains the use of a special education model; that segregated forms of education predominate in its legislation, in particular in the Organic Act on Disabilities; that 151 segregated schools still exist; and that not enough is being done to change the education system into one based on quality inclusive education.

44. **The Committee recommends that the State party revise and amend the Organic Act on Disabilities without delay and that, as an overall strategy, on the basis of general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and bearing in mind target 4.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, it establish an inclusive education system for all persons with disabilities at all levels, regardless of their migration status. It also recommends that the State party redirect budget allocations from special education to the regular education system, provide personalized support starting from the preschool level and continuing on to higher education levels and provide appropriate training for teachers. It recommends that the State party ensure that support, specifically designed teaching materials in alternative accessible formats, modes and means of communication, and information and assistive technologies are provided and that reasonable accommodation for individual requirements is made.**

El Salvador (2019)

46. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That limited progress has been made with regard to the right to inclusive education for persons with disabilities;

(b) At the lack of information on the number of children with disabilities in segregated schools and in mainstream schools;

(c) That the Ministry of Education's Comprehensive Sexuality Education Strategy does not include persons with disabilities in a multidimensional and intersectional manner.

47. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and targets 4.5 and 4.A of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a national strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education and redirect budget from segregated to mainstream classrooms and schools,

ensure full accessibility in educational premises, adopting measures to remove architectural and communication barriers, ensure that teaching and non-teaching staff are trained, and ensure the availability of accessible learning material in Easy Read and Braille and the availability of sign language interpreters;

(b) Establish a system to collect disaggregated data on the number of children with disabilities, especially children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities still in segregated education and those in mainstream education, and the types of support provided to them, with a view to designing adequate public policies;

(c) Ensure that all the educational policies and strategies aimed at the general population, including the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Strategy, are applicable to persons with disabilities.

Greece (2019)

34. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There is no comprehensive, clear legislation or strategy on, or allocation of funds to, inclusive education, particularly with regard to lifelong learning;

(b) Schools and universities lack accessible and inclusive environments, buildings, educational material, services, equipment, information and communication technologies, as well as individualized support provided to students with disabilities;

(c) The access of Roma children with disabilities and refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children with disabilities to education is severely limited;

(d) There is insufficient data on the amount of public resources allocated for inclusive education in mainstream schools and higher education institutions, on regulated transparent protocols relating to individual education plans, and on relevant technologies and forms of communication to ensure accessibility for students with disabilities at all levels of education.

35. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and taking into account Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially targets 4.5 and 4.a, the Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to guarantee inclusive education, and in particular that it:

(a) Adopt and implement a coherent strategy on inclusive education in the mainstream educational system;

(b) Ensure the accessibility of school and university environments, in line with the Convention, by promoting universal design, the provision of specific measures and individualized support, such as accessible and adapted materials, inclusive curricula, inclusive information and communication technologies for pupils and students with disabilities, and digital pedagogy;

(c) Immediately ensure access to formal education for all refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children with disabilities, and for Roma children with disabilities;

(d) Allocate effective and sufficient financial and material resources and adequately and regularly trained personnel, including persons with disabilities, to effectively guarantee inclusive education;

(e) Incorporate inclusive education training into higher education curricula for trainee teachers, and into training programmes for current teaching staff, with an adequate budget.

India (2019)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of segregated education, the high illiteracy rate among persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, and the low number of students with disabilities enrolled in mainstream inclusive education;

(b) Rejection from school of children with disabilities, particularly children affected by leprosy, and bullying against intersex children, causing many to drop out of school;

(c) The lack of accessible inclusive schools in rural and remote areas;

(d) The lack of training for school personnel, the lack of teaching methodologies and material to include children with disabilities, including for deafblind students, the limited number of seats for children with disabilities in schools, and the insufficient provision of sign language interpretation for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and of safe transportation for children with disabilities.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and taking account of targets 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Take measures to ensure the implementation of inclusive education for students with disabilities, and redouble its efforts to reduce illiteracy among persons with disabilities;

(b) Take measures to prevent the rejection, stigmatization and bullying of children with disabilities, particularly children affected by leprosy and intersex children, review regulations to ensure access to education, undertake campaigns to combat disability stereotypes and establish complaint mechanisms and sanctions in cases of discrimination;

(c) Ensure sustainable human and financial resources to build and maintain accessible schools for children with disabilities in rural areas;

(d) Ensure that the learning environment, including the physical environment, admission procedures, teaching resources and methodologies, online platforms for learning, classrooms and transport, are accessible and safe for children with disabilities, and adopt measures to ensure the provision and availability of sign language interpretation in the classrooms, augmentative and alternative communication and Easy Read at all levels of education.

Iraq (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The reference to segregated classes in the State party's legislation, such as article 9 of Law No. 118 (1976) on compulsory education, the education of children with disabilities in mostly segregated classes, with children with visual and hearing impairments being unable to study beyond a primary school certificate, and the reportedly high number of children with disabilities who are out of school;

(b) The barriers faced by students with disabilities in accessing education, including the need to travel long distances, poor transportation, a lack of teachers trained in inclusive education, sign language, Braille and Easy Read and a lack of accessible curricula.

44. The Committee, guided by its general comment No. 4 (2016) on inclusive education, recommends that the State party:

(a) Take prompt measures to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive, high-quality and free education at all compulsory levels, and enforce the "comprehensive educational integration" of children with disabilities and the quota of places reserved for them in university programmes, according to article 15 (2) (a) and (3) (c) of Law No. 38 (2013);

(b) Allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources for individualized supports that will enable children with disabilities, including children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, children with autism and children with visual or hearing impairments, to receive an inclusive and quality education.

Kuwait (2019)

46. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of measures taken to promote inclusive education, to ensure the provision of individualized support and to prohibit the denial of reasonable accommodation to all children with disabilities in mainstream schools;

(b) The right to inclusive education being limited to students with certain kinds of impairments while others are relegated to segregated classes within mainstream schools and to segregated schools;

(c) The lack of disaggregated data on children with disabilities deprived of an education.

47. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt the necessary legal and other measures to ensure the right of all children with disabilities, including non-Kuwaiti and Bidoon children with disabilities, to free, quality and inclusive education at all levels of education;

(b) Take advantage of the road map for inclusive education developed by the Public Authority for Disability Affairs to redirect resources from segregated educational settings towards quality, inclusive education with the provision of reasonable accommodation and individual supports, accessible environments and curricula, for all students with disabilities in mainstream schools, and mandatory in-service training of all teachers and all staff in education facilities on quality, inclusive education;

(c) Collect data, disaggregated by age, gender, nationality, disability and geographical area, on children with disabilities in and out of education in both mainstream and special education schools and on enrolment and dropout rates.

Myanmar (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Legislation providing for a dual education system that excludes children with disabilities in segregated schools, and overreliance on informal education for children with disabilities;

(b) The low rate of enrolment of children with disabilities in schools at all levels, owing to, among others, the lack of individualized accommodation for children in the mainstream education system.

46. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Revise its legislation to expressly recognize the right to inclusive education for all children, and address overreliance on informal education for children with disabilities, including by undertaking information campaigns to promote their enrolment in mainstream schools at all levels;

(b) Adopt and implement a national action plan on inclusive education, involving all line ministries and stakeholders, with sufficient budgetary allocations, to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to quality inclusive education in the mainstream education system at all levels, including by providing individualized accommodation, including classroom support and accessible learning environments, teaching methods and materials.

Cuba (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Children face barriers in enjoying their right to high quality, inclusive education, on an equal basis with others, and that special and segregated forms of education still prevail;

(b) Practical challenges remain for children and adult learners with disabilities to access higher education, partly due to the lack of individualized support;

(c) That information on the representation of children with disabilities in student bodies is lacking.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in keeping with its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education:

(a) Ensure the implementation of quality inclusive education at all levels and provide the training of teachers and non-teaching staff, the necessary support and resources, to foster inclusive environments for all students, in particular those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and girls with disabilities;

(b) Ensure the full accessibility of educational premises, including universities, take legislative and administrative measures to ensure the availability of accessible learning

materials, including digital, Braille, Easy Read and sign language, at the technical and higher education levels for persons with disabilities;

(c) Take steps to facilitate the participation of children with disabilities in student bodies;

(d) Adhere to the Convention and general comment No. 4 in its implementation of targets 4.1, 4.5 and 4.A of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Niger (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of segregated special education for children with disabilities; the low enrolment of children with disabilities in mainstream education, particularly girls and children with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; the negative societal attitudes against the attendance of children with disabilities in regular schools; and the poor level of education provided to children with sensory disabilities, and those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities;

(b) The lack of budget allocations for inclusive education; the insufficiency of specialists trained on inclusive education; the inaccessibility of school infrastructures and the lack of transport facilities for students with disabilities, particularly in rural areas;

(c) The lack of involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the Sector Program for Education and Training (PSEF 2014-2024), and insufficient awareness of parents and communities about the possibility and need to educate their children with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in line with the Committee's general comment on article 24 (2016) on the right to inclusive education:

(a) Adopt a national action plan on inclusive education, with sufficient budgetary allocations, for children with disabilities, especially girls and children with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and undertake information campaigns in accessible formats, to promote the enrolment in education of all persons with disabilities;

(b) Provide trainings for teachers and non-teaching education personnel on inclusive education, including learning sign language;

(c) Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the implementation of the Sector Program for Education and Training (PSEF 2014-2024), and all education policies in accordance with article 4.3 of the CRPD;

(d) Pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4 (a) to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training, and build or upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.

Norway (2019)

37. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of an effective legal mechanism, including anti-discrimination provisions to ensure that persons with disabilities can access inclusive education without discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation, in public and private schools;

(b) The lack of standards that outline the process for the provision of individualised supports in education, including the provision of assistants and support staff;

(c) Many children with disabilities not receiving an adequate standard of education and have low learning outcomes; a large proportion of special education services are provided by unskilled assistants and by teachers without the appropriate training;

(d) The lack of accessible complaint mechanisms for children with disabilities and the lack of sanctions for non-compliance;

(e) Many students with disabilities do not receive adequate training in basic skills, such as social development and communication skills, which will enhance greater learning capacities in the most suitable environment.

38. In line with the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen anti-discrimination provisions to explicitly cover disability-based discrimination in education, including the provision of an accessible and effective complaints mechanism;**
- (b) Adopt national standards for the provision of effective individualised support measures in mainstream education, and allocate sufficient financial and human resources to ensure that persons with disabilities receive the support required to facilitate inclusive education;**
- (c) Ensure all teachers have the appropriate skills for individualized instruction and ensure that individualized support measures do not entail costs for parents of children with disabilities;**
- (d) Introduce legislation based on the human rights model of disability that fully complies with article 24 to ensure quality inclusive education for all children;**
- (e) Take measures to guarantee that students with disabilities receive training in the necessary skills to enhance their learning capability in the environment adapted to suit their specific requirements within inclusive education system.**

Rwanda (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities face barriers to the enjoyment of the right to quality, inclusive education in mainstream schools, especially children with disabilities in refugee camps and institutions. The Committee is deeply concerned that more than 40,000 children with disabilities remain out of school owing to long distances, insufficient mobility aids, and lack of accessibility and of reasonable accommodation, especially in remote or rural areas.

44. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.a, the Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure the right of all children with disabilities to quality and inclusive education, including by removing physical, communication, information, and other barriers and ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation, assistive devices, support and accessible curricula, materials and environment.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned at the continuing approach to place children with disabilities in segregated educational settings, which results in the exclusion of children and persons with disabilities from the mainstream educational system on the basis of impairment.

44. In line with the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2014) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures to transform the current education system into an inclusive education system at all levels and for all children with disabilities under the Ministry of Education, and promote the provision of individualized accommodation and assistant support staff in classrooms.

Senegal (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned about the absence of an inclusive education system in the State party and:

- (a) The lack of educational opportunities in mainstream schools, as well as vocational and technical training for persons with disabilities, especially girls and children with sensory, intellectual and physical impairments;**
- (b) The lack of training for teachers on the skills and competencies to promote inclusive education, as well as the insufficient number of teachers proficient in sign language;**

(c) The absence of systematic data collection, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number and proportion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools receiving individualized support, and the enrolment and dropout rates of children with disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 4 (2016) and SDG 4 on the right to inclusive education:

(a) Adopt specific measures to eliminate discrimination against children with disabilities in schools and provide individualized accommodations, and ensure that children with disabilities are treated with dignity and respect and are benefiting from effective school inclusion programmes;

(b) Take necessary measures including through the adoption of legislation, policies and programmes with measurable indicators and timelines to transform the education system into an inclusive education system;

(c) Provide disaggregated data on the number of children with disabilities mainstreamed into the regular school environment with adequate teaching supports to enable them reach their full potential;

(d) Pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4(a) to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training as well as build and upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.

Spain (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned about the limited progress made by the State party with regard to inclusive education, including the lack of a clear policy and action plans for its promotion. The Committee is particularly concerned that the State party maintains all regulatory provisions on special education and a medical impairment based approach. It is concerned that a high number of children with disabilities, including autism, intellectual or psychosocial and multiple disabilities, are still receiving segregated special education.

46. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4(a) the Committee reiterates the recommendations provided within its report of the inquiry under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of 2018 (CRPD/C/20/3), urging the State Party to expedite the legislative reform in line with the Convention, in order to clearly define inclusion and its specific objectives at each educational level. It recommends that the State party take measures to envisage inclusive education as a right, and grant all students with disabilities, regardless of their personal characteristics, the right to access inclusive learning opportunities in the mainstream education system, with access to support services as required, and implement all other recommendations, provided within its report of the inquiry (CRPD/C/20/3).

47. The Committee further recommends that the State party formulate a comprehensive policy of inclusive education including strategies for promoting a culture of inclusion in mainstream education including individualised human-rights based assessment of educational requirements and accommodations, support for teachers, respect for diversity for ensuring the rights to equality and non-discrimination, and the full and effective participation in society for persons with disabilities.

Türkiye (2019)

48. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The persistence of segregated education that is discriminatory at all levels, the absence of an inclusive education system, reasonable accommodation and support, at all levels of education, despite the improvement of physical accessibility of schools;

(b) The absence of systematic data on children with disabilities receiving individualized support in mainstream schools;

(c) The fact that curricula, particularly on mathematics and computing, has not adapted to the requirements of students with disabilities, that teachers and non-teaching staff lack training on fostering quality, inclusive education, resulting in de facto denial of education for students who are deaf and blind.

49. With reference to the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on inclusive education, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Recognize inclusive education in its legislation as a substantive enforceable right, and adopt public policies and strategies to implement it at all levels, including higher education with appropriate human, technical and financial resources.**

(b) **Ensure the provision of adequate individualized support and accommodations enabling children with disabilities, including children with intellectual disabilities, to receive quality inclusive education on an equal basis with others;**

(c) **Ensure the systematic collection of data, disaggregated by age, sex, impairment and location, on the progress to achieve inclusive education.**

(d) **Adapt curricula around students' requirements, and provide training to teachers and other staff working in the education system on the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention and competencies to foster inclusive education.**

Vanuatu (2019)

40. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Many children with disabilities remain at home and do not receive support to access inclusive education;

(b) One of two schools with inclusive education stopped its pilot program due to the budgetary constraint;

(c) There is a lack of accessible educational materials, facilities and accessible formats of communication including sign language, Braille, Easy Read and plain language at schools;

(d) Training for teachers and non-teaching staff on the right to inclusive education is insufficient.

41. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially targets 4.5 and 4.A, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Intensify efforts to raise awareness among families of children with disabilities and their communities on the right to education of children with disabilities;

(b) Provide sufficient human, technical and financial resources and continue its effort to implement the Inclusive Education Policy and Strategic Plan (2010-2020) to ensure the right of children with disabilities to inclusive education in all mainstream schools, with individualized support;

(c) Ensure persons with disabilities are not denied reasonable accommodation at all levels of education through individualized support, including the use of technology, in-classroom support and accessible learning materials;

(d) Ensure the continuous training for teachers and non-teaching staff on inclusive education at all levels, including in sign language and other accessible formats of information and communication.

Algeria (2018)

40. The Committee is concerned that the education of children with disabilities falls under the purview of the Minister of National Solidarity and that segregated education for children with disabilities still exists. It is also concerned about the absence of a policy on the right to inclusive education for children with disabilities and a strategy to transform specialized settings into inclusive education environments, including revised curricula and training.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party, guided by its General Comment No. 4 (2016) on inclusive education:

- (a) Ensure that the Ministry of Education is responsible for the education of all children, including children with disabilities;
- (b) Take prompt measures to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive, high-quality and free primary and secondary education, and provide reasonable accommodation to ensure that education is available for them;
- (c) Formulate, implement and monitor policy measures on the right to inclusive education, including the development of appropriate school curricula, accessible learning tools and teaching methods, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities;
- (d) Introduce training programmes to teachers and other educational staff on the right to inclusive education.

Bulgaria (2018)

49. The Committee is concerned that segregated education systems still remain in the State party, including cases of rejection of enrolment of children with disabilities in mainstream schools. The Committee is also concerned about:

- (a) The low level of awareness about the benefits of quality inclusive education for society, including among teachers and other education staff, as well as parents of children without disabilities;
- (b) The lack of an independent mechanism to monitor and assess the implementation and effects of the Pre-school and School Education Act, especially for children with psychosocial disabilities and children still in institutions;
- (c) The uneven and unsystematic allocation of human and financial resources to ensure sufficient and qualified teachers and auxiliary staff trained in the inclusive education model;
- (d) The lack of data on the number of children and youth with disabilities not currently enrolled in any form of education.

50. **The Committee recommends that State party, in line with its General comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education:**

- (a) Fully replace the practice of segregated systems with quality inclusive education;
- (b) Raise awareness and promote the advantages of quality inclusive education for society, especially among teachers and other education staff, and parents of children without disabilities;
- (c) Intensify its efforts to ensure quality inclusive education and provision of reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities in the mainstream schools, including by increasing systematic and sufficient allocation of all necessary human, technical and financial resources for it;
- (d) Collect data on the number of children and youth with disabilities not currently enrolled in any form of education disaggregated by age, sex, type of impairment, place of residence, and develop a strategy to include these children into the mainstream education system.

Malta (2018)

35. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The concept of inclusive education is not fully applied in the State party;
- (b) The number of available Learning Support Educators is insufficient and that resources are lacking to ensure their replacement, in case of absence;
- (c) There are reports of children and students with disabilities having been denied access to educational institutions on the basis of their disabilities, such as childcare centres and summer schools, and the lack of accessible mechanisms for them to obtain redress when such discrimination occurs;
- (d) Many students with disabilities attend skills training at Resource Centres during their secondary education or after the completion of their secondary education which seclude them from their peers and are often distant from their school and home;

(e) The State party has not carried out sufficient research into the effectiveness of the current education inclusion policy and made research information available to professionals in the education sector and the population on the socio-economic and cultural benefits of inclusive education.

36. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.a, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the implementation of laws on education, and accelerate the adoption process of the UN CRPD Bill, to ensure that the violations of all rights under article 24 of the Convention become justiciable in the State party;

(b) Adopt measures to ensure that students with disabilities, including students with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, are provided with reasonable accommodation at all levels of education and allocate the resources necessary to guarantee reasonable accommodation according to individual requirements in consultation with the person concerned, including the provision of Learning Support Educators and their replacement, when they are absent;

(c) Ensure accessible mechanisms for accountability and redress in cases where educational institutions, such as childcare centres and summer schools, or teachers, discriminate against students on the basis of their disability;

(d) Review the curriculum of students with disabilities through Individualised Education Plans (IEPs) to ensure that the curricula allow them to learn the skills required to access the job market on an equal basis with others;

(e) Carry out research on the extent to which accessibility standards are being complied in the State party to obtain a full understanding of the barriers persons with disabilities face in the education system and the solutions required to enable their full participation, and to make research findings on the socio-economic and cultural benefits of inclusive education available to all relevant stakeholders.

Philippines (2018)

40. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The prevalence of the special education model, and the lack of measures to provide for inclusive and mainstreamed education for persons with disabilities;

(b) The low number of children with disabilities enrolled in elementary schools (only 110,169 pupils with disabilities were enrolled in government elementary schools according to Department of Education data of 2013-2014 out of some 5.49 million children with 'special needs' which comprised 13 percent of the total population of children);

(c) The education of children, youth and adults with disabilities in regular educational facilities is hindered by barriers to accessibility and lack of universal design for learning, and reasonable accommodations in all academic and social aspects of student life;

(d) That the Education Act only covers official elementary schools;

(e) The general lack of quantitative data on access to education and outcomes of education for persons with disabilities, and the inconsistency of data collected by different entities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Enact legislation recognising inclusive education in line with the Committee's General comment No. 4 (2016) on inclusive education, and adopt a timeframe for implementing inclusion;

(b) Improve the implementation of the principle of universal design, including accessibility and reasonable accommodation for learning;

(c) Recognise and provide reasonable accommodation in all academic and social aspects of student life, and ensure teacher training to support students with disabilities in regular classrooms;

(d) Enact specific legislation to support the implementation of reasonable accommodation, individualized learning and inclusive classrooms across the State party;

- (e) **Take legislative and administrative measures to ensure availability of accessible learning materials for technical and higher education levels for persons with disabilities;**
- (f) **Adhere to Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4 (a) to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training; as well as build and upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.**

Poland (2018)

40. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Lack of specific provisions to support the implementation of inclusive education, and the confusion between the terms “integration” and “inclusion” ;
- (b) Education of the majority of students with disabilities, particularly with moderate and severe disabilities, in segregated education settings;
- (c) Lack of awareness about inclusive education among school masters and parents of non-disabled children, and lack of adequate training of teachers about inclusive education.

41. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the Right to inclusive education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4(a), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Enact specific provisions to support the implementation of reasonable accommodation, individualized learning curriculum and inclusive classroom teaching in accessible learning environments;**
- (b) **Support measures for schools, including support for teachers, for advancing the inclusive education for students with moderate and severe disabilities;**
- (c) **Raise awareness among parents of non-disabled children about the advantages of inclusive education for all, provide trainings to school masters and teachers on inclusive education methods and best practices.**

South Africa (2018)

40. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The high number of students with disabilities, including girls with disabilities, those with intellectual disabilities, autism and deaf or hard of hearing, that still largely remain outside the school system and the continuing growth in special education schools as opposed to inclusive education, and the lack of safety in school hostels;
- (b) Barriers against students with disabilities to access mainstream schools, including discrimination in admissions to school, long distances, poor transportation, lack of teachers trained on inclusive education and in sign language, Braille and Easy-Read skills, lack of accessible curricula, and negative societal attitudes opposing attendance of children with disabilities to regular and inclusive schools;
- (c) The lack of information on budget allocations for the promotion of inclusive education, the absence of systematic data collection, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number of children with disabilities mainstreamed into regular and inclusive school environment, and on the enrolment and dropout of children with disabilities in both mainstream and special schools;
- (d) The absence of effective measures to provide reasonable accommodation in the education system, including absence of sufficient learning materials, especially in remote and rural areas, and a reporting mechanism for parents and children with disabilities who are denied access to education or reasonable accommodation to ensure accountability.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education:

- (a) **Adopt, implement and oversee inclusive education as the guiding principle of the education system and develop a comprehensive plan to extend it throughout its territory, where children can stay in their local school, not be removed from their families and live in hostels;**

- (b) Intensify efforts at allocating sufficient financial and human resources for reasonable accommodations that will enable children with disabilities, including children with intellectual disabilities, autism and deaf or hard of hearing, to receive inclusive and quality education, including engaging in systematic data collection, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number of children mainstreamed into regular and inclusive schools and dropouts;
- (c) Establish an effective and permanent programme for training of teachers on inclusive education, including learning sign language, Braille and Easy-Read skills;
- (d) Prepare a time-bound plan of action to address the high levels of physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse, including bullying, in special schools, including a monitoring framework, and review the norms with the Children's Act's provisions on "child and youth centres" to ensure regulated and safe school environments, including school hostels.

North Macedonia (2018)

42. The Committee is concerned that the Law on Protection of Children and the Law on Primary Education still allow for the segregation of students with disabilities, and that segregated education environments persist, especially for students with intellectual disabilities. The Committee is further concerned that despite the establishment of inclusive education resource centres there is no updated comprehensive strategy aimed at an inclusive education system with fixed deadlines and outputs and allocation of adequate financial, human and technical resources, especially for students with intellectual disabilities.

43. In line with the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Revise the law on Protection of Children and the Law on Primary Education so that they expressly promote inclusive education and include disability as ground for discrimination, and prohibit denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability based discrimination;
- (b) Immediately enact a plan of transition to ensure inclusive education at all levels, including in higher education institutions for persons with disabilities;
- (c) Provide adequate support, resources and qualified training of teachers and auxiliary staff, to foster inclusion, in particular of students with intellectual disabilities or students with psychosocial disabilities and girls with disabilities;
- (d) Ensure universal accessibility to educational premises, including universities;
- (e) Explicitly and immediately enforce the prohibition of exclusion of learners with disabilities from regular schools on the basis of their impairments.

Haiti (2018)

42. The Committee is concerned that laws, including the Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2012), article 38, still allow for segregated education environments, especially for students with intellectual disabilities. It is also concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a legally defined procedure for the provision of reasonable accommodation and for assistant support staff in classrooms, in public and private schools and especially in rural areas;
- (b) The barriers for students with disabilities to access mainstream schools, due to the inaccessibility of facilities, discrimination against students with disabilities and negative social attitudes regarding the schooling of children with disabilities, and lack of trained teachers and non-teaching personnel on inclusive education;
- (c) The lack of updated data on the education of students with disabilities and the low number of children with disabilities, especially girls, in the mainstream education system;
- (d) Insufficient investment to foster inclusive education against the promotion of special schools;
- (e) The inadequacy of school grants for children with disabilities and their families.

43. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.8, the Committee recommends that the State party amend the Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2012) to ensure that no student is refused admission to mainstream school on the basis of disability. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a legally defined procedure for the provision of reasonable accommodation at all levels of education and allocate the resources necessary for its implementation;**
- (b) Design and implement an action plan on inclusive education with sufficient resources, concrete timelines and specific goals regarding accessibility, adaptation of curricula, teaching aids and individual assistance and support in ordinary school environments as well as awareness-raising initiatives, mandatory training on inclusive education and its implementation for teachers, support teachers and non-teaching education personnel;**
- (c) Increase data collection, among others, the implementation of inclusive education laws and policies, and accessibility of school infrastructures;**
- (d) Increase human, technical and financial resources to implement inclusive education and conduct regular information campaigns in accessible formats, including plain language, and Easy Read, to promote education for all persons with disabilities, in particular women and children, and those living in rural areas;**
- (e) Increase resources, including for school grants and awards to ensure the education of children with disabilities.**

Nepal (2018)

35. The Committee is concerned that the State party maintains special and segregated schools. The Committee is particularly concerned at:

- (a) The lack of sufficient support and training for administrative and teaching staff with regard to inclusive education;**
- (b) The lack of accessibility and reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities in mainstream schools;**
- (c) The absence of a comprehensive strategy to promote inclusive education in urban and rural areas.**

36. The Committee recommends that the State party in line with the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, in particular targets 4.5 and 4 (a), increase its efforts towards inclusive education by:

- (a) Adopting a policy of mandatory training of teachers in the inclusive education model based on indicators and sign posts to be achieved, and to guarantee inclusive education by providing support for trained teachers, Braille and sign language as well as alternative means and modes of communication, Easy Read and other auxiliary equipment and media;**
- (b) Ensuring access to inclusive education for all persons with disabilities, at all levels of education including adult education throughout the country, and guarantee that this education model covers the most remote areas, incorporates a gender perspective and is ethnically and culturally relevant.**

Oman (2018)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The overall low number of children with disabilities enrolled in schools at all levels, especially girls with disabilities, the high rate of non-completion and illiteracy among children with disabilities, in particular deaf children and children with multiple disabilities;**
- (b) Inadequate teaching methodologies and training for teachers on inclusive education, as well as the insufficient number of teachers proficient in sign language;**
- (c) The lack of information on budget allocations for the promotion of inclusive education, including training of teachers and for ensuring that schools are accessible, adequately staffed and funded;**

(d) The absence of systematic data collection, disaggregated by sex and type of impairment, on the number of children with disabilities mainstreamed into the regular school environment, and on the enrolment and dropout of children with disabilities in both mainstream and special education schools.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt measures to abolish special schools and develop an inclusive education system, including through the adoption of laws, policies and programmes with measurable indicators and timelines;**

(b) **Ensure the provision of adequate budgetary allocations for the promotion of inclusive education including the training of teachers, especially in sign language and/or providing certified assistants qualified in sign language for all subjects to support the teachers;**

(c) **Develop disaggregated database on the number of children with disabilities mainstreamed into the regular school environment with adequate teaching methodologies to enable them to reach their full potential, and adopt specific measures to eliminate discrimination against children with disabilities in schools and ensure that children with disabilities are treated with dignity and respect and are benefiting from effective school inclusion programmes;**

(d) **Expand educational opportunities at the tertiary level for persons with disabilities, in particular for deaf students, and step-up bilingual education in Arabic and English for children with disabilities prior to the tertiary level;**

(e) **Pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4(a) to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training as well as build and upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.**

Russian Federation (2018)

48. The Committee is concerned that despite the increase in the number of children with disabilities in mainstream education setting, reflecting the practice of inclusive education, the practice of segregated education system remains persistent. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of transparent financial resources allocated and mechanisms established to ensure necessary and equal conditions and support for all persons with all types of impairments in general education as guaranteed by the federal legislation as well as about the regional disparities due to varied conditions and availability of financial resources in different regions.

49. The Committee urges the State party to further promote and embrace the concept of quality inclusive education in line with the Committee's General Comment 4, and in particular, to adopt, within an established timeframe, a long term roadmap together with an action plan to achieve inclusive education with indicators and adequate and transparent budget to enable all persons with all types of impairments to access quality inclusive education.

50. The Committee also recommends the State party to be guided by the Convention and the Committee's General Comment No 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education in the implementation of targets 4.5 and 4.a. of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Seychelles (2018)

41. The Committee is concerned that special, segregated education persists, despite the policy on inclusive education adopted in 2015 and contrary to the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education. It notes with concern that:

(a) There is no legal duty to provide and monitor the provision of reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities in mainstream education;

(b) There is no mechanism to monitor accessibility standards within and outside school infrastructures and that facilities and services remain inaccessible;

(c) There is no training for pedagogical and non-pedagogical staff on the right to inclusive education;

(d) The budgetary allocation to support the policy of inclusive education is insufficient;

(e) The State party has not carried out any research on the socioeconomic and cultural benefits of inclusive education.

42. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially targets 4.5 and 4.a, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Introduce new legislation or amend the Education Act 2004 to bring it into line with article 24 of the Convention and its general comment No. 4, including the recognition that denial of reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities constitutes discrimination;

(b) Set up a mechanism to monitor accessibility standards both inside and outside the school environment;

(c) Ensure the adequate and continuous capacity-building and training of all schoolteachers and education personnel on inclusive education;

(d) Provide sufficient resources and continue efforts to implement its inclusive education policy and to transform its education system, ensuring that children with disabilities have the necessary support services to exercise their right to education;

(e) Carry out research on the socioeconomic and cultural benefits of the right to inclusive education as a tool to promote awareness-raising on the human rights model of disability and inclusive education.

Slovenia (2018)

39. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The existing parallel education systems, special and mainstream, for children with disabilities;

(b) The lack of concrete targets and provisions for implementing inclusive education in existing policies and legislation providing for inclusive education;

(c) The insufficient capacities of regular schools when providing for curriculum accommodation and inclusive learning environments, in particular the lack of skills and knowledge among teachers about inclusive teaching methodologies, and the low expectations regarding capacities of children with disabilities;

(d) The absence of accessibility and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at tertiary education, including higher education institutions and vocational schools;

(e) Physical barriers to access transport by students with disabilities, from their place of residence to school facilities.

40. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4(a), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognise the right of all children with disabilities to inclusive education and abandon segregated education schemes;

(b) Adopt a strategy and action plan with a clear timeframe for implementation of inclusive education at all levels, for all children with disabilities; further, establish a comprehensive monitoring system to assess progress of inclusive education;

(c) Strengthen the capacities of inclusive schools in providing teachers with trainings on inclusive education, curriculum accommodation and teaching methods. The State party should enhance quality of educational support when ensuring individualized approach to children with disabilities and their capacity-building;

(d) Ensure lifelong learning for persons with disabilities while providing accessibility and reasonable accommodation to all tertiary education institutions, including vocational and higher education schools;

(e) Ensure transport services for students with disabilities, from their place of residence to the education facilities.

Sudan (2018)

47. While noting the progress made in the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2017 regarding access to education, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The low school enrolment and retention rates of children with disabilities;
- (b) The continuing approach to segregated schools, which results in the exclusion of children and persons with disabilities from mainstream educational systems on the basis of impairment;
- (c) Discrimination against children with psychosocial and/or intellectual impairments in access to education;
- (d) The limited support to learners with disabilities, including to vocational training and tertiary education.

48. In line with the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2014) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take prompt measures to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education, and provide reasonable accommodation to ensure children with disabilities can access education;**
- (b) Take measures to establish an inclusive education system at all levels, including preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education, and vocational training without discrimination and on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Remove the barriers to access education and promote retention for children with psychosocial and/or intellectual impairments, including by establishing a permanent programme for training of teachers on inclusive education and the development of methodological tools for teaching, with the resources necessary for its implementation;**
- (d) Implement initiatives and public-private partnerships to design accessible pedagogical tools and teaching methods and provide students with disabilities with access to new technologies and the Internet;**
- (e) To explicitly and immediately enforce the prohibition of exclusion of learners with disabilities from regular schools on the basis of their impairments.**

Latvia (2017)

40. The Committee is concerned that the majority of children with disabilities attend special schools or are encouraged to be schooled at home as a permanent solution to the lack of reasonable accommodation and accessibility, including physical accessibility, in the majority of mainstream schools and higher education and lifelong learning institutions.

41. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially targets 4.5 and 4 (a) thereof, the Committee urges the State party to ensure that no child is refused admission to mainstream schools on the basis of disability, and that it further allocate the resources necessary to guarantee reasonable accommodation to facilitate the accessibility of all students with disabilities to quality, inclusive education, including in preschool, tertiary and lifelong learning institutions.

Luxembourg (2017)

42. The Committee is concerned that education laws still allow for the segregation of students with disabilities, and that segregated education environments persist, especially for students with intellectual disabilities. It is also concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a legally defined procedure for the provision of reasonable accommodation and for assistant support staff in classrooms, in public and private schools;
- (b) The misunderstanding of reasonable accommodation as reflected in Act of 15 July 2011, which undermines the process of identifying the response to individual requirements in dialogue with the person concerned and limits reasonable accommodation to existing options set out by the Act;

(c) Negative attitudes towards disability in education and low expectations of students with disabilities;

(d) The insufficient training of teachers, support teachers and non-teaching personnel on inclusive education;

(e) The absence of data and indicators to monitor the quality of education and inclusion of students with disabilities, and accessibility standards of school infrastructures, information and communications, including information and communications technology.

43. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.8, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the laws on education to ensure that no student is refused admission to mainstream schools on the basis of disability, ensure accessibility and allocate the resources necessary to guarantee reasonable accommodation, including assistant support staff, including pre-school and tertiary education and the private sector;

(b) Adopt a legally defined procedure for the provision of reasonable accommodation at all levels of education and allocate the resources necessary to guarantee reasonable accommodation according to individual requirements in consultation with the person concerned;

(c) Design and implement an action plan on inclusive education with sufficient resources, timelines and specific goals;

(d) Increase awareness-raising initiatives, including training on inclusive education and its implementation mandatory for teachers, support teachers and non-teaching education personnel;

(e) Increase data collection on, among others, the implementation of education laws and policies, and accessibility of school infrastructures, information and communications, including information and communications technology, to inform inclusive education policies.

Montenegro (2017)

44. The Committee is concerned about the absence of any comprehensive legislation for quality, inclusive education. It is also concerned about:

(a) The lack of comparable and comprehensive data on children with disabilities in mainstream education;

(b) The prevalence of a system of assessment for children with disabilities at school enrolment that appears to be in conflict with the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention;

(c) The absence of information on affirmative and non-discriminatory measures for the enrolment of and reasonable accommodation provided to students with disabilities in mainstream education;

(d) The largely insufficient accessibility of higher education.

45. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially targets 4.5 and 4.8, the Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts towards inclusive education, especially that it:

(a) Adopt and implement a coherent strategy and action plan with clear time frames, indicators, monitoring and evaluation benchmarks on inclusive and quality education in the mainstream education system;

(b) Collect data on children with disabilities in mainstream schools and progressively improve the accessibility of mainstream schools and tertiary education with time-bound goals, including the provision of reasonable accommodation and individual support, accessible environments, accessible and adapted school material and inclusive curricula;

(c) Revise the system of assessment of children with disabilities for school enrolment and ensure the non-discriminatory access by all children with disabilities to inclusive education, in line with general comment No. 4;

(d) Ensure mandatory pre- and in-service training for all teachers and other education personnel on inclusive quality education, allocating all necessary human, technical and financial resources.

Morocco (2017)

46. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The prevalence of a segregated special education system in the State party and the low number of students with disabilities in the regular education system and its classes;
- (b) Barriers faced by students with disabilities with respect to accessing mainstream schools, such as long distances, a lack of teachers trained in inclusive education, a lack of accessible curricula, a lack of knowledge of sign language and negative societal attitudes opposing the attendance of children with disabilities at regular schools;
- (c) The absence of measures to provide reasonable accommodation in the area of education, especially in rural areas, and the lack of a reporting mechanism for parents and children with disabilities who are denied access to education or reasonable accommodation, to ensure accountability.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education:

- (a) Adopt, implement and oversee a comprehensive plan to develop an inclusive education system throughout its territory, allocating resources for developing accessible education environments;**
- (b) Establish a permanent programme for training of teachers on inclusive education, including, preferably, training on sign language and the development of methodological tools for teaching;**
- (c) Carry out periodic information campaigns in accessible formats, including Easy Read, to promote the enrolment in education of all persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities and those living in rural areas;**
- (d) Adopt a strategy to provide reasonable accommodation in schools and other learning institutions, including through technology and classroom support, accessibility and learning materials;**
- (e) Pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and targets 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training and building and upgrading education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.**

Panama (2017)

48. The Committee is concerned that inclusive education is not a priority with regard to children and adults with disabilities and that special and segregated forms of education prevail. It is also concerned at the lack of action by government authorities to promote inclusive higher education.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party, in keeping with its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, ensure the implementation of a plan to transition definitively to inclusive education at all levels, including in higher education; the plan should provide for the training of teachers and the necessary support and resources, such as Braille and sign language, to foster inclusion, in particular of students with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and girls with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party ensure the universal accessibility of educational premises, including universities. Lastly, it recommends that the State party be guided by the Convention and general comment No. 4 in its implementation of targets 4.1, 4.5 and 4.A of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

50. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party about its reservation to article 24 (2) (a) and (b) of the Convention in relation to new evidence or research findings.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw its reservation to article 24 (2) (a) and (b) of the Convention without further delay.

52. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The persistence of a dual education system that segregates children with disabilities in special schools, including based on parental choice;
- (b) The increasing number of children with disabilities in segregated education environments;
- (c) The fact that the education system is not equipped to respond to the requirements for high-quality inclusive education, particularly reports of school authorities refusing to enrol a student with disabilities who is deemed to be “disruptive to other classmates”;
- (d) The fact that the education and training of teachers in inclusion competences does not reflect the requirements of inclusive education.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, especially organizations representing children and young persons with disabilities, and in line with the Committee’s general comment No. 4 (2014) on the right to inclusive education and targets 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive and coordinated legislative and policy framework for inclusive education and a timeframe to ensure that mainstream schools foster real inclusion of children with disabilities in the school environment and that teachers and all other professionals and persons in contact with children understand the concept of inclusion and are able to enhance inclusive education;**
- (b) Strengthen measures to monitor school practices concerning enrolment of children with disabilities and offer appropriate remedies in cases of disability-related discrimination and/or harassment, including deciding upon schemes for compensation;**
- (c) Adopt and implement a coherent and adequately financed strategy, with concrete timelines and measurable goals, on increasing and improving inclusive education. The strategy must:**
 - a. Ensure the implementation of laws, decrees and regulations on improving the extent and quality of inclusive education in classrooms, support provisions and teacher training, including pedagogical capabilities, across all levels providing for high-quality inclusive environments, including within breaks between lessons and through socialization outside “education time”;**
 - b. (ii) Set up awareness-raising and support initiatives about inclusive education among parents of children with disabilities;**
 - c. (iii) Provide sufficient, relevant data on the number of students both in inclusive and segregated education, disaggregated by impairment, age, sex and ethnic background, and on the outcome of the education, reflecting the capabilities of the students.**

Armenia (2017)

41. The Committee is concerned that, despite the increasing trend towards inclusive education, many children with disabilities remain in segregated educational settings and do not receive the support they need to access inclusive education. It is also concerned about the lack of accessibility and reasonable accommodation for children with disabilities in mainstream schools, and the lack of sufficient support and training for administrative and teaching staff with regard to inclusive education. The Committee is further concerned about the absence of a comprehensive strategy to promote inclusive education in urban and rural areas.

42. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially targets 4.5 and 4 (a), the Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts towards inclusive education, in particular that it:

(a) Intensify efforts to implement the Law on making supplements and amendments to the Law on general education in order to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels by 2025;

(b) Ensure accessibility and allocate the resources necessary to guarantee reasonable accommodation to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities, including those living in urban and rural areas, to inclusive and quality education, including preschool and tertiary education;

(c) Make training on inclusive education and on its implementation mandatory for administrative and teaching staff.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

42. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There is no comprehensive legislation with an effective strategy on inclusive education, for example that includes preschool services for children with disabilities;

(b) There is a lack of data on measures adopted to provide standardized and regulated transparent protocols relating to individual education plans, as well as on relevant technologies and forms of communication to ensure accessibility for pupils and students with disabilities at all levels of education;

(c) There is a lack of comparable data on funding earmarked for children with disabilities in mainstream education, as well as on affirmative measures to enrol and provide accommodation for students with disabilities;

(d) Only limited accessibility is provided in higher education for students with disabilities.

43. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.8, the Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts towards inclusive education, and in particular that it:

(a) Adopt and implement a coherent strategy on inclusive education in the mainstream educational system;

(b) Ensure the accessibility of school environments, in line with the Convention, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation, accessible and adapted materials and inclusive curricula;

(c) Allocate effective and sufficient financial, material and adequately trained human resources, that include persons with disabilities;

(d) Incorporate inclusive education training into university curricula for future teachers and training programmes for current teaching staff, with an adequate budget.

Canada (2017)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The persistence of segregated special education environments for students with disabilities who require a high-level of support or when it is considered that a student with disabilities may interfere in the educational process of his or her peers;

(b) The gap in access to education and educational achievements by persons with disabilities;

(c) The lower levels of educational achievement among women and girls with disabilities;

(d) Children in segregated schools not benefiting from after-school programmes, which reduce their ability to engage in leisure and physical activities that are essential for their health and development;

(e) Isolation of hard-of-hearing and deaf children in education due to the lack of peer groups.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt, implement and oversee policies on inclusive and quality education throughout its territory;
- (b) Promote the enrolment in education of all persons with disabilities, especially women and children, members of indigenous communities and those living in remote and rural areas;
- (c) Ensure that teachers are trained in inclusive education at all levels and in sign language and other accessible formats of information and communication;
- (d) Adopt a strategy for the provision of reasonable accommodation in schools and other learning institutions, including through technology and classroom support, accessibility and learning materials;
- (e) Be guided by article 24 of the Convention and by the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education while implementing targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (f) Ensure sign language learning environments in bilingual schools to enable hard-of-hearing and deaf children who sign to be fully included in education.

Cyprus (2017)

49. The Committee is deeply concerned about the absence of a clear and implemented concept of inclusive education in mainstream schools in national legislation. It notes with concern that segregated education remains rooted in the education system, which is also frequently reflected by the attitudes of teachers and other relevant professionals.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Decide upon a clear legislative scope of inclusive education and monitor its implementation with a view to fully replacing segregated education by inclusive education;
- (b) Adopt a clear, targeted and adequately funded plan of action that includes access to reasonable accommodation and adequate teacher education and training, and progressively ensure that children and adult learners with disabilities are able to exercise their right to inclusive education;
- (c) Be guided by general comment No. 4 (2016) and targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals in ensuring equal access to all levels and types of education, education facilities and vocational training by persons with disabilities.

Honduras (2017)

51. Al Comité le preocupa que la educación de las personas con discapacidad la lleve la Subdirección General de Educación para Personas con Capacidades Diferentes o Talentos Excepcionales, prevaleciendo la educación especial y segregada a todos los niveles a través de evaluaciones basadas en las discapacidades de las personas. También le preocupa que no exista una formación en la educación inclusiva para maestros, impidiendo la transición a un sistema de educación inclusiva. Asimismo, le preocupa la falta de apoyo para las niñas y niños con deficiencias auditivas y que la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras dentro de su oferta académica haya cerrado la carrera de técnico intérprete en la lengua de señas.

52. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte, en consonancia con su observación general núm. 4 (2016) sobre el derecho a la educación inclusiva, que la política de educación de las personas con discapacidad tenga un enfoque inclusivo, implementando un plan para una transición hacia la educación inclusiva, a todo nivel hasta el superior, capacitando a docentes y disponiendo de los apoyos y recursos necesarios, tales como la disposición de textos escolares en braille, en lectura fácil, en formato electrónico accesible, e intérpretes de lengua de señas, para llevar a cabo dicha inclusión, en particular, que se tome en cuenta a las personas con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial, sordociegos y de comunidades afrohondureñas e indígenas. Le recomienda también que desarrolle e integre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en la formación de docentes. Asimismo, el Comité recomienda que la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras vuelva a abrir dentro de su oferta académica la carrera de técnico intérprete en la lengua de señas.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

46. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Prevalence of the model of special education in the State party, the low number of children in the mainstream school and the gap between girls and boys with disabilities attending mainstream education;
- (b) Lack of measures to train teachers, education personnel and parents concerning inclusive education;
- (c) Lack of information on the provision of reasonable accommodation and support for students in the mainstream setting; and
- (d) Absence of measures to improve access to education for children with disabilities living in rural communities.

47. **The Committee calls upon the State party to:**

- (a) Establish a time frame for the transition process from segregated to inclusive and quality education and ensure availability of budgetary, technical and personal resources are available to complete the process;**
- (b) Collect disaggregated statistics by age, sex, gender, ethnic background, migrant, asylum seeker and refugee status, on the advancement of the inclusive education system;**
- (c) Ensure and enforce non-rejection of students with disabilities from mainstream schools and introduce reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities as an obligation at private and public mainstream schools;**
- (d) Take measures to employ teachers with disabilities at all levels of education;**
- (e) Undertake measures, including by encouraging public-private partnerships, to ensure the provision of assistive technologies in classrooms; and**
- (f) Ensure the training of all teachers in inclusive education.**

Jordan (2017)

45. The Committee notes the absence of systematic data collection on the enrolment and dropout of children with disabilities in both mainstream and special education schools. It is concerned that many children with disabilities do not enjoy quality inclusive education. It is also concerned that teachers lack training on delivering the mathematics and computers curricula in a manner that is accessible to all, with the result that these curricula are being denied to deaf and blind students.

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Recognize inclusive education as the guiding principle of the education system, in line with its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education;**
- (b) Adopt the draft law on the national plan for inclusive education and involve persons with disabilities – more specifically children – through their representative organizations, in its adoption and implementation;³**
- (c) Allocate sufficient financial and human resources to ensure the provision of individual support and reasonable accommodation to enable children with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, to receive quality inclusive education on all curricula;⁴**
- (d) Ensure systematic collection of data, disaggregated by age, sex, impairment and location, on the enrolment and dropout of children with disabilities in both mainstream and special education schools.**

Republic of Moldova (2017)

44. The Committee is concerned that progress towards inclusive education in the State party has stalled and that:

- (a) Provisions in the Education Code of 2014 still allow for segregated schooling;
- (b) Children with disabilities, mainly those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, remain in segregated educational settings, including “special schools”, “special classes”, and “home education”, and do not receive the support they need to access inclusive education;

(c) Negative attitudes towards students with disabilities persist among administrative and teaching staff, leading to cases of children being refused admission to mainstream schools and an overall lack of familiarity with, knowledge of and skills relating to inclusive education among staff.

45. Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4 (a), the Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts towards inclusive education, particularly, that it:

(a) Amend the 2014 Education Code and ensure that no child is refused admission to mainstream schools on the basis of disability, ensure accessibility and allocate the resources necessary to guarantee reasonable accommodation to facilitate the access of students with disabilities to quality, inclusive education, including pre- school and tertiary education;

(b) Make training on inclusive education and its implementation mandatory for administrative staff and teachers.

Bolivia (2016)

55. The Committee is concerned at the low school enrolment and high dropout rates of persons with disabilities, and at the fact that most of those who are enrolled are in special, segregated schools.

56. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Adopt, implement and oversee policies on inclusive, quality education throughout its territory;

(b) Promote the enrolment of all persons with disabilities, especially women and children, members of indigenous communities and those living in remote and rural areas;

(c) Ensure that teachers are trained in inclusive education at all levels, in sign language, Braille and other accessible formats of information and communication;

(d) Adopt a strategy for the provision of reasonable adjustments in schools and other learning institutions, including technology and classroom support, accessibility and learning materials;

(e) Be guided by article 24 of the Convention and by general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education in its efforts to achieve targets 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

54. The Committee is concerned at the low levels of enrolment of persons with disabilities at all levels of education, and the prevalence of publicly funded “special classrooms” located within mainstream schools. The Committee expresses its concern that discrimination on the basis of disability is one of the main reasons that persons with disabilities are turned away by mainstream schools, particularly in municipalities and local administrations, and that that rejection impacts on families’ access to means-tested poverty-reduction programmes. It is also concerned about the lack of teaching and reading materials in accessible formats and modes of communication.

55. In line with the Committee’s general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, the Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary legal and administrative measures to prohibit and punish discrimination on grounds of disability in the education system, including by municipalities and other local community authorities. In particular, it recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a national plan to transform the system into one that provides inclusive and quality education for all persons with disabilities, at all levels, and prohibits discrimination on grounds of disability;

(b) Guarantee the observance of the right to inclusive education through the adoption of a policy of non-rejection at public and private schools, and redouble efforts to enrol all persons

with disabilities, especially those who require more intensive support, in rural and remote areas;

(c) Ensure the accessibility of environments, provide reasonable accommodation, and furnish pedagogical materials and techniques that are accessible to students with disabilities, including in Braille and Colombian sign language;

(d) Make inclusive education and the rights of persons with disabilities key components of teacher training from the outset and compulsory in the training of instructors before and during the exercise of their functions;

(e) Be guided by article 24 of the Convention in pursuing targets 4.1, 4.5 and 4.a of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ethiopia (2016)

51. Although inclusive education resource centres have been established, the Committee notes with concern the absence of a comprehensive strategy towards inclusive education system with fixed deadlines and outputs, especially for deaf students and students with intellectual disabilities. The Committee is concerned that no policy exists to enable students with disabilities to effectively access education, especially for girls with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy with a road map towards inclusive and quality education, eliminating gender disparities and ensuring equal access to all levels of education. It also recommends that the State party guarantee in the law a legally enforceable right to inclusive education and ensure the accessibility of school environments, materials and curricula, the provision of reasonable accommodation, and the regular and compulsory pre-service and in-service training of all teachers on inclusive education. It further recommends that the State party allocate effective and adequate financial, material and educated human resources and setting clear timelines, targets, baselines and indicators to secure timely and measurable progress in the implementation of the right to inclusive education, in line with targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education.

Guatemala (2016)

59. The Committee is particularly concerned by the low rate of school attendance of children with disabilities, especially in rural areas and indigenous communities. It also notes that special education remains virtually the only option available to them, owing to the persistence of negative attitudes towards their inclusion in the national education system and the existence of barriers of all kinds.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education:

(a) Establish, through its laws and policies, a free, high-quality, inclusive education system at all levels and guarantee the provision of reasonable accommodation for students who require it, with adequate funding and appropriate training for regular teachers;

(b) Adopt measures to ensure that all children with disabilities receive an education, especially those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, deaf-blind children and those from indigenous communities;

(c) Urgently implement measures to improve the accessibility of schools and all teaching materials, including the provision of textbooks in Braille and sign language interpreters, and ensure that such materials are used from the start of education;

(d) Be guided by article 24 of the Convention in its implementation of targets 4.5 and 4.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy (2016)

55. The Committee is concerned about the absence of data and indicators to monitor the quality of education and inclusion of students with disabilities in mainstream schools and

classes; the quality of teachers' education, including pre-service and in-service training on inclusive education; and the lack of implementation of laws, decrees and regulations on inclusive education.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party implement an action plan – with sufficient resources, timelines and specific goals – aimed at monitoring the implementation of laws, decrees and regulations to improve the quality of inclusive education in classrooms, support provisions and teacher training across all levels. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 24 of the Convention, including its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, in implementing targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training, and build and upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.

57. The Committee is concerned that deaf children are not provided with sign language interpreters in school if requested.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party monitor and provide highly qualified sign language interpreters for any deaf child who requests such assistance, and to desist from recommending general communication assistants as an exclusive alternative.

59. The committee is concerned at the lack of availability of accessible learning materials and the lack of assistive technology in a timely manner, which hinders the quality of education in the mainstream setting.

60. The committee recommends that the State party undertake, through legislative and other measures, including the newly drafted decree on education, to guarantee the availability of accessible learning materials and the provision of assistive technology in a timely manner in order to ensure inclusive and quality education in the mainstream setting.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

43. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That priority is still given to the provision of special education, including in mainstream schools, over the development of a fully inclusive educational system and that a comprehensive strategy for quality inclusive education is missing;

(b) That the State party has not taken sufficient steps to provide reasonable accommodation to all students with disabilities in mainstream schools, including children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;

(c) That training on inclusive education and teaching children with disabilities is not yet an integral part of core teacher training curricula in universities;

(d) About the emphasis on vocational and crafts skills as opposed to academic training for persons with disabilities;

(e) About the lack of information about illiteracy among older adults with disabilities and about opportunities to access vocational training and tertiary education;

(f) About the lack of disaggregated statistical data on children with disabilities in inclusive education and of teachers trained on inclusive education and teaching children with disabilities;

(g) That the quality of the education available to children with disabilities is not assessed.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt all the legal and other measures necessary, including a comprehensive strategy, to ensure the right of all children with disabilities, including children with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to compulsory and free primary inclusive and quality education in public and private settings, including by ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation, assistive devices, support and accessible curricula, materials and environments;

(b) Reorient resources from segregated educational settings towards quality inclusive education with the provision of reasonable accommodation and individual support, accessible environments and curricula, for all students with disabilities in mainstream

schools, at all levels, and mandatory in-service training of all teachers and all staff in education facilities on quality inclusive education;

(c)Ensure that training on inclusive education and teaching children with disabilities is compulsory and an integral part of core teacher training curricula in universities;

(d)Be guided by article 24 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to an inclusive education in the implementation of targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e)Provide, in its next periodic report, information about illiteracy among older adults with disabilities and about opportunities to access vocational and tertiary education and statistical data on the percentage of children with disabilities in inclusive education and of teachers trained in inclusive education and in teaching children with disabilities;

(f) Takes measures to assess the quality of education of children with disabilities.

Uruguay (2016)

51. Al Comité le preocupa que no exista una política integral de educación inclusiva y que prevalezca la educación especial y segregada a todos los niveles con evaluaciones basadas en las discapacidades de las personas. También le preocupa que no exista una formación en la educación inclusiva para maestros, impidiendo la transición a un sistema de educación inclusivo.

52. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente un plan con una hoja de ruta para una transición hacia la educación inclusiva de calidad, a todo nivel hasta el superior, capacitando a docentes y disponiendo de los apoyos y recursos necesarios, tales como el Braille y la lengua de señas y en particular que se tome en cuenta a las personas con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial. Le recomienda también que desarrolle e integre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad como elemento obligatorio en la formación de docentes y adoptar una política de no rechazo para la admisión de estudiantes con discapacidad. El Comité también le recomienda que lleve a cabo campañas de toma de conciencia dirigidas a la sociedad en general, las escuelas y las familias de personas con discapacidad, con el fin de promover la educación inclusiva y de calidad. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 24 de la Convención, el Comentario general No. 4 del Comité sobre el derecho a la educación inclusiva, y las metas 4.1, 4.5 y 4.a de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, para promover la educación inclusiva y de calidad, en entornos inclusivos y con instalaciones educativas accesibles para todos.

Chile (2016)

49. Al Comité le preocupa que, pese a la reforma educativa reciente, la educación inclusiva no sea prioritaria para las niñas, niños y adultos con discapacidad, y prevalezca la educación especial y segregada. También le preocupa que no existan esfuerzos de las autoridades gubernamentales para promover la educación inclusiva superior.

50. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

(a)La implementación de un plan para transicionar hacia la educación inclusiva, a todo nivel hasta el superior, capacitando a docentes, llevando a cabo campañas integrales de toma de conciencia y fomentando la cultura de la diversidad;

(b)Asegurar la educación individualizada y disponer de los apoyos y recursos necesarios, tales como el Braille y la lengua de señas, para llevar a cabo dicha inclusión, en particular tomando en cuenta a las personas con discapacidad intelectual o discapacidad psicosocial;

(c)Asegurar la accesibilidad a las instituciones de educación superior, incluyendo mediante ajustes razonables en los procedimientos de admisión y todos los demás aspectos cubiertos por la educación superior;

(d)Prestar atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 24 de la Convención y el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 4 y las metas 4.5 y 4.8.

Lithuania (2016)

45. The Committee is concerned at reports that:

- (a) Many students with disabilities, particularly those with visual, auditory, psychosocial or intellectual impairment, in preschool and primary and secondary education are referred to and obliged to attend special schools due to a lack of reasonable accommodation and accessibility in the mainstream educational system, among other reasons;
- (b) All too often, the special education system or home schooling are the only options for children with disabilities;
- (c) Not all children with disabilities enjoy the right to free and compulsory primary education or to affordable secondary education on the equal basis as others, as some of the public special schools do not provide education free of charge;
- (d) Children with disabilities are forced to shift to special schools as they advance to higher levels of education and the rate of enrolment of persons with disabilities in tertiary education is low;
- (e) The number of accessible means of transport is insufficient to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities and to allow them to participate fully in the education system.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement a coherent strategy on inclusive education in the mainstream educational system in accordance with article 24 of the Convention and with reference to Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.8. Through such a strategy, the State party should:

- (a) Ensure the accessibility of school environments, the provision of reasonable accommodation, accessible and adapted materials and curricula, and the compulsory pre-service and in-service training of all teachers on inclusive education;**
- (b) Secure a sufficient number of accessible means of transport to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities;**
- (c) Set clear timelines, targets, baselines and indicators to secure time-bound and measurable progress;**
- (d) Allocate effective and adequate financial, material and adequately trained human resources.**

47. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee a legally enforceable right to inclusive, quality and free primary education and to affordable secondary education on an equal basis with others.

48. The Committee also recommends that the State party facilitate access for persons with disabilities to tertiary education and vocational training, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation in higher education.

Portugal (2016)

44. The Committee notes that although the vast majority of students with disabilities in the State party attend mainstream schools, there is a lack of support, and that due to the austerity measures, there have been cuts in human and material resources that compromise the right and opportunity for an inclusive and quality education. The Committee also notes that the State party has established 'schools of reference' for deaf, deafblind, blind and partially sighted students and for students with autism, which constitutes a form of segregation and discrimination.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, revise its legislation in the field of education to bring it into line with the Convention, and take steps to increase human and material resources and to facilitate access and enjoyment of a quality inclusive education for all pupils with disabilities, providing state schools with adequate resources to ensure the inclusion of all students with disabilities in mainstream classrooms. The Committee also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and SDG 4, targets 4.5 and 4(a) to ensure equal access to all levels of education

and vocational training; as well as build and upgrade education facilities that are disability-sensitive and safe.

46. The Committee is concerned that, despite there being a special quota for students with disabilities to enter public universities, the State party has not adopted regulations governing the support universities are obliged to provide to said students. In addition, it is concerned that access to certain university degrees and professional qualifications is restricted for students with specific disabilities.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party regulates the legislation of general access for students with disabilities to further education and vocational training, under the same conditions as other students and ensuring the provision of the reasonable accommodations and necessary support services.

Serbia (2016)

47. The Committee is concerned that more than half of the children living in residential care institution are not in education and that few measures have been adopted to provide standardised and regulated transparent protocols relating to individual education plans, as well as relevant technologies and forms of communication ensuring accessibility for pupils and students with disabilities at all levels of education.

48. The Committee urges the State party to identify concrete targets in the Action Plan for inclusive education for the period 2016-2020, to meet inclusive education standards and requirements. Special attention should be given to children with multiple disabilities, pupils and students with disabilities living in institutions, to the development of individual education plans, and accommodation of all types of disabilities.

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comparable data on funding earmarked for children with disabilities in mainstreaming and special education as well as affirmative measures for the enrolment of and accommodation provided for student with disabilities. In addition, the Committee is also concerned about the low level of accessibility provided in higher education for students with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate steps to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to inclusive and quality primary, secondary and tertiary education and that reasonable accommodation, in accordance with established individual education plans, is provided in mainstream education. It recommends that teachers and other education professionals receive training on inclusive education and that all secondary and tertiary education facilities be made accessible. The Committee stresses that denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination. The Committee also recommends the State party pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 4, targets 4.5 and 4(a).

Slovakia (2016)

67. The Committee is concerned that the right to inclusive education for all children and students with disabilities is not available, and about the persistence of a segregated education system. Further, the Committee is concerned at the lack of measures to implement an inclusive education system and the ongoing placement of Roma children in segregated schools for children with disabilities.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee also recommends that the State party:

(a) Introduce an enforceable right to inclusive and quality education in the Education Act, including by defining inclusive education in accordance with the Incheon Declaration on education 2030: towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and Sustainable Development Goal No. 4;

- (b) Adopt a legally binding plan for the transition from segregated schools into inclusive education at all levels, including by setting timelines, identifying responsible authorities, and allocating adequate resources;**
- (c) Ensure that all children with disabilities who so require have access to personal assistance and allocate resources for this purpose;**
- (d) Ensure available, accessible and inclusive preschool education for all children with disabilities;**
- (e) Put an end to the process of placing Roma children in segregated schools for children with disabilities on the basis of their ethnic background.**

Thailand (2016)

45. The Committee is concerned that the right to inclusive education remains unfulfilled for many persons with disabilities; that some schools refuse to admit students with disabilities; and that staff and educational establishments, particularly in rural and remote areas, have limited capacity, skills and resources.

46. The Committee calls upon the State party to adopt all legal and other measures necessary to ensure the provision, as a legally enforceable right, of inclusive quality education to persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, in mainstream schools within their communities. The Committee also recommends that the State party allocate adequate resources, provide reasonable accommodation and individualized support measures to students with disabilities and ensure the mandatory pre-and in-service training of teachers and other education personnel on inclusive education. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training, and build and upgrade education facilities that are disability- sensitive and safe.

Uganda (2016)

48. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The promotion of segregated educational institutions in the State party over an inclusive education system;**
- (b) The lack of adequately trained teachers to promote inclusive education at all levels of the education system;**
- (c) The inability of schools to meet the accessibility requirements of children with disabilities and the non-admission of children with severe disabilities;**
- (d) The absence of statistical data on learners with disabilities disaggregated by age, gender and disability type.**

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite taking action, establish a time frame for the transition process from segregated to inclusive education and ensure that budgetary, technical and professional resources are available to complete the process and collect disaggregated data on the advancement of the inclusive education system;**
- (b) Ensure the accessibility to school facilities for all students with disabilities, including deaf-blind children, provide materials and curricula adequate to their requirements and generally take measures to prevent non-admission of children with disabilities in the education system;**
- (c) Take measures including by encouraging public/private partnerships to ensure the provision of individualized accessible information and communications technology and assistive technologies in education;**
- (d) Undertake a comprehensive review of the teacher training curriculum at all levels of education and provide mandatory training on inclusive education in core curricula of teachers both pre- and in-service to provide for disability awareness, inclusive education**

pedagogy, sign language, Braille, easy-to-read material and tactile communication training for all professionals;

(e) Develop a database on learners with disabilities to identify and provide specific learning aids;

(f) Pay attention to the links between article 24 of the Convention and targets 4.5 and 4 (a) of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Brazil (2015)

44. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities are refused admission to schools, or are charged extra fees. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about a lack of reasonable accommodation and accessible school environments in the mainstream education system.

45. The Committee recommends the State party to strengthen its efforts with adequate budgetary allocations to consolidate an inclusive quality education system. It also recommends to implement a mechanism to prohibit, monitor and sanction disability-based discrimination in the public and private education systems, and to provide reasonable accommodation and accessibility in all educational facilities.

European Union (2015)

60. The Committee is concerned that in different European Union Member States many boys and girls, and adults with disabilities cannot access inclusive quality education in line with the Convention.

61. The Committee recommends that the European Union evaluate the current situation, and take measures to facilitate access to, and enjoyment of, inclusive quality education for all students with disabilities in line with the Convention, and include disability-specific indicators in the Europe 2020 Strategy when pursuing the target on education.

EU Institutions compliance with the Convention (as public administrations)

84. The Committee is concerned that not all students with disabilities receive the reasonable accommodation they need to enjoy their right to inclusive quality education in European Schools in line with the Convention, and that the latter do not comply with the non-rejection clause. It is further concerned that European Schools are not fully accessible to children with disabilities nor do they provide for inclusive quality education.

85. The Committee recommends that the European Union take necessary measures to ensure that all students with disabilities receive the reasonable accommodation they need to enjoy their right to inclusive quality education in European Schools. It recommends European Schools to implement a no-rejection policy based on disability and ensure quality inclusive education for all students with disabilities.

Gabon (2015)

52. The Committee is concerned that the education of children with disabilities is restricted to segregated schools and about the lack of provision of inclusive, quality education to children with disabilities in mainstream schools. It is further concerned about the so-called verbo-tonal teaching approach applied exclusively in the education of Deaf children instead of providing education in the language of their choosing.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all necessary measures, including those of legislative nature, to ensure the provision of inclusive, quality education to children with disabilities in mainstream schools within their communities, based on the way and method of communication of their choosing. It also recommends that the State party allocate the appropriate resources, provide reasonable accommodation, accessible curricula, and ensure the mandatory pre-service and in-service training of all teachers and other educational personnel on inclusive, quality education.

Kenya (2015)

43. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Persistence of segregated education institutions in the State party;
- (b) Lack of information on the situation of children with high level of support needs such as deaf-mute children;
- (c) Lack of information on the provision of assistive technologies in classroom for all children with disabilities in rural and urban areas; and
- (d) Absence of measures to ensure continuous training of teachers on sign language.

44. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

- (a) Establish a timeframe for the transition process from segregated to inclusive quality education and ensure that budgetary, technical and personal resources are available to complete the process and collect disaggregated data on the advancement of the inclusive education system;**
- (b) Immediately adopt a non-rejection policy for children with disabilities enrolling in regular schools and to provide reasonable accommodation;**
- (c) Ensure the accessibility to schools facilities for deaf mute children and provide materials and curricula adequate to their needs;**
- (d) Undertake measures, including by encouraging public private partnerships to ensure the provision of assistive technologies in education; and**
- (e) Ensure the training of all teachers in inclusive education, and establish a programme for continuous training in sign language in mainstream schools and universities.**

Mauritius (2015)

33. The Committee is concerned about the slow implementation of the 2006 official policy of inclusive education resulting in the education system remaining mostly segregated and many children with disabilities being fully deprived of any form of education. The Committee is also concerned about clause 11 of the draft Disability Bill which provides with a general exception to inclusive education and about the creation foreseen of 14 "integrated" units in mainstream schools, a system which would prolong segregation of pupils and delay the creation of a fully inclusive school. The Committee is concerned about children with disabilities aged two or three years old being enrolled in NGO-run specialized schools, especially pupils with sensory disabilities, thus preventing from the very beginning their inclusion in mainstream schools. It is further concerned about pupils with disabilities who do not have access to public transport in rural areas without reimbursement for other means of transport being covered.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party reconsider clause 11 of the draft Disability Bill and renounce to the creation of integrated units in schools but promptly engage in the creation of a fully funded and inclusive quality education system while ensuring that those who have been deprived of education can access life long learning education and vocational training. The State party should ensure tailored education plans for all students with disabilities, the provision of mandatory pre-service and in-service specific training to all teachers on inclusive education and the availability of assistive devices, individual support in classrooms, of accessible educational materials and curricula, and of accessible transport, equipment and school environments, with the corresponding budget allocations. The State party should also promote the enrolment of all children with disabilities in quality inclusive education.

Qatar (2015)

43. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not taken sufficient steps to provide reasonable accommodation to all students with disabilities in mainstream schools as well as the absence of a strategy for quality inclusive education. It is also concerned that only students with certain kinds of impairments attend mainstream education while others are enrolled at separate and segregated facilities or are awaiting placement and not in the

education system. The Committee is also concerned by the high rates of illiteracy among older adults with disabilities and the lack of opportunities to access vocational training and tertiary education.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the necessary legal and other measures to ensure the right of all children with disabilities to compulsory and free primary quality inclusive education. It also recommends that the State party reorient resources from segregated educational settings towards quality inclusive education with the provision of reasonable accommodation and individual supports, accessible environments and curricula, for all students with disabilities in mainstream schools and mandatory in-service training of all teachers and all staff in education facilities on quality inclusive education. It also recommends that the State party ensure that the Supreme Education Council be responsible for coordinating the availability of appropriate life-long learning environments for persons with disabilities.

Ukraine (2015)

44. The Committee notes with deep concern that special segregated schools still remain the predominant form of educating children with disabilities. It regrets that the State party has not introduced universal design and reasonable accommodation principles in its legislative framework on education, and lacks measures such as training teachers and other professionals, providing architectural access to school premises and other support mechanisms to develop quality inclusive education.

45. The Committee recommends the State party to introduce the right to inclusive quality education, including universal design and reasonable accommodation in its legislation on education. The Committee calls upon the State party to intensify its efforts and allocate sufficient financial and human resources for training for all teachers, accessibility of school environments and educational facilities, material and curricula, including information and communications and provision of individual support.

Cook Islands (2015)

43. The Committee is concerned that there is an insufficient budget allocation and provision of support for inclusive education.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure an inclusive quality education system;**
- (b) Introduce individual education plans for all students with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure the availability of assistive devices and support in classrooms, accessible educational materials and curricula, equipment and school environments, with corresponding allocation of budget.**

Croatia (2015)

35. The Committee is concerned that a large number of persons with disabilities have not completed primary education, that less than 30% have completed secondary education, and that steps to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities in mainstream educational facilities are insufficient. It is further concerned that exclusionary and segregated education of persons with disabilities is not considered discriminatory.

36. The Committee recommends the State party to take immediate steps to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to inclusive quality primary, secondary and tertiary education and that reasonable accommodation is provided in mainstream education. It further recommends establishing the principle that exclusionary and segregated education is discriminatory. It recommends that teachers and other professionals receive training on inclusive education and that all secondary education facilities are made accessible to persons with disabilities.

Czech Republic (2015)

46. The Committee notes with concern that in spite of efforts made, significant number of boys and girls with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities, autism and deaf-blind, still receive their education in special schools and classes, and outside of mainstream schools.

47. The Committee recommends the State party to implement the amended School Act and to embrace inclusive education as the guiding principle of the education system, and to ensure the admission in mainstream school of children with disabilities. in line with the article 24 of the Convention. The Committee calls upon the State party to intensify its efforts and allocate sufficient financial and human resources for reasonable accommodations that will enable boys and girls with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, autism and deaf-blind, to receive inclusive quality education.

Dominican Republic (2015)

44. El Comité observa con preocupación que los esfuerzos por incluir a niñas, niños, jóvenes y personas adultas con discapacidad en la educación regular son insuficientes y dependen principalmente de las organizaciones de sociedad civil en ausencia de una política estatal con este objetivo. Adicionalmente, preocupa que todavía un alto porcentaje de centros educativos con estudiantes con discapacidad sean escuelas de educación especial, y que los docentes que se forman en las universidades lo hagan desde la perspectiva de la educación especial segregada y fomentando la continuidad de la segregación, contraria a la educación inclusiva que establece la Convención.

45. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

(a) Adoptar una política para brindar acceso a la educación inclusiva de calidad en todos los niveles educativos, tomando particularmente en cuenta el enfoque de género, tanto en zonas urbanas como rurales;

(b) Diseñar e implementar un plan con metas y plazos definidos para la transición de estudiantes con discapacidad de la educación especial a escuelas en el sistema de educación inclusiva, bajo la responsabilidad del Ministerio de Educación; y

(c) Promover una estrategia de formación de docentes y otros para la educación inclusiva en todos los niveles educativos.

Germany (2015)

45. The Committee is concerned that the State party has an education system where the majority of students with disabilities attend segregated special-needs schools.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Immediately develop a strategy, action plan, timeline and targets to provide access to a high quality inclusive education system across all Länder, including the required financial resources and personnel at all levels;

(b) Scale down segregated schools to facilitate inclusion, and recommends that the law and policies uphold the duty that mainstream schools enroll children with disabilities with immediate effect if that is their choice;

(c) Ensure reasonable accommodation is provided at all levels of education, and be legally enforceable and justiciable before the courts;

(d) Ensure training of all teachers in inclusive education and increased accessibility of the school environment, materials and curricula, and the provision of sign language in mainstream schools, including at the post-doctoral level.

Mongolia (2015)

37. The Committee is concerned that the number of teachers trained on teaching children with disabilities remains low. The Committee is also concerned that the State party does not have specific measures for ensuring an inclusive education system in pursuance of its initiatives

such as the Law on Education, and the Master Plan for Developing Education in Mongolia (2006-2015).

38. The Committee recommends that the State party consider including training on education for children with disabilities as a mandatory part of the syllabus for teacher training while providing options for further specialisation or advanced training on this. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party develop specific policy and programs, with an allocated budget to implement an inclusive education system in order to ensure quality inclusive education to enable all children with disabilities to receive inclusive education in their own localities. In doing so, the State party should ensure that this does not subject children with disabilities to an assessment of whether their disability is considered “minor” or “major”.

Turkmenistan (2015)

43. The Committee is concerned about the lack of concrete data, indicators and binding targets to monitor the transition to an inclusive education system. It is especially concerned about the placement of children with disabilities in special boarding and other specialized schools. It is also concerned about the insufficient safeguards for parents with children with disabilities regarding the decisions of medical and educational assessment commissions on children’s placement in regular schools, as well as about the imposition of vocational training on some students with disabilities after completion of their basic education.

44. The Committee recommends that the process of inclusive education of students with disabilities be not dependent solely and exclusively on the decision of a commission for the medical-educational assessment only but also on providing pupils with disabilities with accessible conditions in schools and on ensuring that they are free to decide on the vocational training they want to receive. The Committee recommends the State party to publish relevant, periodic, detailed and disaggregated data, including by academic year, on achievements relating to inclusive quality education with special regards to the use of sign language, Braille, and other forms of accessible formats of augmentative and alternative communication. The State party should also ensure that inclusive education is an integral part of core teacher training in universities.

New Zealand (2014)

49. The Committee notes the steps being taken to increase inclusive primary and secondary education, and the ongoing challenges to making the education system fully inclusive, such as the lack of reasonable accommodation. The Committee is concerned at reports indicating that children with disabilities experience bullying in schools, and notes that there is no enforceable right to inclusive education.

50. The Committee recommends that further work be undertaken to increase the provision of reasonable accommodation in primary and secondary education, and to increase the levels of entry into tertiary education for persons with disabilities. The Committee encourages the State party to implement anti-bullying programmes and to establish an enforceable right to inclusive education.

Denmark (2014)

52. While noting a Government reform to promote inclusion of children with disabilities in the general education system, the Committee is concerned at the lack of clarity regarding the extent to which pupils with disabilities can receive adequate support and accommodation to facilitate their education, and regarding the discrepancies in accomplishment rates between pupils with and without disabilities in elementary, secondary and higher education.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation to ensure the inclusion of all children with disabilities in the mainstream education system, with adequate support and accommodation, in particular through the provision of adequate training to teachers and other employees in the school system in all parts of the Kingdom of Denmark,

in order to ensure quality education for pupils with disabilities. The State party should take measures to address discrepancies in accomplishment rates between pupils with and without disabilities at all levels of education.

54. The Committee is concerned at reports that children in need of more than 9 hours of special education per week may submit a complaint to the Special Education Board, unlike children in need of fewer than 9 hours of special education per week who cannot submit a complaint to an independent authority regarding a lack of adequate educational support.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation to ensure that all children with disabilities can submit a complaint to an independent authority if they do not receive adequate educational support.

Republic of Korea (2014)

45. The Committee is concerned that, despite the existence of an inclusive education policy, students with disabilities in regular schools return to special schools. It is further concerned about reports that students with disabilities enrolled in regular schools fail to receive education that is suitable to their impairment-related needs.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Conduct research into the effectiveness of the current education inclusion policy;

(b) Step up efforts to provide inclusive education and reasonable accommodation in schools and other learning institutions by providing, inter alia, assistive technology and support in classrooms, accessible and adapted educational materials and curricula, and accessible school environments;

(c) Intensify training for education personnel, including teachers and administrators in regular schools.

Belgium (2014)

36. The Committee is concerned at reports that many students with disabilities are referred to and obliged to attend special schools because of the lack of reasonable accommodation in the mainstream education system. As inclusive education is not guaranteed, the special education system remains an all too frequent option for children with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about poor accessibility in schools.

37. The Committee requests that the State party implement a coherent inclusive education strategy for children with disabilities in the mainstream system and ensure the provision of adequate financial, material and human resources. It recommends that the State party ensure that children with disabilities receive the educational support they need, in particular through the provision of accessible school environments, reasonable accommodation, individual learning plans, assistive technology in classrooms, and accessible and adapted materials and curricula, and guarantee that all teachers, including teachers with disabilities, receive comprehensive training on the use of Braille and sign language with a view to improving the education of all children with disabilities, including boys and girls who are blind, deaf-blind, deaf or hard of hearing. The Committee also recommends that inclusive education should form an integral part of teacher training at university and during continuing professional development.

Ecuador (2014)

36. The Committee is concerned: (a) That persons with disabilities are educated only up to primary level and that, out of a total of 4.14 million registered students nationwide, only 24,499 are students with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that the average number of years of schooling of persons with disabilities is three to four years, compared with the national average of nine years; (b) That, despite efforts to provide professional training for teachers so that they can cope with the demands of inclusive education, a further effort is still required to meet all educational needs; (c) At the procedural and organizational guarantees that the State currently has in place for the review and monitoring by the National Council for

the Equality of Persons with Disabilities and district units supporting inclusion of access by persons with disabilities to inclusive education; (d) That few persons with disabilities have access to State which have not yet adjusted their curriculum and made their main facilities accessible so that persons with disabilities can enrol in their various courses.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Introduce a State programme to ensure that all persons with disabilities living in Ecuador can enrol in primary, secondary and higher secondary education and have access to an inclusive education system and that the system is strengthened at the higher levels; (b) Deploy greater efforts in initial and continuous training for teachers so that they can cope with the demands of inclusive education for persons with disabilities; (c) Facilitate procedures for persons with disabilities to submit complaints to the National Council for the Equality of Persons with Disabilities so as to ensure more effective monitoring of obligations in this area. The Committee also recommends that there be a district inclusion support unit in each school district and not in each province, as is currently the case; (d) Step up efforts to implement models of inclusive education for persons with disabilities at the university level by encouraging adaptations to the curriculum and premises of universities for the various courses they offer.

Mexico (2014)

47. The Committee is particularly concerned at:

- (a) The persistence of the special education model;
- (b) The fact that not all children with disabilities receive an education; and
- (c) The lack of accessible schools and didactic materials, including textbooks in Braille and sign-language interpreters.

48. The Committee calls on the State party to:

- (a) Establish, in law and policy, an inclusive education system at all levels – primary, secondary and post-secondary – along with provisions for reasonable accommodations, adequate funding and training for regular teachers;
- (b) Adopt measures to ensure that all children with disabilities receive an education, especially those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, blind-deaf children and those from indigenous communities; and
- (c) Urgently implement measures for the accessibility of schools and didactic materials, including Braille and sign language, and ensure their use from the start of education.

Sweden (2014)

47. The Committee is concerned by reports that schools can refuse admission to certain pupils with disabilities on the grounds of organizational and economic hardship. The Committee is further concerned at reports indicating that some children who need extensive support cannot attend school due to a lack of such support.

48. The Committee urges the State party to guarantee the inclusion of all children with disabilities in the mainstream education system and ensure that they have the required support.

Azerbaijan (2014)

40. The Committee is concerned that children with disabilities continue to be placed in special boarding and other specialised schools.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Step up efforts to provide inclusive education and reasonable accommodation in schools and other institutions of learning by providing, inter alia, assistive technology and support in classrooms, accessible and adapted educational materials and curricula as well as accessible school environments;
- (b) Allocate sufficient financial and human resources to implement the State Programme on Inclusive Education;

- (c) Step up efforts to provide quality training for teachers including teachers with disabilities in the use of braille and sign language with a view of enhancing the education of all categories of children with disabilities, including deaf and hard of hearing girls and boys; and ensure that inclusive education is an integral part of core teacher training in universities;
- (d) Conduct research into the effectiveness of the current inclusive education programme and the extent to which accessibility standards are being complied with in the State party; and
- (e) Include in its next periodic report data on the number of inclusive schools that enrolled students with disabilities disaggregated by academic year, sex and disability as well as region.

Costa Rica (2014)

45. The Committee regrets the continuing existence of the special education model, under which children and young people with disabilities are segregated and have no access to inclusive education, and that training for teachers and other professional staff continues to be provided within this specialized framework.

46. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a policy of training teachers in the inclusive education model, and to guarantee inclusive education by providing support for trained teachers, Braille, Costa Rican sign language, alternative means and modes of communication, easy reading texts and other auxiliary equipment and media.

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of indicators on the educational inclusion of children, young people and adults with disabilities. It is particularly concerned to note that exclusion is greater among adults with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities, persons with multiple disabilities, indigenous persons and those living in rural areas.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to inclusive education for all persons with disabilities, at all levels of education including adult education and throughout the country, and guarantee that this education model covers the most remote areas, incorporates the gender perspective and is ethnically and culturally relevant.

Australia (2013)

45. The Committee is concerned that, despite the Disability Standards for Education established to ensure access to education on an equal basis, students with disabilities continue to be placed in special schools and that many of those who are in regular schools are largely confined to special classes or units. It is further concerned that students with disabilities enrolled in regular schools receive a substandard education due to lack of reasonable accommodation. The Committee is also concerned that secondary school completion rates for students with disabilities are about half those for people without disability.

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Increases its efforts to provide reasonable accommodation of the necessary quality in education;**
- (b) Conducts research into the effectiveness of current education inclusion policies and the extent to which Disability Standards in Education are being implemented in each state and territory;**
- (c) Sets targets to increase participation and completion rates by students with disabilities in all levels of education and training.**

Austria (2013)

40. The Committee is concerned that progress towards inclusive education in Austria appears to have stagnated. The Committee notes with concern reports suggesting that the number of children in special schools is on the increase and that insufficient effort has been made to support the inclusive education of children with disabilities. It further notes that there exists

some confusion between inclusive education and integrated education. However, the Committee commends the establishment in several Länder of model regions of education.

41. The Committee is disappointed that there are very few university graduates with disabilities in Austria. Although Austria is to be commended for offering sign language interpretation to all students at tertiary level, it was stated during the constructive dialogue that there have been only 13 students with hearing impairments, of whom only three have graduated from university.

42. It also appears that there is a lack of teacher training of teachers with disabilities and teachers who use sign language. Without sufficient teachers with sign language skills, deaf children are placed at a significant disadvantage.

43. The Committee recommends that greater efforts be made to support students with disabilities in all areas of inclusive education from kindergarten to secondary school. It particularly recommends the State party to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and their representative organisations be involved in the day-to-day implementation of the models of inclusive education introduced in various Länder. The Committee further recommends that greater efforts be made to enable persons with disabilities to study at universities and other tertiary institutions. The Committee also recommends that increased efforts be made to train teachers with disabilities and train teachers who can sign with the necessary level of quality so as to enhance the education of deaf and hard of hearing girls and boys in accordance with the formal recognition of Austrian sign language in the Constitution of Austria.

[El Salvador \(2013\)](#)

49. The Committee is concerned at the low school enrolment rates among children with disabilities and the lack of reasonable accommodation to guarantee their access to education, in both urban and rural areas, and access to adult education. The Committee is concerned about discrimination in access to school and retention in school for children with psychosocial or intellectual impairments. It is also of concern to the Committee that the State party has not laid down the principle of free education for children with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop an inclusive education model at all levels, in both urban and rural areas, including a gender and cultural perspective and the reasonable accommodation needed to ensure children and adolescents with disabilities can access education;

(b) Adopt a plan and allocate the requisite budget for the compulsory training of teachers in inclusive education techniques in respect of persons with disabilities, thereby removing the barriers to access and retention for children with psychosocial or intellectual impairments in education;

(c) Implement initiatives and public-private partnerships to design accessible pedagogical tools and teaching methods and provide students with disabilities with access to new technologies and the Internet.

[Paraguay \(2013\)](#)

57. The Committee is concerned at the low numbers of children with disabilities enrolled in school (less than 1 per cent) and at the fact that most of those schools are special schools, and at the persistent use of terminology drawn from the medical model of disability when assessing educational standards. It also regrets the lack of information on enrolment rates in urban and rural areas and on whether education is ethnically and linguistically relevant.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party implement a strategy to give all children and adolescents with disabilities access to the national education system and that education should be inclusive at all levels and throughout the country and incorporate the gender perspective and be ethnically and linguistically relevant. The Committee urges the State party to modify educational terminology drawn from the medical model and to reorient

segregated special education towards the inclusive model and encourage it to move in that direction.

Argentina (2012)

37. The Committee notes that the legal framework regulating education in the State party expressly recognizes the principle of inclusive education (Act No. 26.206, art. 11). However, it is concerned that the implementation of this principle is limited, in practice, by a failure to tailor programmes and curricula to the needs of pupils with disabilities and by the prevalence of all sorts of barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from accessing the educational system without discrimination and on an equal footing with other students. The Committee is deeply concerned about the high number of children with disabilities who attend special schools and about the lack of educational resource centres that support the effective inclusion of students with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive State education policy that guarantees the right to inclusive education and allocates sufficient budgetary resources to ensure progress towards the establishment of an education system that includes students with disabilities. The Committee also urges the State party to intensify its efforts to ensure that all children with disabilities receive a full compulsory education as established by the State party, while devoting particular attention to indigenous peoples and other rural communities. It likewise urges the State party to take the necessary steps to ensure that pupils with disabilities who attend special schools are enrolled in inclusive schools and to offer reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities within the general education system.

China (2012)

35. The Committee is concerned about the high number of special schools and the State party's policy of actively developing these schools. The Committee is especially worried that in practice only students with certain kinds of impairments (physical disabilities or mild visual disabilities) are able to attend mainstream education, while all other children with disabilities are forced to either enrol in a special school or drop out altogether.

36. The Committee wishes to remind the State party that the concept of inclusion is one of the key notions of the Convention and should be especially adhered to in the field of education. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party reallocate resources from the special education system to promote the inclusive education in mainstream schools, so as to ensure that more children with disabilities can attend mainstream education.

Hong-Kong

73. While commending the "Integrated Education Plan" to help students with disabilities study in mainstream schools, the Committee is concerned about the implementation of the abovementioned plan. The Committee worries that the teacher-student ratio is too high and that the training for teachers in special education needs is inadequate. In addition, the Committee is troubled by the low number of students with disability in tertiary education, due to lack of a coherent education policy.

74. The Committee recommends a review of the effectiveness of the "Integrated Educated Plan" and the reduction of the teacher-student ratio as well as the training of teachers in "special education needs" and reasonable accommodation. The Committee urges Hong Kong, China, to provide sufficient resources to ensure the accessibility in tertiary education.

Macao

94. The Committee is concerned that the number of students with "special educational" needs in a non-inclusive environment is higher than that in an inclusive one. The Committee is also troubled by the low number of students with disabilities attending tertiary education.

95. The Committee wishes to remind Macao, China, that the concept of inclusive education is essential to the implementation of article 24 and should be the rule rather than an

exception. The Committee calls upon the state party to continue making tertiary education more accessible to students with disabilities.

Hungary (2012)

39. The Committee notes with appreciation that students with disabilities have the opportunity to study using sign language and the Braille system. It also notes that training in those subjects is provided to teachers. However, the Committee regrets that many students with disabilities continue to attend special educational institutions. It furthermore notes with concern that the State party has not taken sufficient steps to provide reasonable accommodation to all students with disabilities in mainstream educational facilities and to develop and promote an inclusive education system as defined by the Convention.

40. The committee is further concerned by the lack of social programmes directed to ensure the access of Roma children with disabilities to mainstream education and by the lack of adequate consultation with them and their parents in order to decide what kind of support is needed to satisfy their right to education.

41. The Committee calls upon the State party to allocate sufficient resources for the development of an inclusive education system for children with disabilities. It reiterates that denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination, and recommends the State party to significantly increase its efforts to: provide reasonable accommodation to children with disabilities based on the student's individual requirements; provide students with disabilities with required support within the general education system; and to continue training teachers and all other educational staff to enable them to work in inclusive educational settings.

42. The committee urges the State party to develop programs to ensure that Roma children with disabilities are included in mainstream education programs, without disregarding the provision of reasonable accommodation that might be needed to obtain the desired outcome.

Peru (2012)

36. While taking note with appreciation of a number of Ministerial Directives aimed at establishing the framework of an inclusive education system, the Committee is concerned at the existing gaps in the de facto implementation of these provisions, in particular at the illiteracy rate among the indigenous peoples and Afro-Peruvian communities, and the impact that this may have on the indigenous and minority children with disabilities.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate sufficient budget resources to achieve advances in the progress for an inclusive education system for children and adolescents with disabilities, and take appropriate measures to identify and reduce illiteracy among children with disabilities, especially indigenous and Afro-Peruvian children.

Spain (2011)

43. The Committee welcomes the fact that the principle of inclusion governs the schooling of pupils with special educational needs; that discrimination in education is prohibited; and that most children with disabilities are included in the regular education system. It commends the enactment of Organic Act 2/2006 on education, which obliges the education authorities to provide specialist teachers, qualified professionals and the necessary materials and resources, as well as the laws that oblige schools to make necessary curricular adjustments and diversifications for pupils with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned by the implementation of these laws in practice, in view of reported cases of failure to provide reasonable accommodation, of continued segregation and exclusion, of financial arguments used as justification for discrimination, and of the cases of children enrolled in special education against their parents' will. The Committee notes with concern that parents challenging the placement of their children with disabilities in special education have no

possibility of appeal and that their only alternative is to educate them at their own expense or pay for the reasonable accommodation of their child in the regular education system.

44. The Committee reiterates that denial of reasonable accommodation constitutes discrimination and that the duty to provide reasonable accommodation is immediately applicable and not subject to progressive realization. It recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase its efforts to provide reasonable accommodation in education, by: allocating sufficient financial and human resources to implement the right to inclusive education; paying particular attention to assessing the availability of teachers with specialist qualifications; and ensuring that educational departments of local governments understand their obligations under the Convention and act in conformity with its provisions;

(b) Ensure that the decisions to place children with a disability in a special school or in special classes, or to offer them solely a reduced-standard curriculum, are taken in consultation with the parents;

(c) Ensure that the parents of children with disabilities are not obliged to pay for the education or for the measures of reasonable accommodation in mainstream schools;

(d) Ensure that decisions on placing children in segregated settings can be appealed swiftly and effectively.

Tunisia (2010)

30. The Committee takes note of the national programme of inclusive education for children with disabilities. However, it notes with deep concern that, in practice, the inclusion strategy is not equally implemented in schools; rules relating to the number of children in mainstream schools and to the management of inclusive classes are commonly breached; and schools are not equitably distributed between regions of the same governorate.

31. The Committee is equally concerned that many integrated schools are not equipped to receive children with disabilities, and that the training of teachers and administrators with regard to disabilities remains a concern in the State Party.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion on an equal basis with others and, in this regard, provide information intended for the general public in accessible formats and – especially with respect to the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deafblind – recognize and promote the use of sign language;

(b) Increase its efforts to enforce inclusive education for girls and boys with disabilities in all schools;

(c) Intensify training for education personnel, including teachers and administrators;

(d) Allocate sufficient financial and human resources to implement the national programme of inclusive education for children with disabilities.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 25 CRPD
(Health)*

September 2025

Article 25 – Health

States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall:

- (a) Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;*
- (b) Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;*
- (c) Provide these health services as close as possible to people's own communities, including in rural areas;*
- (d) Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care;*
- (e) Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner;*
- (f) Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability.*

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Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Peru (2012)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 25 on Turkmenistan, Belgium, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Australia, Austria, Hungary, Spain and Tunisia.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

48. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Systemic barriers to healthcare for persons with disabilities, which persist despite the State Party's commitment to universal and free healthcare, due to ineffective implementation and inadequate monitoring. These barriers include inaccessible facilities and information, lack of reasonable accommodation, persisting prejudices among healthcare professionals, uneven policy implementation between urban and rural areas, and the high cost of certain treatment;
- (b) A lack of access to essential medication, including antibiotics, anaesthetics, pain relief drugs, and contraceptives, particularly in rural areas, for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The limited measures to ensure access, on an equal basis with others, to quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and sex education for all persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities;
- (d) The lack of information on healthcare budget allocations for persons with disabilities.

49. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to ensure access to quality, free, universal healthcare services for all persons with disabilities, including in rural and urban areas, by implementing accessibility standards and regular monitoring, ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation by public and private healthcare providers, and eliminate financial barriers to healthcare by covering the cost of essential medical treatments, particularly for persons with disabilities with low income;**
- (b) Take urgent measures to ensure the availability and affordability of essential medication and the accessibility of its packaging for its identification as well as accessibility of healthcare, including in rural areas, and ensure non-discriminatory access to lifesaving treatment;**
- (c) Ensure that high-quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexual education are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, and that health professionals are trained about the human rights model of disability and the right of persons with disabilities to decide whether to give free and informed consent for any medical treatment;**
- (d) Allocate adequate and transparent resources to inclusive healthcare to meet the requirements of persons with disabilities, including accessible services, assistive devices, inclusive programs, and staff training.**

Finland (2025)

48. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Inequity in health services for persons with disabilities across Social Welfare Counties and the lack of disability inclusion and accessibility in the digitization of health services;
- (b) The increase in the price of specific medication and treatments disproportionately restricts access to health for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with disabilities with lower incomes.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that Social Welfare Counties abide by guidelines on the right to health of persons with disabilities that are consistent throughout the State party, that health services are not contingent upon the place of residency, that telemedicine and remote care services are available in Finnish and Finland Swedish sign language, that online portals are accessible to screen readers and incorporate Easy-Read options, and expand the training of healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Adjust the pricing of medication and treatments to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities with lower incomes, can access them in a timely manner.**

Kiribati (2025)

47. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) At the limited access of persons with disabilities to health-care services particularly those living on outer islands, due to the centralization of specialized services in South Tarawa;
- (b) The shortage of qualified health personnel, as well as the lack of training of healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities and inclusive practices;
- (c) At the limited access of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health services;

(d) Insufficient measures to ensure free and informed consent of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in medical treatment.

48. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

(a) Continue the process of decentralization and strengthening of health services to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities on all islands, including through community-based approaches such as mobile outreach teams, training of primary health workers and the integration of support services into local clinics and community centres;

(b) Increase the number of qualified health personnel and provide systematic training for all healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities and inclusive practices, including communication, accessibility and the provision of reasonable accommodation;

(c) Ensure accessible and inclusive sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls with disabilities, including the provision of information in accessible formats and training of health workers;

(d) Guarantee the right to free and informed consent of all persons with disabilities in health care, including through supported decision-making measures;

(e) Ensure accessibility of health infrastructure in line with international standards and make the online information accessible as well as provide sign language interpretation and ensure the accessibility of public transport to medical infrastructure and return to home.

Maldives (2025)

49. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the limited access of persons with disabilities to health-care services, in particular on the outer islands;

(b) At the lack of access of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to sexual and reproductive health services;

(c) The lack of availability of medicines and qualified health personnel, including rehabilitation, in health services, as well as the lack of training of healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities.

50. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to affordable, accessible and quality health services on an equal basis as others;

(b) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services, including to sensitization and awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS, and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities so they can reaffirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy and self-determination;

(c) Develop a compulsory training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on their skills, support measures, free and informed consent and information and communication means and methods, and provide information in accessible digital formats, as well as Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, including ensuring the physical accessibility of health facilities and equipment.

Canada (2025)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of comprehensive access to quality healthcare for persons with disabilities, including the inaccessibility of medical infrastructure and equipment;

(b) The limited access to medicines and culturally appropriate health services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis with disabilities, as well as the lack of inclusion of traditional medicine within the health system;

- (c) The ableism, prejudice, and stigma amongst health professionals and within the health system in relation to dementia diagnosis, treatment, and support, including for those with early onset dementia and with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (d) Gaps in access to age appropriate and gender specific information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning and access to essential menstrual hygiene products.

50. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Exercise federal leadership to develop a nationally consistent approach to disability inclusive health care for all persons with disabilities across provinces and territories, including policies to ensure the accessibility of medical infrastructure and equipment;**
- (b) Strengthen measures to ensure culturally appropriate health services within the Action Plan to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, including by ensuring that health policies incorporate and address the needs of Indigenous persons with disabilities, including traditional medicine and health-related practices that are culturally relevant for them;**
- (c) Develop a comprehensive national action plan to implement the National Dementia Strategy with targets in coordination with the provinces and territories to ensure rights-based training of health professionals and to provide dementia care pathways through the health system, including access to the full range of services and supports and to promote and respect personal autonomy and the right to independent living.**
- (d) Strengthen policies to provide women and girls with disabilities with age appropriate and gender specific accessible information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning and ensure access to essential menstrual hygiene products.**

Dominican Republic (2025)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The inaccessibility of health services for all persons with disabilities, in particular the lack of appropriate medical equipment and facilities and adequate information on health services, particularly in remote areas;
- (b) Gynaecological and obstetrical services not being accessible to women with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of regular training programmes on the human rights approach to disability for physicians and other health professionals working with persons with disabilities.

46. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to quality and gender-sensitive health services, across the State party, by ensuring reasonable accommodation is provided and the accessibility of equipment and facilities are adapted to the specific needs of each disability, information on health services is provided in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read, and that health workers are trained to treat persons with disabilities properly;**
- (b) Ensure that all health care facilities provide gynaecological and obstetrical services that are accessible to women with disabilities;**
- (c) Deliver continuous training programmes on the human rights approach to disability for physicians and other health professionals working with persons with disabilities and closely consult with and actively involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and delivery of the training.**

European Union (2025)

60. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of explicit legal protection against disability-based discrimination in healthcare and persons with disabilities facing systemic barriers to healthcare access, due to healthcare providers' disregard or automatic attribution of health issues to disability, insufficient reasonable accommodations, lack of accessible materials and processes, and inadequate training for healthcare workers.

(b) Gaps in cross-border healthcare access, including the lack of accessible information by National Contact Points, the lack of reimbursement of disability-related expenses and the requirements of persons with limited mobility in Directive 2011/24/EU.⁶¹

61. The Committee recalls its previous Concluding Observation and Recommendation (para. 63) and recommends that the European Union:

(a) Set comprehensive accessibility standards across healthcare systems, requiring Member States to develop Easy Read medical materials, accessible administrative processes, and communication training for healthcare professionals to support persons with intellectual disabilities;

(b) Restore funding of the EU4Health programme to address health inequities for persons with disabilities;

(c) Revise the Patient Mobility Directive to guarantee equal access to healthcare for persons with disabilities in cross-border situations;

(d) Support Member States in the implementation of guidelines to increase access to healthcare.

Palau (2025)

47. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in accessing health-care services, which include inaccessible health-care facilities and information, lack of reasonable accommodation, and prejudices about persons with disabilities held by professionals across the health sector;

(b) Lack of accessible health related information and materials for persons with disabilities, in particular, persons who is blind, persons with hearing impairments;

(c) The limited measures to ensure access, on an equal basis with others, to quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and sex education for all persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities.

48. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Evaluate the current situation, and take measures to facilitate access to quality health services of diverse persons with disabilities, in line Convention, ensuring quality and gender-sensitive health-care services for all persons with disabilities, including the implementation of accessibility standards and the provision of reasonable accommodation by public and private health-care providers;

(b) Guarantee that information is provided in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including in Braille, sign language and Easy Read, regarding health services;

(c) Ensure that high-quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, additionally, integrate a human rights model of disability into the training of health professionals, emphasizing that all persons with disabilities have the right to free and informed consent for any medical and surgical treatment.

Tuvalu (2025)

45. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the limited access of persons with disabilities to health-care services;

- (b) At the lack of access of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to sexual and reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS awareness programmes;
- (c) At the absence of community-based mental health services and supports for persons with disabilities as part of general health services;
- (d) The lack of availability of medicines and qualified health personnel, including rehabilitation, in health services, as well as the lack of training of healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities.

46. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to affordable, accessible and quality health services on an equal basis as others;**
- (b) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services, including to sensitization and awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS, and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities so they can reaffirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy and self-determination;**
- (c) Ensure availability of community-based mental health services and supports, including peer-led supports and allocate adequate resources for quality facilities and services of mental health care provision;**
- (d) Develop a compulsory training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on their skills, support measures, free and informed consent and information and communication means and methods, and provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, including ensuring the physical accessibility of health facilities and equipment.**

Viet Nam (2025)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Lack of accessibility of health facilities infrastructure, ambulances, equipment, and information in health programmes and communication for persons with disabilities, including in their original languages, in general clinics and hospitals;
- (b) Lack of adequate and regular training for medical and paramedical personnel on their interactions with persons with disabilities, including indigenous persons with disabilities;
- (c) Reports from women with disabilities of experiencing negative, insensitive, and unsupportive attitudes from maternal healthcare providers during their pregnancy;
- (d) Inaccessibility of reproductive health services, information, and education for women and girls with disabilities, especially those with sensory and intellectual disabilities, limiting their ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights;
- (e) Significant barriers faced by persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, who live in rural and remote areas and among indigenous communities, in accessing timely healthcare services, including rehabilitation and assistive technologies;
- (f) Specification in the Persons with Disabilities Act 2010 that only persons with “severe or very severe disabilities” receive free health insurance cards and are fully reimbursed for medical examination and treatment costs, and
- (g) Low employment rate of persons with disabilities, resulting in only a small proportion of persons with middle support needs disabilities being eligible for compulsory employment-based health insurance, which is partially sponsored by employers;
- (h) Serious harm caused to farmers by the irrigation of crops with pesticides, leading to high rates of blindness among the Khmer Krom population;

(i) Lack of coverage for psychological intervention services for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities under health insurance, and lack of recognition of autism as a disability.

50. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure that general clinics and hospitals provide accessible information and communication formats for persons with disabilities, including in their original languages, and implement measures to ensure comprehensive health coverage for all persons with disabilities, including indigenous persons, regardless of their employment status, and provide accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate services;

(b) Ensure health professionals receive training and education on the needs and treatment of persons with disabilities, particularly in maternal healthcare for women with disabilities and indigenous persons with disabilities;

(c) Implement comprehensive training programmes for maternal healthcare providers to foster positive, sensitive, and supportive attitudes towards women with disabilities, including indigenous women, during their pregnancy;

(d) Guarantee full access to sexual and reproductive health services, information, and education for women and girls with disabilities, including indigenous women and girls, through formats tailored to meet the needs of those with sensory and intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(e) Ensure the availability of health services for persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, who live in rural and remote areas and among indigenous communities, that are physically accessible, staffed with trained personnel;

(f) Amend the Persons with Disabilities Act 2010 to ensure all persons with disabilities receive free health insurance cards and are fully reimbursed for medical examinations and treatments;

(g) Amend the law to allow all unemployed persons with disabilities to access the voluntary health insurance scheme, subsidized by the government, and reduce the current rates, which represent 20% of the national average monthly income per capita;

(h) Intensify efforts to eliminate the use of pesticides in fields, impose severe penalties on those who continue to distribute and use them, and establish preventative and treatment measures, as well as compensation for the Khmer Krom people affected and blinded by pesticide use;

(i) Guarantee that health insurance covers psychological interventions for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and ensure that autism is formally recognized as a disability and covered by the national health insurance.

Belarus (2024)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of person-oriented health care system for all persons with disabilities and the insufficient accessibility of health-care facilities, services and medical equipment, including physical and informational accessibility;

(b) The physical and social barriers and the lack of accommodations in the health care system, which restrict women with disabilities in the exercise of their autonomy and accessing sexual and reproductive health services;

(c) The fact that persons undertaking health consultations with psychologists or other treatments are being forced to be registered as "those with mental disorder", which has an ensuing impact that employers avoid hiring them;

(d) The absence of dedicated trainings for the medical staff, in regard to providing service to people with all persons with disabilities, and the lack of people with disabilities as part of the training system and the structure of the training content.

50. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop action plans in line with human rights approach to ensure the accessibility and availability of health-care programs, services and equipment for persons with disabilities, with a specific emphasis on the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls with disabilities, as well as on accessible information and communication for persons with autism, persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, persons with visual disability, deaf persons and persons of hard of hearing in general treatment in the health-care system;**
- (b) Ensure access to health services for women and girls with disabilities, including sexual and reproductive health care and services and safeguard their decision-making so that they can affirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy, in particular, by intensifying efforts for women living in the rural areas;**
- (c) Ensure within health services the right to privacy of persons with disabilities, by guaranteeing their personal data protection and refraining from sharing or use of such information without their consent including for any policy or administrative purposes, as well as guarantee effectively the right to remedy for any health related privacy violations.**
- (d) Develop training programs, including in universities and in-service training curricula, for health-care professionals on the requirements and rights of persons with disabilities and involvement of persons with disabilities in the design, delivery and facilitation of the curricula and training.**

Belgium (2024)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of access to gender-responsive, quality healthcare for persons with disabilities, including widespread inaccessibility of infrastructure and medical equipment, as well as the lack of information on physical accessibility of medical infrastructure on many websites;
- (b) Reports that persons with disabilities can often not provide their free and informed personal consent to medical procedures or interventions, in part due to a lack of accessible information on health services and treatments;
- (c) The lack of affordability of healthcare for persons with disabilities which has reportedly resulted in persons with disabilities foregoing health treatment due to financial constraints;
- (d) The lack of training of medical and healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, to prevent that existing dependencies of persons with disabilities on their medical and healthcare experts deteriorate into abuse and violence.

51. The Committee recommends the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Extend mandatory accessibility standards to all medical and paramedical infrastructures and health services, and render them age- and gender-responsive;**
- (b) Establish a framework that ensures that persons with disabilities can effectively give their free and informed personal consent to any medical procedure or intervention, including through the provision of all health care and treatment information in accessible formats;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities can access health care on an equal basis with others and at an affordable cost, including by granting specific benefits to financially disadvantaged people with disabilities and by integrating these benefits into the overall benefits system across the regions;**
- (d) Ensure that the human rights model of disability and respect for the dignity, autonomy and requirements of persons with disabilities are systematically included in the curricula for the training of all medical and health professionals.**

Benin (2024)

49. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The limited access of persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to sexual and reproductive health-care services and to awareness-raising programmes on HIV/AIDS;
- (b) The insufficiency of community-based mental health services for persons with disabilities as part of general health services;
- (c) The lack of availability of medication and protective items, including sunscreen and sunglasses, for persons with albinism across health services;
- (d) The lack of training for medical professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly among practitioners of traditional medicine.

50. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services, including awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS, STDs, feminine cancers etc and ensure the provision of supported decision-making for women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities concerning their sexual and reproductive autonomy and self-determination;**
- (b) Ensure the availability of community-based mental health services and allocate adequate resources for the provision of good quality mental health-care facilities and services;**
- (c) Take appropriate measures to address the challenges of ensuring adequate health services for persons with albinism that meet their health needs, including the provision of sunglasses and appropriate sunscreen as an essential product for the prevention of skin cancer;**
- (d) Provide training for health-care professionals and traditional medicine practitioners on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on the relevant skills, support measures and information and communication means and methods, providing information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, and ensuring the physical accessibility of equipment in health facilities.**

Burkina Faso (2024)

46. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Free or reduced cost of health services to persons with disabilities is conditional to holding the disability card as provided in Act No. 012-2010/AN of 1 April 2010 and Decree No. 2012-828/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MS/MENA/MESS of 22 October 2012, yet obtaining a disability card remains challenging, as demonstrated by the limited number of disability card holders in comparison to the number of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of training of medical professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, attitudinal barriers and lack of awareness on the part of service providers in health, including regarding protocols for invalidity card determination and sexual and reproductive health (an example of this stigmatization);
- (c) The training of 300 health workers in home care for persons with complex support needs and in the early detection of disabilities by the SN-3PH and its Operational Action Plan (2021-2023) has been delayed.

47. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Simplify the conditions under which the disability card is issued, including by lowering the threshold to qualify for the card and making the process accessible, and take appropriate measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities receive free or reduced-cost healthcare, as provided for in the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of disabled people and its implementing decree n°2012-828/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MS/MENA of 22 October 2012;**

- (b) Provide training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, on early identification, and on the relevant skills, support measures, information and communication means and methods, providing information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and neurodivergent persons as well as women and girls with disabilities, and ensuring the physical accessibility of health facilities and equipment;**
- (c) Implement the training of health workers in home care for persons with complex support needs planned by the SN-3PH and its Operational Action Plan 2021-2023.**

Denmark (2024)

67. The Committee is concerned at the information that the average life expectancy for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities is significantly lower than that of the rest of the population; it is also concerned at information that persons with disabilities do not participate in the national preventive health programmes on an equal basis with others, including in screenings for cervical cancer, breast cancer and bowel cancer.

68. Recalling its previous recommendation , the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, have access to the highest attainable health, on an equal basis with others. It also recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark take measures, including outreach and accessibility measures, to increase participation of persons with disabilities in public health programmes such as screenings for cervical cancer, breast cancer, and bowel cancer.

Ghana (2024)

48. The Committee note with concern:

- (a) Information that most of the health facilities, institutions and equipment are physically inaccessible and information on health services is also not in accessible formats in sign language and other modes of communication;**
- (b) The stigma and discriminatory attitudes towards disability, gender and sexuality that impact negatively on how women with disabilities exercise their rights to sexual and reproductive health services and family planning;**
- (c) The low levels of registration of persons with disabilities on the National Health Insurance Scheme and the fact that most essential medicines for persons with disabilities are still not covered by it, and the absence of a comprehensive strategy to train health professionals in the human rights model of disability;**
- (d) The lack of reproductive health policy and standards to combat discrimination against women with disabilities who decide to have children and of measures to prevent forced contraception in adolescents with disabilities.**

49. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Ensure accessibility in health facilities in urban and rural areas by ensuring infrastructure modifications;**
- (b) Address stigma and discriminatory attitudes impacting women with disabilities by training health personnel on disability rights and inclusivity and improve accessibility of health facilities and information on sexual and reproductive health services to ensure equitable access for women and girls with disabilities;**
- (c) Increase the registration of persons with disabilities on the NHIS, expand coverage of essential medicines for persons with disabilities under the NHIS, develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, support measures and information and communication means and methods, and provide health information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with**

disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities;

(d) Established reproductive health policy and standard that would ensure accessibility, availability, and quality sexual and reproductive health services for all women and girls with disabilities, including disability training for reproductive health care providers; eliminate practices that discriminate against women with disabilities, including women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities as well as women and girls with albinism in taking decision about their sexual and reproductive health and monitor and report on the implementation of the policy and any violation of these rights.

Mauritius (2024)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Insufficient universal design and accommodations for persons with disabilities at many healthcare facilities, including imaging and mammography equipment that are inaccessible to wheelchair users;

(b) The barriers in access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls with disabilities;

(c) The attitudinal barriers among medical professionals concerning the access of persons with disabilities to healthcare, resulting from a lack of effective awareness and training.

44. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure the development and promotion of investment in universal design of medical devices, equipment and healthcare facilities, and reinforce measures to provide persons with disabilities with information about healthcare in accessible formats;

(b) Implement measures to provide women and girls with disabilities with appropriate and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in a manner that is age- and gender-responsive, on an equal basis with others;

(c) Build the capacity of all medical and health professionals at the local level on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the provision of healthcare based on the human rights model of disability and on inclusive methods of communication.

Netherlands (2024)

55. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The interpretative declaration to article 25 in which healthcare professionals may determine which healthcare is provided solely on medical grounds;

(b) The lack of measures taken to ensure that the will and preference and the right to self-determination of persons with disabilities are respected in all medical procedures;

(c) Reports of undue influence of women undergoing prenatal screening (NIPT) for the detection of the impairment of a fetus;

(d) The waiting time for persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities, to receive health services, and the lack of effective government measures to reduce waiting time;

(e) The insufficient knowledge of professionals in healthcare facilities, especially concerning non-visible impairments, and the resulting unsuitable treatment or assessment of non-standard behaviour, as well as the persistence of negative stereotypes in regard to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities among healthcare providers, leading to disparities in treatment and care;

(f) The barriers for persons with disabilities in accessing appropriate healthcare services, especially for persons with intellectual disabilities, due to the complicated system and the required digital skills, and the differences in quality, availability of and access to healthcare services between municipalities.

56. Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Withdraw the interpretative declaration to article 25 so that persons with disabilities can experience their full right to healthcare;**
- (b) Ensure that medical interventions are based on the will and preference of persons with disabilities and respect their right to self-determination;**
- (c) Ensure that pregnant women undergoing prenatal screening for the detection of the impairment of a fetus can make fully informed decisions on their pregnancy without undue influence;**
- (d) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, persons with disabilities still living in institutions and children and women with disabilities, have access to healthcare services on a timely basis, reduce waiting time to access health-care services and increase community-based mental healthcare services;**
- (e) Provide comprehensive training for healthcare professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities and the requirement for accessibility and reasonable accommodation in all aspects of health-care provision, as well as on recognition, understanding, and treatment of different types of impairments; implement mandatory training programs for healthcare providers to improve their awareness and attitudes towards persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, addressing negative stereotypes and promoting a more inclusive and respectful approach;**
- (f) Improve accessibility to healthcare services and offer assistance to persons with disabilities and their families in navigating the healthcare system.**

Ukraine (2024)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient measures to provide adequate, affordable and accessible health care for persons with disabilities, including in conflict areas, and for internally displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking children and adults with disabilities, and in refugee-like situations, as well as in rural and remote territories;**
- (b) The lack of health care and programs on sexual and reproductive health for persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, and those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in long-term care facilities;**
- (c) The lack of clear regulations and resources to provide quality health care and services for residents who were evacuated, which has led to overcrowding in new structures hosting the evacuees, and the fact that State party has not guaranteed sufficient staffing in these new facilities;**
- (d) The lack of measures to provide adequate, affordable, and accessible health care for persons affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine, as well as for internally displaced, refugees and asylum-seeking children and adults with disabilities;**
- (e) The lack of availability and quality of medical care in the rural territories of the Donetsk region;**
- (f) The Order of the Cabinet of Ministers № 1018-r of December 27, 2017, that approved the Concept for the development of mental health care in Ukraine for the period until 2030, and that is not aligned with the Convention.**

51. Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, the Report on the Human Rights Protection of Older Persons in Emergency situations (A/HRC/42/43) of the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Committee's own Guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close

consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Adopt measures to ensure adequate, affordable and accessible health care for persons with disabilities, including those affected by the conflict in Ukraine, in rural territories of the Donetsk region, as well as internally displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking children and adults with disabilities;
- (b) Take all appropriate measures to ensure that access to health services for persons with disabilities are accessible (including medical equipment, and health-related information) and that are gender-sensitive;
- (c) Develop effective campaigns to educate medical professionals, health-care providers, and medical staff on the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as on accessible forms of communication for users of health-care services;
- (d) Take measures to amend the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers № 1018-r of December 27, 2017, so as to harmonize the concept of mental health care to that of the Convention.

Azerbaijan (2024)

55. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The inconsistent access to and low quality of health services, including sexual and reproductive health services due to lack of availability of health services, prevailing gender and disability stereotypes;
- (b) The lack of mental health services in the community and the prevalence of psychiatric services in close settings, including sanatoriums;
- (c) The lack of access by persons with disabilities to health services in the private health system.

56. **Recalling targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:**

- (a) **Ensure universal health care coverage for persons with disabilities in rural and urban areas, access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights, including maternal and child health services, accessible equipment, including gynaecological equipment, and that specialized health services are provided on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) **Provide training for health care professionals on gender equality and the human rights model of disability;**
- (c) **Adopt the community-based support as the basis of programmes for the provision of mental health, dismantle sanatoriums and other facilities for the purpose of mental health treatment;**
- (d) **Adopt measures to ensure equal access to health and non-discrimination in the provision of disability related health-care services in the national health-care schemes ensuring that private service providers facilitate access to health services.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

50. The Committee is concerned at the lack of:

- (a) Accessible health care services for persons with disabilities.
- (b) Accessibility in a number of health service delivery facilities.
- (c) Lack of trained personnel to provide health services, especially emergency care and reproductive health services to persons with disabilities.
- (d) Lack of a legislative framework that guarantees free and informed consent of persons with disabilities before any medical intervention is performed on them.
- (e) Forced hospitalization and treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities without any controls governing this practice in the Public Health Law No. 34 of 2018, except for what is

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

stipulated in Article (50) at the end, which authorizes forced hospitalization and treatment at the discretion of the doctor and for the purpose of protecting others.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party

(a) Develop a national strategy and implementation plan for the comprehensive and inclusive provision of health care and specialized health services for persons with disabilities.

(b) Provide accessibility in public and private health facilities

(c) Developing and implementing specialized training for health professionals in the provision of health services to persons with disabilities.

(d) Develop a practice framework that ensures the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities to any medical procedure or intervention before it is carried out.

(e) Enact the Mental Health Law and include measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have the right to free and informed consent or refusal of treatment and prohibit forced placement and treatment on the basis of disability, as well as the use of physical and chemical restraints and electric shocks in the mental health sector.

Costa Rica (2024)

41. El Comité toma nota de las aclaraciones por escrito proporcionadas por el Estado parte al concluir el dialogo constructivo. Sin embargo, observa con preocupación:

a) La falta de accesibilidad a los servicios de salud para personas con discapacidad, en particular la escasez de equipo médico, instalaciones y mobiliario inadecuado;

b) La insuficiente inclusión de personas con discapacidad en políticas, programas y servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva, incluyendo los relacionados con el VIH/SIDA, que afecta desproporcionadamente a mujeres y niñas con discapacidad;

c) Que el abordaje de la salud mental sigue centrado en el modelo médico y la falta de medidas coordinadas para implementar el modelo de salud mental comunitaria;

d) La falta de programas regulares de capacitación para médicos y otros profesionales de la salud que trabajan con personas con discapacidad en el modelo de derechos humanos de la discapacidad.

42. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 25 de la Convención y las metas 3.7 y 3.8 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Garantizar que todas las personas con discapacidad tengan acceso a servicios de salud de calidad, con perspectiva de género e intercultural, tanto en zonas rurales como remotas, entre otras cosas, asegurando que se apliquen las normas de accesibilidad y se realicen ajustes razonables, que los equipos y el mobiliario sean adaptados a las necesidades específicas de cada discapacidad, y que la información sobre los servicios sanitarios se facilite en formatos accesibles como el braille, la lengua de señas y los formatos de lectura fácil, y se capacite al personal sanitario en el trato correcto a las personas con discapacidad;

b) Redoblar los esfuerzos para garantizar la plena accesibilidad de todas las políticas, programas y servicios de salud, incluyendo la salud sexual y reproductiva y los relacionados con el VIH/SIDA con enfoque de género, especialmente en las áreas rurales y en los niveles comunitarios, conforme recomendación CRPD/C/CRI/CO/1, párr. 50;

c) Elaborar un plan de acción, con la asignación de recursos humanos y financieros suficientes, para la implementación de la Política Nacional de Salud Mental con base en el modelo de salud mental comunitaria;

d) Implementar programas de capacitación continua para médicos y otros profesionales de la salud que trabajan con personas con discapacidad sobre el modelo de derechos humanos de la discapacidad, y consultar estrechamente e involucrar activamente a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en el diseño e implementación de la capacitación.

Kazakhstan (2024)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The physical obstacles and attitudinal barriers depriving women and men with disabilities of their sexual and reproductive rights and hinder their access to available services, on equal basis with others;

(b) Barriers for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with disabilities in rural areas, to access health services, including specialized health care, the lack of interpreters for deafblind persons with disabilities in these settings, and a lack of information in accessible formats;

54. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Provide persons with disabilities with accessible sexual and reproductive health services, including for women and girls with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Provide affordable, accessible, quality health services, including assistive and adaptive technology, information in Braille, sign language interpretation and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities in rural areas.

Nicaragua (2024)

52. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) Las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad para acceder a los servicios de salud, entre las que figuran la inaccesibilidad física, las formas de comunicación e información, la falta de ajustes razonables y la falta de capacitación de los profesionales del sector sanitario, especialmente en zonas rurales y remotas;

b) La falta de cobertura suficiente de los servicios sanitarios y la escasez de medicamentos que afectan especialmente a las mujeres en la Costa Caribe;

c) Las altas tasas de mortalidad materna entre las mujeres sin medios suficientes, las mujeres rurales, las mujeres con discapacidad, las mujeres indígenas y afrodescendientes;

d) La prevalencia de embarazos adolescentes de mujeres de entre 15 y 19 años, y de casos de embarazos de niñas menores de 15 años, así como la falta de programas educativos sobre salud sexual y reproductiva entre las mujeres y niñas en general y en especial entre aquellas con discapacidad, y que su política en este rubro se limite a la provisión de anticoncepción y la ampliación de servicios de casas maternas.

53. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 25 de la Convención y las metas 3.7 y 3.8 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Garantizar que todas las personas con discapacidad tengan acceso a servicios de salud de calidad, con perspectiva de género e intercultural, tanto en zonas rurales como remotas entre otras cosas asegurando que se apliquen las normas de accesibilidad y se realicen ajustes razonables, que los equipos y el mobiliario sean adaptados a las necesidades específicas de cada discapacidad, y que la información sobre los servicios sanitarios se facilite en formatos accesibles como el braille, la lengua de señas y los formatos de lectura fácil y se capacite al personal sanitario en el trato correcto a las personas con discapacidad;

b) Garantizar que todas las personas con discapacidad tengan acceso a servicios de atención médica oportunos y de calidad tanto en áreas rurales como urbanas, incluyendo el acceso a medicamentos y servicios de rehabilitación;

c) Investigar y abordar las causas de las altas tasas de mortalidad materna, estableciendo medidas preventivas que incluyan la capacitación a parteras rurales e indígenas;

d) Fomentar la educación sexual y reproductiva adecuada, brindar información y servicios sobre planificación familiar, especialmente a mujeres y niñas con discapacidad con el objetivo de evitar los embarazos precoces.

Sweden (2024)

55. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That compared to the general population, persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, persons with disabilities living in remote areas, persons with disabilities living in institutions and children and women with disabilities,

are in significantly poorer health, have higher rates of mortality and suicides, and face barriers in accessing health services, including sexual and reproductive health, dental care, information and equipment;

(b) About a gradual return to a medical approach to disability, and the lack of measures taken to ensure that individual needs, preferences and self-determination are respected.

56. Recalling the link between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, persons with disabilities living in remote areas, persons with disabilities living in institutions and children and women with disabilities, have access to information on an equal basis with others and to affordable, accessible, quality and culturally sensitive medical equipment and health services, including sexual, reproductive and mental health services;

(b) Strengthen the requirements for systematic participation of persons with disabilities in the planning, design, monitoring and evaluation of accessibility, care processes and working methods in healthcare, and strengthen the implementation of the human rights model of disability.

Zambia (2024)

49. The Committee is concerned:

(a) At the limited access of persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to sexual and reproductive health-care services, and to sensitization and awareness-raising programmes on HIV/AIDS;

(b) At the insufficiency of mental health services for persons with disabilities as part of general health services;

(c) At the lack of availability of medication and protective items, including sunscreen and sunglasses, for persons with albinism across health services;

(d) At the lack of training for medical professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities.

50. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services, including to sensitization and awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS, and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual and/or disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities so they can reaffirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy and self-determination;

(b) Ensure availability of mental health services and allocate adequate resources for quality facilities and services of mental health care provision;

(c) Take appropriate measures to address the challenges of adequately providing health services for persons with albinism in view of their health needs, including the provision of sunglasses and appropriate sunscreen as an essential product for prevention and treatment of skin cancer;

(d) Develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on their skills, support measures, and information and communication means and methods, and provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, including ensuring the physical accessibility of health facilities and equipment.

Andorra (2023)

51. The Committee notes that Act No. 20/2017 on the rights and duties of users and professionals of the healthcare system and on medical records (2017) recognizes the right to information of persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, it is concerned about the following: (

- a) Article 16 of the Act Guaranteeing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities allows the consent given by a representative of the person with disabilities if the applicable law requires it;
- (b) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in accessing health-care services, which include inaccessible health-care facilities and information, and lack of reasonable accommodation;
- (c) The limited access to sexual and reproductive health-care services for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, and the lack of information on the incorporation of the disability perspective in the actions carried out by the Integral Service for the Attention of Women (SIAD);
- (d) The insufficient training for health-care personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review article 16 of the Act Guaranteeing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other legislation and health-care policies, ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent for any medical and surgical treatment, on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Strengthen action plans to ensure the accessibility and availability of quality health services, information and equipment for persons with disabilities, including the provision of reasonable accommodation by public and private health-care providers;**
- (c) Ensure gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive sexual and reproductive health-care services for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, and guarantee the incorporation of the disability perspective in the actions carried out by the Integral Service for the Attention of Women (SIAD);**
- (d) Integrate a human rights model of disability into the systematic training of health professionals.**

Austria (2023)

57. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The negative impact of seemingly structural deficiencies of child and adolescent mental health services on children and adolescents with disabilities, particularly pronounced after the COVID-19 pandemic, and about the lack of reliable information and data on it;
- (b) Restrictive access of women and girls with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities in institutions, to sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, and sex education;
- (c) The lack of qualified sign language interpretation services in the provision of health services for persons with disabilities, including for refugee and stateless persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations;
- (d) The inaccessibility, including physical inaccessibility, of many health facilities and services.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Significantly improve access to mental health services for persons with disabilities, especially for children with disabilities, and collect data on the provision of such services and their results, disaggregated by age, sex, region and type of impairment;**
- (b) Ensure access for women and girls with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities in institutions, to sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, and sex education;**
- (c) Provide quality sign language interpretation in health services to persons with disabilities, including refugees and stateless persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations;**
- (d) Effectively guarantee accessibility, including physical accessibility, of health facilities and services.**

Germany (2023)

57. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of accessibility and trained health practitioners on communication and on providing information in accessible methods and formats in the health care facilities, in particular for women with disabilities and in rural areas and the fact that persons with disabilities may have to travel long distances to obtain accessible medical services;
- (b) The fact that persons with psychosocial disability, persons with intellectual disability and deaf and hard of hearing persons are less likely to receive quality health care due to the lack of training of, and discriminatory approach taken by, health professionals;
- (c) The absence of legal provisions, in particular in the Civil Code BGB, concerning the delivery of medical information for persons with disabilities in accessible formats to ensure their free and informed consent is obtained prior to any medical intervention on an equal basis with others;
- (d) The access to health services for asylum seekers, who may receive acute care but not “complementary” services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and mental health treatment.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to guarantee the availability and accessibility of health services across the Länder, in particular for women with disabilities and in rural areas, without discrimination, by identifying and removing barriers and providing accessible medical equipment;**
- (b) Strengthen mechanisms for the regular training of health professionals about human rights, dignity, autonomy and the requirements of persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Enforce regulations on the legal protection of persons with disabilities against discrimination in health-care services and define standardized protocols concerning the delivery of medical information to persons with disabilities and their free and informed consent for medical interventions in accordance with the Convention and the Committee’s general comment No. 1 (2014);**
- (d) Ensure asylum seekers with disabilities have access to comprehensive health services upon their arrival on an equal basis with others.**

Israel (2023)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Insufficient measures to respond to situations of mental distress among children and adolescents with disabilities in conflict affected areas;
- (b) Lack of access to health care for persons with disabilities, limited public health services and financial constraints to access private health services, particularly affecting persons with disabilities in Arab communities and persons with disabilities requiring complex support needs;
- (c) Barriers for women and girls with disabilities to access sexual and reproductive health services, including in cases of sexual violence;
- (d) Attitudinal barriers among the medical profession concerning access to health by persons with disabilities;
- (e) Discrimination in the provision of health and life insurance by private companies.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Strengthen measures to address the detrimental health impacts of the protracted occupation, hostilities, violence and insecurity on children with disabilities and ensure that programmes and support measures address the situation of children with disabilities in Arab communities and are accessible for all children with disabilities;**
- (b) Increase budget allocations for improving accessibility of health services and facilities for persons with disabilities, and adopt programmes at the national and local level to provide affordable, accessible, quality and culturally sensitive health services, including assistive and adaptive technology;**

- (c) Implement measures to provide women and girls with disabilities with appropriate and accessible sexual and reproductive health services, and ensure that responses and counselling in cases of gender-based violence are accessible, inclusive, and age- and gender-appropriate;**
- (d) Ensure that the human rights-based approach to disability and the respect for the dignity, autonomy and requirements of persons with disabilities are included in the training curricula of all medical and health professionals;**
- (e) Take all legislative, policy and administrative measures to provide health insurance for all persons with disabilities without discrimination.**

Malawi (2023)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of specific provisions on disability to address stigma, prejudice and discriminatory attitudes affecting persons with disabilities in policy instruments adopted by the Ministry of Health;
- (b) Information indicating that women and girls with disabilities experience discriminatory and dismissive attitudes by medical health professionals in seeking healthcare for pregnancy and sexual and reproductive health, which is often fuelled by stigma that women with disabilities should not be engaging in sexual relations;
- (c) Barriers for persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to participate in the development of health-related legislations and policies including in the development of the recent Health Sector Strategic plan II;
- (d) Unavailability of medicine, including protective and sun screen, for persons with albinism across health services.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure specific provisions in the existing health legislations, policies and programmes which address stigma, prejudice and discriminatory attitudes by health personnel against persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities who seek sexual and reproductive health services;**
- (b) Raise awareness among health personnel at all levels and particularly the nurses on the health rights of persons with disabilities, including through appropriate training;**
- (c) Ensure close consultations and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in the development of health-related legislation, policies and programmes to reaffirm the effective inclusion of their concerns in relation to health ;**
- (d) Take appropriate measures to address the challenges in adequately providing health services to persons with albinism in terms of their health needs and in providing the necessary health services for persons with psychosocial disabilities by addressing the acute shortage of the necessary medical personnel;**
- (e) Address the problem of inaccessible built environment and equipment in health facilities both in rural and urban areas including providing appropriate beds for women with physical disabilities in labour wards.**

Mauritania (2023)

43. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That persons with disabilities must obtain a Disability Card to benefit from subsidized health care, and currently only 13 per cent of persons with disabilities in the State party obtained a Disability Card;
- (b) Despite the adoption of health protocols, standards and procedure on reproductive health, persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, including women and girls with intellectual disabilities and women and girls with psychosocial disabilities, face barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health-care services;

(c) The lack of awareness among health-care service providers and medical staff of the rights of persons with disabilities and the absence of accessible forms of communication with users of health services;

44. The Committee recalls the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Simplify the administrative measures for obtaining the Disability Card and for becoming affiliated with the social security system, and establish regional and local bodies to facilitate the application and issuance of the Disability Card;

(b) Provide access for persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, to sexual and reproductive health-care services, on an equal basis with others, and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities to enable them to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and self-determination;

(c) Develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, throughout the territory of the State party, in particular in rural areas, including on their skills, support measures, and means and methods of information and communication, and provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and women and girls with disabilities.

Mongolia (2023)

49. The Committee remains concerned about the limited access for persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, to sexual and reproductive health, particularly in rural and remote areas. It also remains concerned at the lack of progress made to ensure that persons with disabilities exercise their right to free and informed consent.

50. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/MNG/CO/1, para.39) and recommends that the State party take measures to ensure access for all persons with disabilities to health services, in particular sexual and reproductive health services, maternal and child health services, in particular in rural and remote areas. The Committee also recommends that the State party takes measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless of the nature of their impairment, have the right to free and informed consent.

Paraguay (2023)

45. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) Las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad para acceder a los servicios de salud, entre las que figuran la inaccesibilidad física, las formas de comunicación e información, la falta de ajustes razonables y la falta de capacitación de los profesionales del sector sanitario, especialmente en zonas rurales y remotas, situación que se agudizó durante la pandemia;

b) Que los servicios de salud y rehabilitación para personas con discapacidad se encuentren dependiendo de la SENADIS y no del Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social;

c) La centralización de los servicios de salud para las personas con discapacidad, así como la falta de implementación del Eje/área 12 del Plan de Acción Nacional para los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad, lo que afecta a las personas con discapacidad, especialmente a las personas indígenas y a aquellas que viven en regiones remotas y rurales;

d) La falta de reglamentación y control de los seguros de salud privados quienes se niegan a cubrir a las personas con discapacidad;

e) La limitada implementación del Plan Nacional de Salud Sexual y Salud Reproductiva 2019-2023 y la falta de aprobación del proyecto de Ley sobre Salud Sexual, Reproductiva, Maternal y Perinatal;

f) Que en la Ley No. 7018/2022 de Salud Mental persista el modelo médico de la discapacidad.

46. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 25 de la Convención y las metas 3.7 y 3.8 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Garantizar que todas las personas con discapacidad tengan acceso a servicios de salud de calidad, con perspectiva de género e intercultural, entre otras cosas asegurando que se apliquen las normas de accesibilidad y realicen ajustes razonables, y que la información se facilite en formatos accesibles como el braille, la lengua de señas y los formatos de lectura fácil y se capacite al personal de salud en el trato correcto a las personas con discapacidad;
b) Realizar las acciones pertinentes para que los servicios de salud y rehabilitación para las personas con discapacidad dependan del Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social y no de la SENADIS;

c) Implementar las acciones necesarias para lograr la descentralización de los servicios de salud para que sean accesibles a las personas con discapacidad, especialmente aquellas que viven en regiones remotas y rurales, dando especial enfoque a la atención de las personas indígenas con discapacidad;

d) Reformar la legislación para sancionar a los seguros médicos privados que le rechacen la cobertura a personas con discapacidad;

e) Acelerar la implementación del Plan Nacional de Salud Sexual y Salud Reproductiva 2019-2023 y aprobar el proyecto de Ley sobre Salud Sexual, Reproductiva, Maternal y Perinatal a la brevedad posible;

f) Ajustar la Ley N.º 7018/2022 de Salud Mental y su reglamento al modelo de la discapacidad basado en derechos humanos de la Convención.

Angola (2023)

41. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Information about barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to health-care services and equipment, including physical barriers faced by persons with vision impairments and attitudinal barriers and the lack of solar protection and skin cancer preventive measures for persons with albinism;

(b) The lack of specific access to sexual and reproductive health-care services for persons with disabilities, particularly all women with disabilities, including those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(c) Information about the lack of awareness of health-care service managers and medical staff on the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons with hearing impairments, and the lack of accessible communication with users of health services;

(d) The obstacles for persons with disabilities in procuring specific medication, as well as long delays for scheduling and waiting for medical appointments;

(e) That persons with disabilities have faced obstacles in gaining access to health care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic;

(f) The insufficient early intervention and alternative care with regard to leprosy, including support from families;

(g) That between 2019 and 2020, only 454 persons with disabilities were referred by MASFAMU to various services, with references on health.

42. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen action plans to ensure the accessibility and availability of health services including preventive services and equipment for persons with disabilities, including protection and treatment for persons with albinism;

(b) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services and ensure supported decision-making for women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities so that they can reaffirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy;

- (c) Develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, support measures and information and communication means and methods, and provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for those persons, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and women and girls with disabilities;**
- (d) Ensure that there is available medication for disability related health conditions;**
- (e) Provide all persons with disabilities with access to all the health-care services available for the general population during the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritising access to diagnostic, vaccination and recovery treatments;**
- (f) Intensify campaigns on leprosy awareness to destigmatize leprosy and encourage early use of health services by all members of the community.**

Argentina (2023)

47. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) Las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad para acceder a los servicios de salud, entre las que figuran la inaccesibilidad de los establecimientos de salud, las formas de comunicación e información, la falta de ajustes razonables y los prejuicios de los profesionales del sector sanitario;
- b) La Ley 25.929 sobre parto humanizado y la Ley 26.862 sobre reproducción asistida no incorporan la perspectiva de discapacidad;
- c) Las brechas en la provisión de servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva entre las distintas provincias, incluyendo en materia de accesibilidad de los servicios de ginecología y obstetricia, incluidas instalaciones, mobiliario y equipos, así como el poco acceso a información en formatos accesibles sobre métodos anticonceptivos y prevención de enfermedades de transmisión sexual;
- d) Que la línea 0800 Salud Sexual no sea accesible a todas las personas con discapacidad;
- e) La Ley 26.529 de derechos del paciente señala que, en el supuesto de incapacidad del paciente, o imposibilidad de brindar el consentimiento informado a causa de su estado físico o psíquico, el consentimiento puede ser reemplazado por familiares o representantes legales;
- f) El insuficiente avance en el marco de la Ley Nacional de Salud Mental, debido entre otras cosas, a la fragmentación del sistema de salud; la persistencia del modelo médico en las reformas en salud mental; a que casi la mitad de las provincias no cuentan con órganos de revisión local de salud mental, la falta de servicios y apoyos de salud basados en la comunidad, y el insuficiente presupuesto asignado a la Estrategia Federal de Abordaje Integral de la Salud Mental;
- g) La insuficiencia de los subsidios para sufragar los costos médicos de las personas con discapacidad;
- h) La limitada información sobre los beneficios y riesgos del medicamento Voxzogo, utilizado para aumentar el crecimiento de las personas de talla baja, y la falta de regulación y seguimiento de su uso.

48. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 25 de la Convención y las metas 3.7 y 3.8 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Garantizar que todas las personas con discapacidad tengan acceso a servicios de salud de calidad, con perspectiva de género e intercultural, entre otras cosas asegurando que los proveedores de atención de la salud públicos y privados apliquen las normas de accesibilidad y realicen ajustes razonables, y que la información sobre los servicios sanitarios se facilite en formatos accesibles para las personas con discapacidad, como el braille, la lengua de señas y los formatos de lectura fácil;**
- b) Integrar un modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos en la formación sistemática de los profesionales de la salud;**
- c) Incorporar la perspectiva de discapacidad en la Ley 25.929 y en la Ley 26.862 y facilitar los apoyos necesarios a las gestantes con discapacidad;**

- d) En el marco del Programa Salud Sexual y Procreación Responsable, incrementar esfuerzos para que las mujeres y niñas con discapacidad en todas las provincias puedan acceder a servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva de calidad y apropiados para la edad, incluyendo instalaciones, mobiliario y equipos accesibles en los servicios de ginecología y obstetricia y el acceso a información en formatos accesibles sobre métodos anticonceptivos y prevención de enfermedades de transmisión sexual;
- e) Garantizar la accesibilidad de los mecanismos de información y comunicación sobre salud sexual y reproductiva, incluyendo la Línea 0800, para las niñas y mujeres con distintas discapacidades;
- f) Revisar la Ley 26.529 (artículo 6) a fin de reconocer el derecho de todas las personas con discapacidad a que se exija su consentimiento informado para cualquier tratamiento médico;
- g) Acelerar el cierre de hospitales psiquiátricos públicos y privados en todas las jurisdicciones y la implementación de servicios y apoyos de salud mental en la comunidad en línea con la Convención y en estrecha consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad psicosocial; avanzar en un modelo de atención unificado en materia de salud mental; asegurar que todas las provincias cuenten con órganos de revisión local de salud mental, y que la Estrategia Federal de Abordaje Integral de la Salud Mental cuente con los recursos suficientes para su implementación;
- h) Incrementar los subsidios para asumir los costos médicos de la discapacidad, en particular de quienes requieren un apoyo más intenso;
- i) Investigar de manera adecuada los beneficios y riesgos asociados con el Vozzogo, regular y dar seguimiento efectivo al uso de este medicamento.

Georgia (2023)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Domestic legislation infringing on the right to sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls with disabilities, including the right to retain fertility, on equal basis with others;
- (b) Information that women with disabilities are significantly less likely to receive quality health care due to lack of training and a discriminatory approach of medical staff. They are disproportionately affected by barriers such as lack of information and accessibility, particularly concerning their sexual and reproductive health;
- (c) Discriminatory language in health care laws, contributing to disability stigma;
- (d) The absence of priority testing for persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a lack of information about ensuring access to health services in the recovery plans.

52. The Committee recommends the State party to:

- (a) Give effect to all provisions in the Convention about the right to health, in domestic legislation and health care policies, ensuring the recognition of sexual and reproductive health and rights of women with disabilities, including their right to retain fertility, on an equal basis with others;
- (b) Strengthen mechanisms for regular training of medical personnel about human rights, dignity, autonomy and the requirements of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities; take measures to guarantee the availability of health services for women with disabilities, without discrimination, by identifying and removing barriers and providing accessible medical equipment, including adapted gynaecological chairs;
- (c) Rid the legislative framework on health services of discriminatory language, enforce regulations on legal protection against discrimination in health care services, and define the meaning of informed consent in accordance with the Convention and the Committee's General comment No. 1 (2014) on Equal recognition before the Law;
- (d) Ensure that recovery plans after the COVID-19 pandemic include measures to address barriers and prioritize health care, including testing, for persons with disabilities.

Peru (2023)

50. Al Comité le preocupa el hecho de que las personas con discapacidad que están afiliadas al Seguro Integral de Salud (SIS) no tengan acceso a los servicios de salud integrales, incluyendo los servicios de salud especializados y que no se respete el requisito al consentimiento libre e informado en todas las intervenciones médicas y no se apliquen las voluntades anticipadas y el acceso a los apoyos, tal y como establece la normativa vigente.

51. El Comité insta al Estado parte a que establezca regulaciones en el Seguro Integral de Salud (SIS) para fortalecer la oferta y cobertura de servicios de salud para las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo los servicios especializados y los requeridos por las personas con enfermedades crónicas y las que viven con enfermedades poco frecuentes, y a que garantice el cumplimiento del requisito de consentimiento libre e informado con respecto a todas las personas con discapacidad, incluso en los servicios de salud mental, y aplique las voluntades anticipadas y el acceso a los apoyos.

Togo (2023)

49. The Committee is concerned at the limited access of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as at the lack of training for medical professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities.

50. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual and/or disabilities and women with psychosocial disabilities so they can reaffirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy and self-determination;

(b) Develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on their skills, support measures, and information and communication means and methods, and provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, including ensuring the physical accessibility of health facilities and equipment.

Tunisia (2023)

45. The Committee is concerned that for persons with disabilities to benefit from either free health care or reduced rates, they have to obtain a disability card and be affiliated to the social security system, conditions which constitute a barrier that limits the enjoyment of these benefits by persons with disabilities. It is further concerned that the preference and will of persons with disabilities in regard to health service provision is not observed particularly for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, as the code of medical ethics article 103 authorises the health professional to have the agreement of the guardian or legal representative to make decision without the consent of the person concerned. It is further concerned that specialised medical services are only available in the major cities, hindering the access to these services of persons with disabilities from the rural and remote areas, further complicated by the absence of safe public transport outside urban areas.

46. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(a) Simplify the administrative measures for obtaining the disability card and for affiliation to the social security system;

(b) Put in place measures, including amending Decree 93 of the medical ethics to align it with the Convention, to ensure that health services and treatments, particularly sexual and reproductive health services, are provided to persons with disabilities including person with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities on the basis of their free will and informed consent;

(c) Train doctors and other health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, throughout the territory of the State party, including in rural areas;

(d) Take all appropriate measures to ensure all persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, have access to the full variety of health and rehabilitation services in their own communities, including rural areas to avoid their having to travel far to the urban centres for these services.

Bangladesh (2022)

49. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of accessible hospitals and health centres for persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, women and girls with disabilities, persons with disabilities who belong to minorities, persons affected by leprosy, and migrants and refugees with disabilities;
- (b) Deficient health-care services for women and girls with disabilities, including those relating to sexual and reproductive health rights and HIV/AIDS prevention;
- (c) The lack of meaningful consultation and effective participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of health policies and programmes, including in the new health policy that the State party is developing;
- (d) Insufficient budgetary allocations in the health-care system for the training of health professionals to understand the requirements of persons with disabilities.

50. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement a national strategy on accessible quality health-care services, including accessible hospitals and health centres for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, women and girls with disabilities, persons with disabilities who belong to minorities, persons affected by leprosy, migrants and refugees with disabilities;**
- (b) Take concrete measures to provide women and girls with disabilities appropriate and accessible information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention, including counselling that is accessible, inclusive, and age-gender-sensitive;**
- (c) Ensure the meaningful consultation and effective participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of health policies and programmes, including in the new health policy that the State party is developing;**
- (d) Provide budgetary allocations in the health-care system, particularly for training of health professionals on the human rights model of disability and to understand the requirements of persons with disabilities.**

China (2022)

52. The Committee regrets the lack of information provided on the measures taken to implement the Committee's previous concluding observations and recommendations (CRPD/C/CHN/CO/1 and Corr.1, para. 38), in particular to ensure that individuals' autonomy, choices, dignity and privacy are respected. It is further concerned about the restrictions for persons with disabilities in access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health services; and about reports of health professionals' non-adherence to the requirement of free and informed consent with regard to persons with disabilities.

53. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure accessibility and availability of healthcare facilities, services and equipment for persons with disabilities across the State party, with specific emphasis on the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls with disabilities; and ensure accessible information and communication for all persons with disabilities in general treatment in the healthcare system;
- (b) Integrate a human rights-based approach to disability into the training curriculum of all health professionals.

Hong-Kong (2022)

75. The Committee is concerned about the reported increase in the number of persons with disabilities experiencing PTSD, anxiety and depression, and the rising rate of suicide, in persons with disabilities. The Committee further notes with concern the lack of a comprehensive, long term mental health strategy to address this context.

76. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong SAR, China allocate sufficient funds to developing a multi-year mental health care plan that includes the establishment of community and human rights-based mental health services and support across Hong Kong SAR, China.

Indonesia (2022)

54. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Information about physical barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to health services and equipment, particularly in rural and remote areas;

(b) The lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services and age-appropriate education for children and adults with disabilities, particularly for indigenous persons with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Information about persons with disabilities not qualifying as Health Insurance Assistance beneficiaries, according to the Minister of Social Affairs Decree No.146/HUK/2013 on Stipulation of Criteria and Documenting the Poor and Vulnerable People, resulting in lower standards of health services;

55. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen action plans to ensure the accessibility and availability of health services and equipment for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas;

(b) Provide children and adults with disabilities, in particular indigenous persons with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, with access to sexual and reproductive health services and age-appropriate education;

(c) Ensure that public health insurance guarantees full coverage of all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

Japan (2022)

53. The Committee notes with concern the:

(a) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in accessing health-care services, including inaccessible health-care facilities and information, lack of reasonable accommodation, and prejudices about persons with disabilities across professionals in the health sector;

(b) Segregation of psychiatric care from general medical care, as provided by the Mental Health and Welfare Act for the Mentally Disabled, and the lack of sufficient community-based, health services and support;

(c) Limited measures to ensure access, on an equal basis with others, to quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and sex education for all persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities;

(d) Insufficient medical expense subsidies for persons with disabilities, including those with more intensive support.

54. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure quality and gender-sensitive health-care services for all persons with disabilities, including by ensuring the implementation of accessibility standards and the provision of reasonable accommodation by public and private health providers;

- (b) Guarantee that information is provided in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including in Braille, sign language and Easy Read, regarding health services;**
- (c) Integrate a human rights- model of disability into the training of health professionals, emphasizing that all persons with disabilities have the right to free and informed consent for any medical and surgical treatment;**
- (d) Develop, in close consultation with organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities, non-coercive, community-based mental health support, and adopt the necessary legislative and policy measures to dismantle systems that separate mental health care from general medical care;**
- (e) Ensure that high-quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities;**
- (f) Establish a mechanism of medical expense subsidies based on the person's capacity to cover the costs, and expand these subsidies for all persons with disabilities, including those with more intensive support.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

46. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the National Health Insurance Strategy 2017-2020 does not include persons with disabilities in the priority groups, as well as the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health-care services at all levels, especially in rural areas, including physical, communication and financial barriers, and obstacles due to the lack of accessible and affordable public transportation;
- (b) That the majority of healthcare services available to persons with disabilities, is focused on physical disabilities and continue catering to persons affected by UXO accidents, with a strong emphasis on rehabilitation and assistive products;
- (c) The gaps in the provision of healthcare services, being substantial health facilities with more quality services located in Vientiane, as well as limited availability of primary healthcare services for blind or deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autism;
- (d) The lack of access to sexual and reproductive health-care services for persons with disabilities, particularly all women and girls with disabilities, including women and girls with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (e) The lack of availability and accessibility of human rights-based mental health services;
- (f) The insufficient training of health-care personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities, and the lack of information about protocols for persons with disabilities to exercise and express their free and informed consent with respect to medical treatment;
- (g) Lack of systematization of official statistics on persons with disabilities accessing public healthcare services.

47. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt and implement a strategy, with sufficient human, technical and financial resources, to remove the physical, communication and financial barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health-care services, and guarantee their access to disability- and gender-sensitive health-care services and information, especially in rural areas, and include persons with disabilities as a priority group under the National Health Insurance Strategy 2017-2020;

- (b) Ensure quality and inclusive health care service in all the State party, including rural and remote areas, and for all the diversity of persons with disabilities, including blind or deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autistic persons;**
- (c) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services and ensure supported decision-**

making for women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities so that they can reaffirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy and self-determination;

(d) Develop community and human rights-based mental health services and support across the State party;

(e) Provide systematic training to medical personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities, including the human rights model of disability, accessible formats and alternative communication methods, and improve healthcare service information packages, and community engagement with persons with disabilities and their families;

(f) Collect and disaggregate, systematically, data on persons accessing the public health services, by gender, age, and disability.

New Zealand (2022)

49. The Committee is concerned about the poorer health outcomes and life expectancy, compared to the general population, experienced by persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities, and Māori and Pasifika persons with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party progress development of the Health of Disabled People Strategy and strengthen and expedite measures within the New Zealand Disability Strategy, the Health Services and Outcomes Kaupapa Inquiry and the Pathways to Pacific Health and Wellbeing strategy, to increase access to health services and improve health outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Republic of Korea (2022)

51. The Committee remains concerned that article 732 of the Commercial Act recognizes life insurance contracts for persons with disabilities only if the person “possesses mental capacity”, which constitutes a discrimination against persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that under the Act on the Right to Health of Persons with Disabilities, women’s right to health is limited to pregnancy, childbirth and maternity.

52. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CRPD/C/KOR/CO/1, para. 47) and recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal article 732 of the Commercial Act and develop and implement specific programs on different aspects of women’s right to health, including access to sexual and reproductive health care and services and mental health services;

(b) Develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on their skills, support measures, and information and communication means and methods, and provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.

Singapore (2022)

49. The Committee notes with satisfaction the information provided by the State party that it is planning to withdraw its reservation to article 25 (e) of the Convention upon the adoption of the Guidelines for private insurers. However, it is concerned about:

(a) Information on barriers faced by autistic persons in their access to private health and life insurance schemes and the respective conditions;

(b) Barriers in access to sexual and reproductive health-care services for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities, including women and girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Information about the lack of awareness by health-care service providers and medical staff on the rights of persons with disabilities and the absence of accessible communication with users of health services;

(d) That persons with disabilities have faced obstacles in gaining access to health care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular persons with disabilities in places of deprivation of liberty.

50. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Enact legislation ensuring that all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and autistic persons, have access to health and life insurance on an equal basis with others, and that they are guaranteed equal conditions, without discrimination; and establish an effective monitoring mechanism with adequate measures for the enforcement of this legislation, and remedies and sanctions in cases non-compliance; the Committee encourages the State party to withdraw its reservation to article 25 (e) of the Convention, as planned;

(b) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services, on an equal basis with others, and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities allowing them to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and self-determination;

(c) Develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on their skills, support measures, and information and communication means and methods, and provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and women and girls with disabilities;

(d) Provide all persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty, with access to all health-care services available for the general population during the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensure priority access to diagnostic, vaccination and recovery treatment for persons with disabilities.

Hungary (2022)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient accessibility of health-care facilities, services and medical equipment, including physical and informational accessibility, for all persons with disabilities across the State party, particularly for persons with intellectual disabilities and autistic children in general treatment and women with disabilities in relation to their sexual and reproductive health;

(b) The attitudinal barriers and limited knowledge of the rights and requirements of persons with disabilities among health-care professionals.

51. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop action plans to ensure the accessibility and availability of health-care facilities, services and equipment for persons with disabilities across the State Party, with a specific emphasis on the sexual and reproductive health of women with disabilities, as well as on accessible information and communication for autistic persons, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with visual and hearing impairments in general treatment in the health-care system;

(b) Develop training programmes, including in universities and in-service training curricula, for health-care professionals on the needs and rights of persons with disabilities.

Jamaica (2022)

44. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Information about barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to health-care services and equipment, including physical barriers faced by persons with vision impairments;

- (b) The lack of access to sexual and reproductive health-care services for persons with disabilities, particularly all women with disabilities, including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;
- (c) Information about the lack of awareness by health-care service managers and medical staff on the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons with hearing impairments, and the lack of accessible communication with users of health services;
- (d) The obstacles for persons with disabilities in procuring medicines for the treatment of disability-related health conditions, as they are not considered to be on the essential list, as well as long delays for scheduling and waiting for medical appointments;
- (e) That persons with disabilities have faced obstacles in gaining access to health care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (f) The insufficient early intervention and alternative care with regard to mental health, including support within families.

45. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen action plans to ensure the accessibility and availability of health-care services and equipment for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities so that they can reaffirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy and self-determination;**
- (c) Develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on their skills, support measures, and information and communication means and methods, and provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities;**
- (d) Ensure that the National Health Fund is comprehensive and covers all essential services and drugs, including those needed to specifically treat disability-related health problems;**
- (e) Provide all persons with disabilities with access to all the health-care services available for the general population during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring priority access to diagnostic, vaccination and recovery treatments;**
- (f) Intensify campaigns on mental health awareness to destigmatize mental health and encourage early use of services by all members of the community.**

Mexico (2022)

56. The Committee is concerned about serious restrictions for persons with disabilities in access to health care, including mental health services and sexual and reproductive health services. It is further concerned about legal exceptions to free and informed consent to medical interventions, and about reports of non-adherence to the requirement of free and informed consent with regard to persons with disabilities.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Remove legal exceptions to the requirement of free and informed consent of all persons with disabilities to medical interventions, including hospitalization, and ensure adherence to the requirement of free and informed consent with regard to all persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure available, accessible and quality health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health services, for persons with disabilities, particularly for women and girls with disabilities, make hospitals and health centres accessible to persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas, and protect pregnant women with disabilities from being pressured to undergo abortions;**
- (c) Compile disaggregated data on the access of women with disabilities to safe sexual and reproductive health services, and on infringements on their right to decide on whether to have an abortion;**

(d) Provide accessible, effective remedies to persons with disabilities alleging a violation of their rights under article 25, in particular to women with disabilities alleging a violation of their sexual and reproductive health rights.

58. The Committee is concerned about serious curtailments of health services for persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and about a lack of emergency medical services in cases of sexual violence against persons with disabilities.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Restore all health services for persons with disabilities that were curtailed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and compile disaggregated data on the effects of the pandemic on the health situation of persons with disabilities and on their access to health services;

(b) Provide emergency medical services for persons with disabilities who are victims of sexual violence.

Switzerland (2022)

49. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to gender-sensitive, accessible health care, including accessibility in primary and specialist health services, the lack of reasonable accommodation, prejudices about persons with disabilities across medical specialities, and fee restrictions that prevent compensation for additional disability-related expenses;

(b) The lack of sufficient community-based, non-coercive mental health services and support, and the fact that 400 new places are being established in mental health institutions;

(c) The insufficient measures to ensure access, on an equal basis with others, to high-quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and sex education for all persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to high-quality, gender-sensitive and affordable health-care services at the federal and cantonal levels without discrimination, including by ensuring the implementation of accessibility standards and the provision of reasonable accommodation by public and private health providers;

(b) Develop professional training and continuing education for public and private health professionals on the human rights of persons with disabilities and the requirement for accessibility and reasonable accommodation in all aspects of health-care provision;

(c) Take effective measures to eliminate fee restrictions that prevent compensation for additional disability-related expenses;

(d) Develop, in close consultation with organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities, non-coercive, community-based mental health support, in all cantons, that is based on the principles and standards of the Convention;

(e) Ensure that high-quality, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and sex education are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and those still in institutions.

Venezuela (2022)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities in terms of the implementation of preventive measures and accessibility of the physical environment, information and communications, trained personnel in health-care centres and disaggregated data on how many persons with disabilities contracted the virus, how many required a mechanical ventilator and how many died;

(b) The shortage of medicines, which is causing severe complications such as ulcer infections in persons with spinal cord injuries;

(c) Insufficient technical, human and economic measures and resources for guaranteeing access to sexual and reproductive health for persons with disabilities, especially women and children with disabilities.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Carry out a specific study on the extent to which persons with disabilities have been affected by the pandemic, including whether they were consulted about the implementation of preventive measures, how many contracted the virus, how many had access to a mechanical ventilator, how sequelae were monitored and how many died;

(b) Adopt measures and allocate technical resources to ensure the accessibility of the physical environment, equipment, information and communications in all places where health-care services are provided and to ensure the availability of information in accessible means and modes, including documents in Braille and Easy Read, trained personnel and certified sign language interpreters;

(c) Take specific measures to avoid medical complications for persons with disabilities as a result of the shortage of medicines;

(d) Design specific health-care protocols for persons with disabilities, especially training programmes on sexual and reproductive health, with a cross-cutting gender and intersectional perspective

Djibouti (2021)

43. The Committee notes with concern:

Lack of a comprehensive policy to effectively implement provision of the Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018) to tackle barriers faced persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas and in refugee camps, in accessing quality public health-care services and the lack of accessibility to health-care facilities;

Lack of access to sexual and reproductive health-related services for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities;

Lack of measures adopted to ensure the right to free and informed consent of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, with respect to medical treatment and intervention;

Lack of an action plan to provide training for health-care personnel and traditional healers on the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with article 30 of Act No. 207/AN/17/7ème L (2018);

Lack of information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Develop and adopt comprehensive policy, with clear targets and sufficient budget allocation, to ensure provision of quality public health-care services to persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas and refugee camps, and ensure their accessibility to health-care facilities, services and information;

Provide women and girls with disabilities with access to sexual and reproductive health-care, including in rural areas and in refugee camps;

Integrate the rights based approach to disability into the training curriculum of health-care professionals, emphasizing that all persons with disabilities have the right to free and informed consent;

Provide information in accessible formats, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.

France (2021)

52. The Committee notes with concern the information about insufficient access of persons with disabilities to vaccines against COVID-19, particularly for persons with disabilities still in institutions, and prevailing barriers to accessibility of health services by persons with disabilities, particularly:

That universal design and accommodations for persons with disabilities, particularly hard of hearing or deaf persons remain insufficient;

Barriers in access health care for persons in institutions and in penitentiary settings, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Obstacles facing women with disabilities to access sexual and reproductive health, access to sexual education, contraception and gynaecological services;

Lack of awareness and training of medical and health administrative staff about diversity and rights of persons with disabilities.

53. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure equal access to persons with disabilities to vaccines against COVID-19 and to ensure accessibility of health services for persons with disabilities:

Ensure the development and promote investment in universal design of medical devices, equipment as well as health care facilities and reinforce measures to provide persons with disabilities with information about health care in accessible formats;

Ensure that plans for recovery include measures to ensure access of persons with disabilities to health care, paying particular attention to persons still in institutions, penitentiary facilities;

Provide women and girls with disabilities with appropriate and accessible sexual and reproductive health care, and consult with organizations of women with disabilities about gaps and measures to ensure progress in this regards;

Develop awareness and training programs, including in health-related higher education curriculums, for medical and health administrative staff about diversity and rights of persons with disabilities in close cooperation with organisations of persons with disabilities.

Estonia (2021)

48. The Committee notes with concern:

Information about barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to health-care services and equipment, including physical barriers faced by persons with vision impairments;

That women with disabilities subject to guardianship face greater barriers in gaining access to sexual and reproductive health-related services and to expressing their free and informed consent concerning health treatments;

Information about the lack of awareness of health-care service managers and medical staff on the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons with hearing impairments, and the lack of accessible communication with users of health services;

Reports indicating that persons with disabilities requiring higher levels of support receive lower-quality health services;

That persons with disabilities have faced obstacles in gaining access to health care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic;

The lack of information about protocols for persons with disabilities to exercise and express their free and informed consent with respect to medical treatment.

49. Taking into account the links between article 25 of the Convention and targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

Strengthen action plans to ensure the accessibility and availability of health-care services and equipment for persons with disabilities;

Provide women and girls with disabilities with access to sexual and reproductive health care and services and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities so that they can reaffirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy and self-determination;

Develop training for health-care professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including their skills, support measures and information and communication means and methods;

Allocate human, technical and financial resources for the development of quality health services and for health-related supervision for persons requiring higher levels of support;

Provide all persons with disabilities with access to all the health-care services available for the general population during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring priority access to diagnostic, vaccination and recovery treatments;

Ensure that persons with disabilities can gain access to medical services on the basis of their free and informed consent.

Albania (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient accessible health care services and facilities in the community for persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities and those that require extensive support. It is particularly concerned about the lack of:

Information on achievements of the National Health Strategy (2017–2021) together with the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2016–2020) and Action Plan for the Development of Mental Health Services in Albania (2013–2022), particularly with regard to the sufficiency of programmes for early identification, for autistic persons, and for persons with disabilities living in rural areas;

Measures taken to ensure access of persons with disabilities, particularly older persons, Roma persons, and women and girls with disabilities, to comprehensive health-care services, including concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, on an equal basis with others.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Review plans and strategies and take effective and coordinated measures to ensure that health services adhere to the Convention;

Ensure, in practice, access to health care for persons with disabilities, including older persons, and Roma persons with disabilities, as well as early identification and intervention for children with disabilities and access to accessible health care services for all persons with disabilities;

Effectively ensure and monitor that health services providers offer health services to persons with disabilities without discrimination and on an equal basis with others by making the necessary equipment and instruments, assistive technologies included, available and accessible in order for persons with disabilities, particularly women, to access services, including reproductive health services, as close to home as possible, in close consultation with representative organisations of persons with disabilities.

Australia (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned about the fact that, compared to the general population, persons with disabilities, in particular persons with disabilities living in remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, persons with disabilities living in institutions and children and women with disabilities, are in significantly poorer health and have less access to information and to adequate, affordable and accessible health services and equipment.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party adhere to article 25 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that:

All persons with disabilities, in particular persons with disabilities living in remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, persons with disabilities living in institutions and women and children with disabilities, have access to information on an equal basis with others and to affordable, accessible, quality and culturally sensitive medical equipment and health services, including sexual, reproductive and mental health services;

All health-care services are based on a non-discriminatory, human rights model of disability and that any medical treatment is provided with the free and informed consent of the person concerned prior to any medical treatment;

Health-care practitioners receive training on the human rights model of disability to enhance their capacity to provide accessible, quality health care to persons with disabilities.

Ecuador (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned that:

Health programmes do not expressly include persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls living in rural communities and areas;

The physical environment, information and communications for health care have not been made accessible, and public programmes and policies are predominantly welfare-based;

Insufficient technical, human and economic measures and resources are in place for guaranteeing access to sexual and reproductive health for persons with disabilities, especially girls, adolescents and women with disabilities, and disability prevention measures continue to be prioritized as a means of implementing the right to health.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Design specific health-care protocols for persons with disabilities based on a cross-cutting gender and intersectional perspective;

Adopt measures and allocate technical resources to ensure the accessibility of the physical environment, infrastructure, information and communications in all places where health-care services are provided and to ensure the availability of information in accessible means and modes, including Braille, trained personnel and accredited sign language interpreters;
Exclude disability prevention measures, which do not form part of the implementation of the Convention.

El Salvador (2019)

48. The Committee is concerned that the State party highlights various programmes to contribute to women's health, but makes no specific reference to access to health insurance on an equal basis with others and access to sexual and reproductive health services for girls and women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and deaf, blind and deafblind persons. The Committee remains concerned at the lack of adaption to health-care infrastructure and equipment.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that in its nationwide health programmes, including its sexual and reproductive health programmes, it include persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and deaf, blind and deafblind persons. It also recommends that persons with disabilities have access to health insurance on an equal basis with others. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate resources to ensure accessibility of health services and equipment and that medical professionals be duly trained on the rights of persons with disabilities when providing them with treatment and counselling, in both urban and rural locations.

Greece (2019)

36. The Committee is concerned about:

The insufficient access of persons with disabilities to health service facilities and medical equipment;
The insufficient measures taken to effectively guarantee persons with disabilities, particularly older persons with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities, access to comprehensive health-care services (see also the report of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Dunja Mijatović, following her visit to Greece from 25 to 29 June 2018, para. 117), including sexual and reproductive health services, on an equal basis with others.

37. The Committee recommends that, taking into account targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

Put in place a stable, continuous, long-term strategy containing effective and harmonized measures to guarantee persons with disabilities access to health services;

Effectively monitor the implementation of the provision of health services by health service providers to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others. The Committee also recommends that the State party render health facilities, equipment and instruments accessible, particularly to ensure that women and girls with disabilities have access to sexual and reproductive health services in urban and rural areas.

India (2019)

52. The Committee is concerned about:

The lack of gender-sensitive programmes on sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls with disabilities;

The insufficient coverage of the national health protection scheme in relation to persons with disabilities, and lack of affordable insurance for persons with intellectual disabilities;

Discrimination in disability-related health-care services in national health-care schemes, particularly affecting persons affected by leprosy and women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adhere to article 25 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Adopt measures to provide women and girls with disabilities with appropriate and accessible sexual and reproductive health care, and ensure that response and counselling in cases of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities is accessible, inclusive and age- and gender-sensitive;

Ensure universal health-care coverage and access for all persons with disabilities in rural and urban areas;

Adopt measures to ensure equal access to health services and non-discrimination in the provision of disability-related health-care services in national health-care schemes, including for persons affected by leprosy and women and girls with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, ensuring that service providers facilitate access to health services.

Iraq (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned that:

Persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, children with disabilities, persons with disabilities living in rural areas and persons with disabilities who are internally displaced, have insufficient access to health-care services, health facilities and medical equipment;

Persons with disabilities are not provided with accessible information on health care and hence cannot access the health-care system on an equal basis with others;

Women and girls with disabilities face challenges in accessing health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health services, as a result of the considerable distances to health-care centres, the physical, financial and attitudinal barriers and the lack of accessible information on health-care services;

Medical and paramedical staff are insufficiently trained on the rights of persons with disabilities.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Increase the number and strengthen the capacity of comprehensive community-based health-care services to provide services for persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, children with disabilities, persons with disabilities living in rural areas and persons with disabilities who are internally displaced;

Ensure that information on health-care services is available to persons with disabilities in accessible formats;

Take measures to ensure universal coverage of health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health care services, for all women and girls with disabilities, in line with article 15 (1) of Law No. 38 (2013);

Allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to implement articles 3 (6) and (8) and 9 (h) (1) of Law No. 38 (2013) and to train medical and paramedical staff on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on the right to free and informed consent and the right to access the health-care system on an equal basis with others.

Kuwait (2019)

48. The Committee is concerned about:

Insufficient access to quality and affordable health-care services for Bidoon and non-Kuwaiti children and adults with disabilities, who are therefore obliged to seek private health care at their own expense;

The shortage of health professionals trained in the rights of persons with disabilities;

The fact that the State party, including during the dialogue and in its initial report submitted to the Committee, does not clearly separate those issues that affect all aspects of the lives of persons with disabilities from issues that pertain strictly to their health – including access to health-care facilities, services and equipment, access to information and to accessible formats, modes and means of communication, and the training of personnel – and that there is a narrow focus on habilitation and rehabilitation.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure that all persons with disabilities, including Bidoon and non-Kuwaiti children with disabilities, can access health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, throughout the State party;

Build the capacity of health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including their right to give their free and informed consent, through systematic training and awareness-raising programmes;

Take the measures necessary to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to health facilities, services and equipment, including physical accessibility, and access to information and to accessible formats, modes and means of communication, and train staff on the health requirements of persons with disabilities.

Myanmar (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health-care services, especially in rural areas, including physical, communication, and financial barriers;

The lack of systematic training of health-care personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt and implement a strategy, with sufficient human, technical and financial resources, to remove physical, communication, and financial barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health-care services, and guarantee their access to disability- and gender-sensitive health-care services and information, especially in rural areas;

Provide systematic training to medical personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities, including the human rights model of disability and alternative communication methods.

Cuba (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned about the deficiencies in access to health-care services for persons with disabilities and the lack of knowledge among health care personnel concerning the specific requirements and rights of persons with disabilities.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party implement measures to guarantee accessible health-care services for all persons with disabilities, including information on sexual and reproductive health and specifically for persons living in rural areas on an equal basis with others.

Niger (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned about:

The lack of accessibility of hospitals and health centres for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with physical disabilities; insufficient access to quality health care especially for persons with disabilities in rural areas; the lack of training for health professionals on the human rights of persons with disabilities; and the lack of professional sign language interpreters;

The lack of information in accessible formats including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities, regarding health services and educational programmes, particularly for women, girls and young persons with disabilities concerning sexual and reproductive health rights, HIV/AIDS prevention and their right to free and informed consent.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure quality health care services for persons with disabilities, and make hospitals and health centres physically accessible to persons with disabilities, including in rural areas, for women and girls, as well as migrant and refugees with disabilities;

Integrate the human rights model of disability into the training curriculum of all health professionals, emphasizing the free, prior and informed consent of all persons with disabilities;

Provide information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read, regarding health services, educational programmes, their right to free and informed consent, and to sexual and reproductive health;

Pay attention to the links between article 25 and Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 7, to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services.

Norway (2019)

39. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

Awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities among medical professionals and that health-care services and facilities remain largely inaccessible and unavailable to persons with disabilities, including for persons with disabilities still living in institutions;

Accessibility of information on medical services and facilities, particularly relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights, for women with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party adhere to article 25 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals and:

Strengthen measures to ensure the accessibility of health-care services and facilities in the community, including to persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and those that require extensive support, and provide information in accessible formats;

Raise awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities among medical professionals;

Take measures to provide persons with disabilities, especially women, with information in accessible formats, on accessible health-care services and facilities, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Rwanda (2019)

45. The Committee notes with concern:

The lack of accessible public health education, health care facilities and services, including emergency services, sexual and reproductive health services, and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support programmes, particularly in remote, rural areas;

The lack of adequate training of health professionals on the human rights of persons with disabilities, including on free and informed consent;

That refugees with disabilities do not benefit from health care coverage;

The lack of specific measures on persons with albinism in policies governing health and disability, in particular concerning the prevention and treatment of skin cancer.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt and implement a strategy to ensure the availability and accessibility of public health education, health care services and facilities for all persons with disabilities throughout the country, including emergency services, sexual and reproductive health services, and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support programmes;

Raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities among medical professionals through training and the promulgation of ethical standards, including on the right to free and informed consent;

Take measures to ensure universal, affordable, non-discriminatory access to quality health care services for all persons with disabilities, including refugees with disabilities;

Adopt specific measures on persons with albinism in policies governing health and disabilities, ensuring the availability, accessibility, affordability and quality of prevention and treatment for skin cancer.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned at:

Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health services, especially in rural areas, due to geographic distance, physical obstacles and lack of related information in accessible formats;

The lack of information on the availability of accessible sexual and reproductive health services;

The limited availability and the high costs of specialized health care services related to disabilities.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt and implement a strategy to guarantee the access of all persons with disabilities, especially those residing in rural areas, to disability- and gender-sensitive health care services and information, and ensure that this strategy includes capacity building of medical personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the human rights-based approach to disability and alternative communication methods;

Ensure the availability of gender- and disability sensitive and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in all medical facilities throughout the State party, and disseminate accessible information on sexual and reproductive health and rights;

Guarantee the availability and affordability of specialized health care services related to disabilities.

Senegal (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

The challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health care services, particularly women and girls with disabilities and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, migrant workers and their families, and the overall inaccessibility of the physical environment of health care facilities;

The insufficient resources allocated to the health services required by persons with disabilities, because of their disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, to have access to sunscreens;

The lack of training for health personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities and, particularly, how to ensure persons with disabilities are treated in a respectful manner;

The absence of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read regarding services and educational programmes, particularly concerning

sexual and reproductive health and rights, including their right to free and informed consent on health matters.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt concrete measures to ensure that the built environment, including health care environment and all health care facilities are accessible to all persons with disabilities in all regions of the State party, including rural areas, and that quality health care is made available to all persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, as well as migrant workers and members of their families; Ensure the provision of significant budgetary allocations for the health sector to provide health care for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, particularly to cover the costs of services required because of their disabilities, such as sunscreen for persons with albinism;

Integrate the human rights model of disability into the training curriculum of health professionals, emphasizing that medical services and treatment to persons with disabilities should be provided with the free, prior and informed consent of all persons with disabilities, and the respectful and dignified treatment of persons with disabilities;

Ensure the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including Braille, sign language and Easy Read regarding services and educational programmes available, particularly for persons with sensory or intellectual disabilities, women, girls and young persons with disabilities concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (target 7).

Spain (2019)

48. The Committee is concerned about the limited:

Access to health care services for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas;

Accessibility of health-related information and appropriate means of communication, particularly for persons who are deaf- or blind, as well as for persons with intellectual disabilities;

Access to gynaecological and obstetric care for women with disabilities.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure the accessibility and availability of health services for all persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas;

Ensure that persons with disabilities have accessible information and that health services are provided with alternative means of communication such as sign language interpretation, Braille, Easy Read and all required augmentative means for this purpose;

Guarantee universal access to accessible sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, particularly for women and girls with disabilities, and integrate the right to reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, as set out in target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Türkiye (2019)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

The insufficient availability, affordability and accessibility of hospitals and other health care services for persons with disabilities, particularly concerning access to specialized treatments, physiotherapy, equipment for examination, and accessible information;

Attitudinal barriers and prejudices among health care personnel preventing persons with disabilities' access to sexual and reproductive health, and lack of measures to ensure privacy of persons with disabilities during consultations or examinations;

The lack of disaggregated data by sex, age, ethnic origin, migration status of persons with disabilities taking part in the family practice systems, mobile health care, patient transportation service, and conditional cash transfers to facilitate access to health services, in particular in rural areas.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Improve availability, accessibility and affordability of health care for persons with disabilities, and take measures to ensure that investments in health care infrastructure address universal coverage, accessible equipment, specialized care, and accessible information and interpretation services required by persons with disabilities;

Strengthen training and awareness raising among health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including their sexual and reproductive rights and adopt protocols on the conduct of medical examinations and consultation respecting the right to privacy of persons with disabilities;

Implement monitoring mechanisms for community-based health care, such as the family practice system, mobile health care, and patient transportation systems to identify the extent to which persons

with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, access these programmes and the health services provided.

Vanuatu (2019)

42. The Committee is concerned about:

The limited access to health care services by persons with disabilities;

The insufficient training of health personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities;

The lack of access to sexual and reproductive health care services by persons with disabilities, particularly all women with disabilities including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities;

The lack of data on health care services provided to persons with disabilities.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt measures to implement Health Sector Strategy (2017-2020) and other legislative measures, to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to affordable, accessible and quality health services on an equal basis with others;

Ensure that medical and health professionals receive regular and compulsory training on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on the individual requirement of health care on the basis of free and informed consent;

Ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly all women with disabilities including those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, have access to sexual and reproductive health care services in their communities, as set out in target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Collect disaggregated data, by age, sex and type of impairment, to monitor medical treatment and health services for persons with disabilities.

Algeria (2018)

42. The Committee is concerned about discrimination against persons with disabilities which limits their access to health care services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and in particular: The lack of capacity of health care services, in particular for children with disabilities and in rural areas; Information and communications which are not tailored to the requirements of persons with disabilities;

The insufficiency of trained health care personnel to address the multiple barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by the Convention in its implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 3 and:

Increase the availability and capacity of comprehensive community-based health care services to respond to the requirements of persons with disabilities, in particular for children and in rural regions;

Ensure the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities such as Braille, sign language, accessible digital formats, and Easy Read, regarding available health care services and programmes, in particular concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, maternal and child health services and psychosocial support services;

Allocate sufficient resources to train medical and paramedical staff on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on free and informed consent and the right to access the healthcare system on an equal basis with others.

Bulgaria (2018)

51. The Committee notes with concern the lack of training for health care professionals on human rights of persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual, and persons with psychosocial disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of accessible information and services on sexual and reproductive health and rights for women with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness of the human rights model of disability among all health professionals, including training on the right to free and informed consent and to take note of article 25 of the Convention in the implementation of target 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also recommends that the State party adopt a policy framework and a time bound strategy to provide women with disabilities with accessible sexual and reproductive health care and information, and services appropriate to their age.

53. The Committee notes with concern the limited access to diagnostics, health care and medical rehabilitation to persons with disabilities, in particular those with chronic, genetic and rare diseases.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to diagnostics, health care and medical rehabilitation to persons with disabilities, especially those with chronic, genetic and rare diseases.

Malta (2018)

37. The Committee is concerned about the interpretative declaration that the State party has made on article 25 (a) of the Convention, according to which the State party interprets the phrase "sexual and reproductive health" in Art 25 (a) of the Convention as not constituting recognition of any new international law obligation, creating any abortion rights nor constituting support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion.

38. The Committee urges the State party to withdraw its interpretative declaration on article 25 (a) of the Convention in order to allow persons with disabilities to enjoy the right to health on an equal basis with others.

Philippines (2018)

42. The Committee is concerned about the limited sexual reproductive health education, services and rights faced by women and girls with disabilities on account of ineffective implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 (Reproductive Health Law). It is also concerned about prejudices and discrimination from families, service providers, and the wider public that prevent women and girls from accessing health care.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure women, girls and persons with psychosocial disabilities comprehensive access to sexual reproductive health and community-based rehabilitation services for rural and remote areas without being confronted with prejudices;

Increase the training and sensitivity of healthcare professionals on providing sexual and reproductive healthcare education and services to women, girls and persons with psychosocial with disabilities, in line with the Convention;

Strengthen training for all regional health workers nationwide and by reactivating the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 (Reproductive Health Law).

Poland (2018)

The Committee is deeply concerned about the State Party's reservation to article 25(a) of the Convention and by:

The lack of health services accessible to all persons with disabilities especially in rural areas, including the lack of sign language interpretation,

The lack of health care information and services, tailored to the needs of women with disabilities, especially for blind women or women with psycho-social and/or intellectual disability, and of adapted health care equipment, adequate sexual and reproductive health services and gynaecological rooms equipped for them;

Lack of affordable high quality healthcare products and the unequal access to such products among all persons with disabilities having similar needs;

Lack of awareness and willingness of health-care personnel to provide health related services to women with disabilities;

The barriers faced by women with disabilities in accessing services for safe abortion, owing to a lack of access to information on and services related to sexual and reproductive health rights;

The implementation of the National Mental Health Programme resulting in neglect for the health needs of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw its reservation to Article 25 (a) of the Convention and:

Ensure access to health services by all persons with disabilities and their availability, regardless of the types of impairment;

Adopt measures to ensure universal coverage of health services for all women and girls with disabilities, including information in accessible formats on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, gynaecological services, perinatal care and adapted health care equipment, such as gynaecological rooms;

Adopt measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can access high quality healthcare products at affordable price and eliminate difference in health care coverage between different groups of persons with disabilities;

Conduct training to ensure that health-care practitioners are aware of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, under the Convention;
Take the necessary measures to ensure that the autonomy and decisions of women with disabilities are respected, that women's rights in relation to reproductive health are secured, that access to safe abortion is provided; and that women with disabilities are protected from forced sterilization and forced abortion;
Ensure that the implementation of the National Mental Health Programme results in increasing access to community-based health services for persons with psychosocial disabilities, and provide adequate resources to these services.

South Africa (2018)

42. The Committee notes with concern:

Challenges faced by persons with disabilities, especially women, girls and youth with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in accessing health services as a result of geographic distance to health centres, physical, financial and attitudinal barriers and lack of information and health-care services, including with regard to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and abortion.

The lack of information on sexual and reproductive rights in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including the absence of adequate training for children, teachers and healthcare workers on sexual and reproductive rights and the recognition of the sexual and reproductive rights of persons with disabilities.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by Sustainable Development Goal 3, especially target 7, and:

Adopt measures to ensure universal coverage of health services for all persons with disabilities, and that such services are accessible, affordable and culturally sensitive, and prevent the denial of health-care services;

Take measures to provide all persons with disabilities with information in accessible formats about their sexual and reproductive health and rights;

Conduct training to ensure that health-care practitioners are aware of the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention and have the tools to provide appropriate advice for persons with disabilities, including on sexual and reproductive rights.

North Macedonia (2018)

44. The Committee is concerned that disability is not a ground for discrimination in the Law on Protection of Patients' Rights, and the overall lack of accessibility in mainstream health services, in particular:

The age constraints to accessing free health care and treatment, coupled with the exemptions in the Law on Health that discriminates against persons with disabilities;

The absence of frameworks to guarantee access of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent with regard to health services;

The lack of early identification, availability and affordability of specialized health care services related to disabilities;

The lack of access to basic medical products necessary to maintain the best possible lifelong conditions;

The lack of information on sexual and reproductive health in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including women and girls and the lack of specialized services for girls and women with disabilities in all parts of the State party;

Poor access to health care and the lack of specialized services to children with disabilities.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Include disability as a ground for discrimination in the Law on Protection of Patients' Rights;

Remove age constraints to accessing free health care and treatment, as well as any exemptions in the Law on Health that discriminates against persons with disabilities;

Adopt a strategy to ensure free or affordable access to all required health services by persons with disabilities, including by training medical personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities, the human rights-based approach to disability;

Adopt health protocols aimed at ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent to medical treatments;

Take measures to ensure early identification, the availability and accessibility of health care facilities and services, including by removing physical obstacles to health centres and providing information in accessible formats;

Ensure the dissemination of information on sexual and reproductive rights in appropriate formats for all persons with disabilities, and the availability of gender and age-sensitive services, and ensure specialised services for persons with disabilities available in all parts of the State party;

Promptly adopt and implement a new action plan on improving health care for children with disabilities;

Promote the availability and affordability of specialized health care services related to disabilities.

Haiti (2018)

44. The Committee is concerned by:

Systemic, physical, attitudinal and communication barriers which impede the access of persons with disabilities to health services on an equal basis with others, particularly in rural areas and for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

The absence of health care services, equipment, information and communications tailored to the requirements of persons with disabilities as well as the insufficiency of trained personnel to address the multiple barriers faced by persons with disabilities;

The inaccessibility of health programs or prevention campaigns against HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and reproductive health services.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Develop a targeted, measurable and financed plan of action aiming at the elimination of barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in access to health care services;

Increase efforts to ensure that health care services for persons with disabilities, including, are accessible, especially in rural areas;

Raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention among medical professionals through the promulgation of ethical standards and set up regular and mandatory trainings for health personnel;

Take measures to provide persons with disabilities, especially women, with information in accessible formats, on health care services and facilities, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health, their right to free and informed consent, sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections;

Draw on article 25 of the Convention to achieve 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nepal (2018)

(Recommendation regarding articles 25 and 26 together)

37. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to comprehensive health and rehabilitation services by persons with disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party develop measures to ensure comprehensive access to health services for persons with disabilities, particularly sexual and reproductive health services, maternal and child health centres, psychosocial services, and intensify the provision of comprehensive community-based rehabilitation services including in rural and remote areas.

Oman (2018)

45. While welcoming the improvement and expansion of health care services, including rehabilitation programmes and mental health care services, for persons with disabilities in the State party, the Committee is concerned about:

Inadequate accessibility of hospitals and health centres for persons with disabilities in the State party, including those with motor impairments, and insufficient access to quality health care for persons with disabilities living in rural areas and for children of migrant workers;

The insufficient training for primary health care staff;

The special requirements of women and girls with disabilities are not identified and addressed;

The lack of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including Braille, sign language and Easy-Read for persons with sensory and persons with intellectual disabilities, regarding services and educational programmes, in particular with respect to women, girls and young persons

concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, including their right to free and informed consent on health matters.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt measures to ensure that all hospitals and other health facilities are physically accessible to all persons with disabilities in all regions of the State party, including rural areas, and that quality health care is made available to all persons with disabilities, including women and girls, as well as migrant workers and members of their families;

Integrate the human rights-based model of disability into the training curriculum of all health professionals, emphasizing that medical services and treatment to persons with disabilities should be provided with the free, prior and informed consent of all persons with disabilities;

Ensure the provision of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including Braille, sign language and Easy-Read for persons with sensory and mental impairments, regarding services and educational programmes available to persons with disabilities, in particular for women and girls and young persons concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (target 7), including their right to free and informed consent on health matters.

Russian Federation (2018)

(Recommendation regarding articles 25 and 26 together)

51. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient and unequal access to quality health care and rehabilitation services in all regions of the State party and notes the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the Russian Federation (E/C.12/RUS/CO/6), paragraphs 50-51. The Committee is also concerned that there is no information available regarding the legislation formulating the characteristics of the Technical Means of Rehabilitation (TMR).

52. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure access to quality health care and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities in all regions of the State party. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the current legislation and practice in terms of drug policy and preventive measures by taking into account the recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the Russian Federation (E/C.12/RUS/CO/6), paragraphs 50-51 in particular. It also recommends that the State party elaborate legislation on the TMR system which should provide for transparent decision making process with regard to relevant safeguards.

Seychelles (2018)

43. The Committee notes that health services and health information are not accessible to persons with disabilities, including services and information relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV/AIDS. It is also concerned that:

(a) Under existing legislation, the consent to medical treatment of the person with a disability can be waived and the decision can be made by a third party;

(b) Health-care professionals are not sufficiently trained on the human rights of persons with disabilities;

(c) Primary prevention of disability is misunderstood as an implementation measure of the Convention.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party continue improving the accessibility of timely and quality health-care services for persons with disabilities, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV/AIDS prevention and care. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that all medical treatments and interventions are undertaken with the free, prior and informed consent of the person with a disability concerned;

(b) Carry out accessible public health campaigns directed at persons with disabilities;

(c) Provide the services for persons with disabilities that are required by their specific disabilities as well as other services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children;

(d) Ensure that personnel in hospitals and health-care centres receive regular and compulsory training on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on the individual right to free and informed consent, sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections;

(e) Take into account article 25 of the Convention while implementing targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Slovenia (2018)

41. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access to health services for persons with disabilities and its availability, especially for deaf, blind persons and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to health services by all persons with disabilities and its availability, regardless type of impairment, wherever they live, including in institutions. It further recommends that the State party ensures universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, and the integration of the right to reproductive health into national strategies and programmes as set out in target 3.7, goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 25 of the Convention and target 3.8, of the Sustainable Development Goals and it ensure the implementation of the health care and health insurance act.

Sudan (2018)

49. The Committee is concerned about the overall lack of accessibility in mainstream health services, and in particular:

The general lack of awareness among medical personnel about the rights of persons with disabilities and their lack of training in other communication methods;

The absence of protocols to ensure the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities with regard to health services;

Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health services, especially in rural areas, as a result of geographic distance to health centres, physical obstacles to health centres and lack of information in accessible formats;

The lack of information on sexual and reproductive health in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including women and girls;

The limited availability and the high costs of accessing specialized health care services related to disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt a strategy to ensure access to health services by persons with disabilities, including by training medical personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities, the human rights-based approach to disability and in other communication methods;

Adopt health protocols aimed at ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent to medical treatments;

Take measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of health care facilities and services, including in rural areas, including by removing physical obstacles to health centres and providing information in accessible formats;

Ensure the dissemination of information on sexual and reproductive health rights in appropriate formats for all persons with disabilities, and the availability of gender and age-sensitive services, including in rural areas;

Promote the availability and affordability of specialized health care services related to disabilities.

Latvia (2017)

42. The Committee is concerned about the critical unavailability, inadequacy and inaccessibility of general health services for all persons with disabilities throughout the country

43. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the availability, adequacy and accessibility of general health-care services and facilities for all persons with disabilities throughout the country.

Luxembourg (2017)

44. The Committee is concerned about insufficient accessible health-care services and facilities in the community for persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities and those that require extensive support. It is also concerned about:

The insufficient training of health personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities and human rights in general;

The inadequate access to information on health-care services and facilities, including about sexual and reproductive health and rights and related services, especially for women with disabilities who are still living in institutions.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure the accessibility of health-care services and facilities in the community, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities or psychosocial disabilities and those that require extensive support. Specifically, it recommends that the State party:

Raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention among medical professionals through training and the promulgation of ethical standards;

Take measures to provide persons with disabilities, especially women, with information in accessible formats, on accessible health-care services and facilities, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

Montenegro (2017)

46. The Committee is concerned about the limited and unequal access to health services for persons with disabilities, especially persons in institutions. It is also concerned about:

The unequal access to sexual and reproductive health services, particularly at the local level and especially for women, which is illustrated, inter alia, by the very small number of gynaecological chairs;

The lack of adequate training of health professionals on the human rights of persons with disabilities;

The lack of information on measures in place to ensure that health professionals act on the basis of individual, free and informed consent in all decision-making regarding the right to health for persons with disabilities;

The lack of information on whether the sterilization of persons with disabilities without their consent is fully prohibited.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all necessary legislative and policy measures and action plans, and allocate adequate resources to their implementation in order to ensure that:

All persons with disabilities have access to timely and quality health-care services, including at the local level;

Sexual and reproductive health services and information are fully accessible to persons with disabilities, including by increasing the number of accessible gynaecological chairs and ensuring that adequate information is provided in accessible formats and alternative methods of communication to all women and girls with disabilities concerning their sexual and reproductive rights;

Forced sterilization is fully prohibited under all circumstances;

Professionals in mainstream health services receive training on the rights enshrined in the Convention that includes training on the right to free and informed consent with particular regard to reasonable accommodation, and that such training be also provided by persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

All health care and services provided to persons with disabilities, including all mental health care and services, are based on the free and informed consent of the individual concerned, that third party consent is explicitly prohibited, and that any failure to act in line with the free and informed consent of the patient is punished.

Morocco (2017)

48. The Committee notes with concern:

Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health services as a result of geographic distance from health centres, a lack of specialized medical services and a lack of accessible health-care facilities for persons with disabilities;

The lack of information on sexual and reproductive rights in accessible formats for persons with disabilities;

The lack of information on the administration of health-care treatments in the absence of protocols to ensure the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities with regard to health services.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt a strategy to ensure access to health services by persons with disabilities, including components covering, inter alia, the development of accessible facilities, training for health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, and the provision of information on health

treatments in accessible formats, including for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

Ensure the dissemination of information on sexual and reproductive rights in appropriate formats for all persons with disabilities;

Set up protocols aimed at ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent in the implementation of the national health and disability plan for the period 2015-2021;

Pay attention to the links between article 25 of the Convention and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services.

Panama (2017)

50. The Committee is concerned that, despite the fact that Act No. 42 of 27 August 1999, subsequently amended by Act No. 15 of 31 May 2016, provides for priority access to prompt health care for persons with disabilities, this provision is not being adequately implemented. It is further concerned at the lack of access to accessible health-care services for persons with disabilities.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee, in practice, priority access to health care for persons with disabilities and access to accessible health-care services for all persons with disabilities, including in rural areas and indigenous regions, on an equal basis with others.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

54. The Committee is concerned about the uneven access to health across the State party, including under the devolved governments, and about:

Systemic, physical, attitudinal and/or communicative barriers preventing persons with disabilities from accessing mainstream health services, such as inaccessible furnishing, training and treatment equipment, medicine and supplies, means of information and communication, limited access to clinics and health-care professionals, hospitals, dentists, gynaecologists and obstetricians;

Barriers for persons with disabilities to obtain privacy regarding management of personal health-related data;

Multiple barriers to access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and insufficient information and education on family planning in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls;

Reports of cases in which no attempt was made to resuscitate persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

The suicide rate among persons with disabilities, particularly in Northern Ireland.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities:

Develop a targeted, measurable and financed plan of action aiming at eliminating barriers in access to health care and services, and monitor and measure its progress, especially in relation to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and those with neurological and cognitive conditions;
Set up protocols for medical services that respect the right of persons with disabilities to privacy in information about health;

Ensure equal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as set out in target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and provide information and education on family planning for persons with disabilities in accessible formats, including Easy Read;

Ensure that medical professionals are under the obligation to enforce standards set in guidance and criteria on “do not resuscitate” orders for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others; (e) Address the high suicide rate among persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

Armenia (2017)

43. The Committee is concerned about the lack of awareness among medical professionals of the rights of persons with disabilities and that health-care services and facilities, including emergency services and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support programmes, remain inaccessible and unavailable to many persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas. It is also concerned about the lack of accessibility of medical services and facilities for women with disabilities, particularly in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Adopt training courses and ethical standards on the rights of persons with disabilities for medical professionals.

Ensure the availability and accessibility of health-care services and facilities for all persons with disabilities throughout the country, including emergency services and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support programmes;

Take measures to ensure that women with disabilities have accessible medical services and facilities, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

44. The Committee is concerned about the limited and unequal access to health services for children with disabilities in the State party. It is also concerned about the unequal access to sexual and reproductive health services and the lack of adequate training of health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as about the inaccessibility of medical services and health facilities.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective and harmonized measures to provide early intervention services to all children with disabilities and that it ensure adequate training of health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party require providers of health services to offer health services to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others by making the necessary equipment and instruments available and accessible in order for women with disabilities to access services, including reproductive health services, as close to home as possible.

Canada (2017)

45. The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by women with disabilities in accessing services for safe abortion, owing to a lack of access to information on and services related to sexual and reproductive health rights and the limited number of clinics that provide termination of pregnancy services. The Committee also notes with concern the stigma and attitudinal barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to medical tests and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, owing to prejudices that consider persons with disabilities "asexual" and the refusal of health-care services. It is further concerned that persons with disabilities continue to face physical, financial and attitudinal barriers in accessing information and health-care services, including with regard to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and notably abortion, and that the cost of medication remains a significant obstacle.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt measures to ensure universal coverage of health services for all persons with disabilities, including indigenous persons with disabilities, and that services are accessible, affordable and culturally sensitive, and prevent the denial of health-care services, including abortion;

Take measures to provide persons with disabilities with information in accessible formats about their sexual and reproductive health;

Conduct training to ensure that health-care practitioners are aware of the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention and have the tools to provide appropriate advice for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities;

Establish special measures to ensure that people with disabilities, including transgender and gender-diverse persons with disabilities, have equal access to health services, including surgical and medical abortion services, and gender-affirming comprehensive health care.

Cyprus (2017)

51. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient accessibility to health-care services by persons with disabilities. It also notes with concern that information regarding sexual and reproductive health is insufficiently accessible and that women and girls with disabilities are subjected to discrimination and stereotyping in this field. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that relevant legislation does not systematically apply a human rights-based approach to disability.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities with a special focus on the collaboration with women and girls with disabilities, and in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention, ensure accessibility to health services and facilities, and to information and communication regarding sexual and reproductive health rights and services on an equal basis with others, and that the health personnel be educated and trained on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State

party strengthen and implement mechanisms to combat discrimination and stereotyping in line with general comment No. 3 (2016) and targets 3.7, 3.8 and 5.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals in the field of access to health services. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party apply a human rights- based approach to disability in the provision of health services to persons with disabilities.

Honduras (2017)

53. Al Comité le preocupa que los servicios generales de salud no sean accesibles para las personas con discapacidad, especialmente en zonas rurales y comunidades afrohondureñas e indígenas. También le preocupa la falta de profesionales debidamente formados para brindar una atención de salud incluyente y atender los requerimientos específicos de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, así como los estereotipos que existen en cuanto a la salud sexual y reproductiva de las mujeres con discapacidad.

54. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte planes y asigne recursos para garantizar que los servicios generales de salud, incluidos los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva y la información a este respecto, sean accesibles para las personas con discapacidad en su territorio, especialmente en zonas rurales y comunidades afrohondureñas e indígenas. Recomienda además que el personal de los servicios de salud destinados a la población en general reciba capacitación en lo referente al trato de las personas con discapacidad, particularmente a las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, y el respeto de los derechos consagrados en la Convención.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

48. The Committee observes with concern:

The absence of strategies to provide all persons with disabilities access to health services;

The absence of information about accessible information and equipment including gynecological services for women with disabilities;

The lack of information about coverage of early identification programmes among children with disabilities in rural and urban areas; and

The lack of health insurance beyond basic one for persons with disabilities who do not qualify as 'war disabled veterans' and/or martyrs.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure that all persons with disabilities, including women, girls and boys with disabilities have access on an equal basis with others to affordable, accessible, quality and culturally sensitive health services, in urban and rural areas;

Strengthen its efforts to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services and information, are fully accessible and incorporate a gender perspective;

Introduce a data collection system based on international standards on the health status of persons with disabilities, including identification and follow-up mechanism for children with disabilities; and

Implement a strategy to provide health insurance to all persons with disabilities regardless of their impairment, cause of impairment, place of living, age, sex, gender or refugee status.

Jordan (2017)

47. The Committee notes with concern the restrictions imposed on persons with disabilities, in particular those with psychosocial or neurological disabilities, to subscribe to private health insurance. It is also concerned that health-care professionals lack training on the human rights of persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

48. In line with article 25 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 3, the Committee recommends that the State party:

Enact legislation explicitly recognizing the right of persons with disabilities to enjoy all private health insurance services covered by private insurance companies on an equal basis with others;

Integrate the human rights-based model of disability into the training curriculum of all health professionals, emphasizing that medical services and treatment to persons with disabilities should be provided with the free, prior and informed consent of all persons with disabilities.

Republic of Moldova

46. The Committee is concerned that there is a general lack of awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities among medical professionals and that health-care services and facilities, including emergency services, remain inaccessible and unavailable to persons with disabilities, especially in rural

areas and for persons with disabilities still living in residential institutions. It is also concerned about the lack of accessibility of medical services and facilities, particularly relating to sexual and reproductive health, for women with disabilities.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities among medical professionals through training and the promulgation of ethical standards and:

Ensure the availability and accessibility of health-care services and facilities, including emergency services, for all persons with disabilities throughout the country;

Take measures to ensure that women with disabilities have access to accessible medical services and facilities, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

Bolivia (2016)

57. The Committee is concerned about:

The absence of measures for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the health services at all levels, and in particular the lack of protocols, the lack of accessibility in facilities and equipment, the lack of settings for the use of sign language and the lack of training for health personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities;

The continuing discrimination against persons with disabilities by denying them some or all medical services and treatment;

The lack of policies on the secondary prevention of the emergence of new impairments in persons with disabilities or the aggravation of existing disabilities;

The failure to provide universal health coverage, as provided for in Act No. 475 on comprehensive health service provision.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to promote physical and mental health and well-being, and:

Implement a strategy to ensure the accessibility of medical facilities and furnitures, information and communication for persons with disabilities;

Launch a training and promotion campaign on the rights of persons with disabilities for health professionals and staff throughout the national territory, including the right to free and informed consent and the adoption of treatment protocols that also cover sexual and reproductive health services;

Allocate sufficient human and material resources to give effect to universal health service coverage, including specialized services in the field of disability, focusing on the secondary prevention of the emergence of new impairments and the aggravation of existing disabilities.

Be guided by article 25 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

56. The Committee is concerned at:

The low level of compliance with Act No. 1616 on mental health, in relation to informed consent for invasive surgical procedures and psychiatric treatment;

The lack of accessibility in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services, including those relating to HIV/AIDS;

The prejudice and negative attitudes of health-care service providers, both generally and in services specializing by type of disability;

Inadequate or non-existent coverage in rural areas and very remote locations.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure the observance of the right of free and informed consent of persons with disabilities regarding health care, including sexual and reproductive health, services related to HIV/AIDS, and psychiatric services and interventions, through the use of protocols;

Train health personnel on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, including the right to free and informed consent;

Take steps to ensure the accessibility of all health-care services, in terms of both information and communications, and physical facilities, equipment and furniture;

Provide the financial and human resources necessary to extend health care to all persons with disabilities, in particular those who are victims of armed conflict, women, children or older persons

with disabilities; Afro-Colombian, Raizal or indigenous persons; living in rural and remote areas; or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex;

Be guided by article 25 of the Convention in pursuing targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ethiopia (2016)

53. The Committee is concerned that access to health care and the capacity of health and social services to provide care for children with disabilities is not sufficient, in particular in rural zones.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure sufficient capacity of health and social services to provide care for children with disabilities, in particular in rural regions.

55. The Committee is concerned that training for staff of hospitals and health-care centres on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on free and informed consent, sexual and reproductive health, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, is neither regular nor compulsory. The Committee is further concerned that education and information on health-care services is neither accessible nor available across all states, including in rural regions.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that hospital and health-care centre staff are given regular and compulsory training on the rights of persons with disabilities, including on the individual right to free and informed consent, sexual and reproductive health, HIV and sexually transmitted infections. It also recommends that the State party take into account article 25 of the Convention while implementing targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guatemala (2016)

61. The Committee is concerned by the inadequacy of the health system and the barriers to health service access faced by persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas and indigenous communities. It is also concerned by the fact that the Federico Mora National Mental Health Hospital is the only mental health care solution provided by the State party. It is further concerned by the restrictions and the stereotypes that persist among health professionals with regard to access to sexual and reproductive health services for women with disabilities.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure the appropriate provision of community health services for persons with disabilities throughout the country, on the basis of free and informed consent, and ensure that the pharmacological treatments needed on account of disability are provided as part of the support system, at a low cost or free of charge;

Develop community mental health services, adopting a human rights approach;

Ensure that women with disabilities are provided with safe and accessible sexual and reproductive health services in both urban and rural areas;

Provide training for all health system personnel on the rights of persons with disabilities in terms of health service access;

Take into account article 25 of the Convention in the implementation of targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy (2016)

61. The Committee is concerned about the lack of physical accessibility and information regarding sexual and reproductive health services, including discrimination and stereotyping, particularly to women and girls with disabilities.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations representing persons with disabilities and particularly those representing women with disabilities, ensure accessibility to facilities and equipment, information and communications regarding sexual and reproductive health services, and that it provide training to health personnel about the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party strengthen mechanisms to combat discrimination and stereotyping in line with its general comment No. 3.

63. The Committee is concerned about the lack of data on medical treatment administered without the free and informed consent of the person, including sterilization.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party abolish all laws that permit medical treatment, including sterilization, consented by a third party (parent or guardian) without the free and informed consent of the person, and that it provide related high-quality training to health professionals.

65. The Committee is concerned at the slow progress of adopting and funding the Minimum Standards of Health Care, including early identification and intervention for children with disabilities.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the adoption, funding and implementation of Minimum Standards of Health Care so all children have access to early identification and intervention according to their requirements. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account article 25 of the Convention while implementing targets 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

45. The Committee is concerned:

That national legislation is inconsistent with the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent in relation to medical treatment and about the absence of legislation that explicitly recognizes that right for persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;

About the lack of information on how the mandatory HIV/AIDS testing policies for pregnant women and migrant workers affect the right to health of persons with disabilities;

About the lack of accessible health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and information;

About the lack of training for all health professionals on the human rights of persons with disabilities.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal legislation that violates the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent in relation to medical treatment and enact legislation that explicitly recognizes that right for persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;

Revise the policy of mandatory HIV/AIDS testing, which goes against free and informed consent;

Develop a wide range of community-based health services and ensure their accessibility, including health services and information for women with disabilities on their rights enshrined in article 25 of the Convention;

Raise awareness of the human rights model of disability among all health professionals, including training on the right to free and informed consent;

Be guided by article 25 of the Convention in the implementation of target 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uruguay (2016)

53. Al Comité le preocupa que los servicios generales de salud no sean accesibles para las personas con discapacidad, particularmente en el interior del Estado parte. También le preocupa la falta de profesionales debidamente formados para garantizar el derecho al consentimiento libre e informado, para brindar una atención de salud incluyente y atender los requerimientos específicos de las personas con discapacidad.

54. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte planes y asigne recursos para garantizar que los servicios generales de salud, incluidos los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva y la información al respecto, sean accesibles para las personas con discapacidad en su territorio. Recomienda además que el personal de los servicios de salud destinados a la población general reciba capacitación en lo referente a la comunicación con y al trato de las personas con discapacidad en los contextos sanitarios en el Estado parte y observando el respeto al consentimiento libre e informado y otros derechos consagrados en la Convención. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 25 de la Convención y las metas 3.7 y 3.8 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, para el acceso a servicios de salud esenciales de calidad, incluidos los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva y el acceso a medicamentos.

Chile (2016)

51. Preocupa al Comité la escasez de información relativa a la salud sexual y reproductiva accesible para personas con discapacidad, particularmente para mujeres y niñas y personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial.

52. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que haga accesibles la información y servicios integrales de salud sexual y reproductiva en todo el territorio chileno, incluyendo la lengua de señas y formatos accesibles, el equipo y mobiliario.

53. Al Comité le preocupa que la política de salud mental refleje el modelo médico de la discapacidad y que el personal médico en este campo no esté capacitado acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad.

54. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte una política relativa a la salud mental, fundamentada en el respeto de los derechos humanos, involucrando a las organizaciones que representan a las personas con discapacidad, particularmente discapacidad psicosocial. También le recomienda que capacite al personal médico y terapéutico acerca de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad.

Lithuania (2016)

49. The Committee is concerned that:

The current legislation on health insurance does not fully guarantee reimbursement or other forms of compensation to persons with disabilities for expenditures caused by disability when receiving treatment within the mainstreamed health system;

The systemic barriers, including physical barriers, and the lack of accessible information, communication, training or treatment equipment, and health-care professionals trained in the human rights model of disability are limiting persons with disabilities' access to mainstream health services; Persons with disabilities face discrimination in accessing sexual and reproductive health care services due to the lack of accessible equipment suitable for use by all persons with disabilities, among other reasons.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take appropriate legislative measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to free and affordable health-related habilitation and rehabilitation goods and services;

Train health personnel on the human rights model of disability, including on the right to free and informed consent, and ensure the accessibility of health-care facilities and equipment to ensure that all such facilities and equipment, including in hospitals and in the practices of dentists, gynaecologists and obstetricians, are accessible to persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairments;

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, and ensure also the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes as set out in target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Portugal (2016)

48. The Committee notes that the State party has paid scant attention to the rights of persons with disabilities in legislation and policies adopted in the State party in the fields of healthcare, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted infections, which are not always accessible, and especially in the case of obstetrics and gynaecology services. The Committee is further concerned that primary prevention of disability is regarded as a measure of implementation of the Convention.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures in order that persons with disabilities may access healthcare without restriction, including sexual and reproductive health, by explicitly prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of disability in legislation and ensuring universal access to its programmes and services, both in urban and rural areas, while providing appropriate training to healthcare staff. It is also recommended that primary prevention of disability is excluded from programs.

Serbia (2016)

51. The Committee is concerned at the lack of early identification and intervention of children with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned about the limited access to health services for persons with disabilities in the State party, particularly access to sexual and reproductive health. It is also concerned about the lack of adequate training of health professionals in caring for persons with disabilities and the inaccessibility of medical services and health facilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party provide health care personnel with adequate training and competencies required and to expedite the implementation of the national programme for enhanced early childhood development. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to health, on an equal basis with others, of all persons with disabilities including access to sexual and reproductive health. It also recommends the training of health professionals regarding attention to persons with disabilities and to make accessible medical services and health facilities.

Slovakia (2016)

69. The Committee is concerned about discrimination in access to health-care services, in particular sexual and reproductive health services, and the restrictions to the exercise of free and informed consent to treatment, especially for persons with intellectual disabilities.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party remove physical, information and communication barriers to gaining access to health-care services, and that medical services and treatment be provided on the basis of the free, prior and informed consent of all persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party provide training for all health and social care personnel on the rights enshrined in the Convention.

Thailand (2016)

47. The Committee is concerned that mainstream health services and information on public health education are not accessible to persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas. It is also concerned about the insufficiency of training for all health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure that all health services for the general public are fully accessible and incorporate a gender perspective, especially in rural areas. The Committee also recommends that the State party take measures to provide mandatory training to all health professionals on the rights of persons with disabilities, including the right of all persons with disabilities to give their free and informed consent.

49. The Committee is concerned that private health insurance companies discriminate against persons with disabilities by refusing to sell them health insurance policies because of their disability.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability by private health insurance companies.

Uganda (2016)

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on accessible health-care facilities for persons with disabilities, and the absence of measures to ensure that information and services on sexual and reproductive rights are accessible. It is also concerned about the non-inclusion of persons with albinism in the State party's cancer policy denying them access to skin cancer treatment to prevent skin damage as well as the non-availability of essential drugs for persons with mental health conditions in health centres across the country, especially in rural areas.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Provide mandatory training on the rights of persons with disabilities to all health-care staff;

Train and recruit professional guides and sign language interpreters to assist persons with disabilities in health centres;

Include persons with albinism in the State party's cancer policy and ensure the availability of essential drugs in health centres across the country for persons with mental health conditions, including those of level II, especially in rural areas;

Adopt measures to ensure that all education, information, health care and services relating to sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, including treatment, advice and counselling, are made accessible to persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, in age-appropriate formats in both urban and rural areas.

Brazil (2015)

46. The Committee is concerned that mainstream health services are not accessible to persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of health professionals who have adequate training to provide inclusive health care and meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

47. The Committee recommends the State party to adopt plans and allocate resources to ensure that mainstream health services, including sexual and reproductive health services and information, are accessible to persons with disabilities. It also recommends the State party to ensure that health professionals in mainstream health services receive training on the rights enshrined in the Convention.

European Union (2015)

62. The Committee is concerned that disability-based discrimination is not explicitly prohibited in the field of health care. It furthermore notes the barriers persons with disabilities face in accessing health care in different Member States.

63. The Committee recommends that the European Union explicitly prohibit disability-based discrimination in the field of health care and take measures to ensure access to quality health care for all persons with all types of disabilities. It further recommends that the European Union evaluate the impact of its Cross-Border Healthcare Directive with regard to gaps in access for persons with disabilities, including accessible information, reasonable accommodation and training of professionals.

EU Institutions compliance with the Convention (as public administrations)

86. The Committee is concerned that European Union staff members with disabilities or family members with disabilities are discriminated against by European Union health insurance schemes.

87. The Committee recommends that the EU revise its Joint Sickness and Insurance Scheme so as to comprehensively cover disability-related health needs in a manner which is compliant with the Convention.

Gabon (2015)

54. The Committee is concerned that health services and information on public health education are not accessible to persons with disabilities, in particular in rural areas. It is also concerned about the lack of training for all health professionals on the human rights of persons with disabilities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that: a) All health services are accessible to persons with disabilities at all levels, in particular at the community level; b) Information for all public health education and health services be accessible, in particular community-based health services, including HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health services, including in rural areas; c) Strategies to raise awareness of the human rights model of disability among all health professionals are in place.

56. The Committee is concerned that persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, do not have equal access to the highest attainable standard of health, nor exercise their right to free and informed consent regarding health interventions.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary steps to repeal legislation restricting the right of persons with disabilities to free and informed consent and enact laws which explicitly recognise this right of the individual and that it prohibit the substitution of consent by a third party. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, have access to the highest attainable standard of health on an equal basis with others and to conduct regular training of hospital and health care staff on the rights of persons with disabilities, including their right to free and informed consent and reasonable accommodation in all healthcare settings.

Kenya (2015)

45. The Committee remains concerned about the barriers for persons with disabilities in accessing information and services of sexual and reproductive health, and the lack of information on the implementation of specific measures to prevent sexually transmissible infections, including HIV/AIDS among persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessible health care facilities for persons with disabilities in rural areas. It is further concerned about the State party's approach to mental health care is based on the medical model.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Strengthen its efforts to ensure that all health policies, programmes and services, including in sexual and reproductive health and those related to HIV/AIDS, are fully accessible and incorporate a gender perspective, especially in rural areas and at the community level;

Adopt measures to establish accessible health care facilities and technologies for persons with disabilities in urban and rural areas; and

Develop a wide range of community-based services that respond to the needs of persons with disabilities, and respect the person's autonomy, choices, dignity and privacy, including peer support and other alternatives to the medical model of mental health.

Mauritius (2015)

35. The Committee regrets the lack of information on the availability of health, early intervention services, including provision of sexual and reproductive health services and age appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of social support to cover the disability-related expenses for their children with disabilities.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt clear procedures for the early intervention services for persons with disabilities to appropriate and accessible habilitation and rehabilitation services, including services for parents with disabilities, with special regard to parents of all children with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that health, rehabilitation and other disability-related expenses for children with disabilities be covered.

Qatar (2015)

45. The Committee is concerned about the lack of training for all health professionals on the human rights of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on measures in place to ensure that health professionals act on the basis of individual, free and informed consent in all decision-making regarding the right to health for persons with disabilities and how the mandatory HIV/AIDS testing policies for pregnant women and migrant workers impact on this right. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessible health care services and information, including sexual and reproductive health services and that the centralization of health services provided for persons with disabilities in the capital creates additional accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities living outside of the capital.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure that all health care and services provided to persons with disabilities, including all mental health care and services, is based on the free and informed consent of the individual concerned and that third party consent is explicitly prohibited, and recommends revising the policy of mandatory HIV/AIDS testing which goes against free and informed consent. It also recommends that the State party develop a wide range of community-based health services and ensure their accessibility. The Committee also recommends that the State party raise awareness of the human rights model of disability among all health professionals including training on the right to free and informed consent.

Ukraine (2015)

46. The Committee is concerned about the reports that persons with disabilities face difficulties accessing health care, particularly in accessing medicines and rehabilitation services and that persons with disabilities in rural areas have limited access to healthcare facilities. The Committee is furthermore concerned that women and girls with disabilities have restricted access to information on sexual and reproductive health and family planning.

47. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to timely and quality health care services both in rural and urban areas, including by providing access to medicines and rehabilitation services and providing information and services on sexual and reproductive health and family planning, especially to women and girls with disabilities.

Cook Islands (2015)

45. The Committee is concerned that health care professionals and public health experts lack the necessary training in order to provide inclusive health care and meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities and their families, including providers of sexual and reproductive health.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure training on disability for health care professionals and public health experts, prioritising the training of sexual and reproductive health providers on accessible and inclusive services for persons with disabilities;

Amend the Criminal Code prohibiting guardianship, so that women with disabilities exercise their right to sexual and reproductive autonomy on an equal basis with others.

Provide mental health services for children and adolescents across the islands.

Croatia (2015)

37. The Committee is concerned that the excessive burden of proof placed on people with disabilities who are not insured under the compulsory health care can lead to no access to health care facilities. It is further concerned that the mainstream health services are not accessible and adequate for persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee recommends that further efforts are made to ensure that people with disabilities without compulsory health care insurance have access to health care facilities. The Committee further recommends that access to mainstream health services, sexual and reproductive health services are made accessible to people with disabilities, especially in rural areas. It also recommends that health professionals in mainstream health service are urgently trained to adequately offer services to persons with disabilities and respect the rights enshrined in the Convention.

Czech Republic (2015)

48. The Committee notes with concern the difficulties deaf persons and parents of boys and girls with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities still face in accessing health care services due to lack of accessible information in spite of the efforts made by the State party.

49. The Committee calls upon the State party to intensify the efforts to make information on health care accessible for persons with disabilities and parents of boys and girls with disabilities, including by making information on relevant service available and accessible to persons with disabilities and their families and by providing sufficient sign language interpreters to deaf persons when they seek health care.

Dominican Republic (2015)

46. Le preocupa al Comité que las acciones y políticas del Estado parte en materia de salud para las personas con discapacidad enfaticen el modelo médico de la discapacidad, en particular la prevención primaria de discapacidades. Igualmente, el Comité observa con preocupación que las instalaciones y el equipo médico en los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva no son accesibles, particularmente a mujeres y niñas con discapacidad, la persistencia de estigmas y las prácticas lesivas a los derechos de las personas con discapacidad.

47. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

Redoblar los esfuerzos para que los servicios generales de salud sean plenamente accesibles para todas las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo los servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva, eliminando prejuicios y facilitando la actualización profesional y la capacitación a profesionales de la salud sobre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad;

Tomar en cuenta los resultados y recomendaciones del “Diagnostico participativo sobre los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos de las Mujeres con Discapacidad en la República Dominicana”, realizado por el Círculo de Mujeres con Discapacidad;

Asegurar que todos los servicios de salud sean accesibles en las áreas rurales y más remotas, y no se discrimine a personas con discapacidad migrantes y a sus descendientes de origen haitiano, particularmente si tienen alguna discapacidad; y

Fortalecer los servicios de salud mental con enfoque de derechos humanos.

Germany (2015)

47. The Committee is concerned about barriers in accessing healthcare and, particularly, access to healthcare for asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party develop and implement plans and allocate resources for the accessibility of healthcare services, including services for refugees, rights-based training for healthcare professionals, communication, information, respect for free and informed individual consent, and universally designed equipment.

Mongolia (2015)

39. The Committee is concerned about the limited access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive health and rehabilitation services, particularly in rural and remote areas, including

access to sexual and reproductive health. It is also concerned that under the health legislation of the State party, not all persons with disabilities can exercise their free and informed consent.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure access for people with disabilities to health services without financial constraints, in particular sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health centers, psychosocial services, and comprehensive rehabilitation community-based services for rural and isolated areas. The Committee also recommends ensuring that all persons with disabilities, regardless of their deficit, have the right to free and informed consent.

New Zealand (2014)

51. The Committee is concerned that barriers still exist preventing persons with disabilities, and especially persons with intellectual disabilities, from fully accessing health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health care.

52. The Committee recommends that further measures be taken to ensure access to full health care for all persons with disabilities.

53. The Committee is concerned that Maori people have the poorest health outcomes in New Zealand. The Committee is also concerned that the prevalence of disability is higher in the Maori population as a result of poverty and disadvantages.

54. The Committee recommends that measures be strengthened to enhance the health outcomes of Maori and Pacific persons with disabilities.

Denmark (2014)

56. The Committee is concerned at information indicating that persons with psychosocial disabilities have a life expectancy that is 15 to 20 years shorter than persons without psychosocial disabilities.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial disabilities, have equal access to the highest attainable standard of health, including by providing adequate and accessible health services needed by persons with disabilities, and by providing training to health professionals and officials in the public health authorities, including on the right to free and informed consent.

Republic of Korea (2014)

47. The Committee is concerned that the recently amended article 732 of the Commercial Act recognizes life insurance contracts for persons with disabilities only if the person “possesses mental capacity”. The Committee notes that the denial of insurance contracts on the basis of “mental capacity” constitutes a discrimination against persons with disabilities.

48. The Committee encourages the State party to repeal article 732 of the Commercial Act, which recognizes life insurance contracts for a person with disability only if the person “possesses mental capacity”, and to withdraw its reservation to the provision of article 25 (e) of the Convention regarding life insurance.

Ecuador (2014)

38. The Committee is concerned that the health services provided for persons with disabilities by the Ministry of Public Health through comprehensive support centres are not accessible to persons with disabilities living there in rural areas.

39. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Public Health carry out an accessibility programme at the comprehensive support centres with a view to implementing protocols for different types of disabilities and ensuring that its facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities living in rural areas.

40. The Committee is concerned that the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code allows the spouse, partner, close family member or legal representative of a woman with an intellectual disability to take a decision on her behalf to have an abortion if the pregnancy is the result of rape.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party amend article 150 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code and any other similar legislation that authorizes a third party to take decisions concerning the body of a woman with a disability.

Mexico (2014)

49. The Committee is concerned at the lack of community mental health services. It is further concerned by restrictions on the right of women with disabilities to safely access sexual and reproductive health services and by the pressure to undergo an abortion when they become pregnant.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure that informed consent is obtained for any medical treatment of persons with disabilities, including the possibility of advance directives; that appropriate community health services are available to persons with disabilities, based on the right to free and informed consent; and that any medication required for a disability are included in the support system and are available at no or low cost;

Ensure that women with disabilities may enjoy their right to accessible and safe sexual and reproductive health services, in both urban and rural areas, and prevent pregnant women with disabilities from being pressured to undergo abortions, investigate any such cases and punish the doctors involved.

Costa Rica (2014)

49. The Committee is concerned about the scant progress made towards ensuring that general and specialized health services are fully accessible to persons with disabilities, which is evidenced by the lack of appropriate medical equipment, fittings and facilities and the fact that neither Costa Rican sign language interpreters nor timely, accessible information are available. The Committee is also concerned about the limited extent to which persons with disabilities are included in sexual and reproductive health policies, programmes and services, including those related to HIV/AIDS, which disproportionately affects women and girls with disabilities. The Committee regrets that no mechanisms have been established to ensure that all services provided to persons with disabilities are delivered only with their free and informed consent.

50. The Committee calls for a strengthening of efforts to ensure that all health policies, programmes and services, including in sexual and reproductive health and those related to HIV/AIDS, are fully accessible and incorporate a gender perspective, especially in rural areas and at the community level. The State party should ensure that persons with disabilities give their free and informed consent, through appropriate mechanisms, before receiving health services of any kind.

51. The Committee regrets that the State party's approach to mental health care is based on the medical model and that no plans to move towards a community care model are being implemented.

52. The Committee urges the State party to allocate resources and to expedite implementation of the national policy for community-based mental health-care services.

El Salvador (2013)

51. The Committee is concerned about the discrimination against persons with disabilities in terms of access to health, including sexual and reproductive health, caused by barriers including the lack of equipment suitable for use by all, for example for obstetrical and gynaecological care. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information on the right to health of persons with disabilities in rural areas and the availability of community rehabilitation services. The Committee is concerned about the fact that medical procedures are conducted without the free and informed consent of persons with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt the requisite legislative measures to protect persons with disabilities against discrimination in health matters; ensure their access to health insurance schemes; carry out public health campaigns directed at persons with disabilities, including components on gender and age, sexual and reproductive rights and HIV/AIDS prevention and care; and involve women with disabilities in campaigns to prevent breast and cervical cancer;

Adopt plans and allocate resources for the accessibility of health-care services, including equipment suitable for use by all;

Produce statistics and data on persons with disabilities so that better planning can facilitate their access to health-care services, and identify options for their access to community rehabilitation services;

Adopt measures to ensure persons with disabilities can exercise their right to free and informed consent regarding medical treatment.

Paraguay (2013)

59. The Committee is concerned at the scant information on health services for persons with disabilities, and in particular on services at the community level, including HIV-related services. It is also concerned at poor accessibility in specialist and general medical services, including barriers preventing access to physical facilities and medical equipment and furnishings, and at discrimination in the provision of sexual health and reproductive services.

60. The Committee asks the State party to take the necessary measures to ensure that all health services are fully accessible to persons with disabilities at all levels, including the community level, and that these measures incorporate the gender perspective.

Argentina (2012)

39. The Committee is concerned about the systemic barriers that make it impossible for persons with disabilities to access health services in the State party. These include physical barriers, a dearth of accessible materials, a lack of health-care professionals trained in the human rights model of disability and restrictions on the exercise of legal capacity that exclude persons with disabilities from taking decisions concerning their own treatment.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party develop comprehensive health-care programmes that specifically make provision for persons with disabilities and ensure that they have access to habilitation and rehabilitation health services. It urges the State party to allocate budgetary resources and provide training for health personnel in order to effectively realize the right to health of persons with disabilities, while also ensuring that hospitals and health centres are accessible to persons with disabilities.

41. The Committee regrets that the effective implementation of the National Mental Health Act (Act No. 26.657) is under threat because its implementing regulations have not yet been adopted and because the make-up of its review body has yet to be agreed upon. It also regrets the lack of clear-cut mechanisms for ensuring that persons with disabilities give their free and informed consent for any type of medical treatment before it is administered.

42. The Committee urges the State party to adopt the implementing regulations for the National Mental Health Act (Act No. 26.657) as soon as possible, to establish its review body, to strengthen the network of community mental health services and to improve coordination between these services and inclusive employment, education and housing mechanisms in order to guarantee the effective implementation of the National Mental Health Act. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt protocols for ensuring that all persons with disabilities give their free and informed consent for any type of medical treatment before it is administered.

China (2012)

37. The Committee is concerned about the current involuntary commitment system in the state party. It takes note of the Draft Mental Health Act and the ordinances of six major cities in the state party on mental health which do not respect the individual will of persons with disabilities.

38. The Committee advises the state party to adopt measures to ensure that all health care and services provided to persons with disabilities, including all mental health care and services, is based on the free and informed consent of the individual concerned, and that laws permitting involuntary treatment and confinement, including upon the authorisation of third party decision-makers such as family members or guardians, are repealed. It recommends the state party to develop a wide range of community-based services and supports that respond to needs expressed by persons with disabilities, and respect the person's autonomy, choices, dignity and privacy, including peer support and other alternatives to the medical model of mental health

Hong-Kong (2012)

75. The Committee is troubled by the fact that the demand for public medical services is higher than the supply. The Committee is also concerned about the fact that many insurance companies reject the applications of persons with disabilities, thus leaving them unable to pay the medical fees.

76. The Committee suggests that Hong Kong, China, allocate more human and financial resources to the public medical services and arrange the cooperation of the insurance companies.

Peru (2012)

38. The Committee is concerned that, according to State party's replies to the list of issues, no rehabilitation services exist for 81 per cent of the population with a disability, and only 1.42 per cent of persons with disabilities are covered by social security programmes. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of health services, in particular in rural areas, as well as numerous limitations to persons with disabilities imposed by the Supreme Decree 004-2007-SA on Comprehensive Health Insurance. It further regrets the lack of early detection programmes of deafness for children in order to minimize and prevent further disabilities.

39. The Committee urges the State party to elaborate comprehensive health programmes in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are specifically targeted and have access to rehabilitation and health services in general. The Committee further recommends that the State party:

Review its legal framework in order to ensure that insurance companies and other private parties do not discriminate against persons with disabilities;

Apply budgetary resources and create skills among health personnel, in order to effectively comply with the right to health care of persons with disabilities, ensuring that hospitals and health centres are accessible to persons with disabilities;

Provide services of early identification of disabilities, in particular deafness, designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 26 CRPD
(Habilitation and rehabilitation)*

September 2025

Article 26 - Habilitation and rehabilitation

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures, including through peer support, to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life. To that end, States Parties shall organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, in such a way that these services and programmes:

a) Begin at the earliest possible stage, and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths;

b) Support participation and inclusion in the community and all aspects of society, are voluntary, and are available to persons with disabilities as close as possible to their own communities, including in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall promote the development of initial and continuing training for professionals and staff working in habilitation and rehabilitation services.

3. States Parties shall promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Peru (2023)
Jamaica (2022)
Djibouti (2021)

Estonia (2021)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2021)
Myanmar (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Bulgaria (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)

El Salvador (2013)

Paraguay (2013)

China (2012)

Please note there are no recommendations on Israel, Mauritania, Paraguay, Georgia, Togo, Tunisia, New Zealand, France, Cuba, Niger, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, Vanuatu, Algeria, Malta, Seychelles, South Africa, Oman, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Panama, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Guatemala, Lithuania, Portugal, Serbia, Uganda, Brazil, European Union, Gabon, Kenya, Czech Republic, Germany, Turkmenistan, Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Austria, Argentina, Hungary, Peru, Spain, Tunisia, Mexico, Switzerland, Venezuela, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, New Zealand and Singapore.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The underfunding and limited capacity of rehabilitation centres for persons with disabilities, particularly outside of Pyongyang, which results in unequal access to rehabilitation services across the State Party;
- (b) The lack of assistive devices, including wheelchairs, walkers, hearing aids and other devices and technologies designed for persons with disabilities to promote their maximum independence and full physical, mental, social, and vocational abilities.

51. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State Party take measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology, within their community, including in rural and remote areas. It further recommends that the State Party take measures to make available all rehabilitation equipment, assistive devices, and mobility aids and services including their repair, based on individual requirements, to promote the maximum independence and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Finland (2025)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The prevalence of a medical approach to rehabilitation;
- (b) The division of duties between different rehabilitation services among public entities and levels of government, restricting access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation programmes.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Take a human right approach to its habilitation and rehabilitation programmes and ensure their availability nationwide, including in the Åland Islands, guarantee comprehensive, interdisciplinary and individualized evaluations for habilitation or rehabilitation plans and make information on habilitation and rehabilitation programmes available in accessible formats, including Finnish and Finland Swedish sign languages, Easy-Read, pictograms, Braille and in digital media;
- (b) Render procedures for habilitation and rehabilitation services accessible and establish monitoring and complaint mechanisms to guarantee effective enforcement.

Kiribati (2025)

49. The Committee acknowledges the establishment of the Tungaru Rehabilitation Service, in 2013. However, it is concerned:

- (a) That rehabilitation services remain centralized in South Tarawa, creating serious barriers for persons with disabilities living on outer islands;
- (b) About the shortage of qualified rehabilitation personnel, the irregularity of outreach services, the lack of integration of habilitation and rehabilitation into community-based services and the national health system.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expand and decentralize rehabilitation services beyond South Tarawa, including through mobile outreach and community-based approaches to ensure access for persons with disabilities on outer islands;
- (b) Increase the number and capacity of qualified rehabilitation professionals, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and prosthetics/orthotics specialists and psychologists through training and retention measures, and integrate habilitation and rehabilitation into the health system and community services to ensure continuity of care and availability of assistive technologies and related professionals across all islands;

Maldives (2025)

51. The Committee is concerned about the lack of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and the lack of therapeutic services like speech therapy, psychotherapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, particularly on the outer islands. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of staff and resources for the community-based rehabilitation programme.

52. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention, and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology, within their community, including on the outer islands. It further recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that health institutions, educational institutions, vocational training programmes and other social services are equipped and adequately resourced to provide accommodation and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Establish decentralized units of the Centre for Management and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities on the outer islands, and provide financial support to families who must travel to Malé to access the specialized services.**

Canada (2025)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The medicalised approach to habilitation and rehabilitation programmes and disparities in access and funding complex procedures for assistive technology and devices, including prosthetics, across jurisdictions, and long wait times to receive rehabilitation, including for children with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of culturally appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation services for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis persons with disabilities, including off-reserve and non-status Indigenous persons with disabilities.

52. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention, and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

- (a) Work with provinces and territories to ensure national consistency in access and funding for habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes, and technology, with a focus on living independently and being included in the community and to streamline procedures for accessing assistive and prosthetic devices, to ensure access assessments address the individual needs of persons with disabilities and to reduce wait times, in particular for children with disabilities;**
- (b) Strengthen distinctions-based measures to ensure culturally appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation within the Action Plan to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.**

Dominican Republic (2025)

47. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient habilitation and rehabilitation services across the State party, as the majority are concentrated in the Santiago province. It is also concerned that the approach of these services continues to be mostly medical, without considering psychological, emotional and other important aspects.

48. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to increase coverage of habilitation and rehabilitation services across all regions in the State party and review the approaches with which habilitation and rehabilitation services operate, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities.

European Union (2025)

62. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The EU lacks dedicated strategies for the provision of habilitation and rehabilitation services, their inclusion in cross-border healthcare coverage, and funding mechanisms;
- (b) There is widespread inequality in the availability, affordability, and quality of habilitation services for persons with disabilities;
- (c) Budgetary measures in Member States exacerbate the shortage of rehabilitation services and increase financial burdens on persons with disabilities and that access to habilitation programmes is insufficiently tailored to individual requirements.

63. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Increase budget allocations for habilitation and rehabilitation services, develop guidelines on evidence and rights-based intervention, and include rehabilitation services in the Patient Mobility Directive;**
- (b) Support Member States financially and exchange best practices to improve access to habilitation and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, and adopt an action plan for affordable and accessible rehabilitation across the lifespan, in line with the WHO's Rehabilitation 2030 agenda;**
- (c) Promote compulsory training on specific and evidence-based habilitation strategies for autism, and adopt quality assessment systems for habilitation services focused on inclusion, participation and users' quality of life.**

Palau (2025)

49. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The lack of rights-based habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes for persons with disabilities that promote their physical, mental and social development;
- (b) The lack of availability of assistive devices and technologies designed for persons with disabilities to promote their maximum independence and full physical, mental, social, and vocational abilities.

50. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology, within their community. It further recommends that the State party take measures to make available all rehabilitation equipment, assistive devices, and mobility aids and services including their repair, based on individual requirements, to promote the maximum independence and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Tuvalu (2025)

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and the lack of rehabilitation, health education and sanitation materials, particularly on the outer islands. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of staff and resources for the community-based rehabilitation programme.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that health institutions, educational institutions, vocational training programmes and other social services are equipped and adequately resourced to provide accommodation and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Establish a community implementation monitoring mechanism for rehabilitation in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations.**

Viet Nam (2025)

51. Although the State party report having many rehabilitation centres throughout the country, the Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The proportion of persons with disabilities attending rehabilitation centres is very limited, with only 1.2% of the total number visiting rehabilitation centres in 2016;
- (c) Persons who are deaf-blind are not receiving the necessary supports to communicate and therefore be able to be included in education, employment and lead independent, employed and active lives.
- (d) The focus of training for rehabilitation professionals is mainly physical therapy;
- (e) Rehabilitation orthotics and prosthetics, hearing aids, and mobility aids, are listed as non-reimbursable items in health insurance plans;
- (f) Over the last 50 years, tens of thousands of veterans with disabilities have only received financial support from overseas Vietnamese charities, not from the government.

52. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention, and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities and the organizations representing them receive clear and comprehensive information about available rehabilitation services in their communities, facilitating their registration and access to these services;**
- (c) Reform the Law on Persons with Disabilities to specifically address persons who are deafblind, ensuring the provision of appropriate financial means, means for communication and educational, employment and social inclusion;**
- (d) Distribute comprehensive information to intermediate-level students about career opportunities in occupational, recreational, and speech therapy, encouraging them to consider these fields alongside physical therapy;**
- (e) Amend legislation to include orthotics, prosthetics, hearing aids, and mobility aids in the list of reimbursable items under health insurance plans;**
- (f) Conduct a census of veterans with disabilities and ensure they receive rehabilitation services and financial support from the government.**

Belarus (2024)

51. The Committee is concerned about the delay and the lack of a work plan anchored in time, in favour of the construction of the rehabilitation centre, adapted to persons with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, the State party expand habilitation and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, in the community and that it defines a work plan anchored in time to adapt the building of the rehabilitation centre for persons with disabilities and make it fully accessible and inclusive.

Belgium (2024)

52. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Some persons with disabilities must travel long distances to reach rehabilitation services adapted to their individual requirements;
- (b) Persons with disabilities in institutions have no choice as to the provider of habilitation and rehabilitation services;
- (c) Measures to ensure initial and continuing training for professionals and staff providing habilitation and rehabilitation services, are lacking.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Develop a clear national strategy and implementation plan to ensure that habilitation and rehabilitation programmes and services are comprehensive and designed to promote and support the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, and that they are provided free of charge and close to the place of residence of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Take measures to ensure systematic and continuing training on the rights and requirements of persons with disabilities for professionals and staff providing habilitation and rehabilitation services.**

Benin (2024)

51. The Committee is concerned at the insufficient rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and the lack of rehabilitation equipment, health education and sanitation, particularly in rural areas. It is also concerned by the limited staffing and resources for the community-based rehabilitation programme.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that all major sectors particularly in rural areas including major health facilities, educational entities, vocational programs and other social services are equipped and provided with adequate resources to provide habilitation and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities;

(b) Set a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the community rehabilitation programme, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

Burkina Faso (2024)

48. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective and properly government-funded community-based habilitation and rehabilitation services, especially for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, other than those run by non-governmental organizations.

49. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention, and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology, within their community, and in all districts/regions of the State party. It further recommends to strengthen and provide adequate funding for the comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services of all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in both rural and urban areas.

Denmark (2024)

69. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient access to habilitation and rehabilitation services by persons with disabilities, and the insufficient adaptation of such services to specific requirements.

70. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark take measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services. It further recommends the Kingdom of Denmark ensure that assistive devices and personnel with expertise in the specific requirements of persons with disabilities are available.

Ghana (2024)

50. The Committee notes with concern, that there are only 9 public rehabilitation centres across the State party and that there is limited involvement of non-governmental organizations in community-based rehabilitation.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party expand habilitation and rehabilitation systems, including encouraging non-governmental organizations to provide community-based rehabilitation and take necessary measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities in rural areas have access to rehabilitation services.

Mauritius (2024)

45. The Committee is concerned about the shortage of comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, including for children with disabilities, despite the

existence of Community Based Rehabilitation Officers under the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

46. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology, within their community, and in all islands and districts of the State party.

Netherlands (2024)

57. The Committee is concerned about barriers faced by persons with disabilities when returning home after surgery or in relation to physiotherapy, due to the expensive and complicated system.

58. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention, and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology, within their community, and in all parts of the State party.

Ukraine (2024)

52. The Committee notes that the State Party developed multidisciplinary rehabilitation teams and approved a procedure for the provision of assistive devices in specialized offices at inpatient healthcare facilities. However, the Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of comprehensive and available functioning of the State's facilities for habilitation and rehabilitation;
- (b) The assessment of requirements for assistive devices conducted by multidisciplinary rehabilitation teams excludes the involvement of persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of a coherent universal system of health and social rehabilitation for persons with disabilities and inadequate budgetary allocations, resulting in an insufficient number of health, professional, social rehabilitation centers, as well as in the unavailability of services especially in rural and remote areas.

53. Recalling the link between article 26 of the Convention, and target 3.7 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take comprehensive measures to ensure the involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organization in the multidisciplinary assessment process of individual needs on habilitation and rehabilitation;**
- (b) Establish a coherent universal system of health and social rehabilitation for persons with all kinds of disabilities, and ensure that rehabilitation centers, have sufficient budget and trained personnel, both in urban and rural areas, to provide services to all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities relating to habilitation and rehabilitation in the response, recovery, and post conflict policies and projects.**

Azerbaijan (2024)

57. The Committee is concerned that the State party's main strategy about rehabilitation focuses on rehabilitation centres perpetuating the medical approach to disability. It is also concerned at the lack of information about access by persons with disabilities in rural areas, including children, old persons and women with disabilities, to habilitation and rehabilitation.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Reframe its rehabilitation programmes with the aim to promote community-based inclusive development and support for participation of persons with disabilities in the community;
- (b) Develop a national strategy for habilitation and rehabilitation that targets persons with disabilities in rural areas, including women with disabilities, older persons with disabilities and children with disabilities, ensure budgetary allocation for habilitation and rehabilitation and quality standards of programmes, monitoring and evaluations on regular basis.

Bahrain (2024)¹

52. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a clear strategy for rehabilitation and habilitation programs to ensure that they are comprehensive and achieve inclusion as their primary goal, and the lack of data showing the effectiveness of these programs in promoting independent living and achieving inclusion.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a clear national strategy and implementation plan to ensure that rehabilitation programs and services are comprehensive and designed to promote and support the right of persons with disabilities to independent living and inclusion in all aspects of life, and that these programs and services are provided free of charge and close to the places of residence of persons with disabilities.

Costa Rica (2024)

43. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La existencia de solamente un centro de rehabilitación, basado en la capital, y la falta de instalaciones de habilitación y rehabilitación disponibles para personas con discapacidad que viven en otras regiones del Estado parte;
- b) La falta de información sobre la implementación de programas de rehabilitación con base comunitaria y enfocada al desarrollo de las personas con discapacidad, en particular la rehabilitación pediátrica desde la edad temprana.

44. El Comité recomienda:

- a) Garantizar la prestación de servicios de habilitación y rehabilitación a todas las personas con discapacidad, incluidos los indígenas y afrodescendientes, independientemente de su edad, sexo, origen o condición socioeconómica, en todo el territorio nacional;
- b) Acelerar la adopción de una estrategia para promover la rehabilitación con base comunitaria y enfocada al desarrollo de las personas con discapacidad, desde la edad temprana, conforme recomendado en CRPD/C/CRI/CO/1, párr. 54.

Kazakhstan (2024)

55. The Committee is concerned about the use of a medical approach to disability by the Medical Social Expert Assessment Board in its disability assessments.

56. The Committee recommends the Medical Social Expert Assessment Board follows the human rights model of disability in its assessments of disabilities with the aim of defining individually tailored rehabilitation programmes.

Nicaragua (2024)

54. Al Comité le preocupa que:

- a) Se dé prioridad a las personas con discapacidad física en los programas de rehabilitación y habilitación;
- b) La falta de información sobre las actividades del Centro de Rehabilitación para personas ciegas y de baja visión “Carlos Fonseca Amador” y si se ha ampliado para contar con un centro de rehabilitación integral;
- c) Los escasos servicios de rehabilitación estén centralizados en las áreas urbanas.

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

55.El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) **Establecer programas de rehabilitación y habilitación para personas con discapacidad sensorial, intelectual y psicosocial además de mejorar los que ya tiene para personas con discapacidad física;**
- b) **Ampliar el Centro de Rehabilitación “Carlos Fonseca Amador” para que cuente con servicios de rehabilitación integral e incluya aspectos de capacitación vocacional;**
- c) **Ampliar y descentralizar los servicios de rehabilitación a las áreas rurales dotándoles de recursos humanos capacitados y financieros para su funcionamiento.**

Sweden (2024)

57. The Committee is concerned about the inconsistency and limited range of services and providers across the regions and the municipalities and the lack of nationally consistent guidelines and monitoring mechanisms to ensure persons with disabilities receive appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation services.

58. **The Committee recommends that the State party develop nationally consistent guidelines, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure persons with disabilities can easily select and receive the most relevant and appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation programmes or services in accordance with their choice and preference, and can exercise independent living and have access to the labour market.**

Zambia (2024)

51. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) At the lack of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, lack of rehabilitation equipment, health education and sanitation, particularly in the rural areas;
- (b) The delay in the development of the Community-Based Inclusive Development Policy.

52. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Ensure that all major hospitals, in particular in rural areas, are equipped and provided with adequate resources to provide habilitation and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities;**
- (b) **Accelerate the finalization of the national community-based inclusive development policy, including a mechanism to monitor its implementation, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations.**

Andorra (2023)

53. The Committee expresses its concern about the prevalence of the medical model in habilitation and rehabilitation programmes.

54. **The Committee recommends that the State party develop cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology available to persons with disabilities, within their community, that are based on the principles of participation and inclusion, in particular in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, with monitoring and evaluations on a regular basis.**

Austria (2023)

59. The Committee is concerned about unequal and often restricted access to habilitation and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, depending on their employment status.

60. **The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee equal and effective access to quality habilitation and rehabilitation services for all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their present or previous employment status.**

Germany (2023)

59. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mechanisms in place to ensure persons with disabilities receive integral rehabilitation services from different providers across the

Länder and the uncertain long-term impact of the Federal Participation Act (BTHG) in creating efficient rehabilitation systems to reduce segregation, in particular in congregate living and sheltered workshops.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party develop cross-cutting, accessible and flexible mechanisms through which persons with disabilities can easily select and receive the most relevant rehabilitation programs or services in accordance with their choice and preference, and conduct periodic thematic assessments of rehabilitation programs to ensure persons with disabilities' ample exercise of independent living and access to the labor market.

Malawi (2023)

53. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures to provide habilitation and rehabilitation and that community-based rehabilitation is available only in a few districts due to lack of funding.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that policies and programmes provide for community-based rehabilitation across the country with adequate funding. It also recommends that the State party promote local production of assistive devices to enhance habilitation and rehabilitation of all persons with disabilities both in the urban and rural areas.

Mongolia (2023)

51. The Committee is concerned that the Development centres for rehabilitation of children with disabilities and the 6 development centres for persons with disabilities established in 6 provinces, focus only on the medical model of habilitation and rehabilitation.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to expand habilitation and rehabilitation systems, taking into account the human rights model of disability, and ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to these services based on their individual requirements.

Angola (2023)

43. The Committee notes with concern, that notwithstanding the 11 Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Centres across Angola, the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to rehabilitation services, including in rural areas and for persons who have been victims of landmines.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party expand habilitation and rehabilitation systems and take necessary measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities in rural areas and persons who have been victims of landmines, have access to rehabilitation on the basis of their individual requirements.

Argentina (2023)

49. El Comité observa con preocupación las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad, en particular los niños y las niñas, para acceder a los servicios de rehabilitación de calidad de manera oportuna, especialmente en las zonas rurales, y el énfasis de los programas de habilitación y rehabilitación en el modelo médico.

50. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que fortalezca la Red Federal de Rehabilitación y amplíe los sistemas de habilitación y rehabilitación en la comunidad, teniendo en cuenta el modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos, y asegure que las personas con discapacidad, incluidos los niños y las niñas con discapacidad de las zonas rurales, tengan acceso a esos servicios.

Peru (2023)

52. Preocupa al Comité que las personas con discapacidad en zonas rurales y remotas no tengan acceso a servicios de rehabilitación, ya que la mayoría de los proveedores se encuentran en las capitales provinciales y en Lima.

53. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que incremente el acceso a servicios de habilitación y rehabilitación para personas con discapacidad, particularmente en áreas rurales y remotas.

Jamaica (2022)

46. The Committee notes with concern the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to rehabilitation services, including in rural areas.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party expand habilitation and rehabilitation systems and ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities in rural areas, have access to habilitation and rehabilitation on the basis of their individual requirements.

Djibouti (2021)

45. The Committee is concerned about the lack of availability of comprehensive and community-based habilitation and rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas.

46. The Committee recommends that in the development, adoption and implementation of habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, including in the drafting of the National Strategy on Rehabilitation, the State party ensure that it takes into account the human rights model of disability and the promotion of comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services.

Estonia (2021)

50. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to rehabilitation services, including in rural areas;

(b) The lack of information about measures taken to ensure the sustainability and continuity of rehabilitation services after the provision of support through the European Social Fund ends.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expand habilitation and rehabilitation systems and ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities in rural areas, have access to rehabilitation on the basis of their individual requirements;

(b) Ensure the sustainability and continuity of rehabilitation services after the provision of support through the European Social Fund ends by taking specific policy measures and allocating a specific budget.

India (2019)

54. The Committee is concerned that the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme emphasizes a medical and charity-based approach to disability, and that it discriminates against persons with disabilities from marginalized groups.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party promote community-based inclusive development, reframing the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, particularly those in rural areas, and ensure budgetary allocations for habilitation and rehabilitation across the State party and the quality standards of programmes, with monitoring and evaluations on a regular basis.

Iraq (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of adequate legislation, strategies and programmes and of human, technical and financial resources in the State party to ensure access to habilitation and rehabilitation services, particularly in the centre and in the south of the country.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt appropriate legislation and provide the human, technical and financial resources necessary to ensure access to habilitation and rehabilitation services, ensuring that such services are developed and provided with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations.

Kuwait (2021)

50. The Committee is concerned that policies on habilitation and rehabilitation overemphasize health-related issues. It is also concerned about the insufficient number of rehabilitation centres given that there is a waiting list of persons with disabilities who need rehabilitation. It is further concerned that the provision of free-of-charge assistive devices is limited to the provision of hearing aids and several categories of wheelchairs.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop comprehensive, cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes that are based on the principles of participation and inclusion, in particular in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, and that are available to persons with disabilities, including non-Kuwaiti persons with disabilities, in or as close as possible to their own communities;

(b) Establish new comprehensive rehabilitation centres in order to accommodate all those on the waiting list;

(c) Expand its provision of assistive devices and technical aids taking into account the priority assistive products list of the World Health Organization and ensure accessible and fair reimbursement schemes in order to prevent any additional costs or administrative burdens for persons with disabilities.

Myanmar (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of availability of comprehensive and community-based habilitation and rehabilitation programs for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement laws and regulations that promote comprehensive, habilitation and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas, taking into account the human rights model of disability, such as community-based inclusive development programmes.

Rwanda (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned about the shortage of comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology in the State party, especially in rural areas. It is in particular concerned that health-related habilitation and rehabilitation services and assistive devices are not covered by “Mutuelle de Santé” health insurance scheme.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technology, within their community, and in all districts of the State party. It also recommends that the State party take appropriate measures, including by expanding the coverage of “Mutuelle de Santé” health insurance scheme to secure access

for persons with disabilities to affordable health-related habilitation and rehabilitation devices and services.

Bulgaria (2018)

55. The Committee is concerned that habilitation and rehabilitation programmes do not target all persons with disabilities. It is also concerned at the lack of participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design of habilitation and rehabilitation programmes.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party adopts habilitation and rehabilitation programmes that target all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their impairment, sex, gender or age. It also recommends that the State party ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in habilitation and rehabilitation services, and that programmes are designed in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Philippines (2018)

44. The Committee is concerned that the State party's information about the implementation of rehabilitation/habilitation services provided for in the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, is not substantiated by data. It is also concerned about the uneven implementation of community-based rehabilitation due to the different approaches of stakeholders that promote a health-focused approach rather than inclusive development. It is further concerned about information concerning current procurement procedures limiting the supply, quality of services or products, prices and choice of various assistive devices to persons with disabilities.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Redouble its efforts to implement numerous provisions for habilitation/rehabilitation as part of the general health care policies, and strengthen monitoring mechanisms of rehabilitation services;
- (b) Adopt protocols to ensure rehabilitation in compliance with the inclusive equality and development;
- (c) Improve the administration of procurement policy to ensure the supply, quality, prices and multiple choice of various assistive devices for persons with disabilities.

Poland (2018)

42. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Lack of accessibility of rehabilitation schemes for all persons with disabilities, especially for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, as well as the income criteria for eligibility to rehabilitation services, which puts undue financial burden on persons with disabilities;
- (b) Project and medical-based rehabilitation schemes, and their financial unsustainability;
- (c) Lack of monitoring of the administration of programmes of rehabilitation;
- (d) Incomplete official translation of the title of this article as 'Rehabilitation'.

43. Taking into account the links between article 26 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure accessibility and continuity of the habilitation and rehabilitation programmes for all persons with disabilities, especially for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and eliminate financial criteria for eligibility to rehabilitation;**
- (b) Provide for inclusive and individualized needs-based rehabilitation schemes for persons with disabilities, within a wide range of community-based services;**
- (c) Develop a monitoring mechanism of the rehabilitation programmes;**
- (d) Rectify the title of this article as "Habilitation and Rehabilitation" in the Polish version of the Convention.**

North Macedonia (2018)

46. The Committee is concerned about the lack of adequate legislation in the State party to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to habilitation and rehabilitation services and that habilitation and rehabilitation are not concretely defined within the laws and regulations of the State Party.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the legislation necessary to define and ensure access to habilitation and rehabilitation services, ensuring they are human rights-based and developed with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Haiti (2018)

46. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not have a National Action Plan to habilitate and rehabilitate all persons with disabilities who require such services, particularly after the 2010 earthquake and the passage of hurricane "Matthew". It is also concerned that organizations of persons with disabilities do not participate in the development and implementation of habilitation and rehabilitation programmes.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a National Action Plan on habilitation and rehabilitation in line with the Convention, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party includes mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies in the context of international cooperation.

Nepal (2018)

(Recommendation regarding articles 25 and 26 together)

37. The Committee is concerned about the limited access to comprehensive health and rehabilitation services by persons with disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party develop measures to ensure comprehensive access to health services for persons with disabilities, particularly sexual and reproductive health services, maternal and child health centres, psychosocial services, and intensify the provision of comprehensive community-based rehabilitation services including in rural and remote areas.

Russian Federation (2018)

(Recommendation regarding articles 25 and 26 together)

51. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient and unequal access to quality health care and rehabilitation services in all regions of the State party and notes the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the Russian Federation (E/C.12/RUS/CO/6), paragraphs 50-51. The Committee is also concerned that there is no information available regarding the legislation formulating the characteristics of the Technical Means of Rehabilitation (TMR).

52. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure access to quality health care and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities in all regions of the State party. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the current legislation and practice in terms of drug policy and preventive measures by taking into account the recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the Russian Federation (E/C.12/RUS/CO/6), paragraphs 50-51 in particular. It also recommends that the State party elaborate legislation on the TMR system which should provide for transparent decision making process with regard to relevant safeguards.

Slovenia (2018)

43. The Committee is concerned at the lack of availability and effectiveness of the rehabilitation system.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure accessibility of habilitation and rehabilitation services and programs, and provide with a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and individualized support for persons with disabilities, especially for women and children with disabilities.

Sudan (2018)

51. The Committee is concerned about the lack of adequate legislation in the State party to ensure access to habilitation and rehabilitation services and that the measures taken are not in compliance with the Convention as they maintain a medical-oriented approach and do not address the required changes in society and in education.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the legislation necessary to ensure access to habilitation and rehabilitation services, ensuring they are human rights-based and, with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Latvia (2017)

44. The Committee is concerned about the long waiting times to receive rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities throughout the country, especially for those with severe impairments.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party improve the accessibility and timely delivery of rehabilitation services throughout the country for all persons with disabilities.

Armenia (2017)

45. The Committee is concerned that habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes for persons with disabilities in the State party are not adequately rights based. It also notes with concern that more than half of children with disabilities do not benefit from an individual rehabilitation plan.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party create accessible, comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, such as early intervention, providing comprehensive, multidisciplinary and individualized support for persons with disabilities, especially women and children.

Honduras (2017)

55. Al Comité le preocupa la ausencia de datos sobre las personas con discapacidad que tienen acceso a servicios y programas de habilitación y rehabilitación, así como la insuficiencia de los mismos en el Estado parte. Además, el Comité nota con preocupación el número de migrantes que han retornado al país con alguna discapacidad luego de emprender la ruta migratoria.

56. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas necesarias para garantizar a las personas con discapacidad, en todo su territorio, el acceso a servicios y programas de rehabilitación basados en la comunidad y con fines de inclusión social y comunitaria. Asimismo, el Comité recomienda que fortalezca las medidas de rehabilitación para la reinserción efectiva de los trabajadores migrantes que regresan con alguna discapacidad, incluyendo a través del acceso a un trabajo digno y con estabilidad.

Bolivia (2016)

59. The Committee is concerned about the poor coverage of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, and particularly comprehensive services for community inclusion, especially in marginal urban and rural areas.

60. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a community-based inclusive development and rehabilitation strategy, with a particular focus on early intervention, including training for parents of children with disabilities, which has sufficient resources for implementation and involves persons with disabilities in its design and implementation, through the organizations that represent them.

Colombia (2016)

58. The Committee is concerned about the fact that the State party delegates some of its obligations related to the habilitation and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities to the private company Teletón, without proper auditing or oversight, and without consulting organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that rehabilitation measures focus on physical or deficiency-related aspects of persons with disabilities, and don't take into consideration such areas as education and employment.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Monitor, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the habilitation and rehabilitation services offered by private companies;**
- (b) Make habilitation and rehabilitation services comprehensive and thus in line with the Convention.**

Ethiopia (2016)

57. The Committee is concerned that habilitation and rehabilitation programmes do not target all persons with disabilities. It is also concerned at the lack of participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design of habilitation and rehabilitation programmes, and in the design of mobility aids, devices and other assistive technologies.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt habilitation and rehabilitation programmes that target all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their impairment, gender or age. It also recommends that the State party ensure accessible participation of persons with disabilities in habilitation and rehabilitation services, and that programmes and assistive devices are designed in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Italy (2016)

67. The Committee is concerned at the slow progress in implementing the National Minimum Standards of Health Care with respect to comprehensive services and programmes of habilitation and rehabilitation, and the fact that those Standards do not cover independent living and personal assistance schemes to offer support for living in the local communities, but continue to direct resources to institutionalized living.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party review and revise the Minimum Standards of Health Care, in close consultation with organizations representing persons with disabilities; that it refrain from focusing resources on segregated services; and that it redirect resources to support independent living. It also recommends that the State party expedite the adoption, funding and implementation of those Standards, so that all adults and children with disabilities have full access to comprehensive services and programmes of habilitation and rehabilitation within their community.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

47. The Committee is concerned that policies on habilitation and rehabilitation overemphasize health-related issues and that non-citizens do not have access to habilitation and rehabilitation services and devices.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party develop comprehensive cross-sectorial habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes that are based on the principles of participation and inclusion, in particular in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, and that are available to persons with disabilities, including non-citizens, in or as close as possible to their own communities.

Uruguay (2016)

55. Al Comité le preocupa la ausencia de datos sobre las personas con discapacidad que tienen acceso a servicios y programas de rehabilitación así como la inexistencia de los mismos en el interior del Estado parte.

56. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas necesarias para garantizar a las personas con discapacidad, en todo su territorio, el acceso a servicios y programas de rehabilitación basados en la comunidad y con fines de la inclusión social y comunitaria.

Chile (2016)

55. Al Comité le preocupa la cobertura limitada en las acciones del Estado parte en materia de rehabilitación. Asimismo le preocupa que se destinen fondos públicos al financiamiento de organizaciones privadas que se dedican a la rehabilitación física de niños con discapacidad sin ser objeto de fiscalización, y que los servicios ofrecidos por tales organizaciones no sean universales.

56. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte priorice y destine los recursos necesarios para disponer de servicios de rehabilitación basados en la comunidad y dirigidos a todas las personas con discapacidad desde la niñez hasta la edad adulta y con fines de la inclusión social y comunitaria. En la implementación de estas medidas, lo alienta a que se consulte a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, en particular, a las que representan a mujeres, niñas y niños, indígenas y personas que viven en zonas rurales y remotas.

Slovakia (2016)

71. The Committee is concerned about the low quality and availability of State-funded rehabilitation.

72. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the quality and availability of all rehabilitation services and the introduction of mechanisms to monitor compliance with the Convention.

Thailand (2016)

51. The Committee is concerned about the insufficiency of habilitation and rehabilitation services and technology, particularly in rural areas, and that access to these remains for the most part dependent on a medical assessment.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the human, technical and financial resources to organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and technology, on the basis of the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths.

Mauritius (2015)

35. The Committee regrets the lack of information on the availability of health, early intervention services, including provision of sexual and reproductive health services and age appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities. The

Committee is also concerned about the lack of social support to cover the disability-related expenses for their children with disabilities.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt clear procedures for the early intervention services for persons with disabilities to appropriate and accessible habilitation and rehabilitation services, including services for parents with disabilities, with special regard to parents of all children with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that health, rehabilitation and other disability-related expenses for children with disabilities be covered.

Qatar (2015)

47. The Committee is concerned that policies on habilitation and rehabilitation overemphasize health-related issues.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party develop comprehensive cross-sectorial habilitation and rehabilitation services and programs, based on participation and inclusion, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, available to persons with disabilities in or as close as possible to their own communities.

Ukraine (2015)

48. The Committee is concerned about the lack of rights-based habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes for persons with disabilities in the State party that promote their physical, mental and social development.

49. The Committee urges the State party to create accessible comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes such as early intervention, providing comprehensive, multidisciplinary and individualized support for persons with disabilities and their families.

Cook Islands (2015)

47. The Committee is concerned about the availability of assistive devices and high reliance of overseas aid for their provision, as well as services for rehabilitation.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party's Ministry of Health's Rehabilitation Group provide free at point of source all rehabilitation equipment, assistive devices, mobility aids (including their repair) and establish an array of rehabilitation services across the country.

Croatia (2015)

39. The Committee is concerned that many boys and girls with disabilities have no access to early intervention services, and that the situation is particularly hard for children with autism.

40. The Committee recommends the State party to take measures to provide early intervention services to all children with disabilities.

Dominican Republic (2015)

48. Al Comité le preocupa la escasez de servicios de habilitación y rehabilitación comunitarios que se brindan a las personas con discapacidad, particularmente, que el programa "Saliendo del escondite" no las incluya. Igualmente, le preocupa que cuando los servicios de habilitación y rehabilitación existen, estos solamente benefician a personas con la nacionalidad dominicana que cuentan con el seguro familiar de salud, negando así el acceso a personas en situación migratoria irregular.

49. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte ampliar los servicios de habilitación y rehabilitación, prestando especial atención al nivel comunitario, y prohíba la discriminación en estos servicios, particularmente por motivo de origen nacional o estatus migratorio.

Mongolia (2015)

39. The Committee is concerned about the limited access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive health and rehabilitation services, particularly in rural and remote areas, including access to sexual and reproductive health. It is also concerned that under the health legislation of the State party, not all persons with disabilities can exercise their free and informed consent.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure access for people with disabilities to health services without financial constraints, in particular sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health centers, psychosocial services, and comprehensive rehabilitation community-based services for rural and isolated areas. The Committee also recommends ensuring that all persons with disabilities, regardless of their deficit, have the right to free and informed consent.

Costa Rica (2014)

53. The Committee is concerned about the centralization of rehabilitation services and the lack of community-based services. The lack of paediatric rehabilitation services is also a source of concern.

54. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a strategy to promote community-based rehabilitation services focused on developing the capacities of persons with disabilities from an early age.

Australia (2013)

47. The Committee regrets the state party's medical model of habilitation and rehabilitation is not based on the human rights model.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party establishes a framework for the protection of persons with disabilities from imposed habilitation and rehabilitation services without free and informed consent.

El Salvador (2013)

53. The Committee is concerned at the number of people acquiring a disability following migration-related accidents and the lack of vocational and social rehabilitation programmes for their integration in the community.

54. The Committee urges the State party to design and implement rehabilitation programmes for repatriated Salvadoran migrants who have acquired a disability with a view to their integration in the labour force and society.

Paraguay (2013)

61. The Committee is concerned that habilitation and rehabilitation in the State party focus solely on health and do not encompass other areas such as education, work or access to housing.

62. The Committee urges the State party to institute a broad rehabilitation strategy for persons with disabilities at the national level that is tied in with the establishment of the necessary community services and strengthens the services provided at local level so that they are able to meet individual needs.

China (2012)

39. The Committee is concerned with the imposition of rehabilitation and habilitation measures on persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, without their informed consent.

40. The Committee recommends that rights based approach to rehabilitation and habilitation be put in place and ensure that such programmes promote the informed consent of individuals with disabilities and respects their autonomy, integrity, will and preference.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 27 CRPD
(Work and employment)*

September 2025

Article 27 - Work and employment

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia:

- a) Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions;
- b) Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;
- c) Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others;
- d) Enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and vocational and continuing training;
- e) Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;
- f) Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;
- g) Employ persons with disabilities in the public sector;
- h) Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures;
- i) Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace;
- j) Promote the acquisition by persons with disabilities of work experience in the open labour market;
- k) Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation, job retention and return-to-work programmes for persons with disabilities.

2. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour.

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China (2012)
Hong-Kong
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Hungary (2012)
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Spain (2011)
Tunisia (2010)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

52. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Persons with disabilities are often confined to segregated “light-labour” workshops based on type and degree of impairment, frequently in rural areas, limiting opportunities for inclusion in mainstream employment and reinforcing stigma; barriers to accessing education, discriminatory societal attitudes, and the absence of effective mechanisms to guarantee reasonable accommodation further restrict equal access to employment;

(b) The employment rate of persons with disabilities remains low, particularly among women and persons with non-military-related disabilities, with insufficient disaggregated data, inadequate workplace accommodations, and no accessible, independent mechanisms exist to address complaints of employment-related discrimination or rights violations.

53. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that, the State Party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Transition from segregated workshops to inclusive, accessible, and freely chosen employment opportunities in the open labour market, dismantle educational and training barriers, and promote inclusive workforce policies in both public and private sectors;

(b) Collect and publish disaggregated data on employment of persons with disabilities by sex, age, type of disability, and region, ensure workplace accommodations in all sectors, and establish accessible, independent complaints and monitoring mechanisms to address employment discrimination and rights violations.

Finland (2025)

52. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) Structural and entrenched prejudice and negative stereotypes about the capacity and productivity of persons with disabilities leading to barriers in access to employment;

(b) The low participation as well as the insufficient data on employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market;

(c) The lack of affirmative measures to promote employment of persons with disabilities.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations address the low participation of persons with disabilities in the open labour market by:

(a) Conducting awareness raising campaigns on the right to work of persons with disabilities, addressing stigma, discrimination and stereotypes about their labour skills; ensure accessibility of public and private employment online portals, adequate training of recruitment and human resources departments in the public and private sector, and ensure that training on occupational risk prevention is disability inclusive;

(b) Collecting data and compiling statistics on access to employment of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by gender, age, indigeneity, geographical location, and type of impairment;

(c) Actively promoting the employment of persons with disabilities and considering the implementation of affirmative action such as subsidy systems and incentives for employers, disseminating information on financial support for entrepreneurial initiatives of persons with disabilities, and ensuring the provision of support and reasonable accommodation in the workplace.

Kiribati (2025)

51. The Committee notes with concern the low employment levels of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and the limited measures in place to facilitate their access to employment, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation in the workplace, the lack of inclusive vocational training opportunities, and the barriers created by stigma and inaccessible workplaces.

52. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

(a) Adopt and enforce legislation prohibiting discrimination based on disability in employment, including a clear obligation on employers to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the workplace as well as in all processes related to recruitment, hiring, advancement in and retention of employment, promotion, safe working conditions and labour rights such as insurances, holidays and pensions including retirement;

(b) Promote inclusive vocational training and skills development programmes that are linked to sustainable employment opportunities, including self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;

(c) Introduce measures and incentives to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including in the private sector, and ensure accessibility of workplaces and work environments;

(d) Raise awareness among employers and the wider public to combat stigma and promote the capabilities and contributions of workers with disabilities.

Maldives (2025)

53. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That despite the recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to employment, non-discrimination on the basis of disability, and self-determination of professional development in the State party's Constitution and the Disability Act, there is a lack of affirmative measures and the lack of monitoring and complaint mechanisms to guarantee the enjoyment and exercise of these rights by persons with disabilities;

(b) Barriers to employment for persons with disabilities, such as low levels of education, poor skills training, discrimination in recruitment processes and employment conditions, and lack of reasonable accommodations in the workplace;

(c) About the lack of measures to create incentives for the private sector and for entrepreneurial initiatives by persons with disabilities, despite the existing provisions of the Disability Act.

54. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Ensure the access of persons with disabilities to vocational training and to jobs in the public and private sectors through quotas and/or tax incentives, ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation and supports in the workplace, among other measures; and establish monitoring and complaint mechanisms to guarantee the participation of persons with disabilities in the open labour market on an equal basis with others;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the regular labour market and are included in private and public work environments, on an equal basis with others, and introduce entrepreneurial programmes and development schemes for creation of opportunities of self-employment and entrepreneurship;

(c) Raise awareness of the full range of incentives available to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, to combat discrimination in hiring processes and conditions of employment, and to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the workplace;

(d) Strengthen the implementation of the Disability Act and the Disability Employment Regulation (R-9/2024) in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and ensure that persons with disabilities effectively participate in the Sustainable and Integrated Labor Services (SAILS) project.

Canada (2025)

53. The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Employment Strategy for Canadians with Disabilities, the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training program, the Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy, the Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program, the Youth Employment and Skills and Strategy, Skills for Success, and the Disability Inclusion Business Council. However, it notes with concern:

- (a) That despite legal protections and existing policies, persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, keep encountering systemic barriers to employment and in the workplace, and they face higher unemployment rates compared to their non-disabled counterparts, as well as disparities across the provinces and territories regarding policies on work and employment for persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of nationally consistent, longitudinal measurable outcomes aimed at guaranteeing the right to work and employment of persons with disabilities, including disaggregated data, on persons with disabilities employed in the public and private sectors;
- (c) The lack of comprehensive policies to address the situation of persons with work-acquired disabilities and to counter societal stigma on the long-term use of employment injury benefits;
- (d) The absence of a centralized disability fund to assist small and micro businesses in providing reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities;
- (e) The continued use of sheltered workshops to employ persons with disabilities.

54. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Exercise federal leadership to identify systemic barriers to employment for persons with disabilities and ensure national consistency in all work and employment policies and programs across jurisdictions;**
- (b) Generate specific indicators to measure progress in the implementation of programs on employment for persons with disabilities across provinces and territories and in both public and private sectors and strengthen disaggregated data collection measures;**
- (c) Develop comprehensive measures to address the situation of people with work-acquired disabilities, and carry out awareness-raising campaigns to counter societal stigma on the long-term use of employment injury benefits;**
- (d) Establish a centralized fund to assist small and micro businesses to provide reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities;**
- (e) Develop a strategy with specific timelines and measurable outcomes to transition from segregated employment, such as sheltered workshops, to employment that is open, inclusive, and accessible to persons with disabilities.**

Dominican Republic (2025)

49. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The prevalence of unemployment among persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities;
- (b) The low level of compliance with employment quotas established in Law 5-13 for persons with disabilities in the public sector and the lack of accountability on this regard;
- (c) That tax incentives contemplated in Law 5-13 for the private sector to generate greater employment for persons with disabilities have not been fully allocated;
- (d) The persistent discrimination and barriers that persons with disabilities face in their employment, particularly women with disabilities, including denial of reasonable accommodation.

50. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Review national employment policies to ensure the right to work for all persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) Ensure strict compliance with Law 5-13 and establish mechanisms to monitor compliance with the 5 per cent employment quota for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the public sector, with penalties for non-compliance;
- (c) Ensure that tax incentives contemplated in Law 5-13 to encourage the private sector to reach their hiring target of persons with disabilities are properly earmarked and allocated;
- (d) Take effective measures to combat discrimination and address the systemic and structural barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, particularly in the context of reasonable accommodation and other rights related to work and employment.

European Union (2025)

64. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Practices of segregated employment (see this Committee's General Comment No. 8 [2022] para. 14) exist across Member States, and that Member States use State aid to support segregated employment;
- (b) Employment disparities among persons with disabilities persist across Member States, due to the lack of reasonable accommodation, disability stigma, prejudice and incompatibility of disability benefits with paid work;
- (c) Despite progress in recent years, discrimination against persons with disabilities in work and employment is still pervasive, including lower wages, part-time or low paid jobs, lower participation in full-time employment affecting particularly women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with intensive support needs.

65. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Repeal legislation that allows public financing of segregated forms of employment for persons with disabilities, such as institutions and other segregated facilities, amend Directives 2014/23/EU and 2014/24/EU to remove the possibility of awarding public procurement to such facilities, repeal article 34(2)(f) of the General Block Exemption Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 651/2014), and prohibit State aid of segregated employment;
- (b) Support Member States in their efforts to implement the Disability Employment Package aimed at employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market that enhances access to work and employment, closes segregated workshops, raises awareness about the right to work and employment of all persons with disabilities, ensures equal pay and working conditions for persons with disabilities and the provision of reasonable accommodation, provides for transition measures and collects disaggregated data about persons with disabilities in segregated employment;
- (c) Continue and strengthen efforts to address discrimination of persons with disabilities in employment, including women and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, by, inter alia, enforcing the Equality Employment Directive across Member States and strengthening equality bodies, as provided for by Directive 2024/1499, and ensuring access to minimum wages on an equal basis with others.

Palau (2025)

51. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That despite the adoption of the Disabled Persons Anti-Discrimination Act, which aims to ensure equal access to employment opportunities, the unemployment rate among persons with disabilities is high, and there is no comprehensive employment support policy for persons with disabilities in the State party;
- (b) That the Disabled Anti-Discrimination Act does not recognise the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination at the workplace;

- (c) The lack of awareness raising activities including trainings for employers about the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (d) The absence of affirmative actions to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the labour market.

52. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022) on the rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy with clear targets, indicators and adequate resources to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the open labour market, both in the private and public sectors, with equal remuneration for work of equal value, in an inclusive work environment, and establish effective monitoring mechanism to ensure its implementation;**
- (b) Recognize in law and policies the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of workplace discrimination;**
- (c) Conduct a targeted awareness-raising program among employers about the rights of persons with disabilities and the inclusive and accessible work environments;**
- (d) Establish affirmative action measures to stimulate greater employment of persons with disabilities, especially for women with disabilities.**

Tuvalu (2025)

49. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Barriers to employment for persons with disabilities, such as low levels of education, poor skills training, discrimination in recruitment processes and employment conditions, and lack of reasonable accommodations in the workplace;
- (b) Absence of a policy in the field of labour and employment for persons with disabilities, lack of mechanisms for the application of employment quotas for people disabilities, as well as lack of entrepreneurial programmes and development schemes to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Insufficient resourcing for livelihood programs for persons with disabilities run by the Fusi Alofa Association, in particular women with disabilities.

50. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Address the lack of access to education and vocational training, take measures to address discriminatory attitudes and practices by employers and inaccessible workplaces, which affect the employment and employability of persons with disabilities, and encourage sectors other than the education sector to provide learning and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the regular labour market and are included in private and public work environments, on an equal basis with others, and introduce entrepreneurial programmes and development schemes for creation of opportunities of self-employment and entrepreneurship;**
- (c) Raise awareness of the full range of incentives available to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, to combat discrimination in hiring processes and conditions of employment, and to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the workplace;**
- (d) Ensure support for persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities through the livelihood programs, including on the outer islands.**

Viet Nam (2025)

53. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The State party continues to train persons with disabilities in activities such as massage therapy, computer maintenance, and artisanal production, offering mainly professional subjects that “fit” their type of impairment;
- (b) The number of persons with disabilities receiving adequate vocational training remains modest due to insufficient information about programmes in some communities and a lack of professionals;
- (c) The rejection rate for job applicants with disabilities is quite high, at 53%.

54. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that, the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities receive vocational guidance based on their own wishes and abilities, enabling them to compete for jobs in regular employment;**
- (b) Provide adequate vocational training for persons with disabilities by trained personnel at both urban and rural levels, ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities from indigenous communities and ethnic minorities;**
- (c) Establish a strict monitoring mechanism to prevent ministries and private companies from rejecting persons with disabilities in employment;**

Belarus (2024)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The very low employment rate of persons with disabilities, particularly in the open labour market, where those employed are mostly in underpaid, unskilled jobs and in sheltered workshops;
- (b) The ineffectiveness of existing measures of support the employment of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities in an open labour market, including the obligation under the Labor Code to provide reasonable accommodation;
- (c) The barriers that persons with disabilities face in their employment, resulting from the lack of accessibility to and reasonable accommodation in workplaces, including transportation;

54. Recalling its general comment No. 8 2022, The Committee recommends in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, that the State party:

- (a) Revise the existing legislation and measures of support for the employment of persons with disabilities, and take comprehensive measures aimed at effectively supporting the work and employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and in inclusive work environments;**
- (b) Adopt legislative and policy measures to promote the work of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, protect the rights of persons with disabilities to just and favourable conditions of work, and ensure that persons with disabilities are not paid below the minimum wage and are provided with work contracts and equal remuneration for work on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Redirect the allocations for the employment of person with disabilities from sheltered employment to support the employment of persons with disabilities, including of persons who require complex support needs and deinstitutionalized persons, and ensure that the right to seek reasonable accommodation in the workplace is recognized for employees in the public and private sectors;**
- (d) Monitor, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the accessibility of workplaces across the State party and adopt an action plan with the aim of outlining measures, with time frames and adequate budgets, to ensure reasonable accommodation in and the accessibility of workplaces, including access to transportation;**

Belgium (2024)

54. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the employment rates of persons with disabilities are too low and remain below the European employment rate average, and that there is no discernible progress towards an inclusive labour market, with the majority of employed persons with disabilities working in sheltered workshops;
- (b) That the position of women with disabilities in the employment market is weak, with only 45% of women with disabilities working full time, and women with disabilities being generally under-represented in employment;
- (c) That there is a lack of effective mechanisms to implement and monitor the Act of 10 May 2007 on combating certain forms of discrimination, including the denial of reasonable accommodation;
- (d) About the lack of measures to ensure close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation of the policy on the reintegration of persons after a long-term work incapacity;
- (e) About the ineffective implementation of standard professional training and about the lack of measures to ensure that persons with hearing impairments, in particular French-speaking persons, have access to training in professional sign language interpretation.

55. Recalling its General Comment No. 8 (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations:

- (a) Develop and implement a strategy and action plan, applicable at the federal and regional levels, to facilitate the transition of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, from unemployment or from employment in sheltered workshops to inclusive employment in the open labour market;**
- (b) Promote employment opportunities and strengthen respective programmes to increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in both the private and the public sectors, and improve assistance for finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;**
- (c) Adopt effective legal mechanisms to implement and monitor the Act of 10 May 2007 on combating certain forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation, including complaint mechanisms;**
- (d) Effectively implement the 2017 policy on the reintegration of persons after a long-term work incapacity;**
- (e) Ensure that persons with hearing impairments, in particular French-speaking persons, have effective access to training in professional sign language interpretation.**

56. The Committee notes the lack of coherent, complete and transparent information on the impact of premiums for employers and on guidance options available to persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that structural cooperation between employment services, private employers in the regular labour market, supported employment entities, and representative organisations of persons with disabilities, is highly insufficient.

57. The Committee recommends the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, provide accessible information on the measures available related to return back to regular employment, on reasonable accommodation, available benefits, and on associations that specialise in specific areas of work, on all federal levels of government, and take structural measures to ensure effective cooperation between all entities involved in supporting persons with disabilities in the labour market.

Benin (2024)

53. The Committee takes note of the positive measures taken by the state party in the field of work and employment particularly the application texts of the Act on the Protection and

Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities related to employment and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities. However, it notes with concern:

- (a) Barriers to employment of persons with disabilities, such as low levels of education, inadequate skills training, discrimination in recruitment processes and employment conditions and a lack of reasonable accommodation in places of employment;
- (b) The lack of enforcement mechanisms of employment quotas for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The fact that positive measures to promote employment for persons with disabilities fail to include all persons with disabilities.

54. Recalling its General comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Address the lack of access to vocational training, take measures to combat discriminatory attitudes and practices among employers and inaccessible workplaces, which affect the employment and employability of persons with disabilities, and encourage other sectors besides the education sector to offer persons with disabilities apprenticeship and employment opportunities;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and are included in private and public work environments, on an equal basis with others and reinforce the implementation of quotas in the public and private sectors of employment;**
- (c) Raise awareness of all the incentives that are available aimed at promoting the employment of persons with disabilities, combating discrimination in recruitment processes and employment conditions and providing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in places of employment.**

Burkina Faso (2024)

50. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The ongoing segregation of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops and the lack of concrete plans to gradually move workers with disabilities from these workshops to the open labour market;
- (b) That avenues to submit complaints in cases of discrimination in employment are mostly unknown by persons with disabilities, mainly because of the lack of awareness of procedural accommodations;
- (c) The insufficient application and monitoring of the quotas set out in articles 8 and 10 of Decree No. 2009-5030/PRES/PM/MTSS/MASSN/MS of 17 July 2009;
- (d) That persons with disabilities are not involved in the organizational process and the monitoring of the 2016-2020 National Economic and Social Development Plan's "special recruitment" initiative indicated in the report of the State Party;
- (e) That support for vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities remains a challenge and that employment of persons with disabilities continues to be hampered by lack of market-oriented skills.

51. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Raise awareness among persons with disabilities and the employers on the anti-discrimination laws in employment and provide easier and accessible mechanisms of seeking redress in cases of discrimination;**
- (b) Repeal article 40 of the Labour Code and implement measures to enable persons with disabilities to transition from sheltered employment into open, inclusive and accessible employment;**

- (c) Take the necessary measures to ensure the effective application and monitoring of the employment quotas provided for by the regulations for persons with disabilities in both the public and private sectors;
- (d) Closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the process and monitoring of employment programmes such as the "special recruitment" initiative;
- (e) Strengthen measures to support vocational training, employment and entrepreneurship for trainees with disabilities in order to enable them to access decent employment opportunities, including social protection.

Denmark (2024)

71. The Committee welcomes the various initiatives and amendments to reduce discrimination and prejudice preventing persons with disabilities from accessing the labour market, including the amendment of the Danish Act on Prohibition of Discrimination on the Labour Market on the provision of reasonable accommodation in the labour market, designed to improve and enhance the employment of persons with disabilities until 2025 in Denmark (with 60% of 16–64-year-olds with disabilities as compared to 86% of persons without disabilities employed in 2022). It notes, however, that the employment difference of 26% gives rise for concern. It is also concerned that no long-term programs and measures have been adopted to raise the awareness of employers on inclusion, to train social workers on disability-specific expertise, or to adapt employment programs accessible to all persons with disabilities, including seniors with disabilities, and render them disability-responsive.

72. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022), the Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, adopt a long-term employment strategy to promote full inclusion of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities in the open labour market, including:

- (a) Targeted, time-bound and financed action plans across all sectors of the economy;
- (b) Awareness-raising measures against prejudice against persons with disabilities;
- (c) Training of employment system staff, including human resource personnel and career advisors, on specialised knowledge of disability;
- (d) Provide disability-responsive support to persons with disabilities in their search for employment and in their efforts toward entrepreneurship;
- (e) Ensure that older employees with disabilities, who have not yet reached retirement age, have the possibility to stay in the workforce.

Ghana (2024)

52. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The rates of job placement among persons with disabilities remain significantly low despite some legislation, policies, and initiatives in place to support the employment of persons with disabilities, such as Article 29 (7) of the Constitution and sections 9 to 13 of Act 715 in addition to Sections 45-53 of the Labour Act (Act 651);
- (b) The fact that the Act 715 does not recognise the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination at the workplace and the absence of equal pay for equal work for persons with disabilities including in the private sector;
- (c) The lack of access to education and appropriate vocational and technical skills training as well as high level of ignorance amongst employers which contributes to the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the open labour market;
- (d) The failure to establish the employment centre for persons with disabilities and the advocated employment equity policy by organizations of persons with disabilities;
- (e) The fact that statistics of persons with disabilities employed in both private and public sector are not kept and therefore not available to help assess the progress or otherwise;

(f) Absence of affirmative actions to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the labour market.

53. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Take effective and affirmative measures to ensure the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including putting into effect and support mechanisms outlined in Article 29(7) of the Constitution and Act 715 to encourage businesses to hire and retain persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Explicitly recognize in law and policy the denial of reasonable accommodation as workplace discrimination so that persons with disabilities can have access to a decent employment opportunities and equal pay for equal work;**
- (c) Create and implement targeted market oriented technical vocational education and training programmes for persons with disabilities and raise awareness to employers to foster inclusive work environments and to combat negative stereotypes;**
- (d) Establish and open the employment centre for persons with disabilities and adopt the OPDs proposed employment equity policy to enhance employment of persons with disabilities and Ensure OPDs actively participate in its formulation and implementation;**
- (e) Collect and disseminate data on the employment of persons with disabilities in the public, private and informal sectors disaggregated by gender, professions, levels of the employment as well as geographical distribution;**
- (f) Establish affirmative action measures to stimulate greater employment of persons with disabilities, especially for women with disabilities.**

Mauritius (2024)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The low rate of and difficulty in access to employment by persons with disabilities in the open labour market, particularly women and youth with disabilities, as reflected in the results of the 2022 Housing and Population Census;
- (b) The lack of enforcement of the amended Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act 1996, in relation to sanctions for employers who have been in compliance with the quota system for the employment of persons with disabilities.

48. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Promote and ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and are included in private and public work environments, on an equal basis with others, in a manner that respects their right to freely choose their work, especially for women and youth;**
- (b) Take the necessary measures to strictly enforce the new quota system under the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2024, including through sanctions and expanded fiscal incentives, and to provide information about employers who are in compliance with the law, including information collected in the register of employers employing persons with disabilities to be maintained by the National Empowerment Authority and formerly by the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board.**

Netherlands (2024)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The high incidence of unemployment among persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and young persons with disabilities, as well as the continued discrimination in payment mechanisms for persons with disabilities with "reduced work capacity";
- (b) The discrimination and barriers that persons with disabilities face in their employment, including denial of reasonable accommodation and the lack of measures to ensure the

accountability of employers in the public and private sectors for not respecting the targets for employment of persons with disabilities;

(c) The use of the term “occupational disability” to refer to persons with disabilities;

(d) The continued use of the medical model to promote the employment agenda for persons with disabilities as evidenced in the use of sheltered workshops as a mean of employing persons with disabilities.

60. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organization:

(a) Review the national legislation to address systemic and structural barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, young persons with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and take measures to increase the number of persons with disabilities in the open labour market;

(b) Enforce the implementation of the agreements for the targets of employment for persons with disabilities in both the public and the private sectors, and strengthen measures to ensure the accessibility and provision of reasonable accommodation in workplaces, including raising awareness among employers about their obligations and providing resources to facilitate the provision of reasonable accommodations;

(c) Amend the legislation to make appropriate reference to persons with disabilities instead of using the term “occupational disability” in the labour market;

(d) Take all necessary steps to align programmes, policies and legislation in the labour market to reflect the human rights approach to disability, including the current practice of sheltered workshops.

Ukraine (2024)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The low rate of employment of persons with disabilities, including internally displaced persons with disabilities (as showed by the Ombudsman's monitoring of the observance of the rights of persons with disabilities to work dated 2019), and that important obstacles persist so that persons with disabilities have more employment opportunities;

(b) Discriminatory practices in credit, lending, and insurance, the lack of adequate monitoring of the permanence in employment of persons with disabilities, as well as the lack of a comprehensive legislation to promote accessible workplaces for persons with disabilities and to protect them from all forms of discrimination;

(c) The insufficient measures and policies to promote employability and inclusive workplaces in the Labor Code of Ukraine, and the lack of implementation of Article 24 of The Law of Ukraine on Employment (No. 5067-VI) regarding the promotion of work for unemployed internally displaced persons, including persons with disabilities;

(d) The Draft Law of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of People with Disabilities to Work (5344-d), which is not aligned with the Convention;

(e) The lack of consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities in the formulation of plans and programs for labour inclusion.

55. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022), and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

(a) Establish a comprehensive strategy to increase the rate of employment of persons with disabilities, including internally displaced persons with disabilities, as well as an oversight mechanism to monitor its effectiveness;

(b) Adopt necessary measures to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and

safe and healthy working conditions, as well as provisions to promote accessibility in the workplace;

(c) Amend the State party's Labor Code to include provisions that promote the employability of persons with disabilities and inclusive workplaces, as well as to ensure the implementation of Article 24 of The Law of Ukraine on Employment (No. 5067-VI) as a means to ensure the right to work of internally displaced persons, including persons with disabilities;

(d) Include in its Labor Code provisions to promote inclusive workplaces, to protect persons with disabilities against all forms of discrimination in the workplace and to provide assistance in performing work, in particular to persons with higher need of support, intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women with disabilities;

(e) Ensure that the inputs and views of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations are incorporated in the discussion of the Draft Law of Ukraine on Ensuring the Rights of People with Disabilities to Work (5344-d) and any other relevant legislation to guarantee the right to work and employment of persons with disabilities, and ensure that such laws fully align with the Convention.

Azerbaijan (2024)

59. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Prevailing discrimination with respect to work and employment, including prejudices among employers in hiring of persons with disabilities, and lack of accessibility to the workplace, and unemployment rates among persons with disabilities;

(b) Information about the limited implementation of quotas for persons with disabilities in work and employment;

(c) The delay in adopting legislation to recognize reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in work and employment (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, para. 242);

(d) The lack of information about participation of women with disabilities in initiatives to foster work and employment among persons with disabilities (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, paras. 219, 220 and 221);

(e) That occupations in certain industries remain prohibited for women, including women with disabilities.

60. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure access to employment in the open labour market for persons with disabilities and in all sectors of economy, address prejudices among employers in the private and public sectors, including in the framework of its strategy on business and human rights, and set up goals and strategies to achieve full accessibility to employment and the workplace;

(b) Strengthen the implementation of the quota system and introduce other positive measures to ensure access of persons with disabilities to work and employment;

(c) Enforce legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment and occupation, expedite the adoption of legislation recognizing reasonable accommodation and raise awareness about reasonable accommodation at work;

(d) Address discrimination against women with disabilities in work and employment and include them in programmes for job creation, self-employment and entrepreneurship;

(e) Ensure women with disabilities' access to all professions and jobs and implement the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/6, para. 32 (a)), in 2022 in this scope.

Bahrain (2024)¹

The Committee is deeply concerned that:

(a) The adoption of the criterion of health ability or fitness as a precondition for appointment to public office and a reason for termination of employment, as stipulated in article 11 (6) and article 25 (c) of the Civil Service Law No. 48 of 2010.

(b) The absence of mechanisms to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation in the workplace, the denial of which is considered a form of discrimination.

(c) The existence of a list of specific jobs for which persons with disabilities are qualified and restricted to employment in accordance with the vocational registration and qualification certificate issued under Articles (10 and 11) of Law No. 74 of 2006 on the Care, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities.

55. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022), the Committee recommends that the State party

(a) Repeal the provisions that consider ability and fitness as a condition of employment and a reason for termination of employment in national legislation.

(b) Provide accessibility and accommodations in the workplace and establish mechanisms that require public and private employers to provide them and investigate cases of denial.

(c) Providing accessibility in vocational training institutes and centers and providing programs and curricula in accessible formats for persons with disabilities and not denying them access to any of them on the basis of disability

Costa Rica (2024)

45. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) El alto nivel de desempleo entre las personas con discapacidad y la falta de información sobre las medidas adoptadas para incentivar al sector privado a generar más empleo para las personas con discapacidad;

b) El bajo nivel de cumplimiento de las cuotas de empleo para las personas con discapacidad en el sector público;

c) La ausencia de medidas para promover el trabajo por cuenta propia como medio para generar empleo particularmente para las personas con discapacidad, incluidas las de menor prevalencia.

46. Recordando su observación general núm. 8 (2022), el Comité recomienda al Estado parte a, de conformidad con la meta 8.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible:

a) Adoptar medidas eficaces para garantizar el derecho al trabajo de todas las personas con discapacidad, en particular de las mujeres con discapacidad, las personas con discapacidad intelectual y las personas con discapacidad psicosocial, así como medidas para combatir la discriminación, particularmente en el contexto de los anuncios de empleo, los procesos de contratación, los ajustes razonables, el reciclaje profesional, los ascensos y otros derechos relacionados con el trabajo y el empleo, y establecer incentivos y medidas específicas para promover la inclusión de personas con discapacidad en el mercado laboral privado;

b) Garantizar el cumplimiento estricto de la Ley N. 8862 del 11 de noviembre de 2010, que trata sobre la Inclusión y Protección Laboral de las Personas con Discapacidad en el Sector Público, y establecer mecanismos de supervisión sobre el cumplimiento de las cuotas de inclusión del 5% de los empleos del sector público con personas con discapacidad, con sanciones por su incumplimiento;

c) Promover oportunidades de trabajo por cuenta propia entre las personas con discapacidad, incluso con la creación de un fondo especial dedicado a proporcionar a las personas con discapacidad subvenciones para proyectos de trabajo por cuenta propia y la exención del costo de las licencias comerciales para las personas con discapacidad.

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

Kazakhstan (2024)

57. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Unemployment among persons with disabilities, particularly pronounced for persons with disabilities facing multiple and/or intersectional discrimination, and limited access of persons with disabilities to jobs in the private sector, barriers to accessibility in the workplace;
- (b) The failure to recognize reasonable accommodation as a right of persons with disabilities in the private sector;
- (c) Insufficient vocational training and retraining for persons with disabilities in employment.

58. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Promote access to employment in the open labour market for persons with disabilities and in all sectors of economy, including for migrant persons with disabilities, by, inter alia, taking effective measures against stigma of persons with disabilities in employment, developing work-related skills of persons with disabilities, including in the information technology sector, and strengthen support for self-employment and entrepreneurship;**
- (b) Recognize reasonable accommodation and establish the duty to provide reasonable accommodation and to have accessible processes to assess the required reasonable accommodations on the basis of a dialogue with the person who requests them;**
- (c) Provide continuous training to persons with disabilities on work competencies and entrepreneurship, including to women with disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas.**

Nicaragua (2024)

56. Al Comité le preocupa que, pese a los esfuerzos realizados por el Estado parte, tengamos información de que persiste el desempleo general que afecta especialmente a las personas con discapacidad, exacerbándose por la falta de capacitación, de transporte accesible, el poco acceso al financiamiento por parte de las instituciones bancarias, las actitudes discriminatorias en los lugares de trabajo y la falta de aplicación de los mandatos contenidos en el Código del Trabajo y legislación en la materia.

57. Recordando su observación general núm. 8 (2022) y de conformidad con la meta 8.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, en consulta estrecha y colaboración activa con las personas con discapacidad:

- a) Elabore un plan de acción para la inclusión laboral de las personas con discapacidad que incluya medidas afirmativas e incentivos para alentar el empleo de las personas con discapacidad en los sectores público y privado, tanto en áreas urbanas como rurales y remotas, a través de la fijación de metas e indicadores y la asignación de recursos y capacitación necesarias;**
- b) Fomente la incorporación de las personas con discapacidad en los programas de formación técnica del Instituto Nacional Tecnológico y en los programas de emprendimiento del Ministerio de la Economía Familiar, Comunitaria, Cooperativa y Asociativa (MEFCCA);**
- c) Recolecte información sobre personas con discapacidad integradas a empleos regulares y sus necesidades de ajustes razonables e incrementar la supervisión y el cumplimiento estricto de las leyes en la materia.**

Sweden (2024)

59. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) At the high incidence of unemployment among persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and young persons with disabilities, national minority persons with disabilities and migrant persons with disabilities, as well as the continued discrimination in payment mechanisms for persons with disabilities with "reduced work capacity";

(b) At the discrimination and barriers that persons with disabilities face in their employment, the disparities across the regions and the municipalities with regard to provision of support, and the lack of measures to ensure the accountability of employers for not respecting the quotas for employment of persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of vocational training and protocols to eliminate discrimination and segregation and to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities to work and employment.

60. With reference to its general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review the existing national legislation to address systemic, intersectional and structural barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, young persons with disabilities, national minorities with disabilities, migrant persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, and take measures to increase the number of persons with disabilities in open labour market and review the assessment of reduced capacity to work;

(b) Enforce the implementation of the quotas of employment for persons with disabilities in both the public and the private sectors, and ensure the accessibility of and reasonable accommodation in workplaces;

(c) Strengthen the vocational and professional training system and take measures to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness, including through the establishment of a complaints mechanism to investigate discriminatory practices on the basis of disability in the field of vocational rehabilitation and work, and ensure the effective transition from vocational and tertiary education to work in the open labour market.

[Zambia \(2024\)](#)

53. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Barriers to employment such as low levels of education, poor skills training, discrimination in recruitment processes and employment conditions, as well as lack of reasonable accommodations in places of employment for persons with disabilities;

(b) The lack of enforcement mechanisms of the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 (2012) and National Policy on Disability (2015) on employment quota for persons with disabilities.

54. Recalling its general comment No.8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Address lack of access to education and skills training, take measures to combat discriminatory attitudes and practices among employers and inaccessible workplaces which affects employment and employability of persons with disabilities and encourage other sectors beside education to offer apprenticeship and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities;

(b) Provide enforcement mechanisms for the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 (2012) and National Policy on Disability (2015) on employment quota for persons with disabilities to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and are included in private and public work environments, on an equal basis with others;

(c) Raise awareness on all available incentives aimed at the labour market to employ persons with disabilities and to combat discrimination in recruitment processes, employment conditions and to provide reasonable accommodations in places of employment for persons with disabilities.

[Andorra \(2023\)](#)

55. The Committee notes the Labour Relations Act (2018), the Employment Act (2019), and the advances of programmes to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, including the strategy implemented between 2016 and 2019. Nevertheless, it is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a new employment strategy for persons with disabilities in the open labor market in the public and private sectors;
- (b) The insufficient measures taken to address barriers faced by persons with disabilities to access employment, including the inaccessibility of the physical environment of many workplaces, information and the lack of support and individualized accommodation;
- (c) The low rate of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, the low number of persons with disabilities hired in conventional work environments through the Public Employment Service, and the limited impact of the "Network of Inclusive Companies" project;
- (d) The persistence of segregation of persons with disabilities in "occupational centres".

56. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

- (a) Adopt and implement a national strategy, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, to ensure access to employment by persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and women with disabilities, in the open labour market, both in the public and private sectors, including an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure their appropriate implementation;**
- (b) Reinforce measures to remove the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in access to employment, including ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation, workplace adaptation and accessible workplaces, enforcing compliance with the laws on the employment of persons with disabilities, including effective sanctions for employers who violate those laws, and providing employers with training on respecting and applying individualized support and accommodation;**
- (c) Strengthen affirmative measures and incentives to encourage and ensure the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including reinforcing the programmes of the Public Employment Service and the "Network of Inclusive Companies";**
- (d) Enhance efforts to speed up the transition of persons with disabilities from sheltered workshops and employment-related welfare services to the open labour market in the private and public sectors, in an inclusive work environment.**

Austria (2023)

61. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The comparatively low rate of participation in the work force of persons with disabilities, the low employment rate of persons with disabilities in the open labor market, and the increasingly high rate of long-term unemployment of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The segregating effects of the Assessment of the ability to work by the pension insurance institute (PVA) commissioned by the Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS) on the basis of legal principles for the evaluation of "performance capability" and the ensuing classification as "unfit for work" on persons with disabilities (loss of health and pension insurance, counselling and care services, inability to retire, etc.), its grounding in a medical model of disability, its application even to children, the irreversibility of the assessment and the lack of an effective remedy against it;
- (c) The segregated employment of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops and "occupational therapy workshops", engendering, among others, the denial of the status of employed or self-employed person, and the payment of "pocket money" instead of adequate wages;
- (d) The lack of compatibility between the provision of disability benefits and payment from gainful employment by persons with disabilities;
- (e) The prerequisites for the provision of personal assistance at the workplace being based on a medical model of disability;
- (f) The lack of inclusive vocational orientation and training for persons with disabilities, in particular for young persons with disabilities.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Further develop and implement the projects in the National Action Plan on Disability (NAP) 2022-2030, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, and incorporate specific measures in the NAP, endowed with adequate resources, time frames and monitoring mechanisms, ensuring the transition from segregated employment to employment in the open labor market for all persons with disabilities;
- (b) Render the assessment based on the Assessment Ordinance compliant with the human rights model of disability, do not apply it to children, re-evaluate assessments periodically, provide an effective remedy against assessments, ensure that persons with disabilities retain their social security status, including health and pension insurance, irrespective of the outcome of the assessment, and apply it retroactively to persons with disabilities already assessed as “unfit for work”;
- (c) Ensure equal payment for work of equal value to all persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, adopt measures to eliminate the gender gap in employment, including pay, and secure the provision of employment contracts or the conferment of the legal status as “employee”, and the recognition as “self-employed” for all persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others;
- (d) Harmonize disability benefits with payment from gainful employment, avoiding negative repercussions on disability benefits from taking up employment;
- (e) Ground the prerequisites for the provision of reasonable accommodation, including personal assistance, at the workplace in the human rights model of disability, as enshrined in the Convention;
- (f) Provide inclusive vocational orientation and training to persons with disabilities, particularly young persons with disabilities.

Germany (2023)

61. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The high incidence of unemployment amongst persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intensive support requirements, and the high number of persons with disabilities enrolled in sheltered workshops and low rate of transition to the open labor market;
- (b) Insufficient legal measures to guarantee the accessibility of and reasonable accommodation in workplaces and to bring the private sector accountable for not observing the quotas of employment for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of accessible and inclusive vocational training premises as well as protocols to eliminate discrimination and segregation and to ensure persons with disabilities have equal opportunities to choose the vocational program freely, without any kind of coercion.

62. With reference to the general comment No. 8 (2022) on work and employment and reiterating the recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/DEU/CO/6), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop, in close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, an action plan to promote the transition of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops to the open labor market across the Länder, with allocation of resources and specific timeframe;
- (b) Enforce the implementation of the quotas of employment for persons with disabilities in both the public and private sectors, including through measures more effective than the current compensatory levy, and ensure the accessibility of and reasonable accommodation in workplaces;
- (c) Restructure the vocational training system and take measures to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness, including through the establishment of a complaints mechanism to investigate the discriminatory practices on basis of disability in the field of vocational rehabilitation and work.

Israel (2023)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Lower rates of employment of persons with disabilities, the large number of persons with disabilities working in part-time or varying scope of hours, and the limited effectiveness of measures to promote employment of persons with disabilities, stigma and negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities within the workplace and attitudinal and accessibility barriers to training for employment and career advancement;
- (b) The provision of sheltered employment as a form of rehabilitation vocational service for persons with disabilities and, where persons with disabilities are not covered by labour legislation;
- (c) The low level of awareness and provision of reasonable accommodation in the workplace, in particular in the hi-tech sector;
- (d) The lack of accessibility of vocational programmes and those aimed at strengthening entrepreneurial initiatives.

56. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt comprehensive measures to prevent employers from restricting persons with disabilities to certain occupations, reserved jobs or specific employment units and ensure equal access of persons with disabilities to opportunities for promotion and career growth, and strengthen measures to promote employment of persons with disabilities, ensuring a gender and age-perspective;**
- (b) Develop a national strategy to expeditiously transition from segregated employment, including sheltered employment to freely chosen employment in the labour market and in a work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities with decent work conditions, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;**
- (c) Raise awareness among public and private employers of the duty to provide reasonable accommodation and the need to have clear, accessible and timely processes for responding to reasonable accommodation requests;**
- (d) Ensure continuous training of persons with disabilities on work competences, entrepreneurship, and technical assistance for business management.**

Malawi (2023)

55. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited scope and lack of implementation of provisions on the employment of persons with disabilities in the general employment and equal opportunity laws;
- (b) The delay in adopting the persons with Disabilities bill on the review of the Disability Act of 2012 which proposes to strengthen the provisions on the employment of persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the development of employment policies, particularly in the current employment strategy 2 and on-going review of the Disability Act of 2012;
- (d) The prevalence of negative attitudes among employers, concerning the rights of persons with disabilities and the slow progress of awareness on the rights, capabilities and potential of persons with disabilities;
- (e) Insufficient education and vocational training for persons with disabilities that prevent persons with disabilities from access to employment;
- (f) The lack of accurate data and statistical information, disaggregated by sex and age, concerning level of education and training, employment status that impedes appropriate planning.

56. Recalling its general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment and in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen legal provisions on the employment of persons with disabilities in the general employment laws and urgently progress the enactment of the new persons with Disabilities Bill that replaces the Disability Act of 2012, ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to access to employment in the open labour market;**
- (b) Ensure the close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, particularly in the review of the Disability Act of 2012 and the development of employment policies;**
- (c) Work in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to raise awareness on the rights, capabilities and potential of persons with disabilities and to combat negative attitudes on the part of employers;**
- (d) Raise the standard of education and vocational training for all persons with disabilities to prepare them for the world of work;**
- (e) Gather and appropriately disseminate data and statistical information, disaggregated by sex and age, education and training as well as employment status both in the public and private sector to enable planning.**

Mauritania (2023)

45. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low rate of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, particularly women with disabilities, the segregation of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops and barriers to employment faced by persons with disabilities, including the inaccessibility of the physical environment of workplaces, the lack of support and individualized accommodation provided to persons with disabilities;**
- (b) The attitudinal barriers deterring employers from hiring persons with disabilities, the lack of awareness among employers and the reluctance of employers to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities and to apply universal design.**

46. The Committee recalls its general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the implementation of the national legislation, particularly the Decree No.062 (2015), to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and are included in private and public work environments, on an equal basis with others, and move towards eradicating sheltered workshops;**
- (b) Raise awareness about attitudinal barriers among private and public employers and apply universal design in all work-related environments.**

Mongolia (2023)

53. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That despite some efforts undertaken by the State party in order to improve the access to work and employment of persons with disabilities, there is a continuous exclusion of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in the labour market and persons with disabilities who are starting business;**
- (b) That despite the existing legal provisions on reasonable accommodation in the Labour Code, it is not consistently recognized and applied in all sectors.**

54. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, and recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Repeal all discriminatory legislation that excludes or limits the participation of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and adopt effective measures to ensure the right of all persons with disabilities to work, in particular women with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as measures to combat discrimination particularly in relation to advertisements, recruitment processes, reasonable accommodation, retraining, promotion, and other rights related to work and employment;**

(b) Strengthen the implementation of the Labour Code and ensure that the right to seek reasonable accommodation in the workplace is recognized for employees in the public and private sectors;

(c) Strengthen measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments, particularly in relation to advertisements, recruitment processes, reasonable accommodation, retraining, promotion, starting business, and other rights related to work and employment including persons with disabilities who leave institutions, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing disability and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Paraguay (2023)

47. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) La falta de cumplimiento de la Ley No. 4962/13, principalmente debido a que el Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas no cumple con actualizar el formulario necesario para que los empleadores utilicen los incentivos determinados en la ley al contratar a personas con discapacidad;

b) La falta de aplicación de las sanciones establecidas para garantizar la efectiva implementación de la Ley N.º 3585/08 sobre inclusión laboral de personas con discapacidad, particularmente el incumplimiento del cupo laboral establecido (5%) de personas con discapacidad en todas las instituciones públicas;

c) La escasa implementación del área/eje 13 del Plan de Acción Nacional por los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad para generar más empleo, tanto en el sector público y privado como para las personas con discapacidad en zonas urbanas, rurales y remotas.

48. Recordando su observación general núm. 8 (2022) y de conformidad con la meta 8.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Asegurar que el Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas actualice de inmediato el formulario necesario para incentivar al cumplimiento de la Ley N.º 4962/13, y que aplique estrategias complementarias o adicionales a los incentivos fiscales;

b) Definir mecanismos efectivos para la aplicación de las sanciones establecidas en la Ley N.º 3585/08 sobre inclusión laboral de personas con discapacidad a las instituciones públicas que la incumplan;

c) Establecer y aplicar una estrategia eficaz para la efectiva implementación del área/eje 13 del Plan de Acción Nacional por los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad, que incluya medidas afirmativas e incentivos para alentar el empleo de las personas con discapacidad, en los sectores público y privado, tanto en áreas urbanas como rurales y remotas, a través de la fijación de metas e indicadores, y la asignación de recursos y capacitación necesarias.

Angola (2023)

45. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Despite the provision in Presidential Decree No. 12/16, of 25 January, approving the new regulations for the reservation of places and procedures for the recruitment of persons with disabilities, for a minimum of 4 per cent of jobs in the public sector and 2 per cent in the private sector reserved for persons with disabilities, based on available estimates, these targets are not being met;

(b) While a fine is imposed on private sector companies that do not comply with Presidential Decree 12/16, there is no similar penalty for public sector entities that fail to comply with the policy;

(c) The measures taken to promote the employment of persons with disabilities are insufficient to ensure access to the open labour market by persons with disabilities living in rural areas, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing impairments and persons with psychosocial disabilities, the attitudinal barriers deterring employers from hiring them alongside the physical barriers in the work environment, in particular the reported lack of accessible transportation and accessible information, including for job seekers;

(d) The limited participation of persons with disabilities in market-oriented job training programmes is reportedly due to the lack of physical access and sign language interpretation resulting from a limited number of sign language interpreters available and a high cost of services;

(e) There is a lack of official data or statistics on persons with disabilities employed in the public and private sectors.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Enforce the implementation of the quotas of employment for persons with disabilities in both the public and private sectors, such as through the application of penalties, as provided in the Presidential Decree No. 12/16, while taking effective measures to combat discrimination, particularly in relation to advertisement and the recruitment process, and to ensure reasonable accommodation and the right to work;

(b) Strengthen measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments, including persons with disabilities taking part in deinstitutionalization processes, persons with disabilities living in rural areas, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing impairments and persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Adopt measures to combat attitudinal barriers amongst employers, adopt an action plan to periodically assess accessibility in workplaces, including access to transportation, alternative means of information and communication, sign language and speech-to-text interpretation and pictograms for job seekers and employees, and adopt policies and procedures that establish and support the development of infrastructure for the provision of personal assistance in the workplace;

(d) Enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in market-oriented job training programmes by taking measures to ensure physical access, and the availability and affordability of sign language interpretation;

(e) Expand national employment programmes to enhance the transition from education into labour market for persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(f) Collect and publicise disaggregated data on the employment of persons with disabilities in the public, private and informal sectors.

Argentina (2023)

51. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

a) Las Leyes 23.592 y 20.744 (Ley de Contrato de Trabajo) no han incorporado claramente la discapacidad como criterio para prohibir la discriminación;

b) La segregación de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de las personas con discapacidad intelectual y/o psicosocial, en talleres protegidos para el empleo y los talleres protegidos de producción (Ley 26.816);

c) La Ley 27.555 de Teletrabajo solo menciona a las personas con discapacidad como personas al cuidado de otras;

d) La escasa inclusión laboral de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente de mujeres con discapacidad, reflejada en el cumplimiento del 0,87% del cupo laboral de 4% para personas con discapacidad en el sector público y en entidades privadas concesionarias de servicios públicos (Ley 22.431);

e) La falta de información sobre el impacto de los Responsables en la Inclusión y Desarrollo Laboral de las Personas con Discapacidad en cada organismo público, y los ingresos por debajo de la línea de pobreza otorgados por el Programa Potenciar Trabajo;

f) La falta de accesibilidad física y comunicacional, de ajustes razonables y apoyos para personas con discapacidad en ambientes laborales del sector público y privado.

52. Recordando su observación general núm. 8 (2022), el Comité recomienda al Estado parte, de conformidad con la meta 8.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible:

- a) Incorporar la discapacidad como criterio para prohibir la discriminación en la Ley de Contrato de Trabajo;
- b) Derogar la Ley 26.816 y acelerar la transición de las personas con discapacidad en los talleres protegidos al mercado laboral abierto en los sectores privado y público, con igualdad de remuneración por un trabajo de igual valor, en un entorno laboral inclusivo;
- c) Incorporar la perspectiva de discapacidad en la Ley de Teletrabajo, estableciendo apoyos y ajustes razonables para las personas con discapacidad;
- d) Reforzar las medidas afirmativas y los incentivos para alentar el empleo de las personas con discapacidad, en los sectores público y privado, y cumplir al menos con el cupo laboral del 4% para personas con discapacidad en el sector público y en entidades privadas concesionarias de servicios públicos;
- e) Facilitar información sobre el impacto de los Responsables en la Inclusión y Desarrollo Laboral de las Personas con Discapacidad, e incrementar los ingresos otorgados por el Programa Potenciar Trabajo;
- f) Asegurar que los lugares de trabajo del sector público y privado sean accesibles y estén adaptados para las personas con discapacidad, e impartir capacitación a los empleadores acerca de la facilitación de apoyos y ajustes razonables.

Georgia (2023)

53. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in employment, including in recruitment processes, partly due to attitudinal barriers and the lack of accessibility to information about job opportunities;
- (b) Legal provisions restricting employment of persons with disabilities requiring higher levels of support, and of persons with disabilities who are “recipients of support”, and the limited impact of anti-discrimination laws on discriminatory practices in employment;
- (c) The wage gap of 25% affecting persons with disabilities as stated in the Labour Force Survey;
- (d) Capability assessments for job seekers with disabilities mainly being performed by specialists;
- (e) The limited understanding and implementation of support, including through reasonable accommodation at the workplace.

54. **With reference to its General comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment the Committee recommends that, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:**

- (a) **Withdraw provisions in the Law of Georgia on Public Service preventing the right of persons with disabilities from occupying positions as public servants, and legislation declaring persons with disabilities requiring higher levels of support as not employable; introduce and disseminate information about complaint mechanisms and remedies concerning discrimination on the basis of disability in employment;**
- (b) **Adopt measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favorable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value;**
- (c) **Adopt a strategy, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, to promote employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including by introducing positive measures facilitating women with disabilities access to employment, and mainstreaming disability in general employment programs. Ensure that the Strategy extends to:**
 - (i) **Measures concerning accessible information about job vacancies and recruitment procedures;**
 - (ii) **Opportunities for promotion;**

- (iii) Access to employment in all sectors of the economy and in the public and private sectors;
- (iv) Measures to address prejudice about the employability of persons with disabilities;
- (v) Reinforcing good practices, including appointment of job coaches referred by the State party in its report (CRPD/C/GEO/1, para. 188);
- (d) Ensure that work capability assessments are aimed at identifying and address barriers being faced by persons with disabilities at work;
- (e) Develop guidance for employers and employees about the legal duty to provide reasonable accommodation at the workplace, including individualized modifications, adjustments and support, and monitor its implementation.

Peru (2023)

54. Si bien toma nota con reconocimiento de los esfuerzos del Estado parte por incrementar la colocación de las personas con discapacidad en el ámbito laboral, sigue preocupando al Comité:

- a) La baja tasa de empleo entre las personas con discapacidad, especialmente entre las mujeres con discapacidad y las personas con discapacidad intelectual y psicosocial, y que en la práctica no se cumplan las cuotas laborales;
- b) La importante brecha salarial entre las personas con discapacidad y los demás, la cual se agrava cuando además existen otras formas de vulnerabilidad, como cuando son mujeres con discapacidad o personas con discapacidad que viven en zonas rurales;
- c) Que las personas con discapacidad tienen más probabilidades de realizar trabajos informales y de quedar excluidas de las medidas de protección social;
- d) La falta de inclusividad y accesibilidad en los programas educativos y de formación profesional, la falta de programas vocacionales en caso necesario, así como la falta de información sobre ajustes razonables para el empleo;
- e) La decisión del gobierno de interrumpir el programa de empleo con apoyo para personas con discapacidad intelectual y personas autistas.

55. Recordando su observación general núm. 8 (2022), el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, de conformidad con la meta 8.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, ajuste sus estrategias de manera coordinada para implementar medidas efectivas que promuevan el empleo de personas con discapacidad en el mercado formal con incentivos claros, garantizando la accesibilidad en los establecimientos de trabajo, acceso a ajustes razonables y apoyos, así como la aplicación de medidas de control y sanciones suficientemente disuasorias para exigir el cumplimiento de la cuota laboral establecida en la ley; y que implemente un programa permanente de formación y capacitación profesional proporcionando orientación sobre el empleo para las personas con discapacidad e información acerca de los ajustes razonables para empleadores.

Togo (2023)

51. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Discriminatory legislation that excludes or limits the participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market, in particular by restricting access to enter the National School of Management (Ecole Nationale d'Administration – ENA), the National School of Legal Professions (Ecole Nationale des Professions de Justice) and The Ecole Normale Supérieure;
- (b) The low rate of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, particularly women with disabilities and barriers to employment faced by persons with disabilities, including the inaccessibility of the physical environment of workplaces, the lack of support and individualized accommodation provided to persons with disabilities;

- (c) The lack of technical support to persons with disabilities who access funds through the Youth Economic Initiatives Support Fund, leading to failed businesses and subsequently being sued by the Microfinance companies who give out these funds on loans;
- (d) The absence of effective incentives and affirmative action programmes to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, both in the public and private sectors.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Repeal all discriminatory legislation that excludes or limits the participation of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and adopt effective measures to ensure the right of all persons with disabilities to work, as well as measures to combat discrimination particularly in relation to advertisements, recruitment processes, reasonable accommodation, retraining, promotion, and other rights related to work and employment;**
- (b) Ensure equal access to enter the National School of Management (Ecole Nationale d'Administration – ENA), the National School of Legal Professions (Ecole Nationale des Professions de Justice) and The Ecole Normale Supérieure by, inter alia, taking specific measures to this end and by providing reasonable accommodation;**
- (c) Adopt and implement a national strategy to ensure access to employment by persons with disabilities in the open labour market both in the public and private sectors, including by providing incentives and affirmative action programmes designed to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, including quotas to increase participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities in the open labour market;**
- (d) Take effective measures against the systemic barriers and disability-based discrimination faced by persons with disabilities in access to employment, including ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation, workplace adaptation and accessible workplaces;**
- (e) Implement training and skills development programmes to facilitate the recruitment of persons with disabilities and to make them more competitive in the open job market as well as to support entrepreneurship among persons with disabilities;**
- (f) Strengthen measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments, including persons with disabilities taking part in deinstitutionalization processes, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with hearing impairments.**

Tunisia (2023)

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of compliance with the laws on the employment of persons with disabilities, in particular Law No. 2005-83 which provides for the quota system as well as entry into competitive job market. It is also concerned that the majority of persons with disabilities who have any form of employment are in the informal sector where they are subjected to precarious working conditions, such as underemployment, low wages, and no social protection. It is further concerned that unemployment of persons with disabilities has also been allegedly associated with inequalities in access to education and training, negatively affecting persons with disabilities.

48. The Committee, recalling its General Comment No. 8 (2022) on work and employment and the SDG's Goal 8 to Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all recommends that the State party:

- a) Take appropriate measures to enforce compliance with the laws on the employment of persons with disabilities, in particular Law No. 2005-83, including more effective sanctions for employers who violate these laws in their recruitment, hiring and retention of persons with disabilities and by denial of reasonable accommodation in their establishments;**
- b) Adopt measures to secure in close and constructive dialogue with active participation and close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the development of**

efficient policies and programmes for the inclusion of persons with disabilities on the open labour market;

c) Adopt protection measures for persons with disabilities from employers in the informal sector where they are subjected to under precarious and unlawfully conditions;

d) Adopt legislative and policy measures to improve access and accessibility to assistive technical and vocational guidance and training of persons with disabilities to increase their employability on equal basis with other persons.

Bangladesh (2022)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Discriminatory practices, including harassment, against persons with disabilities in employment, particularly against women with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and workers in tea plantations, including unequal treatment in recruitment, the lack of individualised supports and reasonable accommodation, unequal salary payment and unfavourable employment conditions and benefits;

(b) Reported cases of sexual harassment in the workplace against women with disabilities and the lack of measures to prevent and protect them;

(c) The absence of effective incentives and affirmative action programmes to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, both in the public and private sectors.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Adopt measures to address attitudinal and physical barriers including negative attitudes held by employers, lack of individualised support and reasonable accommodation and unfavourable employment conditions;

(b) Take measures to combat sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse at the workplace against women with disabilities, including through creating public awareness-raising programmes and providing redress for victims;

(c) Adopt and implement a national strategy to ensure access to employment by persons with disabilities in the open labour market both in the public and private sectors, including by providing incentives and affirmative action programmes.

China (2022)

54. The Committee notes with concern the practice of recruiting and employing small persons for the amusement park “Kingdom of the Little People”, under unhealthy working conditions that promote harmful stereotypes and are conducive to ridicule, and offer lower pay for work of equal value. Upon receiving reports of small persons lacking effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and continuing training, the Committee is further concerned that, although it constitutes a segregated working environment, the “Kingdom of the Little People” has become, de facto, the only real work opportunity open to small persons. This constitutes a violation of their right to freely choose their field of work and the right to just and favourable conditions of work.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to move away from segregated working environments and facilitate small persons’ greater access to new career opportunities, by:

(a) Promoting inclusive education, and access to technical and vocational guidance programmes, continuing training, and placement services for small persons;

(b) Offering small persons’ employment opportunities in the public sector;

(c) Allocating resources to broad and targeted awareness-raising campaigns to promote the dignity, capabilities and contributions of small persons in the area of work.

Indonesia (2022)

56. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the provision in Law No. 8 of 2016 on persons with disabilities, which allows for a minimum of 2 per cent of jobs in the public sector to be reserved for persons with disabilities, has not been widely applied for under-represented groups of persons with disabilities, such as persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) That the measures taken to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector are insufficient to ensure access to the open labour market by persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities who often face gender-based discrimination and larger pay gaps;
- (c) The attitudinal, physical, communication, and environmental barriers that prevent access to employment;
- (d) The requirement, enshrined in Law No. 36 of 2009 on health, for prospective employees to obtain a Mental Health Certificate when applying for a job in the public sector, institutions within the government, state-owned enterprises and private companies, which disproportionately impacts persons with psychosocial disabilities from obtaining employment.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Expedite the implementation of the reservation of 2 per cent of jobs for under-represented groups of persons with disabilities, while taking effective measures to combat discrimination particularly in relation to recruitment processes, reasonable accommodation, retraining, promotion, and other rights related to work and employment;**
- (b) Strengthen measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments, including for persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas and those with intellectual disabilities or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (c) Adopt measures to address attitudinal, physical, communication and environmental barriers including negative attitudes held by employers, physical barriers in the workplace, the lack of alternative means of information and communication, and lack of accessible transportation;**
- (d) Repeal provisions in Law No. 36 of 2009 on health that require prospective employees to obtain mental health certificates and ensure the Convention standard of non-discrimination is applied to all recruitment processes for the public sector, institutions within the government, state-owned enterprises and private companies.**

Japan (2022)

57. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The segregation of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, in sheltered workshops and employment-related welfare services, with low wages and limited opportunities to transition to the open labour market;
- (b) Barriers to employment faced by persons with disabilities, including inaccessible workplaces, the insufficient support and individualized accommodation in both the public and private sectors, limited mobility assistance and information provided to employers about the capabilities of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Gaps in the local governments and the private sector concerning the employment rate system for persons with disabilities, as provided by the Act for the Promotion of Employment for Persons with Disabilities, and lack of a transparent and effective monitoring mechanism to ensure its implementation;
- (d) Restrictions concerning the use of personal assistance services for persons who require more intensive support at work.

58. The Committee recommends that, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

- (a) Enhance efforts to speed up the transition of persons with disabilities from sheltered workshops and employment-related welfare services to the open labour market in the private and public sectors, with equal remuneration for work of equal value, in an inclusive work environment;**
- (b) Ensure that the built environment of workplaces is accessible and adapted for persons with disabilities and provide employers at all levels with training on respecting and applying individualized support and reasonable accommodation;**
- (c) Reinforce affirmative measures and incentives to encourage and ensure the employment of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and women with disabilities, in the public and private sectors, and establish an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure its appropriate implementation;**
- (d) Remove legal provisions that restrict the use of personal assistance for persons who require more intensive support at work.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The high rate of unemployment and part-time jobs in precarious conditions, and low-wage employment among persons with disabilities, in particular, for persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, women with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities living in rural areas;**
- (b) The attitudinal barriers deterring employers from hiring persons with disabilities, and the physical barriers in the work environment, in particular the reported lack of reasonable accommodation, accessible transportation and accessible information, including for job seekers;**
- (c) The insufficient and segregated access to quality professional training and vocational programmes;**
- (d) The lack of official data or statistics on persons with disabilities employed in the public and private sectors.**

51. The Committee recommends that, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

- (a) Take effective measures to increase employment of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, women with disabilities, persons affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities living in rural areas, in public and private sectors;**
- (b) Consider implementing affirmative actions to ensure job placement and job retention for persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors;**
- (c) Guarantee non-discrimination in employment, including by the provision of reasonable accommodation when required, awareness raising among employers, and ensure that the open labour market is inclusive and accessible and decent labour conditions of all persons with disabilities, including equal pay for work of equal value;**
- (d) Ensure the access to inclusive and quality professional training and vocational programmes;**
- (e) Collect disaggregated data on the employment of persons with disabilities in the public, private and informal sectors.**

New Zealand (2022)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The continued low rate, compared to the general population, of labour force participation and the low rate of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market;**
- (b) The continued segregated employment programs for persons with disabilities ("Business Enterprises") and the use of Minimum Wage Exemption Permits (MWEPS).**

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the development of the Disability Employment Action Plan in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, Māori with disabilities and Pasifika persons with disabilities.**
- (b) Incorporate in the Disability Employment Action Plan, concrete measures, with resources, timeframes and monitoring mechanisms that ensure the transition from segregated employment to the open labour market.**
- (c) Repeal section 8 of the Minimum Wage Act 1983 and ensure that persons with disabilities are paid on the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Discriminatory legislation that excludes or limits the participation of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in the labour market;**
- (b) That the Minimum Wage Act excludes persons with disabilities from benefitting of the minimum wage, which resulted in many persons with disabilities who work receiving compensation below the minimum wage;**
- (c) The continuous segregation of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops and the lack of concrete plans to gradually move workers with disabilities from these workshops into the open labour market.**

56. The Committee recalls its General comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, and recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Repeal all discriminatory legislation that excludes or limits the participation of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and adopt effective measures to ensure the right of all persons with disabilities to work, as well as measures to combat discrimination particularly in relation to advertisements, recruitment processes, reasonable accommodation, retraining, promotion, and other rights related to work and employment;**
- (b) Review the Minimum Wage Act to ensure equal remuneration for work of equal value, and provide compensation to persons with disabilities who are excluded from the benefit of the Act;**
- (c) Strengthen measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments, including persons with disabilities taking part in deinstitutionalization processes, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing impairments and persons with psychosocial disabilities;**
- (d) Implement measures to enable persons with disabilities to transition from sheltered employment into open, inclusive and accessible employment and ensure effective implementation of specific affirmative action measures designed to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, including quotas to increase participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in the open labour market.**

Singapore (2022)

51. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The comparatively high level of unemployment of persons with disabilities, their disproportionate employment in low-wage positions, and their segregation in sheltered workshops;**
- (b) That the Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices lacks a definition of disability and a clear and suitable understanding of indirect discrimination, as well as an effective implementation and monitoring mechanism;**
- (c) That despite the allocation of resources under the Open-Door Programme, the measures taken to promote the employment of persons with disabilities are insufficient to ensure**

access to the open labour market by persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and autistic persons, on an equal basis with others;

(d) That the jurisdiction of the Employment Claims Tribunal is restricted mainly to salary-related and wrongful dismissal claims, and that there are no accessible and confidential procedures to report all violations of labour law related to persons with disabilities;

(e) The attitudinal barriers deterring employers from hiring persons with disabilities, the lack of awareness and reluctance of employers to provide reasonable accommodation and make use of universal design for persons with disabilities.

52. Recalling its General Comment No. 8 (2022) on the rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment, the Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Adopt legislation and time-bound policies and benchmarks to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and are included in private and public work environments, on an equal basis with others, and move towards eradicating sheltered workshops;

(b) Undertake a comprehensive review of the Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices and include a comprehensive definition of disability, prohibit direct and indirect discrimination and recognize the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of prohibited discrimination, and establish an effective implementation and monitoring mechanism providing redress in case of non-compliance;

(c) Expand the Open-Door Programme to provide longer-term support, in particular for persons with disabilities taking part in deinstitutionalization processes, autistic persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(d) Extend the jurisdiction of the Employment Claims Tribunal to all claims about violations of the right to work and employment of persons with disabilities, and establish an accessible and confidential mechanism to report such violations;

(e) Combat attitudinal barriers among private and public employers, apply universal design in all work-related environments.

Hungary (2022)

52. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The very low employment rate of persons with disabilities, particularly in the open labour market, where those employed are mostly in underpaid, unskilled jobs and in sheltered workshops;

(b) The ineffectiveness of existing measures of support for the employment of persons with disabilities in an open labour market, including the obligation under the Labour Code to provide reasonable accommodation;

(c) The barriers that persons with disabilities face in their employment, resulting from the lack of accessibility to and reasonable accommodation in workplaces, including transportation.

53. The Committee recommends that in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

(a) Revise the existing legislation and measures of support for the employment of persons with disabilities and take comprehensive measures aimed at effectively supporting the work and employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and in inclusive work environments;

(b) Adopt legislative and policy measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities to just and favourable conditions of work, and ensure that persons with disabilities are not paid below the minimum wage and are provided with work contracts and equal remuneration for work on an equal basis with others;

(c) Redirect the allocations for the employment of person with disabilities from sheltered employment to support the employment of persons with disabilities, including of persons who require higher levels of support and deinstitutionalized persons, and ensure that the

right to seek reasonable accommodation in the workplace is recognized for employees in the public and private sectors;

(d) Monitor, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the accessibility of workplaces across the State party and adopt an action plan with the aim of outlining measures, with time frames and adequate budgets, to ensure reasonable accommodation in and the accessibility of workplaces, including access to transportation.

Jamaica (2022)

48. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That despite the provision in the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities that a minimum of 5 per cent of jobs in the public sector should be reserved for persons with disabilities, only 15.3 per cent of persons with disabilities are in gainful employment;

(b) That the measures taken to promote the employment of persons with disabilities are insufficient to ensure access to the open labour market by persons with disabilities living in rural areas, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing impairments and persons with psychosocial disabilities, due to the delay in the enactment of the Disability Act, 2014, the attitudinal barriers deterring employers from hiring persons with disabilities, and the physical barriers in the work environment, in particular the reported lack of accessible transportation and accessible information, including for job seekers;

(c) The limited participation of persons with disabilities in market-orientated job training programmes, due to lack of physical access and sign language interpretation resulting from a limited number of sign language interpreters being available and the high cost of services;

(d) That despite there being some programmes for persons with disabilities who are graduating, the percentage of graduates who are successfully absorbed in the labour market remains very low;

(e) The lack of official data or statistics on persons with disabilities employed in the public and private sectors.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) Expedite the implementation of the reserving of 5 per cent of jobs for persons with disabilities, as provided in the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities and the Disability Act, 2014, while taking effective measures to combat discrimination particularly in relation to advertisements, recruitment processes, reasonable accommodation, retraining, promotion, and other rights related to work and employment;

(b) Strengthen measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments, including persons with disabilities taking part in deinstitutionalization processes, persons with disabilities living in rural areas, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing impairments and persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Adopt measures to combat attitudinal barriers among employers, and adopt an action plan to assess periodically accessibility in the workplace, including access to transportation, alternative means of information and communication, sign language, and speech-to-text interpretation and pictograms for jobseekers and employees. The State party should adopt policies and procedures that establish and support the development of infrastructure for the provision of personal assistance in the workplace;

(d) Enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in market-oriented job training programmes by enforcing physical access and the availability and affordability of sign language interpretation;

(e) Expand the national employment programmes to enhance the transition from education to the labour market for persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;

(f) Collect disaggregated data on the employment of persons with disabilities in the public, private and informal sectors.

Mexico (2022)

60. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistently low employment rate among persons with disabilities, especially among women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) Reports of forced labour and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation of persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of legal provisions and specific measures to implement the national work and employment programme for people with disabilities for 2021–2024, including provisions and measures on support measures and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in public and private employment;
- (d) The lack of vocational education and training programmes for persons with disabilities.

61. The Committee recommends that, in accordance with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

- (a) Take effective measures to increase employment of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, in public and private employment, to guarantee non-discrimination in employment and to ensure that the open labour market is inclusive and accessible;**
- (b) Compile data on forced labour, exploitation and harassment, and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, gender, indigence, urban and rural living environment and type of impairment;**
- (c) Intensify efforts to prevent and punish forced labour, exploitation and harassment, and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation of persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Enact legal provisions and take specific measures to implement the national work and employment programme for persons with disabilities for 2021–2024, including support measures and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, in public and private employment;**
- (e) Provide vocational education and training programmes for persons with disabilities, and guidance for persons with disabilities on employment.**

Switzerland (2022)

51. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The segregation of persons with disabilities in the “protected labour market”, with very low wages and limited opportunities to transition to the open labour market;
- (b) Barriers faced by persons with disabilities in gaining access to employment in the open labour market, resulting in high unemployment rates, in particular among women with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Develop and implement a comprehensive action plan to harmonize the competencies required at the federal and cantonal levels for participation in the labour market, and enable the transition of persons with disabilities from the “protected labour market” to the open labour market in the private and public sectors, with equal remuneration for work of equal value, in an inclusive work environment and with opportunities for professional development;**
- (b) Take measures at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels to ensure that persons with disabilities have access, without discrimination, to employment in an inclusive open labour market in the public and private sectors;**
- (c) Develop and implement measures to increase the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including in the private sector, through appropriate policies, such as targets, affirmative action programmes and incentives, including policies specifically aimed at increasing employment of women with disabilities.**

Venezuela (2022)

46. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not have a structured programme to integrate persons with disabilities into the labour market, sheltered workshops continue to be a form of employment and denial of reasonable accommodation in the workplace is not explicitly defined as a form of discrimination.

47. The Committee recommends that, in accordance with the Convention and bearing in mind target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

(a) Develop a national programme to integrate persons with disabilities into the labour market, which includes quotas in the public sector, in order to increase the number of such persons who are employed in regular positions in open work environments, and adopt legislative measures to penalize companies that do not hire a sufficient number of persons with disabilities to fill regular positions;

(b) Amend its legislation to recognize denial of reasonable accommodation in the workplace as a form of discrimination;

(c) Thoroughly train persons with disabilities for employment in regular paid positions in both urban and rural areas.

Djibouti (2021)

47. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The high rate of unemployment among persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in the public and private sectors, including in rural areas;

(b) The prevalence of the medical approach to disability in articles 117–120 of the Labour Code;

(c) The requirement of providing reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities under Article 10 of the Decree No. 2020-294/PR/MTRA (2020) in the workplace which is not in line with the human rights based approach and that the denial of reasonable accommodation is not explicitly prohibited under article 117 of the Labour Code;

(d) Low quota levels for the employment of persons with disabilities under Decree No. 2020-294/PR/MTRA (2020), which stands at around two per cent of the total workforce;

(e) The lack of measures to provide vocational and professional training for persons with disabilities.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

(g) Amend the Labour Code to align it with the rights based approach to disability, to prohibit the denial of reasonable accommodation at work place, and to eliminate intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities;

(h) Review Decree No. 2020-294/PR/MTRA to ensure that the requirement for reasonable accommodation in the workplace is in line with the Convention and to increase the quotas for employment of persons with disabilities in public and private sectors, in line with Article 27 and ensure this does not lead to negative consequences such as reproducing segregation and stereotyping;

(i) Develop and adopt policy measures to ensure that women with disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas and in refugee camps have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments and to provide them with vocational and professional training.

France (2021)

54. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The high level of unemployment and segregation of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops, and in low-wage employment;

- (b) High rates of unemployment among women with disabilities or jobs only under partial working time or in precarious conditions, hurdles to develop professional paths, and challenges to conciliating work and family life;
- (c) The low level rate of professional qualifications among persons with disabilities due to the lack of access to professional training programs, including lack of support to access the profession of researchers;
- (d) Lack of awareness and reluctance of employers to provide reasonable accommodation and universal design for persons with disabilities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Move towards eradicating sheltered workshops and adopt a time-bound policy and benchmarks to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and their meaningful inclusion in work environments, in the private and public sectors;**
- (b) Review the labour conditions of all persons with disabilities and ensure that persons with disabilities are not paid below the minimum wage;**
- (c) Promote employment of women with disabilities in an open labour market ensuring that women are informed and can effectively seek individualised supports through the provision of reasonable accommodation and have access to effective measures to balance work and family life;**
- (d) Develop awareness raising campaigns aimed at promoting participation of women with disabilities in employment, and to shift attitudinal barriers to the recognition of the capacities of women with disabilities and their contribution to all domains of work, in an open labour market, on an equal basis with others;**
- (e) Ensure persons with disabilities access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, vocational and continuing training, and to guidance towards employment on an equal basis with others, and adopt measures to support careers of persons with disabilities, exercising the profession of a researcher through multi-year planning of the research establishments;**
- (f) Ensure that the right to seek individualised supports through the provision of reasonable accommodation in the workplace is recognized for employees in the public and private sectors, and strengthen measures to inform and facilitate the recognition of reasonable accommodation for employees in the workplace.**

Estonia (2021)

52. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That measures taken to promote the employment of persons with disabilities are insufficient to ensure access to the open labour market by persons with disabilities living in rural areas, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing impairments and persons with psychosocial disabilities, and the prevalence of sheltered employment preventing persons with disabilities from entering inclusive work environments;
- (b) The attitudinal barriers deterring employers from hiring persons with disabilities and the physical barriers in the work environment, in particular the reported lack of accessible transportation and accessible information, including for job seekers;
- (c) That reasonable accommodation is not consistently recognized and applied in the public and private sectors;
- (d) The lack of information about vocational and professional training for persons with disabilities and about effective transitions into the open labour market.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Strengthen measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments, including persons with disabilities taking part in deinstitutionalization processes, persons with**

disabilities living in rural areas, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with hearing impairments and persons with psychosocial disabilities;

(b) Adopt a strategy to abolish sheltered employment. The State party should review the labour conditions of all persons with disabilities and ensure that persons with disabilities are not paid below the minimum wage;

(c) Adopt measures, alongside the work ability reform, to combat attitudinal barriers among employers and adopt an action plan to assess periodically accessibility in the workplace, including access to transportation, alternative means of information and communication, sign language and speech-to-text interpretation and pictograms for job seekers and employees. The State party should adopt policies and procedures that establish and support the development of infrastructure for the provision of personal assistance in the workplace;

(d) Ensure that the right to seek reasonable accommodation in the workplace is recognized for employees in the public and private sectors;

(e) Develop a comprehensive system of vocational and professional training for persons with disabilities and for their effective transition from vocational and tertiary education to work in the open labour market.

Albania (2019)

43. The Committee notes with concern that the State party legislation still defines lack of capacity to work for persons with disabilities. The Committee is concerned about the fact that persons with disabilities, especially women, are particularly affected by unemployment. The Committee is also concerned that there are no comprehensive and comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities employed in the public sector and on the impact of Law 15/2019.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend its legislation by adopting effective safeguards in the procedures to ensure that impairment cannot constitute an excuse for non-employment of persons with disabilities, in line with the human rights model of disability enshrined by the Convention;

(b) Further promote employment in the open labour market in the public and private sectors, with particular emphasis on women, in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including women's organizations;

(c) Collect disaggregated statistical data on the employment rate and situation of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, type of employment and salary, and on the impact of Law 15/2019.

Australia (2019)

The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The narrow and incomplete scope of the review of the National Employment Framework for People with Disability and about the lack of clear measures to reform the Disability Employment Services;

(b) The ongoing segregation of persons with disabilities employed through Australian Disability Enterprises and the fact that such persons receive a sub-minimum wage;

(c) The low labour force participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and refugee and asylum-seeking persons with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to reform the Disability Employment Services and develop a national disability employment strategy that incorporates the recommendations from the "Willing to work" inquiry and contains targeted gender-sensitive measures;

(b) Undertake a comprehensive review of Australian Disability Enterprises to ensure that they adhere to article 27 of the Convention and provide services to enable persons with disabilities

to transition from sheltered employment into open, inclusive and accessible employment, ensuring equal remuneration for work of equal value;

(c) Implement measures to address systemic and structural barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, particularly by women with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and refugee and asylum-seeking persons with disabilities.

Ecuador (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The refusal of reasonable accommodation in the workplace as a form of discrimination in the Organic Act on Disabilities;

(b) The reduction in the number of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, engaged in regular employment; the low level of compliance by the institutions of the State party itself and by businesses with the promotion of employment by means, inter alia, of assigned hiring quotas; the scant enforcement and lack of legislative measures for penalizing companies that are not hiring a sufficient number of persons with disabilities in regular positions; and the failure to promote opportunities for self-employment and entrepreneurship incentives for persons with disabilities.

48. The Committee recommends that, in accordance with the Convention and bearing in mind target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

(a) Recognize the refusal of reasonable accommodation in the workplace as a form of discrimination in the Organic Act on Disabilities;

(b) Step up its efforts to increase the number of persons with disabilities who are employed in regular positions and who are self-employed in open work environments and to comply with measures designed to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, including quotas in the public sector, and adopt legislative measures to penalize companies that do not hire a sufficient number of persons with disabilities in regular positions;

(c) Thoroughly train persons with disabilities for employment in regular paid positions in both urban and rural areas and adopt extensive measures to promote entrepreneurship among persons with disabilities.

El Salvador (2019)

50. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Legislation does not recognize denial of reasonable accommodation in employment as discrimination on the basis of disability;

(b) There is a low rate of representation of persons with disabilities in employment, particularly as public servants;

(c) No national strategy has been established to provide vocational training programmes for persons with disabilities in either urban or rural areas and to ensure the creation of job opportunities in the open labour market.

51. Taking into account target 8.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review and modify its labour legislation to ensure that denial of reasonable accommodation in the workplace is considered discrimination on the basis of disability;

(b) Establish affirmative measures, with quotas, and with sanctions for non-compliance, to increase the proportion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market in the public and private sectors, especially women with disabilities, and in that regard monitor the work and employment situation of persons with disabilities;

(c) Design and implement a national strategy with a focus on providing vocational training programmes in urban and rural areas and creating job opportunities in the open labour market.

Greece (2019)

38. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The high level of unemployment among persons with disabilities and the insufficient efforts to ensure their inclusion in the open labour market, particularly with regard to women with disabilities;

(b) The lack of effective measures to improve and facilitate the provision of specific measures and individualized support in the workplace and of more effective and accessible services for persons with disabilities seeking employment.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in the open labour market, with a view to achieving target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also recommends that the State party ensure the provision of specific measures and individualized support in the workplace; promote among employers the right of persons with disabilities to employment on an equal basis with others; and mainstream the disability dimension in all employment policies, measures and programmes, including in the policy design of the Greek Manpower Employment Organization.

India (2019)

56. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The fact that, according to information received by the Committee, only 37 per cent of persons with disabilities have access to employment, the fact that only 1.8 per cent of women with disabilities have access to employment, and the very low representation of persons with intellectual disabilities in employment;

(b) Information about cases of sexual harassment in the workplace against women with disabilities and the lack of measures to prevent and protect them;

(c) The lack of implementation of the State party's quota of 4 per cent for persons with disabilities in employment.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt national and state strategies for ensuring access to employment by persons with disabilities in the open labour market, through equal opportunity policies, recruitment and skills development training programmes for persons with disabilities. The State party should ensure the inclusion of all persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and collect information and disaggregated data on its implementation;

(b) Decisively combat sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in the workplace against women with disabilities, including by disseminating accessible public information and providing redress for women who are victims of sexual harassment;

(c) Take effective measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, particularly persons with disabilities from marginalized groups.

Iraq (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The fact that the 5 per cent quota of persons with disabilities employed in the public sector and the 3 per cent quota of persons with disabilities employed in private-sector enterprises with more than 60 employees, set out in article 16 of Law No. 38 (2013) and in Council of Ministers decision No. 205 (2013), have not been attained;

(b) The absence of regulations to implement article 15 (4) (b) of Law No. 38 (2013), which states that finding job opportunities for persons with disabilities is one of the objectives of the Law, and the absence of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities in the workplace in both the private and public sectors and across all areas of the economy.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to ensure the effective implementation of article 16 of Law No. 38 (2013) and to raise awareness among public and private companies about the requirement to provide individualized support and prohibit the denial of reasonable accommodations at work;**
- (b) Redouble its efforts to create job opportunities for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in the open labour market, including through entrepreneurship, appropriate vocational training, the facilitation of loans and the provision of specific incentives for employers to hire persons with disabilities.**

Kuwait (2019)

52. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

- (a) Inclusive employment policies and the low employment rate of persons with disabilities, despite the quota on their employment in the public, private and oil sectors;
- (b) Employment opportunities for non-Kuwaiti persons with disabilities;
- (c) Information on sanctions that have been effectively imposed for non-compliance with the employment quota system and for the denial of reasonable accommodations, as well as on monitoring mechanisms available to persons with disabilities to address discrimination in matters related to employment and conditions of work;
- (d) Disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in employment.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take advantage of the strategy to employ persons with disabilities developed by the Public Authority for Disability Affairs to increase and develop employment opportunities in the open labour market, develop specific measures to increase the inclusion of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring the implementation of the 4 per cent quota, by providing individualized support and by prohibiting the denial of reasonable accommodations at all stages of employment, including recruitment, promotion and vocational training, for all persons with disabilities, including non-Kuwaitis with disabilities, and impose sanctions on employers in cases of non-compliance;**
- (b) Establish mechanisms to effectively address discrimination in all matters related to employment and conditions of work;**
- (c) Strengthen the collection of data on persons with disabilities in formal employment, disaggregated by age, gender, nationality, disability, geographical area and employment sector.**

Myanmar (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Discrimination against persons with disabilities regarding employment, including unequal treatment in recruitment, the denial of reasonable accommodation, lower salary scales and less favourable employment benefits;
- (b) The absence of effective incentives and specific measures to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, both in the public and private sectors;
- (c) The lack of data, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and level of employment, on persons with disabilities in employment.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (d) Adopt and implement laws and policies to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, including the denial of reasonable accommodation in employment in the public and private sectors to ensure the provision of individual accommodations, and provide adequate training to employers;**
- (e) Take effective affirmative action measures to increase the rate of employment of persons with disabilities particularly women and youth with disabilities, in the open labour market, and promote measures to ensure that the open labour market is inclusive and accessible;**

(f) Provide, in its next periodic report, data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and level of employment on the progress made overtime in inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment in the public and private sectors.

Cuba (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned about the underrepresentation of women with disabilities in the workforce and the absence of adequate and enforceable measures to ensure compliance in the public and private sector regarding the employment of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that sheltered workshops for persons with disabilities might not necessarily foster their inclusion into the regular workforce.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective and affirmative measures to encourage and ensure the employment of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in the public and private sector and to ensure non-discrimination in employment and that the open labor market is inclusive and accessible.

Niger (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Discrimination due to prejudices against persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in the area of employment and their limited employment in the open labour market;

(b) The lack of incentives to promote employment of persons with disabilities; the denial of reasonable accommodation in the workplace and the absence of incentives to employers to recruit persons with disabilities; and the absence of disaggregated statistical data on persons with disabilities currently employed.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a strategy for the employment of persons with disabilities in the private and public sectors, including women, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 8 (target 8.5), taking into account migrants workers with disabilities; eliminate intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities in employment; strengthen data collection on their employment in the open labour market disaggregated by age, sex, type of barriers encounters and geographical location; and implement affirmative action, and incentives to employers.

(b) Adopt laws and policies on reasonable accommodation and provide trainings to employers on reasonable accommodation.

Norway (2019)

41. The Committee is concerned that the efforts to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market have been limited and of little impact and that intersectional inequalities persist. It is also concerned at the perseverance of discrimination based on disability, including denial of reasonable accommodation.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, adopt measures to increase the level of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, in line with the Convention and in view of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it ensure the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) Combat stereotypes and prejudice towards persons with disabilities in the labour market and adopt regulations governing disability-based discrimination including denial of reasonable accommodation;

(b) Set out a requirement of universal design in the workplace for employers in the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act; prepare and implement a strategy on accessibility through universal design of the physical environment and universal ICT in working life;

- (c) Ensure that the requirement of active, targeted and systematic efforts is enforced to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private and public labour markets;
- (d) Give a clear mandate and sufficient resources to the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration to facilitate employment opportunities for persons with disabilities who are interested in entering the labour market;
- (e) Consider extending the target that five percent of new employees in the public sector should be persons with disabilities also to the private sector.

Rwanda (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The low rate of employment among persons with disabilities: 56 per cent, as indicated in the Fourth Rwanda Population and Housing Census in 2014, 77 per cent of which are in informal sector; affecting women and youth with disabilities in particular;
- (b) Systematic barriers and discrimination against persons with disabilities in the recruitment process and workplace, including the lack of reasonable accommodation, accessibility of work places, and accessible and affordable public transport;
- (c) The lack of vocational training opportunities for persons with disabilities to gain access to employment.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with the Convention and in view of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) Adopt policies and measures necessary, including specific measures, to significantly increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities, especially women and youth, in both the formal and informal sectors;
- (b) Take effective measures against the systematic barriers and disability-based discrimination faced by persons with disabilities in access to employment, including ensuring the provision of reasonable accommodation, work place adaption, accessibility of work places, flexibility of work requirements and accessible and affordable public transport;
- (c) Implement training and skills development programmes to facilitate the recruitment of persons with disabilities and to make them more competitive in the open job market.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The lack of information on the adoption of the planned national strategy for the recruitment and employment of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of complaints on the non-respect of the quota provided for under the Labor Law requiring employers of 25 or more persons to allocate 4 per cent of jobs to persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information on sanctions imposed on places of employment that do not comply with the workplace accessibility conditions and workplace accommodation guidelines;
- (d) The lack of data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and level of employment on persons with disabilities in employment.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the adoption and implementation of the national strategy for the recruitment and employment of persons with disabilities, ensure that it is based on the Convention and includes baselines and targets concerning access to employment for persons with disabilities, including women and young persons;
- (b) Raise awareness on Article 28 of the Labor Law and enforce the application of the quota for persons with disabilities;
- (c) Guarantee the proactive and periodic inspection of workplace accessibility conditions and individualized accommodation provided for persons with disabilities in their workplaces, in line with Article 9 (11) of the implementing regulations of the Labor Law;
- (d) Provide, in its next periodic report, data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and level of employment on persons with disabilities in employment in the public and private sectors.

Senegal (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The low rate of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, particularly among women with disabilities and the reluctance of employers to recruit persons with disabilities;
- (b) Barriers to employment of persons with disabilities, including inaccessibility of the physical environment of employment places and the lack of support and individualized accommodation and of information provided to employers about the capability of persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of protection and compensation afforded to migrant workers, who have acquired an impairment in the workplace.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt an effective plan to increase the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, particularly for women with disabilities, including expediting the effective implementation of Article L.180 of the 1997 Labor Code to ensure 15 percent of work places for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that the built environment of work places is accessible and adapted for persons with disabilities, especially for persons with mobility disabilities and provide training to employers at all levels to respect and apply individualized support and accommodations;**
- (c) Ensure that migrant workers, including migrant domestic workers, are fully and equally protected by the labour law, and that such workers who have acquired an impairment as a result of their work in the State party receive appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and compensation;**
- (d) Pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 8, target 8.5 to ensure achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities.**

Spain (2019)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of progress made since the previous concluding observations (CRPD/C/ESP/CO/1, para. 46) to increase the low employment rate of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, especially affecting women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities living in rural areas;
- (b) The lack of information about the application of discrimination laws within the workplace, including direct and indirect discrimination and denial of reasonable accommodation;
- (c) Failure to comply with the quota set out in the Revised Text Law 9/2017 on Contracts of the Public Sector.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

- (d) Analyse and modify legislation, regulations and policies to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sector, with particular emphasis on women and persons with disabilities living in rural areas;**
- (e) Ensure available and accessible provisions of reasonable accommodation with administrative safeguards for persons with disabilities, especially in case of accidents leading to disability in the workplace;**
- (f) Adopt concrete measures to fully implement the legal quota foreseen in the Revised Text Law 9/2017 on Contracts of the Public Sector.**

Türkiye (2019)

52. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Discriminatory policies on the basis of impairment, promoting sheltered workplaces for persons with disabilities in particular affecting persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities rather than creating opportunities for their employment in the open labour market;
- (b) Insufficient information about the provision of individualized support and accommodation in all sectors of employment and effective sanctions in cases of denial of reasonable accommodation;
- (c) The low compliance with the 3 per cent quota of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector, and with employment quotas of persons with disabilities in the private sector.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Abolish legislation, policies and practices of sheltered employment and adopt a strategy with benchmarks and a timeframe to promote an inclusive, open and accessible labour market in all sectors for all persons with disabilities, including women and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, ensuring continuous training on work competences, entrepreneurship, and technical assistance for business management;**
- (b) Ensure its legislation provide for effective remedies, including compensation in cases of discrimination on the basis of disability in the area of work and employment;**
- (c) Ensure equal requirements for employment quotas in the public administration and other work sectors, and monitor their implementation and collect data on compliance with the quota system and provide for adequate sanctions in cases of non-compliance;**
- (d) Bear in mind the linkages between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure that persons with disabilities obtain productive and decent employment, in line with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.**

Vanuatu (2019)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and the fact that the Employment Act (2006) does not pay special attention to the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The absence of mechanisms for monitoring equal work conditions for persons with disabilities both in the public and private sectors;
- (c) The lack of individualized support for women with disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities in the work place;
- (d) The fact that the mandate of the Labour Inclusion Officer is limited to facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in seasonal employment;
- (e) The cost of obtaining business licenses remains a significant obstacle for persons with disabilities to start their own business;
- (f) The absence of official data or statistics on persons with disabilities employed in the public and private sectors.

45. Adhering to article 27 of the Convention and recalling its link to target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt legislative and other measures, including the amendment of the Employment Act (2006), to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the open labour market on an equal basis with others in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that Labour Inspectors have the mandate and resources to effectively monitor working conditions for persons with disabilities and ensure the achievement of decent work for all, including persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value;**
- (c) Ensure persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities and person with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are not denied reasonable accommodation in the workplace;**
- (d) Strengthen the capacity of the Labour Inclusion Officer to facilitate stable employment opportunities for persons with disabilities;**

- (e) Promote self-employment opportunities among persons with disabilities, including by exempting the cost of business licences for persons with disabilities;**
- (f) Collect disaggregated data on the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sector as well as informal sector.**

Algeria (2018)

44. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient resources and qualified professionals within the national agency responsible for the implementation and monitoring of decree No. 14-214 of 30 July 2014 to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that despite the entry into force of article 27 (1) of Law No. 02-09 of 8 May 2002, which provides that all employers must devote at least 1% of jobs to persons with disabilities who are recognized as workers, and the possibility for employers to receive funding for the adaptation of workstations (Interministerial Order of 4 October 2017), persons with disabilities continue to be discriminated in the employment sector.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the national agency responsible for the implementation of Decree No. 14-214 by allocating the necessary resources and equipping it with qualified personnel;**
- (b) Prepare a national strategy in close consultation with representative organization of persons with disabilities to increase the rate of employment of persons with disabilities, particularly women;**
- (c) Raise awareness among employers about the Interministerial Order of 4 October 2017 to receive the subsidies granted for adapting and equipping workplaces for persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Adopt a strategy and action plan with benchmarks for the employment of persons with disabilities in line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially women with disabilities, in the open labour market.**

Bulgaria (2018)

57. The Committee notes with concern that in spite of the incentives for employers who hire persons with disabilities, they continue facing unemployment and discrimination in the employment sector. The Committee is also concerned about the low level of awareness among employers about reasonable accommodation at the work place. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about low transition rate of persons with disabilities from sheltered workplaces 'into open labour market'.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a policy framework and a strategy to promote employment for persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including by increasing resources for it, with the aim to make transition from sheltered employment to open labour market easier;**
- (b) Recognise in its legal and policy framework the right of persons with disabilities to reasonable accommodation at the workplace;**
- (c) Raise awareness among the public and private companies about the reasonable accommodation at work;**
- (d) Reinforce training programmes for persons with disabilities concerning skills that are required in the open labour market, and also skills in entrepreneurship, and collect disaggregated and targeted information about the participation of women and men with disabilities in the programmes and the outcome of the trainings for them.**

Malta (2018)

39. The Committee is concerned about the low level of employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sector, despite the quota system that is provided for in articles 15 and 16 of the Persons with Disability (Employment) Act (Cap. 210) and other policy measures introduced by the State party. It further notes with concern that:

- (a) Article 17 (3) of the Constitution of the State party states that “disabled persons and persons incapable of work are entitled to education and vocational training”;
- (b) The current quota system under the Persons with Disability (Employment) Act (Cap. 210) seems ineffective, in as much as it is only applicable to employers employing 20 or more employees;
- (c) The State party uses medicalised criteria to assess the suitability of persons with disabilities to work in violation of article 1 of the Convention;
- (d) The high number of employers who do not employ persons with disabilities irrespective of their ability to work.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party adopts further enforcement mechanisms and incentives to ensure the implementation of the quota system under articles 15 and 16 of the Persons with Disability (Employment) Act (Cap. 210) and other measures to support persons with disabilities to work in the open labour market, in line with the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensures the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amends article 17 (3) of the Constitution to bring it in line with article 27 of the Convention;**
- (b) Review the quota system under the Persons with Disability (Employment) Act (Cap. 210) in order to make it applicable to enterprises with less than 20 employees;**
- (c) To replace any assessment of suitability to work with an assessment that considers the needs and requirements for reasonable accommodation at work for persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Step up efforts to raise awareness among employers on the rights of persons with disabilities to work in the open labour market, in particular the provision of reasonable accommodation, and on the benefits of employing persons with disabilities.**

Philippines (2018)

46. The Committee is concerned by:

- (a) The fact that legislation and policies, such as the Presidential Decree No. 442, the Labor Code of the Philippines, the Sustainable Livelihood Self-Employment Assistance Kaunlaran program, and the Likhang Persons with Disability (State party report CRPD/C/PHL/1, see para. 210) to create employment and protect all workers from any form of discrimination regardless of disability have not been effective in creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of sufficient implementation of the quota system for employment as it applies to different disability groups;
- (c) The continued stigmatization of persons with disabilities in the labour market, in particular, the employers’ assertion that persons with disabilities lack the necessary knowledge, skills or abilities for the jobs, and would entail higher labour costs for training and improvement of facilities.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to ensure effective implementation of the Presidential Decree No. 442, the five per cent employment quota system and strengthen the structured orientation program for potential employers to activate employment of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt measures to provide for reasonable accommodation in job recruitment processes , ensure that these processes inclusive of persons with disabilities, and issue guidelines for the provision of reasonable accommodation and accessibility at the workplace;**
- (c) Uphold Sustainable Development Goal 8, target 8.5 to ensure achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities and equal pay for work of equal value.**

Poland (2018)

44. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Low rate of employment of persons with disabilities, as well as barriers faced by women with disabilities when accessing the open labour market and, as consequence, having lesser income than others, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) Promotion of sheltered workshops or offer of low status jobs for persons with disabilities, which hinders, especially for women, access to open labour market and lack of specific incentives for employers to hire persons with disabilities in the open labour market, especially persons with severe disabilities;
- (c) Lack of fulfilment of the 6% employment quota for persons with disabilities, especially in the public administration sector;
- (d) Low availability of labour market activation programmes, job offers for persons with disabilities.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party develop legislation and measures for the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and in particular:

- (a) Promote work and employment of women with disabilities and ensure equal income, especially in rural areas;**
- (b) Promote decent work for persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in public and private sectors and provide specific incentives and support for reasonable accommodation, including individual assistance for employing persons with a wide range of disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure the fulfilment of the 6% employment quota for persons with disabilities in all sectors, with specific emphasis on the public administration sector;**
- (d) Ensure that open labour market activation programmes effectively include all persons with disabilities.**

South Africa (2018)

44. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The very low rate of employment among persons with disabilities, 1.2 percent of the workforce according to the 16th Commission for Employment Equity Annual Report based on data from 2014-2015, including women with disabilities, and gender-based discrimination in the open labour market;
- (b) Lack of measures to provide accessible and adapted work places including the provision of reasonable accommodation, especially for persons with disabilities with motor impairments;
- (c) The lack of protection and compensation afforded to migrant workers, who have acquired an impairment as a result of their work;
- (d) The absence of statistical data on persons with disabilities currently employed, disaggregated by age, gender, type of impairment and geographical location.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private and public sectors, including through affirmative action, and the adoption of laws and policies on reasonable accommodation, and provide data on persons with disabilities currently employed in the open labour market, disaggregated by age, gender, type of impairment and geographical location;**
- (b) Adopt a strategy to increase the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors, including through mechanisms to ensure that reasonable accommodations are provided and to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities and their families in the labour market in line with article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to ensure productive and decent work for everyone, including persons with disabilities, in accordance with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value;**
- (c) Adopt effective measures for making the physical environment of work places accessible and adapted for persons with disabilities, including reasonable accommodation, especially for persons with disabilities with motor impairments and provide training to employers at all levels to respect the concept of reasonable accommodation;**

(d) Ensure that the labour law fully and equally protects migrant workers with disabilities, and that such workers who have acquired an impairment as a result of their work receive appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and compensation.

North Macedonia (2018)

48. The Committee is concerned about :

- (a) Discrimination against and inequalities in employment and working conditions for persons with disabilities, in particular women, notably those contained in some provisions of the Law on Civil Administration;
- (b) The fact that the Labour Law does not specifically oblige employers to provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities (CRPD/C/MKD/1, para. 25);
- (c) The fact that persons with disabilities and public and private employers are not fully aware about the rights and opportunities of employment in the open labour market.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organisations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Review and evaluate its existing legislation, both in the public and in the private sectors, to bring it in line with the Convention, and take measures to increase vocational training and adopt legislation with effective remedies and sanctions with respect to disability-based discrimination in recruitment, promotion and retention of employees;**
- (b) Take effective and affirmative measures to ensure the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sector and ensure that the open labour market is inclusive and accessible, and that reasonable accommodation is available and that duty of provision of reasonable accommodation is explicitly prescribed for in the legislation.**

Haiti (2018)

48. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a legal obligation to provide reasonable accommodation in the work place and lack of monitoring mechanisms of the Act on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2012) on “appropriate accommodation”;
- (b) The extremely low level of employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors resulting in a higher rate of poverty among persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of a designated body for monitoring and sanctioning non-compliance of labour quotas, in the public and private sectors, the absence of specific measures to improve employment of persons with disabilities, both in the public sector and in the private sector and delays in the establishment of the national solidarity fund;
- (d) The absence of official data on persons with disabilities in the labour market.

49. In line with the Convention and in view of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. It also recommends that the State party take legal and other measures to ensure non-discrimination against persons with disabilities in their right to work and, in particular:

- (a) Clarify the legal obligation to provide reasonable accommodation in the workplace and take measures to ensure the effective monitoring of its implementation, with appropriate remedies for the denial of requests;**
- (b) Adopt measures, such as a long term plan with defined objectives and timeframe, to increase the employment of persons with disabilities, particularly women and young persons with disabilities, in the private and public sector, in the open labour market;**
- (c) Designate an entity for monitoring and sanctioning non-compliance of labour quotas in both the private and public sectors, expedite the implementation of the national solidarity fund, provide vocational and professional training and provide incentives for the self-employment of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities;**

(d) Collect disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities in the labour market.

Nepal (2018)

39. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the effectiveness of the employment quota for persons with disabilities in the civil service and how these posts are filled by persons with disabilities, particularly by persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities including those from indigenous backgrounds.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to gather data and develop criteria to fill the five per cent quota for civil service positions that are reserved for persons with disabilities including undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of these jobs in terms of quality, and the extent to which persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including those from indigenous backgrounds, have benefitted from this quota against those who remain unemployed.

Oman (2018)

47. While welcoming the establishment of the Committee for Training and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee is, however, concerned about:

(a) The low employment rate of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, and gender-based discrimination in the labour market, including failure to provide paid maternity leave;

(b) The failure to provide accessible and adapted work places including the provision of reasonable accommodation, especially for persons with disabilities with motor impairments;

(c) The lack of protection and compensation afforded to migrant workers, especially domestic workers, who have acquired an impairment as a result of their work in the State party;

(d) The absence of statistical data on persons with disabilities currently employed, disaggregated by age, gender, type of impairment and geographical location.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private and public sectors, including through affirmative action, and the adoption of laws and policies on reasonable accommodation, including by amending the Labour Act, as well as ensure implementation of the law requiring private enterprises with more than 50 employees to reserve at least two percent of positions for persons with disabilities, and also provide data on persons with disabilities currently employed in the open labour market, disaggregated by age, gender, type of impairment and geographical location;**

(b) **Adopt a strategy for the employment of persons with disabilities in line with Sustainable Development Goal 8 (target 8.5), especially women with disabilities, in the open labour market and adopt measures for the elimination of intersectional discrimination;**

(c) **Adopt effective measures for making the physical environment of work places accessible and adapted for persons with disabilities, including reasonable accommodation, especially for persons with disabilities with motor impairments and provide training to employers at all levels to respect the concept of reasonable accommodation;**

(d) **Ensure that migrant workers, especially domestic workers are fully and equally protected by the labour law, and that such workers who have acquired an impairment as a result of their work in the State party receive appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and compensation.**

Russian Federation (2018)

53. The Committee is concerned that the denial of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities is still not legislated as a ground for discrimination. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of sufficient information on 'special posts' and the labour market programmes for persons with disabilities, those with intellectual and/or psychosocial

disabilities in particular, as well as on transparent and formalized trainings and assistance in providing reasonable accommodation for person with disabilities at workplaces.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party legislate the concept of the denial of reasonable accommodation as a ground for discrimination in accordance with the Convention, and the concept of reversal of burden of proof to the employer. It also recommends that the State party improve the available and standardized support in providing reasonable accommodation at workplace.

55. The Committee also recommends the State party to be guided by the Convention in the implementation of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Seychelles (2018)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The meaning of “reasonable provision” in article 36 (a) of the Constitution, which is not the same as “reasonable accommodation” in the Convention and is unclear, and that denial of reasonable accommodation in the workplace is not a recognized form of discrimination and is not sanctioned by the law;
- (b) The lack of a designated body for monitoring and sanctioning non-compliance with the Employment Act and the 2013 policy on elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities at work;
- (c) The absence of official data on persons with disabilities employed in the public and private sectors;
- (d) The insufficient opportunities for persons with disabilities to join and remain in the workforce.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it :

- (a) Revise the meaning of “ reasonable provision ” and ensure that it is in line with the Convention, and specify the legal obligation to provide reasonable accommodation in the workplace and adopt measures to ensure the effective monitoring of its implementation, with appropriate remedies for the denial of requests for such accommodation;**
- (b) Designate an entity for monitoring and sanctioning non-compliance with the Employment Act and the 2013 policy on elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities at work;**
- (c) Collect disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors;**
- (d) Adopt measures to increase the number of employed persons with disabilities, particularly women, to promote employment opportunities in the open labour market, in self-employment and in entrepreneurship.**

Slovenia (2018)

45. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistence of sheltered workplaces that promote the charity approach and preserve the segregation of persons with disabilities in the labour market, especially of persons with intellectual disabilities, qualifying them as ‘unemployable’;
- (b) The exposure of persons with disabilities to the risk of losing their income when getting self-employed;
- (c) The lack of implementation of the employment quota system, the absence of reasonable accommodation in the workplace, and the asymmetric requirements for quotas in the public and private work sectors.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures aimed at promoting an inclusive, open and accessible labour market in all sectors for all persons with disabilities;**

- (b) Create specific incentives for employers and provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with intellectual disabilities, aimed at facilitating their inclusion in the open labour market;
- (c) Ensure the safeguard of all incomes, including disability pensions for self-employed persons with disabilities;
- (d) Ensure equal requirements for employment quotas in the public administration and information services and other work sectors, and monitor their implementation. The State party should collect data on the compliance of the quota system and ensure adequate sanctioning in case of non-compliance.

Sudan (2018)

53. The Committee is concerned about the absence of adequate and enforceable measures to ensure compliance with policies and strategies to promote livelihood and employment opportunities in the public and private sector regarding the employment of persons with disabilities.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective and affirmative measures to ensure the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sector and ensure that the open labour market is inclusive and accessible, and that reasonable accommodation is available.

55. The Committee notes that article 24 paragraph 7 of the National Public Civil Service Act of 2007 establishes a two per cent quota for the employment of persons with disabilities, but is concerned that this provision is not legally or administratively enforceable and it allows for exceptions based on the “nature of the job and the nature of the disability”.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party review article 24 paragraph 7 of the National Public Civil Service Act of 2007 to remove exceptions to the quota system based on the “nature of the job and the nature of the disability” and to make the two per cent quota administratively and legally enforceable.

Latvia (2017)

46. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Lack of progress in improving employment for persons with disabilities in the open labour market, particularly for those with intellectual disabilities;
- (b) Continuity of the subsidized employment measures after termination of support from European structural funds.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure support for the employment of all persons with disabilities in the open labour market in inclusive employment settings on an equal basis with others;
- (b) Pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Luxembourg (2017)

46. The Committee is concerned about the low level of employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors and the segregation of persons with disabilities in sheltered workshops. It is also concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a designated body for monitoring and sanctioning non-compliance of labour quotas, particularly in the private sector;
- (b) The lack of monitoring of the provision of reasonable accommodation.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to phase out sheltered workshops, with a time-bound schedule and plan for transfer of those currently employed in sheltered workshops into the open labour market, and increase the level of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, in line with the Convention and in view of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it ensure the achievement of full

and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Designate an entity for monitoring and sanctioning non-compliance of labour quotas in both the private and public sectors;
- (b) Take measures to ensure the effective monitoring of the provision of reasonable accommodation, with appropriate remedies for the denial of requests;
- (c) Provide vocational and professional training and provide incentives for the self-employment of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities.

Montenegro (2017)

48. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the effective protection of employees with disabilities from dismissal. It is also concerned about:

- (a) The fact that persons with disabilities, especially women, are particularly affected by unemployment;
- (b) The lack of information on subsidies or any measures, beyond the obligation for employers who do not respect the minimum quota for the employment of persons with disabilities, to contribute to the Fund for the Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities;
- (c) The insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation in workplaces;
- (d) The use of the medical model of disability to assess people's capacity for work, which is in conflict with the Convention;
- (e) Insufficient comprehensive data on the situation of persons with disabilities in employment, particularly in the private sector.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party analyse and remedy any disincentives to employment for persons with disabilities, and further promote employment in the open labour market in the public and private sectors, with particular emphasis on women, in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. It also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Introduce legislation providing for effective sanctions against employers who fail to provide reasonable accommodation in the workplace;
- (b) Collect disaggregated statistical data on the employment rate and situation of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, type of employment and salary;
- (c) Reform the assessment procedures in the employment context in line with the human rights model of disability prescribed by the Convention.

Morocco (2017)

50. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The high rate of unemployment among persons with disabilities: 67.75 per cent, as indicated in the 2014 national survey on disability;
- (b) Discrimination against persons with disabilities in the workplace, including the absence of measures to provide reasonable accommodation;
- (c) The practice of reserving a list of positions for persons with disabilities, which is against the principle of open employment and hinders equal access by persons with disabilities to employment.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a long-term plan to ensure access by persons with disabilities to the open labour market, and set up specific targets and measures concerning access to employment for women and young persons with disabilities. The State party should include in those measures the establishment of public-private partnerships with cooperatives and the private sector in order to increase the employability of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Establish the legal duty of employers in all sectors of the economy to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the workplace;

- (c) Cease the use of lists of positions reserved only for persons with disabilities, and ensure that persons with disabilities receive training for and are able to access all types of employment on an equal basis with others;
- (d) Pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goal, with a view to achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities.

Panama (2017)

52. The Committee is concerned at the failure to achieve the 2 per cent quota, the limited participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market and the scarcity of statistical data on the wages of persons with disabilities. The Committee regrets the lack of mechanisms to ensure that persons with disabilities are not discriminated against in the open labour market and of measures to ensure that reasonable accommodations are made in the workplace.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party put in place specific strategies to implement the 2 per cent quota and to increase the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors, including through mechanisms to ensure that reasonable accommodations are made and to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities and their families in the open labour market. It also recommends that the State party be mindful of the linkages between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that it ensure productive and decent work for everyone, including persons with disabilities, in accordance with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

56. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The persistent employment gap and pay gap for work of equal value affecting persons with disabilities, especially women and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, as well as persons with visual impairments;
- (b) The insufficient affirmative action measures and provision of reasonable accommodation to ensure that persons with disabilities can access employment on the open labour market, despite the obligations contained in European Union Directive 2000/78/EC on non-discrimination in the workplace;
- (c) The process related to the Employment and Support Allowance and the fact that the Work Capability Assessment emphasizes a functional evaluation of skills and capabilities, rather than recognizing the interactions between impairment and barriers in society faced by persons with disabilities;
- (d) The State party's upholding of its reservation to article 27 of the Convention, which disproportionately affects persons with disabilities who are actively involved in military matters.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, and in line with the Committee's report on its inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention:

- (a) Develop and decide upon an effective employment policy for persons with disabilities aimed at ensuring decent work for all persons with disabilities, bearing in mind the State party's target of 1 million jobs for persons with disabilities, and ensure equal pay for work of equal value, focusing especially on women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with visual impairments, and monitor those developments;
- (b) Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to all persons with disabilities who require it in the workplace, that regular training on reasonable accommodation is available

to employers and employees without disabilities, and that dissuasive and effective sanctions are in place in cases of denial of reasonable accommodation;

(c) Ensure that the legal and administrative requirements of the process to assess working capabilities, including the Work Capability Assessment, are in line with the human rights model of disability, that those who conduct the assessments are qualified and duly trained in that model, and that the assessments take into consideration work-related as well as other personal circumstances. The State party must ensure that the adjustments and support necessary to access work, as well as financial support, are provided and that they are not subject to sanctions or conditional upon carrying out job seeking activities;

(d) Withdraw its reservation to article 27 of the Convention;

(e) Bear in mind the links between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Armenia (2017)

47. The Committee is concerned about the significant unemployment rates among persons with disabilities and the lack of adequate employment policies and programmes to complement the use of quotas to enable persons with disabilities to participate effectively in the open labour market.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into national employment policies and programmes and enforce the implementation of the Law on employment, including the mandatory quotas and incentive measures for employers in the public and private sectors. The Committee also recommends that the State party support the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including through the provision of vocational training programmes and reasonable accommodation in the labour sector, in line with the Convention and in view of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

46. The Committee is concerned about the lack of data on efficient protection of employees with disabilities from dismissal and about the insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation. The Committee is also concerned that there are no data on the situation of persons with disabilities in terms of employment in the public sector.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation by including the definitions of “reasonable accommodation” and “universal design” in line with the Convention and that it provide guidance and training to the public and private sectors on these concepts in order to make sure that disability cannot constitute an excuse for non-employment if the person with disability in question is qualified for the relevant job and can effectively perform his or her job with reasonable accommodation.

48. The Committee is concerned about the fact that the number of sheltered workshops has doubled since 2009 and that there is a lack of data on measures to motivate persons with disabilities effectively, including veterans of war with disabilities, and their employers, towards their employment in the open labour market.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party promote among employers the right of persons with disabilities, including veterans of war with disabilities, to employment on an equal basis with others, and reinforce measures to support the effective transition of all persons with disabilities into formal employment in the open labour market.

Canada (2017)

47. The Committee is concerned at the high number of persons with disabilities who are unemployed and at the lack of programmes to retain the jobs of persons with disabilities in periods of economic crisis. It is further concerned about the absence of strategies to end models of sheltered workshops and ensure access to the open labour market for persons with

disabilities, in particular women and young persons with disabilities. The Committee notes that there is a steady increase in both the number and proportion of complaints of discrimination in employment related to disability.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a policy on the employment of persons with disabilities, including indigenous persons with disabilities, that guarantees access to employment, promotes work in open, inclusive and accessible markets and environments, equal opportunities and gender equality and provides for reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at work;**
- (b) Develop strategies aimed at providing decent job opportunities for women and young persons with disabilities, including the provision of reasonable accommodation, flexible time arrangements, appropriate training for work and measures to prevent harassment and other forms of discrimination at the workplace;**
- (c) Implement binding affirmative action measures, including the allocation of targeted funding to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors;**
- (d) Bear in mind article 27 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Cyprus (2017)

53. The Committee is concerned by the high level of unemployment and lack of gender, age and disability disaggregated data regarding employment of persons with disabilities, and about the insufficient measures to promote their inclusion into the open labour market regardless of the type of impairment.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to employment in the open labour market, including by ensuring that the private sector is also covered by a quota system and by ensuring equal pay for work of equal value in all settings for all persons with disabilities being guided by target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It furthermore recommends that the State party collect data on the employment of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by gender, age and type of impairment.

Honduras (2017)

57. Al Comité le preocupa los altos niveles de desempleo de las personas con discapacidad. También preocupa al Comité la falta de seguimiento al cumplimiento de las cuotas laborales en el sector público. Le preocupa asimismo que en los programas Con Chamba Vivís Mejor, Chamba Comunitaria y Chambita Plus no se incluya el número representativo de personas con discapacidad.

58. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente estrategias específicas para elevar el nivel de empleabilidad de las personas con discapacidad en el sector público. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 27 de la Convención y la meta 8.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, y asegure el logro de un empleo productivo y decente para todas las personas, incluyendo personas con discapacidad en línea con el principio de igual remuneración por un trabajo de igual valor.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

50. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low compliance with the 3 per cent quota of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector;**
- (b) The lack of recognition of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at the work place;**
- (c) That measures to promote employment of war veterans are not implemented for other persons with disabilities; and**

(d) Gaps in the participation of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, and that persons with disabilities remain in 'sheltered workshops'.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(e) Adopt measures to comply with the quota of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector, and provide accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the workplace so as to increase employment rate of persons with disabilities;

(f) Increase its efforts to create job opportunities for persons with disabilities, including through affirmative action programmes, entrepreneurship, appropriate age training for work; loans, microcredits, and technical assistance for business management; and

(g) Bear in mind the linkages between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the SDGs, and ensure that persons with disabilities obtain productive and decent employment, in line with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

Jordan (2017)

49. The Committee notes with deep concern the high unemployment rate (76 per cent) of persons with disabilities in the State party. It is concerned about the perpetuation of discriminatory legislation and regulations, including article 13 of the Labour Law of 2010, annex (No. 1) of the System of Medical Committees law (No. 58 of 1977) and its regulation (No. 13 of 2014). and article 4 of the Civil Service regulation (No. 30 of 2007) which prevent persons with certain impairments from accessing employment. It is concerned about the discriminatory attitudes towards hiring persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal discriminatory legislation and regulations in order to eliminate the concept of "medical fitness" and ensure individualized assessments are conducted to determine suitability for bona fide occupational requirements;

(b) Raise awareness among employers and the general public on the right of persons with disabilities to work;

(c) Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private and public sectors, including through affirmative action and the adoption of regulations governing reasonable accommodation.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

48. The Committee is concerned about significant unemployment and economic inactivity rates among persons with disabilities, and the fact that national employment strategies and relevant agencies do not adequately facilitate and promote the employment of persons with disabilities or implement the minimum 5 per cent mandatory employment quota for persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that the employment of persons with disabilities is generally oriented towards segregated workplaces.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities and affirmative action into national employment strategies and respective agencies, enforcing the implementation of Law No. 60 regarding employment, including the mandatory quota and incentive measures for employers;

(b) Support the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, in line with the Convention and in the light of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bolivia (2016)

61. The Committee is concerned at the failure to implement labour quotas and at the high rates of unemployment among persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that the measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities do not include in-service training and conform to the "specialized" and segregated employment model. The Committee

is further concerned that, owing to the lack of labour mobility of persons with disabilities and their families, employers are discouraged from hiring them.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a policy on the employment of persons with disabilities that guarantees access to employment, that promotes work in open, inclusive and accessible markets and environments, equal opportunities and gender equality, and that provides for reasonable adjustments for persons with disabilities. The Committee also urges the State party to effectively implement binding affirmative action measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, in both the public and private sectors. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 27 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

60. The Committee is concerned that, in addition to the obvious intersectional inequalities, efforts to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market have been limited and of little impact. It is also concerned about the persistence of discrimination based on disability and the lack of regulation of reasonable accommodation.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take steps to expedite the full employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market by adopting affirmative action measures and combating discrimination based on disability;**
- (b) Adopt regulations governing reasonable accommodation in the area of employment;**
- (c) Bear in mind the linkages between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that all persons, including persons with disabilities, obtain productive and decent employment, in keeping with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.**

Ethiopia (2016)

59. The Committee is concerned that the rate of employment of persons with disabilities is very low, which increases the risk of poverty and segregation. It is also concerned about the absence of affirmative measures to enhance the employment of persons with disabilities, both in the public and private sectors.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take effective and affirmative measures to ensure the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including by increasing vocational training opportunities;**
- (b) Ensure that the open labour market is inclusive and accessible and that reasonable accommodation and support is provided in the workplace;**
- (c) Be guided by article 27 of the Convention in implementing target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Guatemala (2016)

63. The Committee is concerned that the majority of persons with disabilities are not in formal employment and do not have real and effective means of obtaining the reasonable accommodation that they require in the workplace. It is also concerned by the lack of monitoring of compliance with employment quotas in the public sector and the lack of affirmative action to accelerate the achievement of de facto equality for persons with disabilities who face the greatest difficulties in accessing the labour market, such as women and indigenous peoples, especially in rural communities.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party promote Bill No. 4796 on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the world of work, together with an appropriate mechanism to monitor its implementation, and ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation as required by workers with disabilities and the implementation of affirmative action to support

the groups that face the greatest difficulties in accessing the labour market. It also recommends that the State party set up a mechanism for monitoring compliance with employment quotas, with penalties for non-compliance. The Committee further recommends that the State party be guided by article 27 of the Convention in its implementation of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy (2016)

69. The Committee is concerned about the high levels of unemployment among persons with disabilities, and inadequate provisions to promote their inclusion in the open labour market, in particular women with disabilities. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities in the State party may be restricted to the performance of certain professions on the grounds of their disability.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 27 of the Convention in implementing targets 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals; and that it ensure the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. In addition, the State party must implement special measures to address the low level of employment for women with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party remove any legislation limiting the rights of persons with disabilities to perform any profession on the grounds of their disability.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of inclusive employment policies and the low employment rate of persons with disabilities in spite of a quota system, in particular regarding women, whose participation in employment may, in practice, be conditional on the consent of a male guardian;
- (b) The insufficient placement services and continuing training opportunities for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of protection and compensation under the labour law for migrant workers, especially domestic workers, subjected to the kafalah system, who have acquired an impairment as a result of their work in the State party.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to eliminate discriminatory practices on the basis of impairment and gender and adopt the policies and measures necessary, including affirmative action, to significantly increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities, especially women, in the open labour market, in both the public and private sectors;
- (b) Intensify its efforts to develop placement services and continuing training, as well as self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities;
- (c) Ensure that migrant workers, especially domestic workers and including those with disabilities, are not subjected to the kafalah system and are fully and equally protected by the labour law;
- (d) Ensure that all migrant workers, including domestic workers, who have acquired impairment as a result of their work in the State party receive appropriate compensation;
- (e) Be guided by article 27 of the Convention in the implementation of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uruguay (2016)

57. Al Comité le preocupan los altos niveles de desempleo de las personas con discapacidad. También preocupa al Comité que no se cumpla la cuota para facilitar el empleo de las personas con discapacidad en la función pública. Preocupa también la falta de información sobre los puestos de trabajo y la pirámide salarial de las personas con discapacidad en el sector privado.

58. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que implemente estrategias específicas para elevar el nivel de empleabilidad de las personas con discapacidad desempleadas en el sector

público, incluyendo a través de programas vocacionales. También le recomienda recoger los datos de empleabilidad en el sector privado en el mercado laboral abierto. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte se guíe por el artículo 27 de la Convención en la implementación de la meta 8.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, y asegure el logro de un empleo productivo y decente para todas las personas, incluyendo personas con discapacidad en línea con el principio de remuneración igual por trabajo de igual nivel.

Chile (2016)

57. El Comité se encuentra preocupado por la brecha de inclusión laboral en detrimento de las personas con discapacidad en el Estado parte y la ausencia de estrategias específicas para promover la vinculación de las personas con discapacidad en el empleo.

58. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte acelere la adopción de la legislación sobre inclusión laboral de las personas con discapacidad, y adopte una estrategia amplia con indicadores y plazos específicos en la materia, incluyendo a las mujeres y los jóvenes con discapacidad. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 27 de la Convención y la meta 8.5 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, y asegure el logro de un empleo productivo y decente para todas las personas, incluyendo personas con discapacidad en línea con el principio de remuneración igual por trabajo de igual valor.

Lithuania (2016)

51. The Committee is seriously concerned at the commonly applied concept of “working incapacity”, which results in a low employment rate among persons with disabilities, and at a singular focus on segregated work environments, such as social enterprises, to which European Union funds are being directed.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, eliminate the concept of “working incapacity” of persons with disabilities and develop and implement efficient strategies and programmes aimed at increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, by eliminating segregated work environments and investing in promoting vocational training, access to appropriately adjusted workplaces, the provision of reasonable accommodation and the training of private and public employers, as set out in target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Portugal (2016)

50. The Committee is concerned by discrimination against and inequalities in employment and working conditions for persons with disabilities, and in particular women, and by the fact that the State party’s Labour Code does not oblige employers to provide reasonable accommodation. It is also concerned about the working conditions faced by persons with disabilities in occupational activity centres, including the average salary, and by the fact that these segregated environments are the most common situation for persons with intellectual disabilities and autism when exercising the right to work and employment.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organisations which represent persons with disabilities, review its labour legislation, both in the public and in the private sectors, to bring it into line with the Convention, and take measures to enforce the rules and sanctions stipulated in its legislation in the event of non-compliance. The Committee also recommends that the State party eliminate segregated working environments, including a review of legislation governing occupational activity centres from a human rights approach to comply with the Convention, and step up its efforts to promote access for persons with intellectual disability and autism to the open labour market. Furthermore, it recommends that the State party promote corporate social responsibility with regard to the employment of persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 27 of the

Convention and SDG 8, target 8.5 to ensure achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all including persons with disabilities and equal pay for work of equal value.

Serbia (2016)

53. The Committee is concerned about insufficient legal protection of employees with disabilities against dismissal and the insufficient provision of reasonable accommodation. The Committee is also concerned that persons with disabilities virtually cannot establish their representative trade union in the open labour market due to their low representation and that despite the provision of multidisciplinary committees, assessment of working capacity continues to be based on a medical model of “incapacity”.

54. The Committee recommends the State party review the practice of the application of law, to make sure legislation is not disadvantageous for persons with disabilities in terms of employment and labour market participation, and guarantee the provision of reasonable accommodation at the workplace. It further recommends the State party to review the assessment of working capacity to eliminate the medicalised approach and to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labour market. The Committee also recommends that the limit of establishing trade union for persons with disabilities at an employer shall be changed and that the State party pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 8, target 8.5.

55. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of sheltered workshops for persons with disabilities, and that the measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market are not effective.

56. The Committee recommends the State party to promote the right to employment on an equal basis with others among employers, and strengthen measures to support the transition of all persons with disabilities that are currently in sheltered workshops into formal, open labour market employment, ensuring the respect of all rights, in compliance with the Convention.

Slovakia (2016)

73. The Committee is concerned about the large number of persons with disabilities employed in sheltered workshops and the lack of efficient measures taken to encourage employment in the open labour market.

74. The Committee recommends that the State party step up efforts on the transition from sheltered workshops to an open labour market for all. The process must include an action plan, timetable, budget and training for public and private sector employers, including on the provision of reasonable accommodation. The Committee also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thailand (2016)

53. The Committee is concerned at the low employment rate among persons with disabilities, particularly among women. It is also concerned about the prejudice against persons with disabilities, their lack of opportunities for training to gain access to employment, and employers’ preference to pay a levy to the National Fund for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities rather than recruit persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that only a limited amount of the Fund’s loans are concretely allocated to supporting the empowerment of persons with disabilities and that its effectiveness is constrained by public regulations.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase employment opportunities in the open labour market for persons with disabilities, particularly women, including through awareness-raising campaigns targeting employers and the public at large to eliminate prejudice against persons with disabilities;

- (b) Implement training and skills development programmes to facilitate the recruitment of persons with disabilities and self-employment opportunities;
- (c) Provide access to supported employment measures in the open labour market, ensure the transparent and accountable management of the National Fund
- (d) for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, and include persons with disabilities within its administration;
- (e) Pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 8, target 8.5, to ensure the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all including persons with disabilities and equal pay for work of equal value.

Uganda (2016)

52. The Committee is concerned about the few opportunities open for employment for persons with disabilities, in particular young men and women with disabilities, as well as the dismissal of persons who acquire an impairment in the course of their employment. It is also concerned about the lack of provisions to ensure persons with disabilities have equal pay for work of equal value.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt a strategy and incentive measures to facilitate access to the open labour market to persons with disabilities, in particular young men and women, including through the provision of training, and accessible information on job vacancies, and ensure that persons with disabilities receive equal pay for work of equal value;
- (b) Take measures to ensure accessible and adapted workplaces in the open labour market, including provision of reasonable accommodation regardless of disability;
- (c) Pay attention to the links between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Brazil (2015)

48. The Committee is concerned at discrimination against persons with disabilities in the realm of employment, especially women with disabilities, and continue reliance on sheltered workshops. It is also concerned about the low levels of compliance with the quota system applying to private businesses with 100 or more employees.

49. The Committee recommends that, in consultation with organizations representing persons with disabilities, the State party develop and implement a coordinated strategy to increase employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, including specific measures for women with disabilities. It is further recommended to take immediate action to create possibilities for transition from segregated employment to the open labour market.

European Union (2015)

64. The Committee is concerned about the high unemployment rates for persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, in comparison with other groups of population in the European Union.

65. The Committee recommends that the European Union take effective actions to measure the employment of persons with disabilities and to increase their employment rate in open labour market, including by providing training for Member States on reasonable accommodation and accessibility in the context of employment.

EU Institutions compliance with the Convention (as public administrations)

88. The Committee is concerned that European Union institutions do not play a role model with regard to employment of persons with disabilities.

89. The Committee recommends that the European Union increase employment of persons with disabilities across all European Union institutions.

Gabon (2015)

58. The Committee is concerned by the low employment rate of persons with disabilities, the lack of inclusive employment policies and provision of reasonable accommodation, including in recruitment procedures, and the certification process used to declare if persons with disabilities are 'fit for employment'.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party implement Act No.19/95 and adopt the necessary policies and measures, including of a legal nature, to further promote employment in the open labour market in public and private sectors beyond the current quota system, and the provision of reasonable accommodation and training on it. It also recommends that it increase vocational training and adopt legislation with effective remedies and sanctions with respect to disability-based discrimination in recruitment, promotion and retention of employees.

Kenya (2015)

47. The Committee is concerned at the very low employment rate among persons with disabilities of about 1%. It is also concerned about the stereotypes and lack of training for persons with disabilities to access to employment opportunities.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt immediate measures to foster compliance with the positive measures of quota for persons with disabilities in employment, including an effective enforcement mechanism and sanctions for non-compliance, in both public and private sectors;

(b) Adopt immediate measures to foster compliance with the positive measures of quota for persons with disabilities in employment, including an effective enforcement mechanism and sanctions for non-compliance, in both public and private sectors;

(c) Design work and employment programmes in the open labour market specifically oriented to persons with disabilities, which include information on job opportunities on accessible formats, and development of skills to undergo competitive selection process to access jobs;

(d) Support entrepreneurship among persons with disabilities including by providing training on accessing markets; and

(e) Collect periodically statistics and information on persons with disabilities access to work as a matter of accountability before their population.

Mauritius (2015)

37. The Committee is concerned that a large percentage of persons with disabilities is considered not suitable for the open labor market and remains highly discriminated in their access to work. The Committee is also concerned that the quota of 3% of the work force composed of persons with disabilities only applies to the private sector and remains inadequately enforced. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the prevalence of sheltered workshops and the lack of formal transition programmes to allow young persons with disabilities to find an employment in the open labour market.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party develop effective legislative and policy measures to promote the transition from sheltered employment to the of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and ensure protection from discrimination in employment, including explicit recognition of the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation. The State party should extend affirmative actions to the public sector and monitor compliance, establish programmes to facilitate inclusion of young persons with disabilities in the open labour market in close consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities and ensure that penalties are applied to employer who fail to comply with the quota.

Qatar (2015)

49. The Committee is concerned by the lack of inclusive employment policies and the low employment rate of persons with disabilities in spite of a quota system, in particular regarding women, whose participation in employment may be conditional upon consent of a male guardian, in practice. It is also concerned about the lack of information on available placement services and continuing training opportunities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal discriminatory practices on the basis of impairment and gender and adopt the necessary policies and measures, including affirmative action, to significantly increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities, especially women, in the open labour market in public and private sectors. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt measures to develop placement services and continuing training as well as self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Ukraine (2015)

50. The Committee is concerned that the requirement for employment quota is not well enforced and the majority of persons with disabilities remain unemployed. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the lack of employment opportunities for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and absence of policies or programmes for supported employment in the open labour market.

51. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure effective implementation of the affirmative measures and strengthen incentives for businesses and public sector for such employments. The Committee also recommends that the State party take measures to provide for supported employment of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in the open labour market.

Cook Islands (2015)

49. The Committee is concerned at the low number of persons with disabilities in employment. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that there are no formal transition programs for persons with disabilities to enter the open labour market.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Collect disaggregated data and information on persons with disabilities in employment, vocational and transition programmes;**
- (b) Provide support for the transition from education to the open labour market which permits freedom of choice to pursue vocations according to personal will and preferences;**
- (c) Enable the public sector to serve as a role model by creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the public sector.**

Croatia (2015)

41. The Committee is, concerned that the majority of persons with disabilities are either unemployed or have low income employment.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party develop and implement – in cooperation with organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) – a plan of action to increase employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market. It recommends that the quota system is complemented with other incentives for employers to hire persons with disabilities. Disincentives to employment for persons with disabilities should be analysed and reacted upon. Reasonable accommodation – including supported employment via personal assistance - and accessibility of the workplace should be regulated and monitored.

Czech Republic (2015)

50. The Committee notes with concern the high unemployment rate of persons with disabilities, and the fact that unemployment rate of women with disabilities is higher compared

to that of men with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee notes with concern that close to one third of employed persons with disabilities work outside the open labor market.

51. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure the same wage for all persons with disabilities regardless of their disability classification, to develop measures and intensify its efforts and allocate sufficient resources to promote the employment of persons with disabilities at open labor market, and especially to promote employment of women with disabilities.

Dominican Republic (2015)

50. El Comité considera insuficientes las cifras de personas con discapacidad incluidas en empleos formales, lo que evidencia la ausencia de una política estatal para la no discriminación y la equiparación de oportunidades en el trabajo y el empleo de personas con discapacidad. Preocupa al Comité que no se ha regulado la obligación de proporcionar ajustes razonables y que la denegación de éstos se considere discriminatoria en cualquier etapa del empleo. También le preocupa la falta de cumplimiento de las medidas de acción afirmativa para acelerar la igualdad de facto de las personas con discapacidad en el empleo.

51. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte adoptar las medidas para fomentar el empleo de personas con discapacidad en los sectores público y privado, incluyendo medidas de acción afirmativa y regular los ajustes razonables; asimismo, le recomienda al Estado establecer un mecanismo de seguimiento al cumplimiento de las cuotas laborales en el sector público y sanciones en caso de incumplimiento.

Germany (2015)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Segregation in the labour market in the State party;
- (b) Financial disincentives for persons with disabilities preventing their entry or transition to the open labour market;
- (c) The fact that segregated, sheltered workshops fail to prepare or promote transition to the open labour market.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party provide regulations that effectively create an inclusive labour market in accordance with the Convention by:

- (a) Creating employment opportunities in accessible workplaces, in line with General Comment No. 2 (2014) of the Committee, in particular for women with disabilities;
- (b) Phasing out sheltered workshops through immediately enforceable exit strategies and timelines and incentives for public and private employment in the mainstream labour market;
- (c) Ensuring persons with disabilities do not face any reduction in social protection and pension insurance currently tied to sheltered workshops;
- (d) Collecting data on the accessibility of workplaces in the open labour market.

Mongolia (2015)

41. The Committee is concerned that the sanctions for non-compliance with the legislative requirement for public and private entities with more than 25 personnel to have four percent of personnel consisting of persons with disabilities is not commensurate and results in the majority of such entities choosing to pay the low fines for non-compliance rather than employ persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that the legislation limiting the maximum number of working hours per week to 36 hours for persons with disabilities may discourage their employment.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party review its current systems for enforcement of its requirement for the minimum four percent representation rate of persons with disabilities in employment. In doing so, the State party may wish to consider increasing the financial penalties for non-compliance with the quota. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to improve vocational capacity of persons

with disabilities to improve their employment prospects, along with other reinforcing statutory measures, such as monitoring the quota system and/or developing new disability employment policies.

Turkmenistan (2015)

45. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient information on the implementation of the quota system. It is also concerned about the reported practice that some persons with disabilities may be classified as “unemployable”, which prevents a person with a certain degree of disability based on medical assessment alone without taking into account the nature of the given work.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the quota system significantly enhances the participation of persons with disabilities in terms of employment and diversity in workplaces within the framework of reasonable accommodation by ensuring enforcement through effective and transparent sanctions for non-compliance available in all accessible formats for persons with disabilities. The Committee further recommends eliminating the reported practice of classifying person with disabilities as “unemployable”.

New Zealand (2014)

55. The Committee is concerned that the employment levels in New Zealand for persons with disabilities, and especially for Maori and Pacific people with disabilities, are still low.

56. The Committee recommends that further steps be taken to increase the employment levels of persons with disabilities.

57. The Committee is concerned that under the Minimum Wage Act 1983, some 1,200 persons with disabilities are paid less than the minimum wage, under minimum wage exemption permits.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party examine alternatives to minimum wage exemption permits in the employment of persons with disabilities.

Denmark (2014)

58. The Committee notes with concern that while the Act on the Prohibition of Discrimination in the Labour Market prohibits direct and indirect differential treatment on the grounds of disability, neither the general labour legislation nor collective labour agreements stipulate clear obligations on employers to afford reasonable accommodation in the labour market, which may be among the sources of a prevailing employment gap between persons with disabilities (44 per cent of whom are working) and persons without disabilities (78 per cent of whom are working).

59. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to significantly increase, as soon as possible, the percentage of persons with disabilities working in the open labour market, including amendments to the general labour legislation so that it imposes clear obligations on employers to afford reasonable accommodation to employees with disabilities.

Republic of Korea (2014)

49. The Committee is concerned that the Minimum Wage Act excludes from the benefit of the minimum wage “those who clearly lack the capacity to work” and fails to set clear standards for conducting assessments and making decisions to define the lack of capacity to work. The Committee is also concerned that, as a result, many persons with disabilities who work, especially those with psychosocial disabilities, receive compensation below the minimum wage, and that the practice of placing such workers in sheltered workshops that do not aim to prepare them for entry into the open labour market continues.

50. The Committee encourages the State party to introduce a supplementary wage system to compensate those persons with disabilities who are excluded from the benefit of the

minimum wage by the Minimum Wage Act and to eliminate sheltered workshops and seek alternatives in line with the Convention to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

51. The Committee is concerned that, despite the existence of a mandatory employment quota system for persons with disabilities, unemployment is higher for persons with disabilities, and in particular for women with disabilities, than for the general population.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party put in place measures to narrow the employment gap, paying particular attention to the employment of women with disabilities. It recommends, in particular, that the State party ensure the effective implementation of the mandatory employment quota system for persons with disabilities and the publication of relevant statistics on the achievements and results in that area.

Belgium (2014)

38. The Committee notes with concern the low number of persons with disabilities in regular employment. The Committee also notes the Government's failure to reach targets for the employment of persons with disabilities within its own agencies, as well as the lack of a quota in the private sector.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary regulatory measures and incentives to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to employment, in both the private sector and the public sector. It should ensure that they have effective protection against discrimination, vocational training, adequate accessibility and the necessary reasonable accommodation.

Ecuador (2014)

42. The Committee is concerned at the low employment rate among persons with disabilities.

43. The Committee recommends that programmes be designed to increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities and that employment programmes for persons with disabilities be developed

Mexico (2014)

51. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The low employment rate among persons with disabilities, especially intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, and the limited coverage of strategies and programmes to promote their employment;

(b) The lack of information on the working conditions of persons with disabilities;

(c) The particular discrimination women and indigenous persons with disabilities face in accessing the labour market;

(d) The lack of mechanisms to achieve the 3 per cent quota of persons with disabilities in the public sector; and

(e) The lack of regulations on the provision of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities in the workplace, both public and private.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Boost access-to-employment programmes for persons with disabilities, especially intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, by allocating resources and through measures to encourage their recruitment by private sector companies;

(b) Set up mechanisms to protect persons with disabilities from all forms of forced labour, exploitation and harassment in the workplace;

(c) Take corrective measures to ensure the recruitment of women and indigenous persons with disabilities;

(d) Set up a mechanism to monitor the achievement of the public sector quota of persons with disabilities and roll out similar affirmative action measures in the private sector; and

(e) Regulate the criteria for the provision of reasonable accommodations for workers with disabilities and allocate the necessary budget for such accommodations in the public and private sectors.

Sweden (2014)

49. The Committee is concerned that the trends in the employment of persons with disabilities are controversial. The recent trends are unclear, but, over all, unemployment is higher for persons with disabilities than for the general population. Promising achievements have been made with respect to support for personal assistants and the support provided by the public employment service; however, the 100 per cent increase in the number of registered unemployed persons with disabilities since 2008, due to changes in the insurance scheme, is quite alarming. The Committee is also concerned that, with respect to employment and income, a significant gender gap remains between women with disabilities and men with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities to obtain work on the basis of the report presented by the FunkA Inquiry (FunkA-utredning). It further suggests that the State party increase measures of support, including, inter alia, personal assistance in employment, technical assistance in performing in the workplace, reduced social fees, financial support to employers, rehabilitation and vocational training, and that it put in place measures to narrow the employment and pay gender gap. The Committee recommends that the State party assess the impact of the use in the labour market of the term “people with reduced capacities or limitations” to refer to persons with disabilities, and revise it in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination.

Azerbaijan (2014)

42. The Committee notes that the State party has a quota system for employing persons with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned that the number of persons benefiting from these quotas is very low. The Committee is further concerned at the lack of adequate programmes on employment to complement the use of quotas so that persons with disabilities can effectively participate in the labour market.

43. The State party should ensure that the quota system significantly enhances the participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market by ensuring enforcement through effective sanctions for non-compliance. The State party should also expand its existing programmes, including vocational training programmes, with a view to enhancing the skills of persons with disabilities so that they can competitively participate in the open labour market. The State party should further step up its efforts in the provision and enforcement of reasonable accommodation in the labour sector.

Costa Rica (2014)

55. The Committee regrets the lack of data concerning compliance with the 5 per cent employment quota for persons with disabilities in the public sector. It is also concerned about the lack of measures to promote their employment in the private sector and the absence of regulations to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the measures necessary to raise awareness among employers and promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector, including affirmative action programmes and legislation on reasonable accommodation. The State party should also monitor compliance with employment quotas in the public sector.

Australia (2013)

49. The Committee is concerned that employees with disabilities in Australian Disability enterprises (ADE) are still being paid wages based on the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT).

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Immediately discontinues the use of the BSWAT

(b) Ensures that the Australians Supported Wage System (SWS) is changed to secure the right assessment of the wages of persons in support employment.

(c) Adopts initiatives to increase employment participation of women with disabilities by addressing the specific underlying structural barriers to their workforce participation.

Austria (2013)

44. The Committee notes with concern that approximately 19,000 Austrians work in sheltered workshops outside of the open labour market and receive very little pay.

45. While noting that Austria has a quota system for employment of persons with disabilities, the Committee is concerned at reports that a majority of employers prefer to pay a fine rather than to comply with the quota requirement. It notes that only 22% of employers actually fulfil their obligations under the Disability Employment Act, which governs this quota system.

46. The Committee notes with concern that there is a significant gender gap in the employment and income of women with disabilities, when compared with men with disabilities.

47. The Committee recommends that the State Party enhance programs to employ persons with disabilities in the open labour market. The Committee further recommends that measures be put in place to narrow the employment and payment gender gap.

El Salvador (2013)

55. The Committee is concerned at the discrepancy in access to employment between men and women with disabilities and the fact that there are no mechanisms for monitoring equal work conditions for persons with disabilities. The Committee is concerned that providing reasonable accommodation is not an integral part of employment policies, perpetuating discrimination against persons with disabilities in that domain. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of vocational training for persons with disabilities.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures, including affirmative action, to ensure equal access to the labour market for women and men with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party implement programmes on access to vocational training for persons with disabilities and encourage their formal and informal training free of charge through the technical body recognized by the State for that purpose.

Paraguay (2013)

63. The Committee takes note of the quota system for employing persons with disabilities in the public sector, but notes with concern that there are no policies to encourage employment in the private sector. It is also concerned at the fact that employment training programmes concentrate on manual and craft work and occupations and that there is no promotion of equal employment opportunities.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt without delay policies on the employment of persons with disabilities in both the public and the private sectors, including the adoption of affirmative action measures, and opportunities for persons with disabilities to choose own-account employment by means of training in areas of their choice and access to soft loans.

65. The Committee is gravely concerned at the fact that there is no legislation to protect persons with disabilities from discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation, in the labour sector.

66. The Committee urges the State party to encourage the adoption of legislation to prohibit and effectively penalize all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities in the labour sector, and to establish mechanisms for redress where their labour rights are violated.

Argentina (2012)

43. The Committee takes note of the labour law that establishes a minimum quota of 4 per cent for the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector (Act No. 25.689) and of the various employment programmes for persons with disabilities that have been developed within the public sector. However, the Committee notes with concern that there is a lack of the disaggregated data (by, inter alia, sex, age, type of disability and geographic location) needed to assess compliance with this quota at the national and provincial levels. The Committee is also concerned about the cultural barriers and prejudices that hinder persons with disabilities from entering the labour market, particularly in the private sector, despite the existence of tax incentives for employers. It is also disturbed about discrimination against women with disabilities in the realm of employment.

44. The Committee urges the State party to develop a public policy to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market through, for example, the launch of awareness-raising campaigns targeting the private sector and the public at large which are designed to break down cultural barriers and prejudices against persons with disabilities, the implementation of reasonable adjustments in order to ensure that persons with disabilities in need of such adjustments can participate in the labour market, and the development of training and self-employment programmes. The Committee recommends that the State party reinforce its measures for monitoring and certifying compliance with the employment quota for persons with disabilities in the public sector. It also recommends that the State party undertake the systematic collection of disaggregated data as a basis for a proper assessment of compliance with the employment quota at the national and provincial levels.

China (2012)

41. While observing the existence of a quota system, the Committee worries that this system does not effectively address the chronic problem of unemployment among persons with disabilities or the deep-rooted causes of discrimination in employment. Specifically, the Committee is concerned that often the employment offered is only of symbolic value or that companies and government bodies frequently opt to pay the employment levy rather than employing persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the practice of reserved employment (such as the field of “blind massage”), which discriminates persons with disabilities in their vocational and career choices.

42. The Committee recommends that the state party undertake all necessary measures to ensure the persons with disabilities freedom of choice to pursue vocations according to their preferences. It suggests that the state party create more working opportunities and enact legislature, so that companies and state organs will employ more persons with disabilities.

Hong-Kong

77. The Committee is concerned about the high unemployment rate of persons with disabilities in Hong Kong, China, and that their average salary ranks well below that of persons without disabilities. The Committee is also troubled by the low number of civil servants with disabilities.

78. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China, introduce affirmative actions to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, inter alia prioritize the employment of persons with disabilities as civil servants.

Macao

96. The Committee is concerned that employees with disabilities only account for 0.3 % of the total employed population.

97. The Committee recommends Macao, China, to introduce more affirmative action to enable persons with disabilities to find employment.

Hungary (2012)

43. The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party has undertaken a number of steps to promote the right to work of persons with disabilities, including through the inclusion of a provision of reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities in the 2012 Labour Code (Law 1/2012). The Committee regrets, however, that the overall employment rate of persons with disabilities remains lower than for other population groups despite such efforts.

44. The Committee recommends the State party to effectively implement the disability-specific provisions of the Labour Code and develop programs to increase employment opportunities for women and men with disabilities in the public and private sectors, as recommended by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2008 (E/C.12/HUN/CO/3), through fulfilling the requirements of article 27 of the Convention, with a special view to further intensifying its efforts to include men and women with disabilities in the open labour market.

Peru (2012)

40. While taking note with appreciation of the State party's efforts to increase the level of employment of persons with disabilities, in particular the Supreme Decree No. 027-2007-PCM which requires institutions within the public sector to have at least 3 per cent of the total workforce composed of workers with disabilities, the Committee remains concerned at the high rate of unemployment and underemployment of persons with disabilities that, according to the State party's response to the list of issues, go up to nearly 60 per cent and 35.3 per cent respectively.

41. The Committee urges the State party to develop new policies that promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market which could include tax incentives for companies and persons who employ persons with disabilities, the recruitment of persons with disabilities in public administration and the development of self-employment programmes. The Committee further recommends that the State party adopt educational programmes to capacitate persons with disabilities in order to include them in the labour market.

42. The Committee appreciates the State party's concern with the widespread poverty of persons with disabilities.

43. The Committee urges the State party to address the negative impact of poverty by mainstreaming disability inclusive socio-economic development.

Spain (2011)

45. Despite a number of enabling provisions to keep persons with disabilities in employment, the Committee is concerned with the overall low rate of employment of persons with disabilities.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party develop open and advanced programmes to increase employment opportunities for women and men with disabilities.

Tunisia (2010)

33. The Committee takes note of the State party's efforts to support the employment of persons with disabilities in public services. However, it remains concerned at the low level of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the private sector.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the implementation of measures of affirmative action provided for in the law for the employment of women and men with disabilities;

- (b) Increase the diversity of employment and vocational training opportunities for persons with disabilities; and**
- (c) Ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations within the Labour Inspection Office and the Conciliation Committees.**



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

Article 28 CRPD

*(Adequate standard of living and
social protection)*

September 2025

Article 28 - Adequate standard of living and social protection

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.

2. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures:

- a) To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs;
- b) To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes;
- c) To ensure access by persons with disabilities and their families living in situations of poverty to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care;
- d) To ensure access by persons with disabilities to public housing programmes;
- e) To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to retirement benefits and programmes.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
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Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
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Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
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Paraguay (2023)
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Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
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Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)

Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)

Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
New Zealand (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 28 on China, Malta, Mauritius, Qatar, Cook Islands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Australia, Austria, Hungary, Peru, Spain, Tunisia and China.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

54. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) According to credible information, large segments of the population, including persons with disabilities, are affected by food insecurity, malnutrition and a lack of access to basic services;
- (b) According to credible reports, entitlements such as rations, assistive devices, housing support, and social protection benefits prioritise “honorary soldiers” with disabilities acquired through military service, while excluding other persons with disabilities;
- (c) There is a significant gap in the living standards between persons with disabilities living in urban environments and those in rural and remote areas.

55. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Assess the number of persons with disabilities affected by food insecurity, malnutrition, and lack of access to basic services, and adopt a strategy to reallocate resources to meet basic needs;**
- (b) Ensure equal access for all persons with disabilities, regardless of cause or category of impairment, to all social protection entitlements, and remove discriminatory eligibility criteria;**
- (c) Take measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for all persons with disabilities in the State Party, including in rural and remote areas.**

Finland (2025)

54. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Recent and ongoing reforms, including budget cuts and downsizing of the social security system, have disproportionately affected persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial disabilities, with lower incomes and with higher support requirements, and that such reforms have lacked comprehensive disability impact assessments;
- (b) The limited funding of the Social Welfare Counties leads to restrictive practices in access to disability entitlements, endangering the rights under the Convention;
- (c) The lack of measures to ensure access to social benefits for persons with disabilities relocated to Sweden.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Conduct a comprehensive impact assessment of recent reforms, including budget cuts and cost saving measures, and ensure they do not have an adverse impact on the standard of living of persons with disabilities, and provide information on disability benefits in accessible formats;**
- (b) Ensure that the Social Welfare Counties receive a budget that allows for the provision of disability entitlements in accordance with the Convention;**
- (c) Take urgent measures to guarantee the access to social benefits for persons with disabilities relocated to Sweden.**

Kiribati (2025)

53. The Committee recognises the disproportionate impact of poverty, geographic isolation, and climate change on the standard of living of persons with disabilities, particularly those living on outer islands and notes with concern:

- (a) That eligibility assessments are based primarily on medical criteria, without the involvement of multidisciplinary teams, and that different levels of allowance are granted depending on the perceived type of disability;
- (b) The insufficient social protection scheme, including the Disability Support Allowance, to ensure access for persons with disabilities and their families to an adequate standard of living;

(c) The absence of accessible housing, and limited access to water and sanitation measures, particularly on outer islands.

54. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review and reform the mechanisms for assessing eligibility for social welfare schemes by moving away from a medical model, involving multidisciplinary teams such as social workers and occupational therapists, and ensuring that assessments do not discriminate between types of disabilities;

(b) Strengthen the social protection system to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and to cover additional disability-related expenses, including by increasing the adequacy and coverage of the Disability Support Allowance including for persons with disabilities living on outer islands;

(c) Develop and refurbish accessible housing for persons with disabilities and ensure access to water and sanitation to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, with particular attention to the needs of persons with disabilities on outer islands.

Maldives (2025)

55. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the disproportionately high risk of poverty among persons with disabilities and the insufficient support for disability-related expenses to ensure an adequate standard of living;

(b) About the lack of accessibility on the online platform of the National Disability Registry, which prevent persons with disabilities living outside of Malé to register independently.

56. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and targets 1.3 and 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase the budget allocated to social programmes and the amounts provided in order to achieve reduction in poverty among persons with disabilities, in particular in outer islands and amend the relevant national legislation to ensure the compatibility of the disability financial benefits with the employment;

(b) Guarantee the accessibility of the National Disability Registry portal, including compatibility with screen readers, multilingual options, and provide offline application methods, and conduct a national awareness campaign to inform persons with disabilities and their families about the National Disability Registry, the application procedures, eligibility criteria, and associated rights.

Canada (2025)

55. The Committee notes positively the issuance of the Canada Disability Benefit Act, the Poverty Reduction Act, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and the National Housing Strategy. However, it remains concerned that:

(a) Persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, are more likely to experience homelessness and face inadequate living conditions or high housing costs and being disproportionately affected by the housing crisis in the State Party;

(b) The laws and policies on social entitlements, tax exemptions, housing and poverty strategies across jurisdictions are not disability inclusive;

(c) The disability benefit for Canadians with disabilities is woefully inadequate to address the living expenses of persons with disabilities, and the procedures to access social entitlements related to disability benefits and tax benefits are bureaucratic, complicated, and present disparities leading to unequal coverage;

(d) The current system of income-testing requirements for disability allowances in British Columbia, and similar practices in Alberta and Ontario, which affect the autonomy, life choices and right to family of persons with disabilities, by reducing the amount received if they have a full-time job, live with a partner or spouse, join a rehabilitation facility for treatment, or travel outside of the province.

56. Recalling links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that the issues and concerns of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities are included in the National Housing Strategy;**
- (b) Ensure that all laws and policies on social entitlements, tax exemptions, housing and poverty strategies across jurisdictions are disability inclusive;**
- (c) Exercise federal leadership to ensure that all disability entitlements, including those stemming from the Canada Disability Benefit Act support an adequate standard of living and alleviate poverty for persons with disabilities, as well as streamline procedures for accessing entitlements and tax benefits across jurisdictions;**
- (d) Review the income-testing requirements for disability allowances in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario to ensure that they do not discriminate against persons with disabilities and allow them to exercise their autonomy, life choices and right to family on an equal basis with others.**

Dominican Republic (2025)

51. The Committee is concerned about the high number of persons with disabilities living in poverty and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system guaranteeing access to an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including sufficient resources to cover disability-related expenses. It is also concerned about:

- (a) The Fund for Persons with Disabilities, established by Articles 136 and 137 of Law 5-13, not being yet operational;**
- (b) The low number of persons with disabilities accessing the solidarity pension;**
- (c) The low extent of social protection services available to Haitians with disabilities living in the State party and to women heads of household.**

52. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are aimed at empowering and promoting the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt a universal social protection scheme, including sufficient subsidies or allowances to cover disability-related costs, to ensure an adequate standard of living for all persons with disabilities who do not have other sources of income. The Committee also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promptly activate the Fund for Persons with Disabilities established in Law 5-13;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities are informed of the different benefits they qualify for, including the solidarity pension;**
- (c) Continue efforts to ensure that Haitians with disabilities living in the State Party and women heads of household have access to social protection services.**

European Union (2025)

66. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The high levels of poverty and social exclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, autistic persons and persons with disabilities with intensive support needs;**
- (b) Higher levels of housing expenses for persons with disabilities compared to the overall population, and high costs for accessibility adaptations.**

67. The Committee recommends that the European Union, in close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Earmark allocations in the EU Social Fund to increase funding for social inclusion and combating poverty of persons with disabilities, and ensure that investments of the Social Fund address structural inequalities and intersectional discrimination of women and girls with disabilities, autistic persons and persons with intensive support needs;**
- (b) In the second term of the Disability Rights Strategy, provide guidance to Member States on concrete actions to improve their legislative and policy frameworks on social protection, including coverage of disability-related expenses of persons with disabilities, and ensuring that social protection and social inclusion systems are rights-based and gender responsive;**
- (c) Prioritize funding for accessible and affordable housing for persons with disabilities by the EU Regional Development Fund in the process of revising EU funding regulations for the 2028-2034 period, and adopt concrete actions to enhance availability of affordable and accessible housing for persons with disabilities in the European Affordable Housing Plan.**

Palau (2025)

53. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The insufficient social protection scheme, including the provisions to cover disability-related expenses, to ensure access for persons with disabilities and their families to an adequate standard of living;**
- (b) That disability pensions are significantly lower than the average income of citizens;**
- (c) The limited progress as regards the accessibility standards applied to private and public housing.**

54. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the social protection system to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and to cover additional disability-related expenses, particularly for those who require more intensive support;**
- (b) Review the provisions concerning the level of disability pensions, and take measures to increase the amount.**

Tuvalu (2025)

51. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That according to the Support Scheme for the Most Vulnerable Persons, persons with disabilities who reach the age of 70 will lose their disability benefit and will only be left with the benefit granted to older adults;**
- (b) The situations of poverty faced by persons with disabilities, particularly persons requiring higher levels of support.**

52. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) In close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, review the national social protection programme with the aim of ensuring equal access to support for persons with disabilities regardless of their age and the amount of annual income, and ensure that persons who reach the age of 70 continue to receive the disability benefit regardless of whether they receive other types of allowance;**
- (b) Streamline social security support systems to ensure that they are accessible to all persons with disabilities, as a measure to tackle poverty.**

Viet Nam (2025)

55. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities are not benefiting from or having progress reported under the National Programme for Sustainable Poverty Reduction and the National Plan for New Rural Development based on the specific indicators developed;
- (b) There is a lack of dissemination regarding how many persons with disabilities have received information and benefits under the legislation regulating the exemption or reduction of the rental or purchase price of public housing, and how many have taken advantage of social housing policies;
- (c) Persons with disabilities continue to be classified under the pre-Convention welfare model, resulting in only a portion of them benefiting from monthly social benefits and free health insurance cards;
- (d) Persons with disabilities are not included in the Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development and the Work and Society Plan 2021-2025.

56. Recalling links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities are covered by the National Programme for Sustainable Poverty Reduction and the National Plan for New Rural Development, using the indicators developed for this purpose, and that such disaggregated data are disseminated to decision-makers, the general population and organizations of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities receive accurate information, in accessible ways and means, about the possibility of exemption or reduction of the rental or purchase price of public housing and social housing policies, and collect disaggregated data on how many persons with disabilities have benefited from these programmes;**
- (c) Considering the paradigm shift of the Convention towards a human rights approach, implement programmes so that all persons with disabilities, regardless of the need for support they require, can benefit from monthly social benefits and free health insurance cards;**
- (d) Ensure that persons with disabilities are included in the Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development and the Work and Society Plan 2021-2025.**

Belarus (2024)

55. The Committee is concerned about the information indicating the significant tendency within the State party, to reduce the number of officially registered persons with disabilities and that considerable number of persons with disabilities do not receive their benefits.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party defines legally and at the policy level, an accessible, transparent and human rights model based system, in which all persons who declare their disabilities are included in the stipulated definition on the basis of credible and holistic standards, and as such, become eligible to receive the available benefits.

Belgium (2024)

58. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About the high number of persons with disabilities living in poverty and without a regular source of income, with 13% of persons with disabilities living in households with incomes below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold;
- (b) That the upcoming federal anti-poverty plan does not sufficiently mainstream disability, and that there seem to be no regional action plans to combat poverty of persons with disabilities.

59. The Committee recommends that the State Party, with the active involvement of and in close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Ensure that the income of persons with disabilities is sufficient to lead a dignified life, including by maintaining the full allowance covering disability-related costs upon entering employment;

(b) Mainstream disability into poverty and homelessness reduction strategies in the upcoming federal anti-poverty plan, and adopt regional action plans to combat poverty that address particularly the situation of women and children with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, and install monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of these actions plans.

Benin (2024)

55. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information and statistical data on persons with disabilities who benefit from national programs for improving standard of living and social protection. It is also concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities in the implementation of poverty reduction social programmes.

56. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a universal social protection scheme to ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless of impairment type, have an adequate standard of living, including programmes and initiatives to increase access to housing, safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, including in rural areas;

(b) Improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities and their organizations in design and implementation and monitoring of national programs and policies aiming at enhancing living standards.

Burkina Faso (2024)

52. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Only a limited number of persons with disabilities hold the disability card which, according to article 4 of Act No. 012-2010/AN of 1 April 2010, conditions access to social services from the Government including support in the areas of health, education, vocational training, employment, communication, social integration, transport, housing and the living environment, sport and leisure, culture and the arts, as well as the promotion and protection of social action;

(b) The National Social Protection programme does not consider disability-related expenses.

53. Recalling links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Make the process of the issuance of the disability card easy and accessible to all persons with disabilities to enable them to receive services as provided in articles 4 and 44 of the Act No. 012-2010/AN of 1 April 2010, including by ensuring that disability assessments for recognizing the disability card address barriers faced by persons with disabilities and ease the burden of proof for a greater number of persons with disabilities to obtain it;

(b) Take the necessary measures to ensure the effective provision of basic social services to persons with disabilities through the national social protection programmes, including

access to drinking water and housing, poverty reduction programmes and, in particular, to take account of the specific requirements and the recognition of disability-related expenses.

Denmark (2024)

73. The Committee is concerned about the decreasing number of persons with disabilities receiving financial benefits covering additional disability-related expenses under Section 100 of the Social Services Act, and the termination of such benefits when reaching retirement age. It is also concerned that the Social Services Act does not allow for the grant of 15 hours of accompaniment per month for activities outside the home to persons with disabilities older than 67, even though it may be kept if it was granted before reaching the age of 67.

74. The Committee recommends that, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Denmark revise the Social Services Act to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities who have reached retirement age, keep their benefits for disability-related expenses and the provision of accompaniment;**
- (b) The Faroe Islands and Greenland enact analogous legislation to the same end.**

Ghana (2024)

54. The Committee notes with concern the high number of persons with disabilities living in poverty and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system guaranteeing access to adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including resources to cover disability related expenses.

55. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and with the active involvement:

- (a) Develop social protection and poverty reduction legislation, policies and strategies targeting persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt a universal social protection scheme to ensure an adequate standard of living for all persons with disabilities who do not have other sources of income, including those with intellectual and or psychosocial disabilities, address stigma and enhance understanding of their unique needs including subsidies or allowances to cover disability related costs;**
- (c) Include persons with disabilities in programmes designed to promote an adequate standard of living, including programmes and initiatives to increase access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, including in rural and remote areas;**
- (d) Simplify application processes, enhance outreach efforts, and provide comprehensive guidance to increase awareness and access to the 3% allocation from the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) for persons with disabilities.**

Mauritius (2024)

49. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The term Basic "Invalidity" Pension is derogatory, and that this pension is not provided to individuals who reach the age of 60 years, as it is replaced by the Basic Retirement Pension, which fails to take into account the increased costs associated with an older age;**
- (b) The eligibility requirements for social protection entitlements remain linked to disability assessment criteria based on a medical model of disability;**

(c) Persons with disabilities are required to appear periodically before the relevant authorities, including the Medical Board and National Pensions Officer, to be re-assessed for eligibility of social protection, which may cause undue burden.

50. Recalling links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Rename the Basic Invalidity Pension, and consider removing the age ceiling of 60 years to continue providing this pension in addition to the Basic Retirement Pension, in order to ensure that the social protection system supports persons with disabilities, including at an older age, to have an adequate standard of living that can cover minimum disability-related costs;

(b) Adopt the human rights model for disability assessments to foster fairness in social protection, and avoid the approach of solely considering medical reports when assessing persons with disabilities for social protection;

(c) Reduce the re-assessment burdens for persons with disabilities who have already been determined to be eligible for social protection entitlements.

Netherlands (2024)

61. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The disproportionately high risk of poverty among persons with disabilities, the lack of measures to address poverty among persons with disabilities and the lack of regular studies examining the systemic causes of the intersection of poverty and disability to adequately inform governmental policies and plans, using the human rights model to disability; and the lack of data collection about poverty, income-inequality and homelessness;

(b) The lack of information on the number of persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, who have benefited from the homelessness programme;

(c) Information indicating that the combined income of the household determines the level of social benefits received by persons with disabilities and the amount of their personal contributions for long-term social allowances, limiting access to social benefits by persons with disabilities, in particular young persons with disabilities.

62. Recalling links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Address the increased risk of poverty among persons with disabilities and mainstream disability into all studies, research, policies and plans related to poverty reduction, using the human rights model of disability;

(b) Ensure equal access to persons with disabilities to homes for homeless persons, especially to persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and develop comprehensive, multi-disciplinary programs for homeless individuals tailored to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

(c) Ensure that disability is the main factor in the recognition and calculation of assistance for disability-related expenses, social allowances for and personal contributions required from persons with disabilities, avoiding means- tested household benefits.

Ukraine (2024)

56. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That most of persons with disabilities live below the poverty line;

(b) The difficulties that persons with disabilities face to access their social entitlements including the fact that they are required to travel across the contact line or register as displaced persons to access their pensions, that the State party does not allow pensioners to appoint representatives to collect their pensions, as other citizens are entitled to do, and that the Ukrainian Pension Fund and social protection agencies do not operate in occupied territories;

(c) The deprivation of essential needs and food insecurity for persons with disabilities including older, women and children with disabilities living in conflict-affected territories;

(d) Failure to guarantee full access of persons with disabilities to the social benefits top-up cash assistance program for persons living in conflict-affected territories, in particular older persons, women and children with disabilities as well as persons with disabilities subject to multiple and/or intersecting discrimination.

57. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, as well as the Guiding Principles on extreme poverty and human rights (A/RES/67/164) according to which States must ensure that their population, especially vulnerable groups, are not in a situation of poverty and have the necessary resources to enjoy their rights, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a strategy to counter and prevent the situation of poverty and extreme poverty of persons with disabilities, and ensure the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of policies and programmes geared towards alleviating extreme poverty and deprivation among persons with disabilities;

(b) Establish mechanisms, including accessible transportation, personal assistants and representatives to ensure that persons with disabilities can access their pensions, including those in occupied territories;

(c) Ensure access to an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, as well as take steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability;

(d) Adopt specific measures to ensure access to the social benefits top-up cash assistance program for persons living in conflict-affected territories, in particular, older persons and women and children with disabilities as well as persons with disabilities subject to multiple and/or intersecting discrimination;

(e) Develop effective procedures to ensure that the payment of pensions to persons with disabilities turns agile, fast, efficient, and accessible.

Azerbaijan (2024)

61. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of disaggregated information concerning the coverage of social protection allowances;

(b) The fact that financial assistance for persons with disabilities does not cover all persons with disabilities.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Collect disaggregated information about living conditions and access to social protection by persons with disabilities, including by sex, age, gender, ethnicity, place of residence, urban and rural areas, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking status;

(b) Ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to financial assistance for the coverage of disability-related expenses and disseminate information in accessible formats among persons with disabilities, notably on entitlements and benefits, and about eligibility criteria.

Bahrain (2024)¹

56. The Committee is concerned about the absence of:

(a) Social protection programs and services that take into account the individual and living requirements of persons with disabilities and the additional expenses they incur to carry out their daily life activities.

(b) Not including all types of disabilities in the disability allowance provided by the Ministry of Social Development, which is inadequate and determined according to medical criteria that do not take into account the diversity of individual requirements and the surrounding environmental conditions.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party

(a) Develop a comprehensive and inclusive social protection system that guarantees persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, an adequate standard of living.

(b) Revise the criteria for granting the disability allowance to include all types of disabilities and take into account the diversity and differences in their individual and livelihood requirements.

Costa Rica (2024)

47. Al Comité le preocupa el alto nivel de pobreza de las personas con discapacidad y la falta de información sobre las medidas de seguridad social específicamente diseñadas para este colectivo, en particular las mujeres y niños, las personas indígenas y afrodescendientes y la personas que viven en zonas rurales o remotas.

48. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 28 de la Convención y la meta 1.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que se dote de un plan nacional que aborde específicamente el elevado nivel de pobreza de las personas con discapacidad, con particular enfoque hacia a las mujeres y niños, las personas indígenas y afrodescendientes y la personas que viven en zonas rurales o remotas, y prevea las modalidades de su financiación y un calendario para su ejecución; que lo ponga en práctica y que supervise su aplicación. Recomienda también que aporte en el próximo informe periódico información sobre las Pensiones del Régimen no Contributivo a que pueden acceder las personas con discapacidad mayores de 65 años, o menores de 65 que no puedan trabajar, incluido el monto pagado a cada beneficiario y el número de personas con discapacidad que actualmente se benefician, desglosado por género.

Kazakhstan (2024)

59. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) Information about the depreciation of the real value of the State social disability benefits;

(b) Scarce information about access of women, young and older persons with disabilities to social protection, including pensions;

(c) Insufficient availability of personal assistants, low quality services and insufficient in-home support due to tight restrictions of the hours of support available, and the denial of personal assistance for single persons with disabilities who have relatives;

(d) The exclusion of persons with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities from the regular pension system and the saving-pension scheme.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adapt the State social disability benefits to the inflation rate of consumer prices, including disability-specific expenditures, and prevent persons with disabilities to fall into poverty;

(b) Ensure that women, young and older persons with disabilities have access to social protection, including pensions, on an equal basis with others;

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

- (c) Guarantee the availability of in-home support for persons with disabilities, including for persons with high support needs, ensure its quality through the improvement of human, technical and financial resources, and recognize the right of single persons with disabilities who have relatives access to personal assistance;**
- (d) Recognize the right of persons with disabilities and of parents of children with disabilities to have access to the regular pension system and the saving-pension scheme.**

Nicaragua (2024)

58. Al Comité le preocupa que:

- a) Las personas con discapacidad en edad laboral en su inmensa mayoría, no acceden a la seguridad social porque no han contado con un empleo formal que les permita cotizar y jubilarse con una pensión acorde a su salario. Tampoco cuentan con un ingreso económico fijo que les permita acceder por su cuenta al seguro facultativo;
- b) Únicamente el 10% de personas con discapacidad, aquellas catalogadas como “severas” por el Estado parte, reciban atención regular en cuanto a salud, mejoramientos de viviendas, alimentos y obras de accesibilidad en su entorno inmediato;
- c) La propuesta de ley para fijar un apoyo económico mensual a las personas con discapacidad, impulsada por la sociedad civil, que llegó al Parlamento en 2010 no haya sido considerada;
- d) Se desconoce el número de personas con discapacidad que se encuentra en pobreza extrema, en especial en las zonas rurales y remotas;
- e) Se desconoce el número de viviendas accesibles que el Estado parte ha otorgado mediante créditos asequibles para personas con discapacidad.

59. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 28 de la Convención y la meta 1.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Establecer mecanismos para que las personas con discapacidad accedan a la seguridad social a través de empleos dignos;**
- b) Establecer un esquema y un presupuesto para la asignación de apoyo para todas las personas con discapacidad, independientemente de sus requerimientos específicos;**
- c) Retomar y considerar la propuesta de ley para fijar un apoyo económico mensual a todas las personas con discapacidad;**
- d) Investigue y determine cuantas personas con discapacidad se encuentran en situación de pobreza extrema, especialmente en zonas rurales y remotas y tome medidas necesarias para resolver esta situación;**
- e) Otorgue el 5% de viviendas de interés social a las personas con discapacidad, haciéndolas accesibles a las necesidades de quien las recibe;**

Sweden (2024)

61. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The higher risk of poverty among persons with disabilities, the insufficient measures to address poverty among persons with disabilities and the lack of regular studies examining the systemic causes of the intersection of poverty and disability to adequately inform governmental policies and plans;
- (b) The disparities of support measures for persons with disabilities in different regions and municipalities and the bureaucratic procedure for submitting an application for support;
- (c) The lack of access to disability support schemes for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants with disabilities, including persons with disabilities under temporary protection.

62. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary measures to address the increased risk of poverty among persons with disabilities and mainstream disability into all studies, research, policies and plans related to poverty reduction;**
- (b) Ensure equal access to support by persons with disabilities to across all regions and municipalities, and simplify procedures for the submission of applications for support;**
- (c) Provide access to disability support schemes for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants with disabilities, including persons with disabilities under temporary protection in order to prevent them from falling into poverty.**

Zambia (2024)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low number of persons with disabilities covered by the cash transfer programme and the high number of persons with disabilities living in poverty and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system guaranteeing them and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including the resources to cover the expenses related to disability;**
- (b) The National Trust Fund for Persons with Disabilities which provides loans to persons with disabilities and the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities charged with empowering individuals and groups of persons with disabilities lack funding and capacity to sustainably provide support to persons with disabilities.**

56. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a regulated mechanism for social protection based on the human rights model for all types of disabilities and in accordance with their various requirements in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**
- (b) Develop a universal social protection scheme to ensure an adequate standard of living, including programmes and initiatives to increase access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, including in rural and remote areas;**
- (c) Allocate adequate financial, human and technical resources to the National Trust Fund for Persons with Disabilities and the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities to enable them effectively execute their mandate;**
- (d) Extend the cash transfer programme to all persons with disabilities who do not have any other income and empower persons with disabilities to sustainably live independently.**

Andorra (2023)

57. The Committee notes the Act No. 6/2014 on Social and Socio-Health Services (2014) and is concerned about the following:

- (a) The insufficient social protection scheme to secure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families and cover disability-related expenses;
- (b) The requirements to access solidarity pensions for persons with disabilities and that an additional 20% of the threshold is taken into account without the consideration of the specific disability cost when the applicant for financial aid or a member of the family nucleus is a person with disabilities;
- (c) The limited availability of accessible and affordable housing for persons with disabilities, in particular, those with low or no income.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the social protection system, including the revision of Act No. 6/2014, to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and to cover disability-related expenses, particularly for those who require more intensive support;**
- (b) Review the provisions concerning the solidarity pensions and financial aid for persons with disabilities, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, and ensure that the specific situation of each person with disabilities is duly considered in the assessment of pensions and financial aids;**
- (c) Improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities and realize their right to access housing that is affordable and located in the community.**

Austria (2023)

63. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The disproportionately high incidence of poverty among persons with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of access to disability support schemes for refugees with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, including persons with disabilities under temporary protection.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take effective measures, including full coverage by the social security scheme, to eradicate poverty among persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Provide access to disability support schemes for refugees with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, including persons with disabilities under temporary protection, preventing them to fall into poverty.**

Germany (2023)

63. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The higher risk of poverty among persons with disability, the lack of measures to address poverty among persons with disabilities and the absence of regular research reports examining the systemic causes of the intersection of poverty and disability that are able to inform governmental policies and plans adequately;
- (b) Insufficiently individualized support, including financial support, to persons with disabilities over 25 years of age and living with their parents;
- (c) That, by taking into account the assets and income of persons with disabilities and other members of the household, the integration assistance benefit system hinders savings on an equal basis with others and jeopardizes financial security for senior citizens.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all necessary measures to address the increased risk of poverty among persons with disabilities and mainstream disability in all studies, research, policies and plans related to poverty reduction;**
- (b) Revise benefit assessment rules for persons with disabilities, in order to meet the individual support requirements of persons with disabilities;**

(c) Revise the integration assistance benefits of persons with disabilities to allow for savings on an equal basis with others and guarantee their financial security at old age.

Israel (2023)

57. The Committee is concerned about disability benefits being lower than the minimum wage and the unequal access to disability allowances for persons with disabilities in residential facilities who receive only 20 percent of the total amount provided to persons with disabilities living in the community.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities have access to disability-specific social protection allowances that are above the poverty line and that persons with disabilities in institutions receive disability allowances on an equal basis with other persons with disabilities.

Malawi (2023)

57. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Information indicating that available social protection cash transfer targets poor households and not specific persons with disabilities and therefore ends up being administered by the registered head of the household often without any consultation, participation or consideration of the individual with a disability;

(b) The cash transfer allocation does not consider disability related cost as it is uniform for all recipients irrespective of extra disability costs;;

(c) Information indicating that almost three quarters of persons with disabilities have no access to affordable and accessible housing and that social protection does not include any support to access housing.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a specific social protection scheme with adequate financing to cover and directly remit to all individuals with disabilities who do not have any other form of income and ensure that such protection scheme include consideration of individual's disability cost as well as housing.

Mauritania (2023)

47. The Committee is concerned that, despite some measures related to social protection, such as cash transfers and distribution of food packages, have not been effective enough in reducing social inequalities, given the barriers to employment the increased costs often linked to disabilities. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities living in rural areas, face economic insecurity.

48. The Committee recalls the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals – both of which seek to promote and guarantee the economic inclusion of all persons with disabilities and recommend that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its social protection system, to ensure minimum levels of economic security and access to basic support services, including disability-related costs;

(b) Put in place practical measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women and children with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, have access to appropriate, accessible and affordable mainstream social programmes and services, including adequate food, clothing and housing;

(c) Mainstream disability into poverty reduction strategies that also include specific measures for persons with disabilities, in particular for women, girls and older persons with disabilities.

Mongolia (2023)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The inadequacy of the amount provided as disability allowance and disability pension to cover the high cost of living in the State party under the disability income and social security policy, as it does not take into account the inflation rates and the minimum standards of living;

(b) At the lack of housing programmes with allocated budget for persons with disabilities.

56. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the social protection and poverty reduction schemes for persons with disabilities and review the amount of disability allowance in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, taking into account the inflation rates and the minimum standards of living;

(b) Establish accessible and affordable housing programmes for persons with disabilities, and provide sufficient budget allocations for these programmes.

Paraguay (2023)

49. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) Que a pesar de la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad al Módulo de Inclusión de Familias Indígenas al Programa Tepokora, el nivel de pobreza de este grupo no ha disminuido, ya que los montos otorgados y el presupuesto asignado a los programas sociales es insuficiente;

b) La falta de información sobre el número de viviendas accesibles que el Estado haya otorgado mediante créditos asequibles para personas con discapacidad;

c) La falta de presupuesto para la asignación de asistentes personales a las personas que los requieran.

50. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 28 de la Convención y la meta 1.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Incrementar el presupuesto asignado a los programas sociales y los montos otorgados, para lograr la real disminución de la pobreza entre las personas con discapacidad, especialmente las personas indígenas y las que habitan en zonas rurales y remotas;

b) Designar recursos para que las personas con discapacidad puedan acceder a créditos asequibles para la obtención de viviendas accesibles y llevar una estadística de aquellas beneficiadas;

c) Establecer un esquema y un presupuesto para la asignación de asistentes personales a personas con discapacidad.

Angola (2023)

47. The Committee notes with concern the high number of persons with disabilities living in poverty and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system guaranteeing them and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including resources to cover expenses related to disability.

48. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop social protection and poverty reduction strategies targeting persons with disabilities;

(b) Consider the adoption of a universal social protection scheme to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, such as through systems of subsidies or allowances permitting them to cover disability related costs;

(c) Include disability perspectives in programmes designed to promote an adequate standard of living, including programmes and initiatives to increase access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, including in rural and remote areas.

Argentina (2023)

353. Al Comité le preocupa lo siguiente:

- a) El poco acceso de las personas con discapacidad a la pensión no contributiva por “invalidéz”, y las demoras en su tramitación;
- b) La pensión no contributiva por “invalidéz” se basa en la imposibilidad para trabajar según la Ley 13.478 (1948), su monto es insuficiente y es incompatible con otro tipo de ingreso remunerado;
- c) La insuficiencia del sistema de protección social para cubrir los costos adicionales de vivir con una discapacidad;
- d) La restricción del acceso de las personas con discapacidad a las prestaciones sociales debido a las medidas adoptadas por el Estado parte para reducir el déficit del presupuesto y consolidar la deuda pública, en el marco del acuerdo con el Fondo Monetario Internacional.

54. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 28 de la Convención y la meta 1.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) **Incrementar sus acciones para eliminar las barreras que dificultan el acceso de las personas con discapacidad a la pensión no contributiva por “invalidéz”, incluyendo continuar flexibilizando los criterios para su otorgamiento, simplificando el trámite y asignando mayor presupuesto;**
- b) **Reformar la legislación en materia de pensión no contributiva por “invalidéz” para reemplazar el modelo médico por el de derechos humanos, cambiar su nombre, aumentar el monto a al menos el salario mínimo vital y móvil, y permitir la percepción de otros ingresos.**
- c) **Reforzar el sistema de protección social basado en la Convención para garantizar un nivel de vida adecuado a las personas con discapacidad en todo el país, y cubrir los costos adicionales relacionados con la discapacidad;**
- d) **Asegurar que las políticas de reforma económica y los acuerdos de préstamo relacionados no impacten negativamente sobre los derechos de las personas con discapacidad y su acceso a los servicios sociales.**

Georgia (2023)

55. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Legislation that excludes persons with disabilities receiving retirement pensions from disability benefits;
- (b) Information that social benefits are insufficient to secure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The limited availability of accessible housing for persons with disabilities.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability and age and reform the social protection framework in order to ensure that disability-related expenses are available to all persons with disabilities, regardless of age or socio-economic status;**
- (b) **Assess whether the standard of living of persons with disabilities is adequate, and adjust social disability allowances accordingly;**
- (c) **Adopt mechanisms in accordance with the Convention and the Committee’s General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, to improve living conditions and the right of persons with disabilities to access housing that is affordable and located in the community.**

Peru (2023)

56. Al Comité le preocupa:

- a) El alto nivel de pobreza de las personas con discapacidad y la falta de medidas específicas disponibles para apoyarlas y mejorar su situación económica;
- b) Que el Sistema de Focalización de Hogares (SISFOH), el cual evalúa la elegibilidad para los programas de protección social, no tiene en cuenta el coste adicional de vivir con una discapacidad o en una familia con un miembro con alguna discapacidad;
- c) Que el programa "Contigo", una pensión no contributiva, sólo está disponible para "personas con discapacidad severa en situación de pobreza o pobreza extrema", y que el Programa Nacional de Apoyo Directo a los más Pobres -"Juntos" no aborda adecuadamente las necesidades de las familias de niños y niñas con discapacidad "severa";
- d) Que las personas con discapacidad que son beneficiarios de los programas "Contigo" y la "pensión de orfandad", pierden los beneficios automáticamente si consiguen empleo o perciben cualquier otro ingreso, por pequeña que sea la cifra, lo que desincentiva fuertemente la búsqueda de empleo e ingresos adicionales;
- e) Las escasas opciones de vivienda disponibles para las personas con discapacidad que viven en la pobreza, y el limitado impacto de los programas existentes.

57. Teniendo en cuenta la relación existente entre el artículo 28 de la Convención y la meta 1.3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte que reforme los programas de protección social contributivos y no contributivos, incluyendo "Juntos", "Contigo", la "pensión de orfandad" y las "transferencias condicionadas" incorporando el enfoque de discapacidad, para asegurar que no reproduzcan desigualdades y que sus criterios de elegibilidad no impidan la incorporación de las personas con discapacidad al mercado laboral; además, que revise el Sistema de Focalización de Hogares (SISFOH) para tomar en cuenta el costo adicional de vivir con una discapacidad; y que, en consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, diseñe e implemente programas de vivienda para personas con discapacidad, incluyendo personas con discapacidad que viven en la pobreza.

Togo (2023)

53. The Committee notes with concern the lack of an effective social protection scheme, including provisions to cover disability-related expenses, to ensure access for persons with disabilities and their families to an adequate standard of living. It is particularly concerned at the lack of social protection measures, including support with disability related expenses, for persons with disabilities, who are not in any form of employment and have no income to pay for these services.

54. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt the revised law on the social protection of persons with disabilities and the programs which provides support in the form of food, non-food items, school supplies, contributions to medical expenses and other financial support been integrated into public policy, with targets, monitoring and resources;**
- (b) Ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes;**
- (c) Ensure access by persons with disabilities and their families living in situations of poverty to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care.**

Tunisia (2023)

49. The Committee is concerned that despite the social protection legislative and policy measures which have included grants to set up small businesses for among other persons with disabilities, these policies have not been effective enough in reducing social inequalities given the difficulties of inclusion into the world of work and the increased costs often linked to disabilities. It is further concerned that persons with disabilities are characterised by economic insecurity and this vulnerability is even more evident for a large number of women and girls with disabilities who live in rural areas, where access to basic public services is even more difficult.

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Set up an effective system of social protection, which ensures minimum levels of economic security and access to basic support services including disability related costs;**
- (b) Put practical measures in place to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, including those living in rural areas, have access to appropriate accessible, and affordable mainstream social programmes and services, including adequate food, clothing and housing;**
- (c) Mainstream disability in poverty reduction strategies that also include specific measures for persons with disabilities, particularly for women, girls, and elder persons with disabilities.**

Bangladesh (2022)

53. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The high number of persons with disabilities living in extreme poverty without a regular source of income and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system guaranteeing to persons with disabilities and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including resources to cover expenses related to disability.**
- (b) The lack of involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities in policies and programmes geared at alleviating extreme poverty and deprivation within the disability community.**

54. **Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Adopt and implement a national strategy for the alleviation of poverty among persons with disabilities through developing a robust social protection scheme that would create an adequate standard of living, including helping persons with disabilities meet their additional disability-related expenses;**
- (b) Ensure the full and effective participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in the design of any social protection policies and programmes;**

Indonesia (2022)

58. The Committee notes with concern the high number of persons with disabilities living in poverty and without a regular source of income, including indigenous people and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system guaranteeing to persons with disabilities and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including resources to cover expenses related to disability.

59. **Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Develop social protection and poverty reduction strategies targeting persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Set up a universal social protection scheme to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through systems of compensation in the form of allowances to cover disability related costs;**

(c) Include a disability perspective in programmes to promote an adequate standard of living, in particular programmes to increase access to public housing for persons with disabilities, including for those who want to leave institutions.

Japan (2022)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Insufficient social protection scheme, including provisions to cover disability-related expenses, to ensure access for persons with disabilities and their families to an adequate standard of living;

(b) Disability pensions are significantly low compared to the average income of citizens;

(c) Limited progress related to accessibility standards applied to private and public housing.

60. Taking into account the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the social protection system to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and cover additional disability-related expenses, particularly for those who require more intensive support;

(b) Review the provisions concerning the amount of disability pensions in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(c) Establish legally binding accessibility standards that applied to private and public housing, and ensure its implementation.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

52. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The limited access to social protection schemes and support for persons with disabilities, including victims of unexploded ordnance, persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic groups, persons affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas;

(b) The fact that the disability assessment and certification procedures are not in line with the Convention, which leads to some persons with disabilities being excluded from social protection schemes, and that the majority of the Lao workforce comprises self-employed, homemakers, and informal workers forms which do not benefit from social protection;

(c) The high rate of poverty among persons with disabilities, including owing to disability-related expenses, and barriers to gaining access to services such as accessible public housing and transportation;

(d) The higher disability prevalence in the poorest areas in rural areas and in impoverished ethnic groups, such as the Mon-Khmer, the fail to include disability as a key intersectional component in the State party poverty analysis, and the disparity in the administration of social security and social welfare provisions in rural and remote areas.

53. Taking into account the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into the National Social Protection Strategy, the Ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025 and the National Plan for Poverty Reduction, and ensure access to social protection and support for all persons with disabilities, including victims of unexploded ordnance, persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic groups, persons affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas;

(b) Adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure that any assessment procedures are in line with the Convention and do not lead to discriminatory treatment in gaining access to social protection schemes, and include entitlements of social protection for self-employed and informal workers;

(c) Establish social protection and poverty reduction schemes with adequate budgetary allocations to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, and provide them with allowances to meet disability-related expenses;

(d) Increase stipends and social welfare assistance to persons with disabilities, particularly those the poorest areas in rural areas and in impoverished ethnic groups, and improve information packages about social protection services in plain language and accessible formats.

New Zealand (2022)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The disproportionate levels of poverty among persons with disabilities, who are twice as likely to live in poverty than the general population, and for Māori with disabilities this increases to three times as likely, and the protracted implementation of the recommendations from the Welfare Expert Advisory Group report;
- (b) The fragmented model of support for persons with disabilities, and the disparity in access to healthcare, habilitation and rehabilitation services and income support between those who are eligible for coverage under the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) and those who are supported through the disability support system, with those in the latter category more likely face barriers to maintaining an adequate standard of living;
- (c) The exclusion from the disability support system of people with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and other chronic and rare conditions.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite implementation of the recommendations of the report from the Welfare Expert Advisory Group to address the inequity and complexity within the social security system for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Urgently address the fragmentation of the support system for persons with disabilities through a co-design and co-production process to address the inequity between ACC recipients and other persons with disabilities, including considering an integrated model of support to ensure uniform standards for all persons with disabilities.**
- (c) Ensure people with FASD, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and other chronic and rare conditions have access to the disability support system and are included in disability policies and programs.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

57. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The inadequacy of the amount provided as disability allowance and disability pension to cover the high cost of living in the State party under the disability income and social security policy.
- (b) That some persons with disabilities are still excluded from the pension system even after the disability grading system had been abolished.
- (c) The non-eligibility of migrants with disabilities to receive essential support such as disability pension even after completing disability registration.

58. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the social protection and poverty reduction schemes for persons with disabilities and review the amount of disability allowance in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Expand the eligibility for the Disability Pension System, particularly by completely abolishing the obligatory provider requirements, to ensure all persons with disabilities benefit from the disability pension;**
- (c) Take immediate steps to ensure migrants and refugees living with disabilities can benefit from social security and social welfare supports, such as basic living security or disability benefits.**

Singapore (2022)

53. The Committee notes with concern the situation of persons with disabilities without a regular source of income, and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system guaranteeing to persons with disabilities and their families an adequate standard of living, including resources to cover expenses related to disability.

54. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to promote and guarantee the economic inclusion of all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities, psychosocial disabilities, and persons with autism, the Committee recommends that the State party enact a comprehensive legal framework and allot financial resources to provide long-term support to persons with disabilities who do not have the financial means necessary to provide for an adequate standard of living and social protection.

Hungary (2022)

54. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The extremely low and inadequate disability allowances and benefits for persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with disabilities requiring higher levels of support, that, alongside the lack of community-based services, result in a high risk of poverty and social marginalization of persons with disabilities and their families;

(b) The legislative changes to the disability benefits schemes in 2012, which have adversely affected the living conditions of persons with disabilities and their families;

(c) The disability entitlement system, which maintain barriers to persons with disabilities in accessing social support services and the information they require.

55. The Committee recommends that the State Party take appropriate legislative steps to:

(a) Recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for them and their families and to progressive improvement in their living conditions through decent disability allowances and benefits and accessible and available housing and services in the community;

(b) Redress the negative impacts of the reform of the disability benefits schemes in 2012 and ensure that persons with disabilities are compensated for the damage caused by the reform;

(c) Revise the disability entitlement system to make it accessible and easy to use for all persons with disabilities, through the provision of alternative and augmentative modes of information and communication.

Jamaica (2022)

50. The Committee notes with concern the high number of persons with disabilities living in poverty and without a regular source of income, and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system guaranteeing to persons with disabilities and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including resources to cover expenses related to disability.

51. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to empower and to promote the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop social protection and poverty reduction strategies targeting persons with disabilities;

(b) Set up a universal social protection scheme to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through systems of compensation in the form of allowances that will allow persons with disabilities to cover the costs related to disability;

(c) Include a disability perspective in programmes to promote an adequate standard of living, including programmes to increase access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation and initiatives to that end in rural and remote areas.

Mexico (2022)

62. The Committee is concerned about the high poverty level of persons with disabilities, and about a lack of measures specifically designed for persons with disabilities in the special programme for indigenous and Afro-Mexican people for 2020–2024.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party create a national plan specifically addressing the high level of poverty among persons with disabilities, including its financing and a time schedule for its implementation; implement it; and monitor its implementation.

Switzerland (2022)

53. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The disproportionately high risk of poverty among persons with disabilities and the insufficient support for disability-related expenses, the lack of recognition of the relationship between poverty and disability and the absence of specific measures for persons with disabilities in the implementation plan for the National Platform to Prevent and Combat Poverty (2019–2024);

(b) The barriers for persons with disabilities, including for adults with autism that is diagnosed late and for persons whose disabilities are deemed not to meet eligibility criteria for invalidity insurance and other social security schemes.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Mainstream the specific needs of persons with disabilities into the implementation plan of the National Platform to Prevent and Combat Poverty and ensure that poverty reduction measures are taken at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels;

(b) Review eligibility criteria and assessment provisions concerning invalidity insurance and other social security benefits and schemes to ensure coverage for all persons with disabilities.

Venezuela (2022)

48. Al Comité le preocupa que la situación del bloqueo económico hacia el Estado parte y la pandemia afecten en mayor medida a las personas con discapacidad y más a aquellas que se encuentran en situación de pobreza, lo que puede llevarlas a la mendicidad; y que el acceso a programas sociales este limitado a los suscritos al Carnet de la Patria.

49. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, de acuerdo con la Convención y teniendo en cuenta la meta 10.2 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible:

a) Establezca cuantas personas con discapacidad se encuentran en la disminución de la pobreza medida por Necesidades Básicas Insatisfechas (NBI) hasta la actualidad;

b) Realice un estudio que revele la situación económica de las personas con discapacidad durante y después de la pandemia y se incremente el monto del bono que se les otorga;

c) Tomar acciones para que los programas sociales sean contemplados en las leyes sociales, de economía, trabajo, salud, educación, para que cuenten con presupuesto fijo, metas, evaluación y seguimiento, especialmente para las personas con discapacidad y recopile información sobre su eficacia durante la pandemia;

d) No se limite el acceso a los programas sociales a la posesión del Carnet de la Patria.

Djibouti (2021)

49. The Committee notes with concern the insufficient level of support for social protection for persons with disabilities under the National Strategy for Social Protection, particularly for persons with disabilities in rural areas and in refugee camps and older persons with disabilities, including regarding disability-related expenses.

50. Taking into account the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party review the National Strategy for Social Protection to strengthen the social protection and poverty reduction schemes for persons with disabilities with sufficient budget allocation to ensure disability related expenses are covered, while focusing on the situation of older persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities living in refugee camps and in rural areas.

France (2021)

56. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) Disparities of support measures for persons with disabilities on the grounds of age particularly disparities impacting persons with disabilities over 60 years, and disparities on the basis of the place of residence between urban and rural areas;

(b) The cap imposed on the adult disability allowance, which renders it insufficient to cover disability related costs, and the withdrawal of draft legislation concerning the re- calculation of this allowance;

(c) Situations of poverty faced by persons with disabilities, particularly affecting persons requiring higher levels of support;

(d) Increased risks of homelessness for persons who have left institutions, and for persons with psychosocial disabilities exposed to compulsory programmes of psychiatric treatment.

57. Taking into account the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Assess the implementation of disability legislation and policies at the national and regional levels with the aim to ensure equal access to support by persons with disabilities regardless of age, and streamline procedures at the municipal level to provide persons with disabilities with support. The State party should provide persons with disabilities with information about their rights and entitlements in accessible formats, including Easy Read;**

(b) **Review the provisions concerning recognition and amount of the adult disability allowance in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Streamline social security support systems ensuring access to all persons with disabilities, as a measure to tackle poverty situations;**

(d) **Design and implement programmes to establish accessible housing, and reinforce human rights-based support schemes for all persons with disabilities to cover disability related expenses and gain access to an adequate standard of living.**

Estonia (2021)

54. The Committee notes with concern the information about living conditions and insufficient social protection, particularly with respect to older persons with disabilities, the insufficient support for disability-related expenses for them and barriers to gaining access to services such as accessible public housing and transportation.

55. Taking into account the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into the national strategy for poverty eradication, including by taking concrete, expeditious measures and by earmarking budgets to address situations of disadvantage and exclusion concerning older persons with disabilities, in particular older women with disabilities;

Prioritize persons with disabilities in the socioeconomic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure access to appropriate and affordable services and facilities for the

general population, assistance, transportation and public housing programmes for persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities.

Albania (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned that the new financial support (“allowances”) scheme provided for persons with disabilities (2015) and in particular its new index method have negatively affected persons with disabilities, especially migrant and Roma persons with disabilities.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the provisions of disability allowances in order to repeal discriminatory practices.

Australia (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

The fact that a significant proportion of persons with disabilities are living either near or below the poverty line;

The existence of eligibility restrictions to the Disability Support Pension and the inadequacy of income support payments such as the Newstart Allowance to persons with disabilities;

The limited consideration of persons with disabilities, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities, in poverty and homelessness reduction strategies, including the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Develop a national poverty reduction plan that is inclusive and accessible to all persons with disabilities and prioritize the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living and social protection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities;

End the eligibility restrictions on the Disability Support Pension, increase the rate of Newstart Allowance unemployment payments and other income support payments to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to an adequate standard of living;

Ensure that persons with disabilities are included as a priority cohort in the implementation of poverty reduction and public housing programmes, including the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

Ecuador (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned that the US\$ 240 Joaquín Gallegos Lara voucher for persons with a disability classified by the State party as “severe” and the disability pension of US\$ 50 granted to persons with disabilities are not sufficient to cover basic expenses and the additional costs derived from the existence of a disability. The Committee is also concerned that:

As a result of the lack of an appropriate interlinkage between the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion and the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute, a significant number of persons with disabilities are not covered by the social protection system;

Persons with disabilities do not have access on an equal footing with others to credits for social housing adapted to meet their accessibility needs.

50. The Committee recommends that, in accordance with the Convention and bearing in mind target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

Establish, without delay, a national social protection programme for persons with disabilities and step up its efforts to improve the standard of living of persons with disabilities, in particular women, migrants, indigenous persons with disabilities and those living in rural areas, by considering an increase in the disability-related voucher that they receive;

Guarantee access on an equal footing with others to credits for social housing and the adaptation of such housing to meet accessibility needs.

El Salvador (2019)

52. The Committee is concerned at the high illiteracy rate, and that the 2015 poverty index does not take into account multidimensional factors that result in high levels of poverty among persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, persons of African descent with disabilities, indigenous persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities living in remote and rural areas. It is also concerned there are no statistical data available to reflect the number of persons with disabilities who have benefited from social programmes and State schemes.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Establish a national programme to address the higher levels of poverty among persons with disabilities, that includes social protection schemes inclusive of a disability perspective, and strengthen efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1 on reducing poverty;

Allocate budget to improve the standard of living of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, migrants with disabilities, indigenous persons with disabilities, persons of African descent with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas.

Greece (2019)

40. The Committee is concerned that the rights of persons with disabilities under article 28 of the Convention have been negatively affected by, inter alia:

The changes in the insurance legislation and the disability certification system;

The incoherence of the domestic legislation regarding the exclusion of welfare allowances on the grounds of disability from taxable income, as well as their insufficient protection from seizure;

Reported instances of unequal treatment in the distribution of welfare allowances to persons with disabilities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the relevant legal provisions and practices on welfare allowances, benefits, pensions and tax exemptions for persons with disabilities, harmonizing the existing rules and repealing discriminatory rules and practices, including in the disability certification system. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of the existing social protection framework, and progressively develop further measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities.

India (2019)

58. The Committee is concerned about:

The lack of measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities are registered and covered by national social protection schemes;

The absence of social protection schemes covering disability-related extra costs for persons with disabilities requiring higher levels of support;

The situation of homeless persons with disabilities, and the absence of policies to ensure affordable and accessible housing and security of tenure for persons with disabilities, including persons affected by leprosy.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure access for all persons with disabilities to social protection programmes, including to pension schemes and to unemployment, transportation or care allowances or other entitlements, fostering adequate living conditions in urban and rural areas. The State party should ensure adequate monitoring and collection of disaggregated data by disability, gender and age;

Introduce and ensure that all persons with disabilities have access to entitlements to cover disability-related extra costs and disability pensions, strengthen identification procedures for access to pensions, and increase pension wages;

Adopt a public policy for housing to ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to affordable housing, and measures to ensure security of tenure, paying attention to the recommendations issued in 2017 by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context (A/HRC/34/51/Add.1).

Iraq (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

The insufficient social protection allocation to persons with disabilities and the lack of information on the steps taken to implement the Strategy for the Reduction of Poverty in Iraq 2018–2022 in a disability-inclusive manner;

The information received by the Committee that medical certificates are the basis for access to social protection for persons with disabilities, according to Law No. 11 (2014) on Social Protection and article 15 (4) (e) of Law No. 38 (2013), and that identity cards for persons with disabilities to receive social protection allocations have not yet been issued.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Intensify its efforts to raise the living standards of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, including through the implementation of the Strategy for the Reduction of Poverty in Iraq 2018–2022 in a disability-inclusive manner, in line with article 28 of the Convention and with the voluntary commitment made in 2014 by the State party in the context of the universal periodic review (A/HRC/28/14, paras. 127.172–127.175, and A/HRC/28/14/Add.1);

Ensure the registration of all persons with disabilities, in all parts of the State party, in order to enable access to social protection programmes in line with the human rights model of disability.

Kuwait (2019)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

Barriers to accessing the social protection scheme for persons with disabilities, including non-Kuwaitis and Bidoon with disabilities;

The fact that many disability benefits are not given to persons with disabilities themselves but allocated to caregivers, which has reportedly resulted in the misuse of funds in certain cases and in persons with disabilities being discouraged from seeking education and employment opportunities;

The lack of data on Bidoon with disabilities living in the State party, including those living in poverty and those who have acquired a disability in the State party.

55. Recalling its general comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, the Committee recommends that the State party:

Review its social protection scheme to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including non-Kuwaitis and Bidoon with disabilities, can access it, that funding for independent living, including disability allocations, is controlled and allocated to persons with disabilities and that benefits are preserved for those in education and employment in order to promote independence, inclusion and participation;

Ensure the systematic collection of up-to-date and appropriately disaggregated data, including statistical and research data, on the situation of Bidoon with disabilities, including data on the prevalence of poverty and on access to housing, social protection and poverty reduction programmes;

Adhere to article 28 of the Convention in the implementation of target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Myanmar (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

The limited access to social protection schemes and support for persons with disabilities, including under the Social Security Law of 2012 and the Social Security Strategy of 2014;

The fact that the disability assessment and certification procedures are not in line with the Convention leads to some persons with disabilities being excluded from social protection schemes;

The high rate of poverty and deprivation among persons with disabilities, including owing to the challenges that many persons with disabilities may face in meeting the additional costs related to disability.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take measures necessary to ensure access to social protection and support for persons with disabilities;

Take legislative and policy measures to ensure that any assessment procedures are in line with the Convention and do not lead to discriminatory treatment in accessing to social protection schemes;

Establish social protection and poverty reduction schemes with adequate budgetary allocations to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, and provide them with allowances to meet disability-related expenses.

Cuba (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific social and poverty alleviation measures for persons with disabilities that allow them to meet the additional costs of disability.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Reviews its social protection and poverty alleviation schemes with the aim of guaranteeing an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through compensation schemes in the form of allowances that will enable persons with disabilities to meet disability-related expenses;

Consider the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals to empower and promote economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status.

Niger (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned by the limited budget allocated for the social protection of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities; the lack of state subsidies for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; and the absence of poverty reduction schemes for persons with disabilities. It is further concerned that persons with albinism live in poverty with almost no access to basic social services particularly in the areas of education, employment and health; and that persons with albinism are at a high risk of skin cancer due to the inadequate healthcare services, including sunscreens.

46. The Committee recommends that the State Party adhere to the Convention in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 1, targets 1.3 and 1.4, and:

Establish a social protection and poverty reduction schemes with adequate budgetary allocation to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with albinism, and provide them with allowances to meet their disability-related expenses;

Provide adequate healthcare services to persons with albinism, including sunscreens.

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 10, target 10.2 to empower and promote economic inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Norway (2019)

43. The Committee is concerned that existing financial support schemes are insufficient to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and to cover additional disability-related costs.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that social protection policies and programmes secure the necessary and sufficient income levels by taking into account the additional costs faced by persons with disabilities.

Rwanda (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned that many persons with disabilities live in poverty and that social protection and poverty reduction efforts for the general population are largely based on household poverty ranking index, not at the individual level, and therefore may exclude persons with disabilities, especially women, and the additional costs of disability-related requirements.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party establish social protection and poverty reduction programmes aimed at guaranteeing an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through the provision of appropriate pensions and social allowances, and ensure that these programmes take into account the additional costs related to disability. It also recommends that the State party review its poverty ranking system which is based on the household, and ensure that all persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, have access to individually designed social protection, and other community-based social services, public housing programmes and support services to enable them to live independently, with due respect to their rights, will and preferences.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned about the high percentage of persons with disabilities who do not have a regular income and the lack of a comprehensive social protection scheme that ensures persons with disabilities and their families' access to an adequate standard of living, including provisions to cover disability-related expenses.

50. The Committee draws the State party's attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which aims at empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of their disability. It recommends that the State party expedite the implementation of Royal Order No. 24535 on the calculation of the absolute poverty line and adopt a social protection scheme aimed at guaranteeing an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through compensation schemes in the form of allowances that will enable persons with disabilities to meet additional disability-related expenses.

Senegal (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of an effective social protection scheme that ensures to persons with disabilities and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including provisions to cover disability-related expenses.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt measures to establish a social protection scheme that guarantees an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and that enables them to cover additional disability-related expenses;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 10, target 10.2 to empower and promote economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status.

Spain (2019)

52. The Committee is concerned:

At the high levels of poverty among persons with disabilities, especially among women with disabilities, due to the lack of access to the labour market, lower incomes and lack of disability-related supports.

That the system of co-payments for services introduced as a measure of austerity have not been withdrawn.

53. The Committee recommends the State party to:

Ensure that the national strategy for reducing poverty incorporates a disability perspective including specific measures and allocated budget;

Repeal the system of co-payments to all services necessary for living independently in the community and ensure their full access for persons with disabilities.

Türkiye (2019)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

The negative impact of the financial crisis on persons with disabilities and their families, and their ability to cover additional costs of disability-related requirements;

Information indicating that social programmes, such as the disability pension programme and social housing projects, exclude persons with disabilities based on, inter alia, medical assessments of impairment and the level of income of their families and on the basis of nationality, and that in-cash assistance for refugee persons or those holding humanitarian residence permits rely mainly on international cooperation;

The gender gap in disability pension for women with disabilities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure that adequate levels of income and access to social protection, including allowances to cover extra costs of disability are protected as core components of public policies at all times to prevent the disproportionate adverse impact on persons with disabilities in times of financial crisis;

Amend the eligibility criteria for the recognition of the disability pension and ensure that criteria and levels of support are compliant with the human rights model of disability and include all persons with disabilities; ensure the sustainability and expand the financial resources of programmes aimed at providing in-cash assistance for persons with disabilities holding humanitarian residence permits, asylum seekers and refugees;

Adopt specific measures aimed at increasing the number of women with disabilities who access allowances in the scope of social protection schemes.

Vanuatu (2019)

46. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities remain at most risk of poverty and this affects their rights to adequate standard of living. In particular, it is concerned that there is the lack of social protection programs targeting persons with disabilities and their families in the framework of the National Disabilities Inclusive Development Policy (2018-2025).

47. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt social protection programs, including allowances, for persons with disabilities and their families, particularly those who are living in poverty and/or those with high support requirements, to cover the additional costs related to disability. It also recommends that the State party allocate adequate budget and ensure that the assessment and eligibility criteria for social protection and poverty reduction programs are in line with the Convention, taking into account General Comment No. 6.

Algeria (2018)

46. The Committee is concerned that the existing social protection allocation for persons with disabilities and their families is insufficient to ensure an adequate standard of living and that persons with disabilities receiving benefits are prohibited by law from receiving income from other sources.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 28 of the Convention in the implementation of target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and:

Identify a social protection floor that covers the minimum content of the right to an adequate standard of living, on an equal basis with others;

Ensure access of persons with disabilities especially women and children with disabilities, to social protection programmes;

Adopt the necessary measures so that persons with disabilities entitled to social protection allocations are also able to receive income from other sources, particularly employment, with a view to supporting their right to social inclusion and self-reliance.

Bulgaria (2018)

59. The Committee notes with concern that criteria for assessment of degree of impairment introduced in July 2018 amendments to legislation have a disproportionate effect on persons with lesser degree of impairment. The Committee is also concerned about the challenges many persons with disabilities may face in meeting the additional costs of disability.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the criteria for assessment of degree of impairment to incorporate the human rights model of disability in the assessment process, and ensure that persons with disabilities maintain an adequate standard of living. It furthermore calls upon the State Party to intensify its efforts to ensure that all persons with disabilities can meet the additional costs of disability, including by increasing allocations and resources for it.

Philippines (2018)

48. The Committee is concerned about the:

Lack of information about implementation of policies such as the Food Safety Act 2013, the Poverty Alleviation Fund, in ensuring a decent standard of living for persons with disabilities; The limited access of persons with disabilities to programmes in the area of access to water, housing, food;

The lack of allowances and resources to cover disability-related expenses, and the limited provision of social protection programmes for persons with disabilities regardless their employment situation.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt criteria to ensure that programmes to provide for clean water, food and housing mainstream all persons with disabilities;

Collect disaggregated data about the number and percentage of persons with disabilities who have received a minimum level of social protection from the Government, disaggregated by sex, age, and ethnicity and in particular for persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Adopt measures to provide social protection schemes and allowances that recognise additional costs associated to disability and ensure access to disability pensions by all persons with disabilities throughout its territory;

Adhere to Sustainable Development Goal 10, target 10.2 to empower and promote economic inclusion of all, in particular targeting persons with disabilities.

Poland (2018)

46. The Committee is concerned about the:

High poverty rate among persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and the growing inequality between households with and without persons with disabilities;

Benefit dependency trap which forces persons with disabilities and their associates to choose between professional work and allowances, which consequently condemns persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, to poverty and social exclusion;

Lack of disaggregated data on poverty of persons with disabilities and of monitoring of the effectiveness of social security mechanisms designed for combating poverty;

Lack of specific measures taken to ensure accessibility of housing for persons with disabilities.

47. Taking into account the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

Mainstream and emphasize rights of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, within the national strategy for reducing poverty with concrete measures and budget;

Ensure that the employment of persons with disabilities does not make them ineligible to disability related protection schemes, including disability allowances;

Collect disaggregated data on poverty of persons with disabilities and monitor the effectiveness of social security mechanisms designed for combating poverty;

Ensure specific measures to accommodate access to housing for persons with disabilities;

Ensure correct translation of the term “public housing” in the Polish version of the Convention.

South Africa (2018)

46. The Committee notes with concern:

Challenges faced in accessing social grants, by grant beneficiaries resulting in beneficiaries being unable to pay for their daily expenses and for those of their dependents and discriminatory provision on pensions adversely impacting women with disabilities;

The absence of a comprehensive national social protection scheme that ensures persons with disabilities and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including provisions to cover the disability-related expenses.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Eliminate challenges faced in accessing social grants by grant beneficiaries and establish a social protection scheme that is inclusive of all persons with disabilities, aimed at guaranteeing an adequate standard of living, including through compensation schemes in the form of allowances that will enable persons with disabilities meet disability-related expenses;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to empower and promote economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status.

North Macedonia (2018)

50. The Committee is concerned that the Law on Social Protection does not consider disability as a basis for discrimination. Furthermore disability benefits are age restrictive (persons with disabilities from 18 – 26 years are not considered for benefits). The Committee is further concerned about the administrative and bureaucratic requirements in regards to documentation by ‘committee assessments’ for persons with disabilities to access social benefits. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities face challenges in meeting the additional costs of disability.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Review its Law on Social Protection by introducing disability in the anti-discrimination clause and relevant by-laws and benefits schemes with the aim of guaranteeing an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through compensation schemes in the form of allowances that will enable persons with disabilities to meet disability-related expenses;

Repeal the provisions for persons with disabilities to be eligible to access social benefits at a particular age, and allocate certain allowances and benefits to children with disabilities; and ensure provision of equal material support to biological and foster families;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 10, target 10.2 to empower and promote economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status.

Haiti (2018)

50. The Committee is concerned about the high number of persons with disabilities living in poverty and without a regular source of income and the absence of a comprehensive social protection system which guarantees to persons with disabilities and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including resources to cover expenses related to disability. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of access to drinking water and sanitation and that the majority of initiatives to promote an adequate standard of living have been implemented around the capital or in large cities and not in rural and remote areas.

51. Recalling the links between article 28 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 10, target 10.2 to empower and promote economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status the Committee recommends that the State party:

Develop social protection and poverty reduction strategies targeting persons with disabilities;

Set up a social protection scheme to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through systems of compensation in the form of allowances that will allow persons with disabilities to cover the costs related to disability;

Include a disability perspective in programmes to promote an adequate standard of living, including programmes to increase access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation and initiatives in rural and remote areas.

Nepal (2018)

41. The Committee is concerned about the actual effectiveness of a number of policy measures such as the National Policy and Plan of Action on Disability, 2006 (NPPAD) and the Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) in ensuring a decent standard of living for persons with disabilities and allowing them to meet the additional costs of living with a disability. The Committee is also concerned about the extent to which community based rehabilitation (the "CBR") programmes have been effective in reducing the number of persons with disabilities in poverty.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party take necessary measures to ensure that persons with disabilities throughout its territory have access to community-based rehabilitation services and adequate social protection programmes that are oriented towards social and community inclusion. The Committee requests that the State party provide updated data in its next periodic report on the number and percentage of persons with disabilities who have benefitted from social protection floors from the Government, and request that this data is disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and in particular for persons with intellectual, and/or psychosocial disabilities, hearing or visual disabilities and multiple disabilities.

Oman (2018)

49. The Committee is concerned about the comparatively low standard of living of persons with disabilities and the lack of awareness among persons with disabilities of the availability of social protection and poverty reduction programmes. It is also concerned about discriminatory provision on pensions adversely impacting women with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Intensify its efforts to raise the living standards of persons with disabilities and their families, especially women and children with disabilities, with a view towards supporting their right to social inclusion and self-reliance;

Ensure that persons with disabilities are effectively included in all social protection and poverty reduction programmes;

Eliminate direct and indirect discrimination against women with disabilities through amending the pension legislation to take account of the requirements of women with disabilities;

Be guided by article 28 of the Convention in the implementation of target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Russian Federation (2018)

56. The Committee is concerned about the reported changes in approach toward the calculation of monthly financial support for work-related injuries and disabilities, which have reportedly been downsized on the basis of the decision of the Supreme Court.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party review the current practice and legislation concerning the administration of financial support for work-related injuries and disability and improve the applicable rules for higher level of transparency with more effective safeguards in line with the Convention.

Seychelles (2018)

47. The Committee is concerned that the assessment and eligibility criteria for access to social protection and poverty reduction programmes for children and adults with disabilities, particularly women, girls and older persons, are not based on the human rights model of disability. It notes with concern that persons with disabilities use personal finances to cover the additional financial costs resulting from disability, including the costs of duties, taxes and other charges on imported assisted devices for living independently.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party review the legislation on the provision of benefits to persons with disabilities, with genuine participation by representative organizations of persons with disabilities, to ensure that the assessment and eligibility criteria for social protection and poverty reduction programmes are in line with the Convention and the human rights model of disability. It also recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy the same living standards as persons without disabilities on comparable incomes.

Slovenia (2018)

47. The Committee is concerned about:

The high level of poverty among persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and women with disabilities;

The disproportional negative impacts on the rights of persons with disabilities of measures taken by the State party, such as curtailment of unemployment insurance, health insurance and care, social assistance and allowances for persons with disabilities, as a consequence of the austerity measures taken to deal with the economic crisis, and insufficient remedies in this regard;

Limited availability and accessibility to public housing for persons with disabilities;

The absence of positive measures in taxation of pension and disability insurance for persons with disabilities in situation of poverty, and the delays regarding to the right to disability pension and insurance for persons with physical disability, including unfriendly communications at disability commissions with persons with disabilities;

The lack of measures addressing rights of older persons with disabilities.

48. Paying attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure efficiency and effectiveness of social protection and poverty reduction programmes for persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

Restore all support measures for all persons with disabilities that were curtailed under the austerity policies and prevent any hardship that can face persons with disabilities by reducing their income through austerity measures;

Ensure accessibility to public housing for persons with disabilities, disseminate information about available and affordable housing in accessible formats, and engage with the private sector with a view to promote development of accessible housing units;

Implement positive measures in taxation of pension and disability insurance for persons with disabilities in situation of poverty;

Recognise the right to full disability pension and insurance through relevant legal and administrative mechanisms for persons with disabilities;

Ensure a dignified and inclusive social protection system for elderly persons with disabilities.

Sudan (2018)

57. The Committee is concerned about social protection and poverty alleviation measures for families in vulnerable circumstances not fulfilling the basic needs of persons with disabilities. The Committee is furthermore concerned that persons with disabilities lack resources to meet the additional costs of disability.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Reviews its social protection and poverty alleviation schemes with the aim of guaranteeing an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through compensation schemes in the form of allowances that will enable persons with disabilities to meet disability-related expenses;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 10, target 10.2 to empower and promote economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability status.

Latvia (2017)

48. The Committee is concerned about the low level of social benefits and pensions guaranteed to persons with disabilities and the lack of disaggregated data collected on persons with disabilities living in situations of poverty.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families, by guaranteeing, inter alia, that social protection and poverty reduction programmes take into account the additional costs related to disability;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Luxembourg (2017)

48. The Committee is concerned about the absence of data on poverty and disability in the State party and that many persons with disabilities of working age and older persons with disabilities are at higher risk of poverty. It is also concerned that the additional expenses related to disability consequently increase the risk of persons with disabilities being institutionalized. The Committee notes with concern that recent changes to care insurance regulations may lead to a deterioration of the standard of living of persons with disabilities.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party collect data on the socioeconomic situation of persons with disabilities to design appropriate policies to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families. It also recommends that the State party:

Ensure that social protection policies and programmes secure income levels by taking into account the additional costs related to disability;

Guarantee that persons with disabilities have access to sufficient community-based social services, public housing programmes and support services for living independently respectful of the rights, will and preferences of persons with disabilities;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which calls upon States to implement appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors.

Montenegro (2017)

50. The Committee notes with concern that the State party does not regularly and transparently monitor the increase in living costs of persons with disabilities. It is concerned that:

Women with disabilities are particularly exposed to poverty as they are particularly affected by unemployment and because their earnings and/or the benefits they receive are frequently shared or entirely used by their families;

Women with disabilities are sometimes abandoned by their husbands, which may further increase their poverty risk;

There is no available and transparent data at the local level about children with disabilities who do not have access to social protection.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Regularly monitor the living costs of persons with disabilities and adjust disability benefits accordingly;

In line with paragraph 41 (d) of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/MNE/CO/2), raise awareness about the importance of economic autonomy for women with disabilities, establish appropriate procedures enabling women with disabilities to claim their earnings and/or benefits in case these are taken away from them by family members, and ensure that benefits are directly transferred to women with disabilities rather than to their family members;

Take all necessary measures, including legislative measures, to ensure that the right to alimony of women with disabilities who are deserted by their husband is duly enforced and that, if these women are destitute, they receive adequate social benefits;

Collect data on all children with disabilities at the local level and ensure that every child has access to disability benefits in order to have a standard of living above the subsistence level.

Morocco (2017)

52. The Committee is concerned about:

The high percentage of persons with disabilities who do not have a regular income;

The lack of a comprehensive social protection scheme that ensures persons with disabilities and their families access to an adequate standard of living, including provisions to cover disability-related expenses.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Establish a social protection scheme aimed at guaranteeing an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, including through compensation schemes in the form of allowances that will enable persons with disabilities to meet disability-related expenses;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to empowering and promoting the economic inclusion of all persons, irrespective of disability.

Panama (2017)

54. The Committee notes with concern the number of persons with disabilities living in poverty or extreme poverty in the State party, especially women, children, Afrodescendants and indigenous people. It is also concerned that there is no inclusive social system in the State party and, in particular, no specific retirement scheme for persons with disabilities or other financial support that would be sufficient to cover the additional costs that they face owing to their disability.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party take concrete measures to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy a decent standard of living, including by guaranteeing access to drinking water, electricity and sanitation, and to mitigate the impact of disability-related poverty, especially the impact on groups subject to intersectional discrimination, such as women, children, Afrodescendants and indigenous persons with disabilities. The Committee urges the State party to establish an inclusive social system, including a retirement scheme for persons with disabilities, in its territory. It also recommends that the State party take into account article 28 of the Convention in its implementation of targets 1.3 and 1.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

58. The Committee is concerned about:

The impact of austerity measures and anti-poverty initiatives introduced as a consequence of the financial crisis in 2008/09, which resulted in severe economic constraints among persons with disabilities and their families, particularly families with children with disabilities, including increased reliance on food banks;

The negative impact on the standard of living of persons with disabilities of, among others, the reductions in social support, unemployment allowance, independence payments and Universal Credit payments and the insufficient compensation for disability-related costs;

The eligibility criteria for and the local differences to social protection and support, and the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment, which has reduced the number of recipients of disability-related allowances and had a negative impact on the standard of living of many persons with disabilities and their families;

The detrimental impact of the Employment and Support Allowance conditionality and sanctions on persons with disabilities and the limited access to reconsideration and appeal procedures.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities across all territorial entities, in line with the Committee's report on its inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland carried out under article 6 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, guided by article 28 of the Convention and implementing target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals:

Introduce, adopt and implement legislative frameworks to ensure that social protection policies and programmes across the State party secure income levels for all persons with disabilities and their families, by taking into account the additional costs relating to disability, and ensuring that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their parental responsibilities. The State party must ensure that members of the new Employment and Support Allowance work-related activity group have access to full compensation of disability-related costs;

Carry out a cumulative impact assessment, based on disaggregated data, of the recent and forthcoming reforms of the social protection system for persons with disabilities, and in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities define, implement and monitor measures to tackle retrogression in their standard of living and use the cumulative impact assessment as a basis for policy development across the State party;

Repeal the Personal Independence Payment (Amendment) Regulations of 2017 and ensure that eligibility criteria and assessments to access Personal Independence Payments, Employment Support Allowance and Universal Credit are in line with the human rights model of disability;

Ensure that the budget allocation is sufficient for local authorities to meet their responsibilities regarding assistance for persons with disabilities, and extend support packages to mitigate the negative impacts of social security reform in Northern Ireland;

Conduct a review of the conditionality and sanction regimes concerning the Employment and Support Allowance, and tackle the negative consequences on the mental health and situation of persons with disabilities.

Armenia (2017)

49. The Committee is concerned that the majority of persons with disabilities live in poverty, including in rural and remote areas, and that the available social allowances are insufficient to cover the minimum necessary for an adequate standard of living and the additional expenses related to disability. It also notes with concern that the State party did not take appropriate measures to increase the accessibility of social protection programmes, including public housing.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee an adequate standard of living for all persons with disabilities, including through the provision of appropriate pensions and social allowances, ensuring that social protection and poverty reduction

programmes take into account the additional costs related to disability and that persons with disabilities have access to mainstream services and public housing programmes. It also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

50. The Committee is concerned that the available financial support ("benefits") provided for persons with disabilities is based on discriminatory criteria.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the provisions of disability allowances by harmonizing laws and regulations at all levels of government in order to repeal the current discriminatory practice that is based on the cause of impairment, in particular for war-related and non-war-related disabilities, or on the place of residence.

Canada (2017)

49. The Committee is concerned at the fact that nearly 15 per cent of persons with disabilities live in poverty or extreme poverty and that many persons with disabilities, including persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, face homelessness. The Committee is also concerned that financial support is insufficient to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, in particular for indigenous persons with disabilities, and to cover additional disability-related costs.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take measures to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families, especially those living in poverty, those who are unemployed or who do not have a fixed income, those in rural and remote areas, those belonging to indigenous communities, women and older persons. The State party should cover the added cost of living caused by disability by, inter alia, reviewing social security measures with a view to extending their coverage to all persons with disabilities;

Ensure that the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy addresses multiple discrimination and poverty among women with disabilities, indigenous persons with disabilities and families with children with disabilities;

Bear in mind article 28 of the Convention while implementing targets 1.3 and 1.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Cyprus (2017)

55. The Committee takes note of the guaranteed minimum income. However, it remains concerned that a high number of persons with disabilities have a particularly low income. It is concerned that, regardless of their income, persons with disabilities do not have an adequate standard of living compared with others in a comparable situation of life, inter alia, because they are required to partly pay for necessary disability associated costs and assistive devices and are subjected to payments for using social services.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party implement progressively measures to ensure adequate income of persons with disabilities in order to reduce significantly the pay gap between persons with and without disabilities, regardless of gender, ethnic origin or age, and that it abolish the requirement of user payment for social services and support and partial payment for disability-related expenses and assistive devices, being guided by target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party identify a social protection floor that is not affected by expenses for disability-related costs and assistive devices and user payments for social services and support, in order to alleviate the socioeconomic disadvantages that result from the exclusion experienced by persons with disabilities.

Honduras (2017)

59. El Comité observa con preocupación el número de personas con discapacidad que viven en situación de pobreza, especialmente mujeres, niños, afrohondureños e indígenas. También le preocupa que las políticas sociales solo tengan un enfoque caritativo y asistencialista, como el bono de discapacidad, o el programa Honduras para Todos, que entrega ayudas técnicas.

60. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte medidas concretas con el fin de permitir un nivel de vida adecuado para las personas con discapacidad, así como mitigar el impacto del empobrecimiento por discapacidad, especialmente en los grupos en situación de discriminación interseccional, como mujeres y niños, afrohondureños e indígenas con discapacidad. Asimismo, le recomienda que se guíe por el artículo 28 de la Convención en la implementación de las metas 1.3 y 1.4 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

52. The Committee is concerned with the discriminatory treatment in social protection among persons with disabilities under the SWO and FMVA. It is further concerned about the lack of information on measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for women with disabilities who are head of households.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure that all persons with disabilities are provided with adequate standard of living, and that additional social protection schemes are adopted and monitored, paying attention to target 10.2 of Sustainable Development Goals;

Expand the coverage of the programmes of housing and interest-free loans to all persons with disabilities; and

Work in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities to create a system for disaggregated data collection on the percentage of persons with disabilities who are beneficiaries of social programmes, such as payment of financial aids for in-home support, disability pension and complementary health insurance, and the number of persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities who have received disability pension.

Jordan (2017)

51. The Committee notes with concern the low standard of living of persons with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, intensify its efforts to raise the living standards of persons with disabilities, in particular to support their right to social inclusion and self-reliance and in line with the voluntary commitment made by the State party in the context of the universal periodic review in 2013.⁵

53. The Committee notes the absence of systematic data collection on persons with disabilities receiving funding for housing and adaptation and on the poverty rate of persons with disabilities.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, ensure systematic, up-to-date and appropriately disaggregated data collection, including statistical and research data, on the poverty rate of persons with disabilities and on those receiving funding for housing and adaptation.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

50. The Committee is concerned that the majority of persons with disabilities live in poverty, especially in rural and remote areas, and that the available social allowances are insufficient to cover the minimum necessary for an adequate standard of living. The Committee is also concerned that the additional expenses related to disability consequently increase the risk of persons with disabilities being institutionalized. The Committee is also concerned that the

latest changes in pension regulations may aggravate the precarious economic status of persons with disabilities.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families, including through reasonable accommodation with regard to pensions and social allowances;

Guarantee that social protection and poverty reduction programmes take into account the additional costs related to disability;

Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to community-based social services and public housing programmes, and that these services and programmes are also available in rural and remote areas;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Bolivia (2016)

63. The Committee is concerned at the fact that over 80 per cent of persons with disabilities live in poverty or extreme poverty and that very few receive the solidarity allowance. The Committee is also concerned that financial support is insufficient to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and to cover additional disability-related costs.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families, especially those living in poverty, who are unemployed or who do not have a fixed income, in particular those in rural and remote areas, those who belong to indigenous communities, women and older persons, and to cover the added cost of living caused by disability by, inter alia, reviewing social security measures, such as the solidarity allowance, with a view to extending the coverage to all persons with disabilities. The Committee further recommends that the State party be guided by article 28 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve targets 1.3 and 1.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

62. The Committee notes that the majority of persons with disabilities in situations of poverty and extreme poverty, particularly those who are women, children or older persons, Afro-Colombian, Raizal or indigenous, or living in rural or remote areas, do not receive assistance or benefit from social protection programmes on the basis of disability that address their disability and related additional costs, despite being at greater risk of poverty, exclusion and violations of their rights. It is also concerned about the absence of a disability perspective in the policy on free or social housing, particularly the limited access of persons with disabilities in these programmes and their lack of accessibility.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Incorporate a disability perspective on a priority basis in poverty reduction and social inclusion strategies;

Eliminate the interdiction requirements to benefit from social protection measures and strengthen programmes of social protection and assistance, with a gender, ethnicity and age perspective, to cover the additional costs incurred as a result of disability in acquiring goods and services and, in particular, that it provide for the revision of the interpretations made in relevant rulings of the Constitutional Court and the practices of retirement and pension funds in order to guarantee the inclusiveness of such programmes;

Give priority to persons with disabilities, particularly women and persons belonging to ethnic or racial minorities and victims of armed conflict, by including accessibility as part of social housing policy;

Be guided by article 28 of the Convention in pursuing target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ethiopia (2016)

61. The Committee is concerned that, while the State party has the second largest productive safety net programme in sub-Saharan Africa, 95 per cent of persons with disabilities live in poverty, and that there are few programmes that specifically target persons with disabilities and cover disability related expenses. It is also concerned that disability assessment is based on a medical approach, and at the absence of data on the number of households containing persons with disabilities who receive either social protection cash transfers or social cash transfers.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that poverty reduction and social protection strategies target persons with disabilities, and that disability assessments are based on human rights. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 28 of the Convention in implementing target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guatemala (2016)

65. The Committee is deeply concerned about the exclusion, lack of access to drinking water, sanitation and decent housing, and overall conditions of poverty experienced by indigenous persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that disability is not properly taken into account in the State party's policies on indigenous peoples.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Redouble its efforts to mainstream disability in its programmes and policies on indigenous peoples, adopting a rural and community-based approach, and ensure that the needs and views of indigenous persons with disabilities are duly taken into consideration;

Establish and implement a system for regular monitoring of the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities;

Take special measures to eliminate the particular disadvantages faced by indigenous women, children and older persons with disabilities who have been abandoned or live in extreme poverty;

Be guided by article 28 of the Convention in its implementation of targets 1.3 and 1.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy (2016)

71. The Committee is concerned about: (a) regional variations of social protection mechanisms; (b) the lack of Minimum Standards of Social Assistance; (c) the high level of poverty among persons with disabilities and their families, in particular children with disabilities; and (d) the lack of assessment of the adverse effect of austerity measures.

72. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite constitutional reform to homogenize social protection interventions and policies throughout the national territory; expedite the adoption and implementation of the Minimum Standards of Social Assistance; conduct assessments of the impact of austerity measures on children and adults with disabilities; and prevent any further reduction in resources that could increase levels of poverty. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 28 of the Convention in implementing target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, including by mainstreaming disability in its poverty reduction policies.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

51. The Committee is concerned that the amount of pensions, social welfare, grants and other subsidies provided to persons with disabilities is insufficient to ensure an adequate standard of living and that there is a lack of awareness among persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities who are not citizens of the State party, of the availability of social protection programmes and housing in the State party.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Increase social welfare benefits, including those covering the cost of disability-related expenses, to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families and take measures to increase awareness among persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities who are not citizens of the State party, of the availability of social protection programmes and housing in the State party;

Be guided by article 28 of the Convention in the implementation of target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uruguay (2016)

59. El Comité observa con preocupación el número de personas con discapacidad que viven en situación de pobreza, especialmente mujeres, niños y personas mayores.

60. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte medidas concretas con el fin de garantizar un nivel de vida decente para las personas con discapacidad, y para mitigar el impacto del empobrecimiento por discapacidad, especialmente en grupos en situación de discriminación interseccional, como mujeres, niños y personas mayores con discapacidad. Lo anterior incluye: garantizar la cobertura de los gastos relacionados con la discapacidad y atender específicamente a las personas con discapacidad en programas y estrategias de reducción de la pobreza en estrechas consultas con organizaciones representativas de personas con discapacidad. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 28 de la Convención y las metas 1.3 y 1.4 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, para implementar sistemas y medidas apropiados de protección social para todos, garantizando su acceso a los recursos económicos y a los servicios básicos.

Chile (2016)

59. Preocupan al Comité los bajos niveles de ingresos de personas mayores con discapacidad, quienes requieren de apoyos más intensos, así como quienes viven en áreas rurales y remotas o insulares y con poco acceso a los servicios básicos.

60. El Comité recomienda universalizar la cobertura de los subsidios por discapacidad con el propósito de permitir un nivel de vida adecuado a personas con discapacidad que les permita contar con servicios de apoyo por su discapacidad, así como para mitigar el impacto del empobrecimiento por discapacidad.

Lithuania (2016)

53. The Committee is concerned that:

Persons with disabilities face a higher risk of poverty than others;

Part of the support provided to persons with disabilities is based on discounts and vouchers, which increases stigmatization and harmful stereotyping of persons with disabilities as a group that lacks autonomy and is dependent on social welfare.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt new policies that secure income levels among persons with disabilities and their families that are adequate and equal to the income levels of others, and that take into account additional disability-related costs.

55. The Committee is further concerned at reports indicating that public expenditures targeted specifically at persons with disabilities have decreased owing to budgetary reductions in the social insurance and social assistance system caused by the financial crisis since 2008.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to secure that persons with disabilities and their families are not disproportionately affected by budget cuts and to ensure an adequate standard of living through income support and social security, taking note of target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which calls on States to implement appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors.

Portugal (2016)

52. The Committee notes the efforts made by the State party to alleviate the impact of austerity measures on persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned that there are no support services of any kind for persons with disabilities who, as a result of the implementation of austerity measures, are forced into situations of destitution or extreme poverty as they do not have family networks to provide support or company.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with representative organisations of persons with disabilities, undertakes the following steps:

Urgently review its austerity measures in order to avoid further negative and regressive consequences for the standard of living and social protection of persons with disabilities through the adoption of measures which facilitate their effective inclusion in the community ;

Offer support services for independent living and shelter homes which respect the rights of persons with disabilities, their will and preferences, and by putting in place financial allowances enabling persons with disabilities who are unemployed and lack family support to enjoy an adequate standard of living;

c) Strengthen its efforts to enhance the right to an adequate standard of living and to social protection for persons with disabilities who find themselves in situations of destitution and extreme poverty, according to the human rights approach of the present Convention, allocating sufficient funding for these purposes;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and SDG 10, target 10.2 to empower and promote economic inclusion of all, irrespective of disability status.

Serbia (2016)

57. The Committee is concerned at the lack of accessible social housing.

58. The Committee recommends full implementation of the law guaranteeing a 10% quota of accessible housing for persons with disabilities. It further recommends the State party pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 10, target 10.2.

Slovakia (2016)

75. The Committee notes with deep concern the numbers of persons with disabilities living below the poverty line, including Roma and ethnic minority families who have a family member with a disability.

76. The Committee recommends that the State party provide an adequate standard of living to persons with disabilities, including those from an ethnic minority background and those over the age of 65, and ensure that social protection schemes are regularly monitored to track the alleviation of poverty. The Committee also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thailand (2016)

55. The Committee is concerned about persons with disabilities in situations of poverty, particularly those belonging to ethnic minority groups, in single parent-headed households and in families where parents care for a child with disabilities on a full-time basis. It is concerned about the low percentage of persons with disabilities entitled to receive a disability grant and the insufficiency of the grant to ensure an adequate standard of living.

56. The Committee urges the State party to review its social security legislation with a view to ensuring equal access for all persons with disabilities to social protection. It also recommends that the minimum living support is given on the basis of the personal characteristics, circumstances and requirements of persons with disabilities. The

Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to empower and promote economic inclusion of all, irrespective of disability status.

57. The Committee is concerned about the loss of universal health-care services for persons with disabilities once they are employed and subject to the Social Insurance Act.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party make health-care services universal to all persons with disabilities, regardless of their employment status, in order to support disability-related expenses and enable them to achieve an adequate standard of living.

Uganda (2016)

54. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures and specific schemes to provide social protection for persons with disabilities in employment and out of employment. It is also concerned about the lack of coverage of the national health insurance in relation to persons with disabilities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Provide social protection schemes to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, and develop and implement compensation schemes for persons with disabilities to meet disability-related extra expenses incurred, for example, for assistive devices, technologies and personal assistance;

Include persons with disabilities in relevant social and health insurance schemes;

Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Brazil (2015)

50. The Committee is concerned that many persons with disabilities are living in poverty and have no access to resources for adequate standard of living; it is particularly concerned about persons with disabilities living in isolated indigenous communities, rural and remote areas who are exposed to exclusion and extreme poverty conditions.

51. The Committee recommends the State party to review the qualification requirements for social protection to ensure access for persons with disabilities who are living in poverty and enable them to cover expenses related to impairment, giving particular attention to those living in isolated indigenous communities, rural and remote areas.

European Union (2015)

66. The Committee notes with deep concern the disproportionately adverse and retrogressive effect the austerity measures in the EU have on the adequate standard of living of persons with disabilities.

67. The Committee recommends that the European Union take urgent measures, in cooperation with its Member States and representative organisations of persons with disabilities, to prevent further adverse and retrogressive effect of austerity measures on the adequate standard of living of persons with disabilities, including by the provision of a minimum social protection floor.

Gabon (2015)

60. The Committee is concerned that the existing allocation of social protection for persons with disabilities and their families is insufficient to ensure an adequate standard of living.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party identify a social protection floor that covers the minimum content of the right to an adequate standard of living, on an equal basis with others; ensure access of persons with disabilities to social protection programmes; and take account of and cover the additional costs of disability for the individual circumstances of each person.

Kenya (2015)

49. The Committee is concerned about the situation of poverty in households with persons with disabilities both in rural and urban areas and in particular among persons with disabilities in ethnic minority groups. It is also concerned about the lack of regularity in the distribution of support and services in rural areas and the absence of monitoring social assistance services for persons with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take steps to extend urgently the coverage of social protection schemes beyond persons with “severe disabilities” in order to ensure an adequate standard of living to all persons with disabilities that are currently not eligible for social protection schemes, as well as ensure that distribution of support services and social assistance for persons with disabilities is provided on regular basis and the monitoring in the progress in the living conditions of persons with disabilities;

Expand the coverage of the National Development Fund for Persons with Disabilities and facilitate the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the formulation of their goals and priorities; and

Adopt measures to include persons with disabilities in post-2015 development policies, and monitoring with a community and rural focus, and ensure that their needs, perspectives and views are taken into account in these policies.

Ukraine (2015)

52. While noting the difficulties that the State party is facing as a consequence of the ongoing conflict, the Committee is nevertheless concerned that the disability pension is extremely low and is not sufficient to meet the basic needs of a person, including food, medical and social needs.

53. The Committee calls upon the State party to review its budgetary allocations and increase the disability pension in order to provide persons with disabilities with adequate standard of living. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that resources for persons with disabilities are not adversely affected by inflation, budget cuts or any forms of crisis.

Croatia (2015)

43. The Committee is concerned that many persons with disabilities live under conditions of poverty, particularly those in rural areas and those of Roma origin. The Committee is further concerned about the use of a restrictive financial assets test, which has downgraded the disability benefit to a social protection benefit.

44. The Committee recommends that poverty reduction programmes be strengthened. It further recommends that benefits aiming at alleviating increased costs arising from disability should be based on an assessment of the individual's support needs, and should disregard any financial assets test.

Czech Republic (2015)

52. The Committee notes with concern that the Act No. 329/2011 Coll., on the Provision of Benefits to Persons with Disabilities has led to “factual revision of the spectrum of benefits, the purpose thereof and the group of persons to be provided the benefits” (CRPD/C/ CZE /Q/1/Add.1, paragraph 170), and had an adverse effect on the enjoyment of the rights to an adequate standard of living and to social protection of persons with disabilities, including boys and girls with disabilities.

53. The Committee calls upon the State party to review the legislation, with genuine participation of persons with disabilities, to reintroduce the additional social allowance which would increase the living standard of families with children with disabilities above

the subsistence level, and to broaden the range of and facilitate access to assistive devices for children with disabilities regardless of age

54. The Committee notes with concern that a number of disability pension beneficiaries are at risk of being denied access to retirement pensions as the period during which they receive a disability pension is not included in the insurance period.

55. The Committee calls upon the State party to revise its legislation and the newly established method of calculating the relevant period from the beginning of disability until the entitlement of retirement pensions, as this has resulted in the amount of the pensions received by persons with disabilities at the third level being below the minimum subsistence level.

Dominican Republic (2015)

52. Le preocupa al Comité el subregistro en las cifras del Sistema Único de Beneficiarios (SIUBEN) sobre personas con discapacidad que viven en condiciones de pobreza, lo que provoca su exclusión, de las estrategias, políticas y programas para la reducción de la pobreza. Igualmente, considera que la ausencia de apoyos financieros a las personas con discapacidad para compensar los gastos adicionales en los que incurren por motivo de su discapacidad, agravan las condiciones de pobreza en que se encuentran.

53. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte incluir de manera prioritaria a las personas con discapacidad dominicanas y a las personas con discapacidad en situación migratoria irregular en sus estrategias de reducción de la pobreza y en los programas de asistencia social, tales como apoyos para compensar los gastos adicionales en que incurren por motivo de su discapacidad, incluyendo subsidios en la compra de dispositivos de asistencia, medicamentos y servicios de asistencia, con el fin de mitigar el impacto de tales gastos en la profundización de la pobreza.

Germany (2015)

51. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities use personal finances to pay for additional disability-related costs, especially in relation to live independently.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately undertake a review of the personal income used by persons with disabilities to meet their needs and to live independently. The Committee further recommends that the State party to provide social services to persons with disabilities that provide the same living standards compared to persons without disabilities on comparable incomes.

Mongolia (2015)

43. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective data collection on the standard of living of persons with disabilities and the resulting lack of information to guide the formulation and implementation of social support measures for ensuring an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities.

44. The Committee recommends the State party to increase the quantity of social benefit in line with minimum wages and minimum standard of living, and develop and implement compensation schemes for persons with disabilities with regard to disability-related extra expenses incurred by persons with disabilities and their families.

Turkmenistan (2015)

47. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information regarding concrete references to persons with disabilities within programmes for the socioeconomic development and other national economic, political and cultural development strategies and programmes.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party make sure to include the needs of persons with disabilities expressly in all national programmes and strategies aimed at the development of the country, in close cooperation with international organizations in order to benefit from their technical assistance.

New Zealand (2014)

59. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities have a lower socioeconomic status when compared with other New Zealanders. In particular, children with disabilities are overrepresented in statistics on child poverty and are more likely to be living in one-parent households. The support and income/pension provided to persons with disabilities differs according to the cause of their disability, which results in an unjustified and unreasonable difference in their standard of living and social protection.

60. The Committee recommends that a review be undertaken of disability-related costs to ensure a sufficient allocation of income/pension, in particular for children with disabilities, and their families.

Republic of Korea (2014)

53. The Committee is concerned that the National Basic Living Security Act excludes from the benefit of minimum living support those persons with disabilities whose family members have a certain amount of income or property. It is also concerned that eligibility for the minimum living support benefit is based on the existing disability grading system and is limited to "persons with severe disabilities".

54. The Committee recommends that the State party grant the minimum living support benefit on the basis of the personal characteristics, circumstances and needs of persons with disabilities, rather than on the basis of the disability grading system and on the income and property of their family.

Ecuador (2014)

44. The Committee is concerned that the social housing prototype of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing has been designed without taking into account the universal design component that would make it possible for persons with disabilities to make use of such housing.

45. The Committee recommends that the social housing prototype be reviewed and redesigned to take account of the needs of persons with disabilities and that housing planned from the perspective of universal design.

Mexico (2014)

53. The Committee is deeply concerned at the exclusion, poverty, lack of access to drinking water, sanitation and decent housing, and the overall conditions of poverty experienced by indigenous persons with disabilities and at the lack of information in this regard. It is further concerned that the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples does not have a work programme for persons with disabilities and that its own premises and services are not accessible.

54. The Committee urges the State party to:

Step up efforts to include indigenous persons with disabilities in post-2015 development policies, with a community and rural focus, and ensure that their needs, perspectives and views are taken into account in these policies;

Set up a system to periodically monitor initiatives for indigenous peoples under the National Programme for the Development and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities; and

Take special measures to eliminate the particular disadvantages faced by indigenous women, children and older persons with disabilities who have been abandoned or live in extreme poverty.

Costa Rica (2014)

57. The Committee is concerned that housing allowances and medicine subsidies for persons with disabilities are disbursed only to those who meet poverty criteria and do not take account of the socioeconomic factors that aggravate disabilities.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a public policy of inclusive development based on the human rights model for persons with disabilities, which incorporates the gender perspective and gives specific consideration to indigenous persons and those living in rural areas. It also recommends that, as part of its social protection and anti-poverty policies, it provides assistance in alleviating the severe socioeconomic disadvantages that result from the exclusion experienced by persons with disabilities.

El Salvador (2013)

57. The Committee notes that social protection measures mainly protect persons whose disabilities result from the armed conflict, and that the State does not have strategies for fulfilling the various aspects of the right to an adequate standard of living and social protection, such as a home, clothing, food, drinking water and poverty reduction. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities tend to be illiterate, that those living in rural and remote areas cannot access certain basic services, such as drinking water and sanitation, and that plans to provide water do not take their needs into account.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children, have access to social protection and non-contributory pension schemes. It also recommends that the State party adopt public policies, including poverty reduction strategies, which foster the fulfilment of the right to an adequate standard of living and social protection of persons with disabilities, as well as allocate the necessary budget for their implementation. The Committee urges the State party to adopt, through consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, measures for the elimination of barriers to the access of such persons to basic services, drinking water and sanitation in rural and remote areas, and to include the organizations in monitoring their implementation.

Paraguay (2013)

67. The Committee notes the introduction of a disability voucher. It is nevertheless concerned at the fact that, though it is non-contributory, the amount of the voucher is not consistent with the right to an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned at the inadequacy of measures to compensate persons with disabilities and their families, whose income is reduced because of their disability; it is also concerned at the lack of policies on access to housing and development.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a public policy on development that includes gender-sensitive strategies specifically aimed at reducing poverty and providing access to development for persons with disabilities and their families, including guarantees of decent housing on an equal footing with others, and paying particular attention to persons living in rural areas.

Argentina (2012)

45. The Committee notes with concern that provisions in the State party's laws on non-contributory pensions (including the requirement set out in Regulatory Decree No. 432/97 and the eligibility requirement for a welfare pension based on the presence of a disability established in Act No. 18.910) discriminate, either directly or indirectly, against persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the unequal treatment of migrant workers with disabilities and disabled children of migrant workers in terms of access to social protection measures, such as disability pensions, health care, rehabilitation services and housing.

46. The Committee urges the State party to review its social security legislation and to reformulate the provisions that prevent persons with disabilities, including migrant workers and disabled children of migrant workers, from having equal access to social protection in accordance with article 28 of the Convention.

China (2012)

43. While appreciating the existence of a policy of poverty reduction and providing benefits and subsidies, the Committee is concerned about the gap to receive such benefits between the persons with disabilities living in rural and urban areas.

44. The Committee recommends that the state party increases measures to remedy the gap for the awarding of benefits between rural and urban areas and take steps to ensure that persons with disabilities regardless of how they acquire their disability have immediate access to certification and benefits. It asks the state party to specifically inform persons with disabilities in rural areas of their right to benefit and develop a system to prevent the corruption in the context of allocation and distribution of welfare benefits by local officials.

Hong-Kong (2012)

79. The Committee is concerned about the family-based assessment for application and eligibility to receive the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. In addition, the Committee is worried about the different standards employed by doctors in approving the disability allowance.

80. The Committee suggests that Hong Kong, China, replace the family-based assessment with an individual-based one in order to determine the eligibility to receive the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. The Committee also recommends that Hong Kong, China, introduce uniform standards for approving the disability allowance.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 29 CRPD
(Participation in political and public
life)*

September 2025

Article 29 - Participation in political and public life

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake:

a) To ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:

i. Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;

ii. Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;

iii. Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;

b) To promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:

i. Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;

ii. Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

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Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
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Portugal (2016)
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Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
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European Union (2015)
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Dominican Republic (2015)
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New Zealand (2014)
Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Hungary (2012)
Peru (2012)
Spain (2011)
Tunisia (2010)

Please note there are no recommendations on Cuba, South Africa, Nepal, Brazil, Belgium and Ecuador.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

56. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The absence of specific information regarding persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, who hold decision-making positions in public offices, including in the Supreme People's Assembly, and the lack of accessible opportunities to participate in policymaking processes that affect them;
- (b) The lack of measures to ensure the full accessibility of polling stations and voting materials for persons with disabilities.

57. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Take specific steps to increase the representation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in decision-making positions and political bodies, including the Supreme People's Assembly;**
- (b) Take measures to provide reasonable accommodation and to ensure the full accessibility of polling stations, voting materials and information for a diversity of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with autism, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities as well as persons with physical disabilities, and that it do so with the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations.**

Finland (2025)

56. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The low participation of persons with disabilities in elected positions and in political parties;
- (b) Persistent accessibility barriers in voting centers, as well as deficiencies in guaranteeing the secrecy of voting;
- (c) The limited allocation of resources on specific projects for organizations of persons with disabilities, including those stemming from Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organizations;
- (d) The lack of a strategy for the implementation of the new Åland Islands electoral legislation.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Develop educational programs on electoral rights and participation in public and political life of persons with disabilities, for their active participation in politics, to stand for elections, to participate in all decision-making bodies, and collect data on the participation of persons with disabilities in elections, as candidates and as voters;**
- (b) Ensure accessibility of all polling stations, establish mechanisms to guarantee the secrecy of ballots for all persons with disabilities and reconsider the introduction of a digital voting system accessible for persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Guarantee that organizations of persons with disabilities have sufficient funding and resources, including the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organizations, to carry out activities promoting the participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Implement the new Åland Islands electoral legislation.**

Kiribati (2025)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The limited accessibility of polling stations, in voting procedures, facilities and materials and the lack of election-related accessible information, taking into account the diversity of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The low level of participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that electoral legislation recognises the right of persons with disabilities to vote on an equal basis with others, including by removing any limitation to the right to vote or participate in elections due to disability, including intellectual or psychosocial disability;**
- (b) Take targeted measures with adequate resources to ensure access to electoral processes by persons with disabilities including by ensuring accessibility of polling stations, voting materials, and election campaigns, and the use of Braille, audiovisual materials with sign language interpretation, and other methods of communication;**
- (c) Take specific steps, including affirmative action to increase the representation of persons with disabilities in public life, decision-making positions and in elected political bodies.**

Maldives (2025)

57. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That despite the provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Law recognizing the right of persons with disabilities to political participation, the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as women with disabilities, is extremely low;
- (b) The insufficient accessibility of voting material and polling stations;
- (c) The participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the Local Councils is limited.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as well as women with disabilities, in political and public life and in public administration and facilitate an environment for them to hold public office and perform public functions at all levels, by providing assistive devices and personal assistance;**
- (b) Strengthen accessibility measures for elections, including the permanent use of tactile guides for ballots, Easy Read materials, sign language interpretation, and the introduction of alternative voting methods such as postal voting or mobile voting stations;**
- (c) Provide persons with disabilities with reasonable accommodation and support, such as sign language, materials accessible in digital formats, Braille, Easy Read, to guarantee their effective participation, through their representative organizations, in the design and implementation of local development plans undertaken by Local Development Councils;**
- (d) Launch, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, educational programmes on participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, including on electoral rights, as well as adopt specific policies to encourage and enable persons with disabilities to be politically active and run for elections, participate in all decision-making spaces, and collect information on persons with disabilities who run for elections.**

Canada (2025)

57. The Committee commends the State Party on its policies on voting accessibility for persons with disabilities. However, it is concerned about:

- (a) Disparities in election processes across jurisdictions that impact the accessibility for persons with disabilities, including for blind persons and persons with vision impairment, insufficient sign language interpreters for deaf persons, lack of alternative methods of voting and registering to vote and lack of procedures to ensure the right to vote for persons of disabilities in institutions, including psychiatric facilities and prisons;
- (b) The lack of procedures to ensure a secret ballot for persons with disabilities;
- (c) Laws that deny legal capacity that prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their right to vote, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

58. The lack of education and capacity building measures to ensure persons with disabilities are aware of their right to vote and participate in politics and public life, and measures to address the underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, including in decision-making positions at federal, provincial, and territorial level.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

- (a) Exercise federal leadership to ensure national consistency in the accessibility of election processes for persons with disabilities, including by ensuring accessible election materials and information and establishing procedures to ensure that persons in institutions can exercise their right vote;**
- (b) Develop processes and procedures to ensure that persons with disabilities can cast a secret ballot;**
- (c) Repeal laws that deny legal capacity and prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their right to vote;**
- (d) Establish education and capacity building programmes on voting rights and participation in public and political life for persons with disabilities, as well as specific**

policies to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including by being politically active, standing for elections, and participating in decision-making fora.

Dominican Republic (2025)

53. The Committee is concerned about the low rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making, and the lack of affirmative action to enable persons with disabilities to stand for election, be elected and effectively hold public office at all levels of government.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations encourage the presence of persons with disabilities, especially women, in elected office, ensure that they receive the reasonable accommodations they require, and take affirmative action to enable them to stand for election, be elected and effectively hold public office at all levels of government.

European Union (2025)

68. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Barriers to full participation in public and political life by persons with disabilities, including the denial of their right to vote in European elections and to stand for public office inaccessible voting procedures and the lack of accessible information;
- (b) Barriers to access the European Parliament, European Commission and other EU buildings, including European Delegations in and outside Europe.

69. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Ensure the right to vote and stand in elections for the EU Parliament of all citizens with disabilities, irrespective of their legal capacity status, and provide reasonable accommodations and accessible voting methods and information, including Easy Read and accessible voting methods for blind, deaf and hard of hearing persons;
- (b) Render all EU buildings and institutions in and outside Europe accessible.

Palau (2025)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That article VII of the Constitution restricts the right to vote of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, particularly individuals with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who have been declared mentally incompetent by a court;
- (b) About the limited accessibility in physical environments of polling stations, in voting procedures, facilities and materials and the insufficient election-related information, taking into account the diversity of persons with disabilities;
- (c) At the low level of participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Review and amend the Constitution and other discriminatory legislation that hinder the political participation of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;
- (b) Take targeted measures with adequate resources to ensure full accessibility of polling stations, voting materials, and election campaigns, including the use of Braille, audiovisual materials with sign language interpretation, and other methods of communication;
- (c) Take measures, including specific measures to achieve de facto equality such as quotas and other measures such as provision of support, to encourage persons with disabilities including women with disabilities to run for elections at national and local level to increase the number of persons with disabilities who take decision making positions in the legislators and public service.

Tuvalu (2025)

53. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the electoral process is not accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities across the islands;
- (b) That Section 18 on Method of Voting of the Tuvalu Kaupule (Elections) Regulations prevents persons with disabilities to vote in secrecy, as it requires the presence of an officer to place the ballot paper;
- (c) That Falekaupule Act prevents persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to vote;
- (d) The low representation of women with disabilities in decision-making positions and in elected political bodies.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a national plan to ensure the accessibility of election materials, polling stations and election information across the islands;**
- (b) Repeal or amend all laws and policies that restrict or deny persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, the right to vote and stand for elections, and ensure their full participation in electoral process and in political and public life;**
- (c) Take all measures to establish a constitutional right to vote for all persons with disabilities and amend all electoral laws to ensure access to the electoral system as voters and candidates for all persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (d) Take specific steps, including affirmative action to increase the representation of women with disabilities in public life, decision-making positions and in elected political bodies.**

Viet Nam (2025)

57. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Persons with disabilities who are unable to vote because of their disability have to ask another person to vote on their behalf;
- (b) Voting procedures, polling stations, and election-related information are often inaccessible, restricting the political participation and election of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Data on persons with disabilities who hold public office and perform public functions is not available;

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless of their level of support needs, are provided with the necessary assistance to exercise their right to vote and to be elected;**
- (b) Take concrete steps to ensure the full accessibility of elections, including making polling stations, voting materials, and political processes fully accessible for all persons with disabilities, and facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in political parties, ensuring they have the opportunity to run as candidates for elected office;**
- (c) Collect data on persons with disabilities who hold public office and perform public functions.**

Belarus (2024)

57. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) The low level of participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in the political life, including in high-level decision-making positions;
- (b) The lack of accessible leadership programs for children, youth and adults encouraging persons with disabilities serving as role models to support, mentor and train persons with disabilities for leadership.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Create infrastructures for leadership development and training especially among women and girls with disabilities, as well as taking care of the necessary adjustments, while disseminating this information widely so that people with disabilities can be used in various leadership positions;**
- (b) Make leadership programs accessible to all persons, youths and children with disabilities, and allocate adequate positions for persons with disabilities to ensure their participation in decision-making processes.**

Belgium (2024)

60. The Committee notes that measures have been taken at regional and community levels to improve accessibility to voting sites and procedures for persons with disabilities. However, it notes with concern:

- (a) That Article 7 of the Electoral Code allow for the suspension of voting rights based on impairment;**
- (b) That under Article 492/1 of the Civil Code as amended by the law of 28 March 2023, a judge who places persons with disabilities under judicial protection measure has the power to declare them incapable of exercising their political rights;**
- (c) The lack of accessibility of some polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as of information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, and online or printed election material;**
- (d) The lack of measures to ensure the effective representation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making positions at the federal, regional, community and municipal levels.**

61. The Committee recommends that the State party, with the active involvement of and in close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Amend all relevant legislative provisions, to remove all measures depriving persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disability, of their right to vote, and provide the measures necessary to support them in their decision-making processes;**
- (b) Require political parties to provide their programs and other communication in accessible formats;**
- (c) Enhance the measures taken to ensure accessibility of voting, including the physical environment, and the provision of electoral material and information, in accessible formats, for all persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Adopt a strategy to promote the effective participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public life, and in decision-making positions of State and private entities at the national, regional, community and municipal levels.**

Benin (2024)

57. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the electoral process is not accessible to and inclusive for persons with disabilities, particularly in rural areas;**
- (b) The low level of representation of women with disabilities in decision-making positions and in elected and appointed political bodies in rural and urban areas. (review with Getty's comment)**

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a national plan to provide accessibility of electoral materials, voting polls and information about elections across the country;**
- (b) Repeal all laws and policies that restrict or deny persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, the right to vote and stand for**

elections, and ensure their full participation in electoral processes and in political and public life;

(c) Take specific measures to increase the representation of women with disabilities in public life, decision-making positions and in elected political bodies in rural and urban areas.

Burkina Faso (2024)

54. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That there are still persons with disabilities considered “incapables” under the 2001 Electoral Code and therefore excluded from the right to vote and to stand as candidates in elections;

(b) The lack of enforcement of Article 41 of Act No. 012-2010/AN of 1 April 2010 which provides that electoral procedures, equipment and material must be appropriate and accessible to persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of information for organizations of persons with disabilities about statistical studies carried out in connection with the electoral process.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the necessary and effective measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life on an equal basis with other citizens, including amending the Electoral Code, in particular Articles 44 and 135 which restrict the electoral rights of persons with disabilities, and bring it in line with the Convention;

(b) Make the electoral processes accessible to persons with disabilities as provided in law in Article 41 of Act No. 012-2010/AN of 1 April 2010, which provides that electoral procedures, equipment and material must be appropriate and accessible to persons with disabilities;

(c) Ensure close consultations and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including those of women with disabilities, in programmes and studies carried out on persons with disabilities in connection with the electoral process and other aspects of public life.

Denmark (2024)

75. The Committee notes that the amendment to the Guardianship Act introduced a form of partial deprivation of a person’s legal capacity which does not result in incapacitation of the right to stand and vote in general elections and referendum; however, it is concerned that the full deprivation of a person’s legal capacity is still in use and is still depriving persons with disabilities of their political rights. The Committee is also concerned that persons with disability have a significantly lower electoral turnout than other persons, due, in part, to inaccessible polling stations, ballots, voter meetings and election information and material.

76. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Guarantee the right of all persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for election without exception or exclusion;

(b) Render polling stations and ballots accessible and provide electoral information and material in accessible formats, and provide supports required by persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to effectively exercise their right to vote.

Ghana (2024)

56. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) Article 42 and 94 (2)(ii) of the Constitution excludes persons with intellectual and or psychosocial disabilities from voting or registering to vote or to be members of Parliament;

- (b) Information about lack of voting locations, political platforms, and public offices that are not physically accessible to persons with disabilities;
- (c) Information on the requirements of persons with disabilities registered to vote in different voting stations is not made available to electoral officers ahead of time;
- (d) Low level of involvement of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities in representational politics;
- (e) Limited awareness among political parties and the public about the rights of persons with disabilities and hence why the representation of persons with disabilities in political positions is notably low.

57. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Review and amend the Constitution and other discriminatory legal frameworks that hinder the political participation of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;**
- (b) Carry out accessibility audits and ensure physical accessibility of all voting locations, political platforms, and public offices to voters with disabilities;**
- (c) Develop, in a manner compatible with the right to privacy, a voter registration database with information on voters with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age and impairment, and avail the information to election officers prior to the voting to enable them to prepare and ensure full participation of persons with disabilities, ensuring the confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Encourage the active participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities in representational politics;**
- (e) Raise awareness among political parties and the public about the rights and contributions of persons with disabilities, in order to increase representation in elective positions and significant public roles.**

Mauritius (2024)

51. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The national legislation, including the Constitution and Local Government Act 2011, continue to restrict the right of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to be eligible to be registered as an elector, to vote in elections and to be elected in the National Assembly and local government;
- (b) Persons with disabilities continue to face barriers in exercising their right to vote due to insufficient accessibility of polling stations, voting procedures and information about elections, including public electoral debates and electoral programmes;
- (c) There is a lack of representation of persons with disabilities among elected officials and in civil service, as well as in political and public decision-making processes, especially in matters that affect the daily living condition of persons with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend the Constitution and electoral laws that restrict or deny persons with disabilities the right to vote and stand for elections, and introduce legislative and policy measures to ensure their effective and full participation in electoral processes and in political and public life on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Build on the existing measures being implemented in order to progress towards the full accessibility of voting procedures, facilities, materials and election campaigns, by ensuring accessibility provisions at polling stations and access to political information through print and online election materials in accessible formats, such as Braille, plain language, Easy Read, sign language and accessible websites;**
- (c) Facilitate measures and processes that empower persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, to run for office in the government and for civil service, and ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, at all levels of decision-making, planning, implementation and monitoring with regard to elections and their inclusion in other forms of public affairs.**

Netherlands (2024)

63. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The interpretative declaration to Article 29, which provides an interpretation of assistance that leads to a denial of reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The low participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including in election campaigns;
- (c) The continued lack of accessibility of the voting procedure, including the physical inaccessibility of polling stations and booths and the lack of accessible information.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

- (a) Withdraw its interpretative declaration to art. 29 of the Convention and amend the legislative frameworks to include assistance as a form of reasonable accommodation in order ensure the human rights of all persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Develop and ensure the implementation of measures to promote the effective and full participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life on an equal basis with others, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for elections, and access to high-level decision-making positions at national, regions and municipal levels, and increase their participation in public services by taking into account indicator 16.7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (c) Ensure the accessibility of voting material and polling stations across all regions and municipalities, as well as of election campaigns, including by providing support measures for persons with intellectual disabilities through alternative and augmentative modes of information.**

Ukraine (2024)

58. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Article 36 of the State party's Constitution contains an exceptional condition pertaining the right to vote, and Article 7. (2) on Electoral Code prohibits the right to vote to a citizen who has been declared incapacitated by a court;
- (b) A lack of comprehensive measures to ensure voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible, and easy to understand and use.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:

- (a) Amend article 36 of the State party's Constitution, repeal Article 7. (2) of the Electoral Code, and adopt measures to guarantee that all persons with disabilities access political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others;**
- (b) Adopt comprehensive measures to ensure persons with disabilities effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use.**

Azerbaijan (2024)

63. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) The Constitution (articles 25 VI and 56 II) restricts the right to participate in elections and referendums for persons recognized by a court decision as lacking legal capacity (HRI/CORE/AZE/2023, see para. 105);
- (b) The lack of a duty to provide the public with information about candidates with disabilities to the election commissions during elections (CRPD/C/AZE/2-3, para. 246);
- (c) Reports about restrictive electoral environments limiting full participation of persons with disabilities in public affairs, including due to limitations in the right of association and

expression, lack of plural electoral participation, absence of political alternatives during presidential elections.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal constitutional provisions concerning deprivation of legal capacity and excluding persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from participation in elections and referendums and provide them with information in accessible formats, including Easy Read, about their rights to participate in political and public life, including their right to vote, the free expression of their will as electors;**
- (b) Ensure the provision of information in accessible formats on candidates with disabilities during elections to the election commissions;**
- (c) Allow persons with disabilities to participate in the political and electoral process and their involvement in public affairs.**

Bahrain (2024)¹

58. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities are most at risk of such illegal practices, especially in the absence of measures to ensure that they can exercise their right to vote independently and confidentially, and the Committee is particularly concerned about the following:

- (a) The absence of any measures in the Law on the Exercise of Political Rights No. 14 of 2002, the Law on Shura Councils and Representatives No. 15 of 2002 and the Municipalities Law No. 35 of 2001 to ensure the effective participation of persons with disabilities in political life, including parliamentary and local elections, whether as voters or candidates; (b) The lack of accessibility and arrangements for persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote independently and confidentially.
- (b) The lack of accessibility and accommodations at polling stations and the failure to provide information and election materials in accessible formats, especially sign language and easy reading.
- (c) Lack of representation of persons with disabilities in trade unions, political bodies and associations.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party

- (a) Review the laws governing political rights and parliamentary and municipal elections and include provisions to ensure the effective participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, in political life.**
- (b) Provide accessibility of information at polling stations and electoral materials and legislation in accessible formats for persons with disabilities.**
- (c) Involve persons with disabilities and their organizations, especially women with disabilities, in observing parliamentary and municipal elections.**

Costa Rica (2024)

49. El Comité nota con preocupación las bajas tasas de representación y participación de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente de las mujeres con discapacidad, en la vida política y la toma de decisiones públicas, así como la falta de implementación de acciones afirmativas para que las personas con discapacidad puedan postularse como candidatos en elecciones, ser electas y ejercer efectivamente cargos públicos en todos los niveles de gobierno.

50. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte incentivar la presencia de personas con discapacidad, especialmente mujeres, en cargos de representación popular tanto en la capital como en las municipalidades y asegurarse de que reciban los ajustes razonables que requieran en cada caso, e implementar acciones afirmativas para que las personas con

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

discapacidad puedan postularse como candidatos en elecciones, ser electas y ejercer efectivamente cargos públicos en todos los niveles de gobierno.

Kazakhstan (2024)

61. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Provisions in the Civil Code preventing persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities under guardianship to vote, stand for public office, serve as members of election commissions or in the civil service, or to participate in public councils;
- (b) A lack of information on measures to ensure the participation of women with disabilities in officially registered political parties, in elective office and in politically appointed government positions;
- (c) A lack of information about the accessibility of election facilities and about the privacy of their vote.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Revise the Civil Code and guarantee to all persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, including persons with disabilities under guardianship, the right to vote, stand for public office, serve as members of election commission and of the civil service, and to participate in public councils;**
- (b) Support persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, to stand for election and to hold office, on an equal basis with others;**
- (c) Ensure full accessibility of voting procedures, the voting environment, facilities and materials, and the right of all persons with disabilities to vote through secret ballot, on their own or with the assistance of a person of their choice, and with full respect for the expression of their free will.**

Nicaragua (2024)

60. El Comité nota que, a la fecha del informe, 22 alcaldes, 226 concejales y 4 diputados titulares y suplentes en el Estado parte son personas con discapacidad, sin embargo, le preocupa:

- a) La escasa participación de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de las mujeres con discapacidad, en la vida política y pública;
- b) La limitada accesibilidad de los procedimientos, las instalaciones y los materiales de votación, así como la insuficiente información sobre las elecciones, para todas las personas con discapacidad.

61. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, en consulta estrecha y colaboración activa con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan:

- a) Promueva activamente la participación de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente de mujeres con discapacidad, en los partidos políticos para que sean propuestas como candidatas a los puestos de elección popular tanto en la capital como en los municipios y asegurar que reciban los ajustes razonables que requieran en cada caso;**
- b) Redoble esfuerzos para garantizar que los procedimientos, instalaciones y materiales de votación sean adecuados, accesibles y fáciles de entender y utilizar para todas las personas con discapacidad, así como que se realicen los ajustes necesarios en lo relativo a la información electoral, en particular en la retransmisión en los medios y las campañas electorales.**

Sweden (2024)

63. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Low participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including in election campaigns, as well as about the lack of leadership programs for persons with all types of disabilities, particularly women;

(b) The lack of accessibility to voting procedures, facilities and materials for all persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with physical, intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and ensure the implementation of sustainable policies and measures to promote the effective and full participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in political and public life on an equal basis with others, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for elections, and access to high-level decision-making positions at national, regional and municipal levels, and increase their participation in public services by taking into account indicator 16.7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Ensure the accessibility of voting material and polling stations, in particular in remote areas, across the regions and the municipalities, as well as of election campaigns, including by applying support measures for persons with intellectual disabilities through alternative and augmentative modes of information.

[Zambia \(2024\)](#)

57. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That sections 70 (2) (d), 157 (2) (f) and 116 (3) (f) of the Constitution prevent persons with physical and intellectual disabilities to stand for elections or to be appointed for some positions, and that discrimination in practice persist for persons with disabilities;

(b) That electoral process is not accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities, particularly in the remote and rural areas;

(c) The low level of representation of women with disabilities in decision-making positions and in elected and appointed political bodies in rural and urban areas.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal or amend all laws and policies that restrict or deny persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, the right to vote and stand for elections, and ensure their full participation in electoral process and in political and public life;

(b) Take all measures to establish a constitutional right to vote for all persons with disabilities and amend all electoral laws to ensure access to the electoral system as voters and candidates for all persons with disabilities, including persons with physical, psychosocial disabilities and the deaf, and adopt effective measures to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including the physical environment and provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;

(c) Take specific steps, including affirmative action to increase the representation of women with disabilities in public life, decision-making positions and in elected political bodies in rural and urban areas.

(c) Undertake specific public education on the rights of persons with albinism to address myths around albinism which have made them a target for ritual attacks.

Andorra (2023)

59. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low representation and participation of persons with disabilities in political and public decision-making, taking into account that the State party reported that only two persons with disabilities hold political positions of representation, one at the *Consell General* and one in a *Comú*;
- (b) That persons with disabilities only have five working days following the day of publication of the date set for the elections to request the necessary information in accessible formats;
- (c) The insufficient accessibility of electoral procedures, facilities, polling stations, and voting materials.

60. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Strengthen specific measures to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, in political life and in public administration and facilitate an environment for them to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government by, inter alia, providing assistive devices and personal assistance;**
- (b) Review electoral legislation to expand the time provided to persons with disabilities to request the necessary information in accessible formats;**
- (c) Enhance measures taken to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including the physical environment, and the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities.**

Austria (2023)

65. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Voting and election procedures (active right to vote) are not fully accessible;;
- (b) Participation in political and public life of children and young persons with disabilities is seriously limited.

66. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Ensure that voting and election procedures are fully accessible for persons with disabilities, including by training election officials, party officials and members of civil society organizations, and by providing the respective material in accessible formats such as Easy Read, Simple German, Braille, and others.**
- (b) Foster and support organizations of children with disabilities, in accordance with General Comment No. 7 (2018), to improve their participation in political and public life.**

Germany (2023)

65. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of reasonable accommodation, in particular sign language interpretation, in political parties and unions, which hinders the participation of deaf and hard of hearing persons;
- (b) The low participation of women with disabilities in political and public life and the lack of data identifying barriers for their participation;
- (c) The lack of accessibility in polling stations, particularly in rural areas.

66. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Take measures to ensure accessibility and reasonable accommodation, including sign language interpretation, for persons with disabilities in political parties and unions;**
- (b) Allocate the necessary resources to conduct research on barriers that prevent women with disabilities' participation and engagement in public life and promote capacity development programs, in close consultation with women with disabilities and their representative organizations;**
- (c) Ensure accessibility of voting material and polling stations, particularly in rural areas, across the Länder, and in the development of electronic voting systems.**

Israel (2023)

59. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Reports of the relatively low number of accessible polling booths and insufficient measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to cast their vote;
- (b) The limited information concerning accessibility and reasonable accommodation for members with disabilities of Knesset.

60. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Strengthen the capacity of the Subcommittee to improve accessibility for voters and adopt a plan with time frames to ensure full accessibility of voting procedures, voting environment, facilities and materials for all persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt measures to provide support for candidates with disabilities to stand for election and hold office on an equal basis with others and ensure progress in accessibility of information, premises and processes at the Knesset.**

Malawi (2023)

59. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Legislation that disenfranchises persons with psychosocial and persons with intellectual disabilities from their right to vote and restricts the right to stand for election;
- (b) The slow progress in ensuring accessibility of polling booths and the lack of electoral information and materials in accessible formats;
- (c) The limited participation of persons with disabilities in political parties, and in entities in charge of implementing disability policies at the community level, such as the Area Development Committees and Village Development Committees, and the retrogression in participation of persons with disabilities appointed at senior positions in the public sector.

60. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:**

- (a) Review all legislation including the Constitution with the aim to recognise the right of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities to vote and to stand for elections;**
- (b) Set-up a plan and allocate human, technical and financial resources to ensure that the voting environment including the premises, polling booths, electoral information and materials are accessible to all persons with disabilities, including the provision of information in Easy Read augmentative and alternative and all other accessible means of communication;**
- (c) Adopt guidelines to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in political parties, introduce positive measures to encourage and facilitate persons with disabilities involvement in entities responsible for implementing disability related policies at the community level, and address the gap in representation of persons with disabilities in public positions, including at the senior level.**

Mauritania (2023)

49. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low level of representation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making processes and in public life;
- (b) The lack of accessibility of polling stations, voting procedures, facilities, print and online material, and general information about elections, including public electoral debates and electoral programmes, for persons with disabilities, including persons with visual impairments, persons with hearing impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities.

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making processes at all levels and in political life in general;**

(b) Ensure that electoral and voting procedures, facilities, and print and online election material are accessible in all formats, such as Braille, plain language, Easy Read and sign language, or are available on accessible websites.

Mongolia (2023)

57. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the Civil Code and the Election Law are not harmonized with the provisions of the Convention with regard to the participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons and women with disabilities are underrepresented in political and public life;

(b) The lack of accessibility to polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, and online or printed election materials, all of which limits the effective political participation of persons with disabilities.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Civil Code and the Election Law in order to harmonize them with the provisions of the Convention, and introduce specific measures to ensure equality and foster participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and women with disabilities, including as elected representatives, and to support candidates with disabilities to stand for elections, particularly those standing for minority political parties;

(b) Guarantee that electoral and voting procedures, facilities, and online or printed election materials are accessible in plain language and Easy Read, thereby facilitating their use by all persons with disabilities.

Paraguay (2023)

51. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) La falta de aprobación de una Ley de reconocimiento de los derechos civiles y políticos de las personas con discapacidad;

b) La terminología de los artículos 55 y 61 del Código Electoral, que es contraria a la Convención, al limitar a los inhabilitados por sentencia judicial la posibilidad de afiliarse a partidos políticos y de ser candidatos a cargos partidarios;

c) La escasa participación de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de las mujeres con discapacidad, en la vida política y pública;

d) La limitada accesibilidad de los procedimientos, las instalaciones y los materiales de votación, así como la insuficiente información sobre las elecciones, para todas las personas con discapacidad.

52. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Aprobar, a la brevedad, la Ley que modifica el Código Civil, el Código de Organización Judicial y garantiza los derechos civiles y políticos de las personas con discapacidad;

b) Modificar la terminología contemplada actualmente en los artículos 55 y 61 del Código Electoral y armonizarla con la Convención;

c) Promover activamente la participación de las personas con discapacidad, especialmente de mujeres con discapacidad, en los partidos políticos para que sean propuestas como candidatas a los puestos de elección popular;

d) Redoblar esfuerzos para garantizar que los procedimientos, instalaciones y materiales de votación sean adecuados, accesibles y fáciles de entender y utilizar para todas las personas con discapacidad, así como que se realicen los ajustes necesarios en lo relativo a la información electoral, en particular en la retransmisión en los medios y las campañas electorales.

Angola (2023)

49. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of access polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, online or printed election materials, all of which limits the effective political participation of persons with hearing impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (b) The lack of information available to electoral officers on the different needs of persons with disabilities registered to vote in their stations;
- (c) The lack of representation of persons with disabilities in the current term of Angolan Parliament (2022-2027) owing to the fact that the political parties which presented candidates with disabilities in the last general elections ranked them very low in their list of proposed deputies;
- (d) There is no participation of persons with disabilities in the public life in leadership position to serve as role models.

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Ensure the physical accessibility to polling stations and other relevant facilities, as well as the accessibility of electoral and voting procedures, and online or printed election materials, including through the use of plain language and Easy Read;**
- (b) Develop, in a manner compatible with the right to privacy, a voter registration database with information on voters with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age and impairment, and avail the information to election officers prior to the voting to enable them to prepare and ensure full participation of persons with disabilities, ensuring the confidentiality and respect for their privacy;**
- (c) Adopt measures necessary to guarantee the representation of persons with disabilities in Parliament at all times;**
- (d) Take measures to facilitate that persons with disabilities can participate in the public life in leadership positions and thus serve as role models.**

Argentina (2023)

55. El Comité observa con preocupación lo siguiente:

- a) El Código Nacional Electoral (artículo 3 inc. a) restringe el derecho al voto de las personas con discapacidad psicosocial declaradas incapaces judicialmente;
- b) La Ley 26.774 dispone que las personas con discapacidad podrán sufragar asistidas por el presidente de mesa o una persona de su elección (artículo 94);
- c) La Acordada 27/2015 de la Cámara Nacional Electoral impide que las personas con discapacidad puedan formar parte de las autoridades de mesa;
- d) La escasa participación de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de las mujeres con discapacidad, en la vida política;
- e) La limitada accesibilidad de los procedimientos, las instalaciones y los materiales de votación, así como la insuficiente información sobre las elecciones, para todas las personas con discapacidad.

56. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:**

- a) Reformar el Código Nacional Electoral a fin de reconocer el derecho al voto de todas las personas con discapacidad;**
- b) Revisar la Ley 26.774 para asegurar el respeto a un voto autónomo y secreto de las personas con discapacidad;**
- c) Derogar la Acordada 27/2015 de la Cámara Nacional Electoral;**
- d) Promover la participación de las personas con discapacidad, en particular de las mujeres con discapacidad, en la vida política y pública;**
- e) Fortalecer la estrategia Acción Nacional por el Voto Accesible a fin de garantizar que los procedimientos, instalaciones y materiales de votación sean adecuados, accesibles y fáciles de entender y utilizar para todas las personas con discapacidad, así como que se**

realicen los ajustes necesarios en lo relativo a la información electoral, en particular en la retransmisión en los medios y las campañas electorales.

Georgia (2023)

57. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low voter turnout among persons with disabilities, and its apparent decline, the low membership numbers of persons with disabilities in representative bodies on national and municipal levels;
- (b) The particularly low number of women with disabilities in representative bodies and in organizations of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Information about insufficient accessibility of voting material and polling stations.

58. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Appoint persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and young persons with disabilities who represent organizations of persons with disabilities, as full and equal members of the Standing working group on Persons with Disabilities at the Central Election Commission of Georgia;**
- (b) Strengthen measures to establish representative local councils for issues relating to persons with disabilities in local self-governing units in all municipalities, providing them with the appropriate human, technical and financial resources;**
- (c) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in political life and in public administration; facilitate an environment for them to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government by, inter alia, providing assistive devices and personal assistance;**
- (d) Ensure accessibility of voting facilities and voting material, through, among others, the provision of Easy Read, Braille, and other accessible formats.**

Peru (2023)

58. Preocupa al Comité:

- a) Que a pesar de que el Decreto Legislativo N° 1384 abolió la tutela, el Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil (RENIEC), que administra el padrón electoral, mantiene que las sentencias de interdicción, incluyendo la inhabilitación para votar, son vinculantes hasta que los tribunales las anulen oficialmente, por lo que las personas con discapacidad que hubieran sido objeto de interdicción judicial continúan sin poder ejercer su derecho de voto;
- b) Que no existe un sistema de apoyo para la constitución, registro o funcionamiento de organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, y cada vez son más escasos los recursos disponibles a través de la cooperación internacional para que las personas con discapacidad se organicen, movilicen y realicen acciones de incidencia.

59. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que:**

- a) Restituya el derecho de voto a todas las personas con discapacidad que hayan sido inhabilitadas por sentencias previas de interdicción, incluyéndolas automáticamente en el censo electoral y que el RENIEC realice campañas de difusión de información sobre el ejercicio del derecho al voto dirigidas a dichas personas;**
- b) Diseñe e implemente, con la participación de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, un programa de apoyo financiero y legal para la constitución, registro y funcionamiento de organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, con pleno respeto a su independencia.**

Togo (2023)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That article 173 of the Electoral Code, which includes “the incompetent adults” as part of those ineligible in participating in elections, restricts the participation of persons with disabilities in political life on the basis of disability, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

- (b) The physical inaccessibility of polling centres and lack of information regarding electoral materials in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, in particular, for blind and partially sighted persons, to exercise their franchise;
- (c) The low representation and participation of persons with disabilities, in political and public decision-making, particularly, the lack of specific measures to promote the inclusion of women with disabilities in public and political life, including their exclusion from the draft law establishing quotas for women in elected and administrative positions.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal or amend all laws and policies that restrict or deny persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, the right to vote and stand for elections, and ensure their full participation in electoral process and in political and public life;**
- (b) Introduce specific measures to ensure equality and participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and women with disabilities, including as elected representatives, and to provide candidates with disabilities who stand for elections with the disability-related support necessary to campaign on an equal footing with other candidates**
- (c) Adopt effective measures to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including the physical environment and provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Take all appropriate measures, including specific measures, to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making.**

Tunisia (2023)

51. The Committee is concerned that the incentive given under the electoral law adopted by the Assembly of People's Representatives, which requires the reimbursement of campaign expenses by the Higher Independent Electoral Body (ISIE) to the presence of a persons with disabilities in the first ten candidates on the electoral lists in the Municipal elections and which has produced very good result in inclusion, such incentive does not apply to the election to Parliament where representation of persons with disabilities is not guaranteed. It is also concerned that the political conflict experienced since July 2022 has been a threat to the participation of persons with disabilities in the political participation. It is further concerned that the elections of 17 December 2022 reflects retrogression in the gains made in previous elections in regard to implementation of accessibility provisions.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Extend the incentives to include persons with disabilities, which are currently limited to municipal elections, to all elections, particularly parliamentary elections;**
- (b) Refrain from cancelling previous gains in the area of accessibility and rather build on them to progress towards the full accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials, ensuring accessibility provisions at polling stations and access to political information;**
- (c) Facilitate and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities through their organizations at all levels of decision-making, planning, implementing and monitoring of elections as well as inclusion in other public affairs.**

Bangladesh (2022)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That articles 66 and 122 of the Constitution and the Electoral Rolls Act of 2009 restrict the participation of persons with disabilities in political life on the basis of impairment, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities;

- (b) The physical inaccessibility of polling centres and lack of information regarding electoral materials in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, in particular, blind and visually impaired persons, to exercise their franchise;
- (c) The lack of secrecy in the voting process for persons with disabilities which makes the process undemocratic;
- (d) The low representation and participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal or amend all laws and policies that restrict or deny persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, the right to vote and stand for elections;**
- (b) Take concrete measures to ensure the physical accessibility of polling centres and provide information in accessible formats on electoral materials for all persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities are guaranteed secrecy in the voting process;**
- (d) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making processes at all levels, including encouraging them to stand for elections.**

China (2022)

56. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information provided on:

- (a) The participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and/ or intellectual disabilities, on an equal basis with others, in voting and electoral processes, including through guarantees of fully accessible voting procedures by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation.
- (b) The ability of organizations of persons with disabilities operating independently of the China Disabled Persons' Federation to access funds, provide services, consult on relevant laws and policies and contribute to the work of international human rights mechanisms.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Amend legal or policy provisions restricting the rights of all persons with disabilities to vote and to stand in elections and hold public office and promote the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and in public decision-making processes at all levels, including through affirmative action measures;**
- (b) In line with the Opinion on the Reform of the Social Organization Management System and Promotion of the Healthy and Well-Ordered Development of Social Organizations (2016), provide support for organizations of persons with disabilities to operate independently of the China Disabled Persons' Federation, encouraging their participation in all decision-making processes which affect persons with disabilities.**

Indonesia (2022)

60. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of measures taken to ensure the participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities, particularly underrepresented persons, such as deaf persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons and women with disabilities;
- (b) The lack of accessibility to polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, and online or printed election materials;
- (c) The lack of information and training for election officers to respond to the access needs of persons with disabilities registered to vote.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement specific measures to ensure equality and participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual**

disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and women with disabilities;

(b) Ensure that polling stations, electoral and voting procedures, facilities, and online or printed election materials are accessible to all persons with disabilities;

(c) Develop information and training for election officers to ensure the appropriate response to access needs of persons with disabilities.

Japan (2022)

61. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The limited accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials and the insufficient elections-related information, according to the diversity of persons with disabilities;

(b) Barriers to participate in political life and public administration, to hold office and perform public functions, particularly for women with disabilities.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Public Offices Election Act, to ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use for all persons with disabilities, along with accommodation of election-related information, including election broadcasts and campaigns;

(b) Ensure that the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in political life and public administration is promoted, they can effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, by facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies, and providing personal assistants.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

54. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) That persons with disabilities deemed “crazy persons”, “persons who lost mind” are excluded from exercising their right to vote and stand for elections under the Constitution, the Civil Code and the Law No.105 on Election;

(b) The lack of accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials;

(c) The low level of participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, the limited representation of organizations of persons with disabilities at the provincial level and their limited participation in decision-making processes.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend constitutional and legislative provisions restricting the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and to stand in elections and hold public office;

(b) Guarantee the accessibility of electoral processes, facilities and materials, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively participate in political, public life and decision-making processes at all levels, including through their representative organizations, and strengthen organizational and technical capacities of these organizations.

New Zealand (2022)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of support for persons with disabilities to form their own sustainable organisations and build their capacity to represent persons with disabilities, and in particular the lack of organisations to represent Māori with disabilities, Pasifika persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ persons with disabilities, children with disabilities and women and girls with disabilities.

56. The Committee recommends that the State Party develop strategies and measures, including financial resources to support persons with disabilities to form sustainable representative organisations, including to support the development of organisations of Māori, Pasifika, LGBTIQ+, children and women and girls with disabilities.

Republic of Korea (2022)

59. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The discriminatory provisions of the Act on Medical Treatment and Custody, excluding persons with disabilities who are undergoing medical treatment and are in detention facilities from the election process;
- (b) The lack of measures taken to ensure the participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons and women with disabilities, who are underrepresented;
- (c) The lack of accessibility to polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, and online or printed election materials, all of which limits the effective political participation of persons with disabilities.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all discriminatory provisions denying the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their full participation in electoral process and in political and public life;**
- (b) Introduce specific measures to ensure equality and participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and women with disabilities, including as elected representatives, and to support candidates with disabilities to stand for elections, particularly those standing for minority political parties;**
- (c) Guarantee that electoral and voting procedures, facilities, and online or printed election materials are accessible in plain language and Easy Read, thereby facilitating their use by all persons with disabilities.**

Singapore (2022)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low level of representation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making processes and in public life;
- (b) The lack of accessibility of polling stations, voting procedures facilities, print and online material, and general information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, for persons with disabilities, including persons with visual impairments, persons with hearing impairments, and persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (c) Reports about intimidation of as well as repression and retribution against organizations of persons with disabilities and their members who voice sharply critical views on government policies relating to persons with disabilities.
- (d) Reports about intimidation and possible retribution against organizations of persons with disabilities and their representatives as a consequence of their participation in the State party reporting procedure.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making processes at all levels, and in political life in general;**
- (b) Ensure that electoral and voting procedures, facilities, as well as online and print election material are accessible in all formats, such as Braille, plain language, Easy Read, sign language, or on accessible websites;**
- (c) Guarantee that all organizations of persons with disabilities and their members can participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, irrespective of their views on the government's policies regarding the implementation of the Convention, and do not face any intimidation, retribution or repression whatsoever from the government or other public entities.**

(d) Ensure that representatives of all organizations of persons with disabilities, irrespective of their views on the government's policies regarding the implementation of the Convention, can participate in the State party reporting procedure without fear of intimidation, retribution or repression.

Hungary (2022)

56. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Article XXIII (6) of the Fundamental Law and section 13/A and related provisions of Act XXXVI of 2013 on the electoral procedure, which allow for the restrictions on the right to vote for persons under guardianship through the discriminatory individualized judicial evaluation of a person's ability or capacity to vote;
- (b) The lack of clarity in section 181 (1) of Act XXXVI of 2013 on the electoral procedure;
- (c) The lack of accessibility to voting procedures, facilities and materials for all persons with disabilities, particularly for persons with physical, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, hearing or visual disabilities and autistic persons;
- (d) The low level of participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, in the State party's political life, including in high-level decision-making positions.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal article XXIII (6) of the Fundamental Law and section 13/A and all related provisions of Act XXXVI of 2013 on the electoral procedure, and recognize the right to vote and stand for election of all persons with disabilities without any individualized judicial evaluation of a person's ability or capacity to vote;**
- (b) Amend section 181 (1) of Act XXXVI of 2013 on the electoral procedure through recognizing the right of all persons with disabilities to access assistance to vote provided by a person of their own choice;**
- (c) Ensure that electoral and voting procedures, facilities and election materials provide reasonable accommodation for persons with severe impairments and are appropriate and accessible for all persons with disabilities regardless of impairment;**
- (d) Develop and ensure sustainable policies and measures to promote the election and appointment of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in high-level decision-making positions at the national and local levels, and increase their participation in public service by taking into account indicator 16.7.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Jamaica (2022)

52. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The discriminatory provisions excluding persons with psychosocial disabilities from appointment as members of the Senate, from election as members of the House of Representatives and from voting, as well as section 34 of the Disability Act, 2014, which prevents them from participation in civil society and from establishing their own organizations;
- (b) The lack of measures taken to ensure the participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons and women with disabilities, who are underrepresented;
- (c) The lack of accessibility to polling stations, voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, and online or printed election materials, all of which limits the effective political participation of persons with hearing impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities;
- (d) The lack of information available to election officers on different needs of persons with disabilities registered to vote in their stations.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all discriminatory provisions denying the rights of persons with disabilities to fully participate in political and public life;
- (b) Introduce specific measures to ensure equality and participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and women with disabilities;
- (c) Guarantee that electoral and voting procedures, facilities, and online or printed election materials are accessible in plain language and Easy Read, thereby facilitating their use by all persons with disabilities;
- (d) Develop a voter registration database with information on voters with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age and impairment, and avail election officers of the information prior to the voting to enable them to prepare and to ensure full participation of persons with disabilities.

Mexico (2022)

64. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are denied the right to vote, despite jurisprudence by the national Supreme Court of Justice, and that voting procedures, facilities and materials are not accessible. The Committee is also concerned about the extent of support provided for persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, participating in politics and public life.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all persons with disabilities. It further recommends that the State party ensure the accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials in urban areas. Additionally, it recommends that the necessary support be provided to persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, participating in politics and public life.

Switzerland (2022)

55. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That persons with disabilities deemed “permanently incapable of discernment” are excluded from exercising their right to vote at the federal and cantonal levels;
- (b) The underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, including in decision-making positions;
- (c) Reports of persons with disabilities having lost their social insurance benefits owing to their participation in political and public life, which the authorities deemed proof that they were able to work.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Repeal all legal provisions at the federal and cantonal levels that result in persons with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, being denied their right to vote;
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including by ensuring the accessibility of the voting process to all persons with disabilities, including those in institutions, and by providing opportunities and support for persons with disabilities to be politically active and stand for election in all cantons and at the federal level;
- (c) Establish mechanisms to ensure the right of all persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life, including through advocacy, without incurring penalties or reprisals, such as disqualification for social insurance benefits and other entitlements.

Venezuela (2022)

48. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, especially those living in poverty, are most affected by the economic blockade against the State party and the

pandemic, which may force them into begging, and that access to social programmes is limited to those covered by the Carnet de la Patria ("Card for the Nation") system.

49. The Committee recommends that, in accordance with the Convention and bearing in mind target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the State party:

(a) Determine how many persons with disabilities are living in poverty or extreme poverty, according to the unsatisfied basic needs method;

(b) Carry out a survey on the economic situation of persons with disabilities during and after the pandemic, and increase the amount of the benefits granted to them;

(c) Take steps to include social programmes in legislation on social welfare, the economy, labour, health and education so that they have a fixed budget and targets and are subject to assessment and follow-up, especially in respect of persons with disabilities, and collect information on the effectiveness of such programmes during the pandemic;

(d) Not restrict access to social programmes to those in possession of a Carnet de la Patria.

Djibouti (2021)

51. The Committee notes with concern:

The discriminatory provisions of the Civil Code excluding persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons deprived of their legal capacity from the election process;

The lack of regulation on accessibility to the voting environment and electoral material and information by all persons with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal all discriminatory provisions denying persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons deprived of their legal capacity from voting and participating in the electoral process;

Develop and adopt measures to ensure the accessibility of voting environment and the availability of accessible information and material for all persons with disabilities.

France (2021)

58. The Committee notes with concern:

The lack of accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials as well as of election campaigns for persons with disabilities, particularly affecting persons with intellectual disabilities;

Barriers in legislation for persons with disabilities under guardianship to stand as candidates in national and local elections;

Low participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life, including in election campaigns.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials as well as of election campaigns for all persons with disabilities, including by applying support measures for persons with intellectual disabilities through alternative and augmentative modes of information;

Repeal article L200 of the Electoral Code concerning restrictions to be elected in national and local elections for persons under substituted decision-making;

Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for elections.

Estonia (2021)

56. The Committee notes with concern:

The discriminatory provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure denying the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected when they have been subjected to restricted legal capacity;

The lack of accessibility to voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as to information about elections, including public electoral debates, electoral programmes, online or printed election materials, all of which limits the effective political participation of persons with hearing impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal all discriminatory provisions denying the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected;

Guarantee that electoral and voting procedures, facilities and online or printed election materials are accessible in plain language and Easy Read, thereby facilitating their use by all persons with disabilities.

Albania (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned that in the State party there are legal provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities to vote. The Committee is concerned at the exclusion, in practice, of persons with disabilities from public life, especially women with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of accessibility at all stages of the electoral process, in particular the accessibility of polling stations and voting materials, for persons with disabilities.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Amend the relevant laws, including electoral laws, and the rules of procedure relevant to the Central Election Commission to guarantee the right to participate in political and public life, comprising the right vote to all persons with disabilities, and repeal any provisions that deny these rights to persons who are deemed to lack legal capacity;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making;

Take measures to allow unhindered physical access to voting, put in place secure mechanisms to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, and ensure the availability of other electoral materials and information in accessible formats, including in sign language, Braille and Easy Read, in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Australia (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned that electoral laws provide that persons of “unsound mind” are not entitled to have their names on the electoral roll or to vote in elections and may be removed from the electoral roll following someone’s objection. It is also concerned that the electoral process is not fully accessible and that it does not guarantee secret voting rights to persons with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of information on the representation of women with disabilities, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with disabilities, in political and public life.

54. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation on ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to vote in elections on an equal basis with others (CRPD/C/AUS/CO/1, para. 52). It recommends that the State party develop measures, with adequate resources, to ensure the full accessibility of electoral processes and guaranteeing secret voting rights. It also recommends that the State party implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/AUS/CO/8, para. 36) to ensure representation and accelerate the participation of women with disabilities, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with disabilities, in political and public life at all levels.

Ecuador (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned at the failure to take action to ensure that persons with disabilities, especially women, have access to elected office, with the result that there has been no reinforcement or increase in the effective and independent participation of such persons or their representative organizations in all of the country's political processes. It is also concerned about the failure to disseminate information on the physical and communication accessibility measures in place in polling stations.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to elected office in order to increase and reinforce their effective and independent participation through their representative organizations in all of the country's political processes and that it disseminate information on the physical and communication accessibility measures that are in place in polling stations.

El Salvador (2019)

54. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory provisions in the Electoral Code and under article 1317 of the Civil Code which restrict the political participation of persons with disabilities declared "incapable" by law, especially persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with hearing impairments. The Committee is also concerned that infrastructural and communication barriers continue to exist in voting centres.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the provisions of the Electoral Code and Civil Code that restrict the rights of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and those with hearing impairments to participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, to stand in elections and to hold public office. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt measures to strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in political and public life. The Committee further recommends that the State party take measures to ensure the accessibility of voting centres for persons with disabilities.

Greece (2019)

42. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities subject to judicial support are deprived of their right to vote. It is also concerned about the lack of accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party revise the relevant voting framework, including laws, rules of procedure and support mechanisms, to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life and exercise their right to vote, inter alia, by guaranteeing unhindered physical access to voting, ensuring the secrecy of the ballot and the availability of other voting materials and information in accessible formats in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

India (2019)

60. The Committee is concerned about the constitutional provisions restricting the participation of persons with disabilities in political life on the basis of impairment, and the insufficient accessibility of information and electoral proceedings for all persons with disabilities.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Amend constitutional and legislative provisions restricting the rights of all persons with disabilities to vote and to stand in elections and hold public office, and promote the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and in public decision-making processes at all levels, including through affirmative action measures;

Ensure the accessibility of electoral processes, including physical and informational environments, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and taking account of resolution of the sixth meeting of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia, in 2015.

Iraq (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

The legal restrictions, including those in article 49 (2) in the Constitution of Iraq, article 46 (1) of the Civil Code No. 40 (1951) and other provisions in Law No. 45 (2013) on parliamentary elections, Law No. 36 (2008) on elections to governorate, provincial and district assemblies, Law No. 12 (2010) on non-governmental organizations and Law No. 36 (2015) on political parties, which limit the right of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to vote and to be elected and that Law No. 38 (2013) does not contain a provision on the right of persons with disabilities to fully participate in political and public life;

The physical, informational and attitudinal barriers deterring persons with disabilities from participating in election processes, including the inaccessibility of polling stations and the absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read;

The absence of information on the measures taken by the State party to increase the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public life.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal discriminatory provisions that prevent persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities from exercising their rights to vote and to stand for election, and amend Law No. 38 (2013) by including in it the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life;

Ensure that the special procedure to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in the electoral process, to render polling stations accessible and to facilitate voting described in the replies of the State party to the list of issues (CRPD/C/IRQ/Q/1/Add.1, para. 163) allows all persons with disabilities to participate in elections at all levels and to be elected, including through the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, in political and public life and decision-making.

Kuwait (2019)

56. The Committee is concerned about:

Discriminatory restrictions on the right to vote of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities under guardianship resulting from denial of their legal capacity;

The lack of accessible voting procedures, facilities and materials for all persons with disabilities;

The lack of persons with disabilities in public office;

The absence of mechanisms to consult and directly engage with persons with disabilities or their representative organizations, with the result that such persons and organizations are rarely involved in decision-making and rarely have their opinion heard.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take advantage of the review of the electoral law (Act No. 35/1962) to revise all other relevant laws and regulations to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, can effectively enjoy their right to vote and stand for election, strengthen the accessibility of the voting environment, including ballots, booths and polling stations, make election materials available in accessible formats, such

as Braille, sign language and Easy Read, and introduce individualized accommodations for persons with disabilities who are unable to attend polling stations in person, including through assistance by a person of their choice;

Train election officials on the right of persons with disabilities to vote and participate in elections with individualized accommodations and support, in the exercise of their legal capacity;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in all areas of public and political life, including the National Assembly;

Establish mechanisms for carrying out ongoing and systematic consultations with and participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Myanmar (2019)

55. The Committee is concerned that:

The Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law excludes persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities from electoral processes;

The polling stations, electoral materials and information are not accessible to persons with disabilities throughout the State party;

The measures taken to assist voters with disabilities may, in fact, hinder their access to secret ballots;

Representation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public decision-making remains low.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal or amend legislation that denies persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, their right to participation in political and public life, including rights to vote and stand for election;

Ensure the accessibility of polling stations, electoral materials and information for the variety of persons with disabilities, including in the Union Election in 2020;

Ensure that measures taken to assist voters with disabilities guarantee their right to cast their votes in a truly secret manner;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making at all levels.

Niger (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned about the denial of the right to vote for certain categories of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and those deprived of their legal capacity; and the lack of accessibility to the polling centres, electoral materials and information in accessible formats.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal or amend legislation that denies persons with disabilities the right to vote; ensure that they are able to access secret ballots, election materials and polling stations; provide information in accessible formats; guarantee voter education, voter registration processes, and awareness about the electoral process for persons with disabilities, including those with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities; and ensure that those who receive assistance at the polling station can cast their vote in an independent and secret manner.

Norway (2019)

45. The Committee is concerned that voting procedures, facilities and materials are not accessible. The Committee is also concerned about the low rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities in elections and their low representation in elected and appointed bodies.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, including materials in sign language, Braille and Easy Read and consider introducing accessible electronic voting;**
- (b) Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making with measurable targets and indicators.**

Rwanda (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned about:

Articles 8(3) and 24 (4) of the Organic Law Governing Elections, which deny persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities their rights to vote and to run for elections;

Voting procedures, facilities and materials that are not accessible for all persons with disabilities;

The low rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making, including in the parliament, government, mainstream women organizations and the leadership of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Revise its laws, including the Organic Law Governing Elections, to ensure that persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities can enjoy their rights to vote and to run for elections;

Adopt a plan to ensure the accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials, including through the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;

Take all appropriate measures, including specific measures, to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities in political life and public decision-making, including in the parliament, government, mainstream women organizations and the leadership of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned that:

Persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities are prevented from exercising their right to vote and to stand for elections, including by legislation;

Election materials and polling stations are rarely accessible;

Persons with disabilities seldom compete for public office.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal all legislative provisions, including in the Municipal Councils Act, which prevent persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities from voting and standing for elections;

Take all necessary measures, including legislative and policy measures, to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including by guaranteeing the accessibility of polling stations, as well as the provision of accessible electoral materials and information for all persons with disabilities;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities in civic and political processes.

Senegal (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

The exclusion of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons deprived of their legal capacity from voting and the electoral process in general;

The lack of accessibility of the voting environment and absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;

The lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the electoral process, including the lack of training for election officials to address the requirements of persons with disabilities at the polling centres.

50. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

Repeal all legislation that excludes persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons deprived of their legal capacity from voting and involvement in the electoral process;

Adopt effective measures to ensure accessibility of the voting environment, including the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;

Take necessary measures to include persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in the voting and electoral process, and provide appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, at all stages of the electoral process.

Spain (2019)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

The lack of accessibility of polling stations and voting materials for persons with disabilities in electoral processes;

The critically low level of participation and representation of persons with disabilities in national and regional policy-making bodies.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to enable the political and public participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others. It further recommends that the State party:

Ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are accessible for all persons with disabilities, including in sign language, Braille and Easy Read;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making.

Türkiye (2019)

56. The Committee is concerned about:

Legislative provisions that deny persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities the right to vote and stand for election;

Lack of accessibility of polling stations, ballot boxes, and absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read;

The lack of information on appropriate awareness raising, including training programmes, for election officials to address the requirements of persons with disabilities in electoral and political processes.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Amend the Basic Provisions for Election and Voter Registration, and eliminate the prohibition of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities in exercising their rights to vote and run for office;

Adopt measures to ensure secret ballot and the accessibility of the voting environment, including the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities, paying particular attention to accessibility in rural and remote areas;

Conduct appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, at all stages of the electoral process to enable their effective participation in electoral and political processes.

Vanuatu (2019)

48. The Committee is concerned that Schedule 4 of the Representation of the Peoples Act (2006) still restricts the right of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities to participate in electoral processes. It is further concerned that the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life is limited, including working in the legislative,

executive and judicial branches of government, as well as working as teachers and health professionals.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt legislative and administrative measures, including the amendment of Schedule 4 of the Representation of the Peoples Act (2006), to ensure the right of persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, to fully participate in the electoral process, including voting through secret ballot on their own or to be assisted by a person of their choices with full respect of their autonomy, rights, will and preferences;

Adopt a strategy to promote the participation and effective representation of persons with disabilities, particularly of women with disabilities, in political and public life and in decision-making positions at national, provincial and community level;

Provide information on electoral processes in accessible formats.

Algeria (2018)

48. The Committee is concerned about legal restrictions, including those in the Electoral Code (art. 5), which discriminatorily and severely limit the right of persons with disabilities to vote, particularly persons who are subject to "interdiction". It is also concerned about the physical and informational barriers, which deter persons with disabilities from election processes and from participating in public and political life.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws which restrict the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and persons with intellectual disabilities, to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others. It also recommends that the State party adopt the necessary measures to eliminate all physical and informational barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating in electoral processes.

Bulgaria (2018)

61. The Committee notes with concern that the legislation of the State party deprives persons with disabilities under guardianship, in particular persons with intellectual disabilities of their right to vote and stand for elections. It furthermore notes that some polling stations are not accessible and that information and communications related to elections are not fully accessible.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its legislation and bring it into line with provisions of articles 12 and 29 of the Convention enabling all adult persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote and stand for elections. It also recommends that the State party produce information about elections, in accessible formats, including in Easy Read and allocate financial and technical resources to strengthen physical accessibility to polling stations.

Malta (2018)

41. The Committee is concerned that the State party maintains its reservation to article 29(a) (i) and (iii) of the Convention, according to which the State party reserves the right to continue to apply its current electoral legislation in so far as voting procedures, facilities and materials, as well as assistance in voting procedures are concerned. It is concerned that the rights of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are restricted upon examination by a Medical Board and that voting material in Braille is not available to persons with visual impairments. The Committee notes with concern the lack of information on the representation and participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life and that they do not effectively participate in the process of decision-making.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

Withdraw its reservation on article 29(a) (i) and (iii) of the Convention, so that they can exercise the right to vote;

Take the legal and policy measures in order to empower persons with disabilities to effectively participate in political and public life and in the process of decision-making, in particular provide the necessary support for persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, so that they can participate in decision-making processes on an equal basis with others;

Ensure that all electoral procedures, facilities and materials are accessible for all persons with disabilities, including through audio devices, ensuring the right of persons with disabilities to a secret ballot;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political and public life and decision-making.

Philippines (2018)

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about the participation of persons with disabilities at the local and national level, in conducting public affairs, and that persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities face barriers to exercise their right to vote.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal discriminatory provisions that prevent persons with intellectual and persons with psychosocial disabilities from exercising their rights to vote and stand for elections. It also recommends that the State party takes measures to facilitate electronic voting for all persons with disabilities regardless type of impairment.

Poland (2018)

48. The Committee is concerned about:

Article 62(2) of the Polish Constitution, which denies persons deprived of legal capacity the right to vote and participate in a referendum, as well as other legislation such as the Law of Associations which prevents persons deprived of legal capacity to found an association, to be a member of one, and to organise public assemblies;

Amendment of the Election Code in 2018 which limit voting procedures by correspondence and therefore the accessibility of voting procedures for persons with disabilities;

Remaining inaccessible polling stations, including lack of solution for enabling the independent and secret voting by persons with severe hands paresis, and lack of support to vote for deaf persons.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Abolish all provisions which deny persons with psychosocial or intellectual disability and persons deprived of legal capacity their right to vote and all other political rights;

Replace the amendment of 2018 to the Electoral Law and ensure accessibility of voting procedures for all persons with disabilities;

Ensure accessibility of all polling stations and election procedures for all persons with disabilities, including measures to enable the independent and secret voting by person with severe hands paresis, and support for deaf persons to vote.

North Macedonia (2018)

52. The Committee is concerned about:

Elections laws setting “ mental capacity” as a pre-requisite for the right to vote and run for public office, thus denying these rights to persons with intellectual disabilities and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities;

The inaccessibility of the voting centres and their environment, particularly for persons with disabilities residing in institutions, and the absence of electoral materials and information in

accessible formats such as Braille, tactile, sign language and Easy Read for persons with disabilities;

The lack of training for election officials to address the requirements of persons with disabilities at the polling centres;

The lack of support to persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with intellectual disabilities to exercise their right to vote and stand for election.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Review its elections laws with a view to removing the prerequisites that prevent person with intellectual disabilities and/or persons with psychosocial disabilities from exercising their right to vote and run for office;

Adopt measures to ensure the accessibility of the voting centres and their environments, particularly for persons with disabilities residing in institutions, including the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;

Conduct appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, at all stages of the electoral process to enable people with disabilities' effective participation in electoral and political processes;

Provide the necessary support to persons with psychosocial disabilities and/or persons with intellectual disabilities to exercise their right to vote and stand for election.

Haiti (2018)

52. The Committee is concerned about:

The fact that the electoral decree of 2015 (articles 29, 87.2 and 157) restricts the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in political life and to exercise their right to vote or to join political parties as members or elected candidates;

The inaccessibility of polling stations and of all stages of the electoral processes including registration of voters in the electoral register and voting procedures, lack of information in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, and lack of training of the members of the electoral staff on the rights of persons with disabilities;

The low number of persons with disabilities running for or holding elected public office.

53. The Committee urges the State party to:

Repeal laws and regulations that restrict the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in public and political life, in particular abrogate the electoral decree, articles 29, 87.2 and 157;

Remove all physical and other barriers and provide reasonable accommodation throughout all stages of the electoral processes, including the provisions of information and materials in accessible formats and ensure the adequate training for members of the electoral staff on the rights of persons with disabilities at all stages of the electoral process;

Collect and publish disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities who participate in public or political life and implement measures to increase the number of persons with disabilities in public and political life.

Oman (2018)

51. The Committee is concerned that election information and materials are not accessible to persons with disabilities, especially blind and deaf persons and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and polling stations are often not physically accessible, as well as the lack of secrecy in the voting process for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned at the reported low number of persons with disabilities in public office.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure, through legislative and other measures, that persons with disabilities are able to access ballots, election materials and polling stations, including information in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language and Easy-Read documents for persons who are blind or visually impaired, deaf and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities respectively;

Adopt measures for the provision of voter education and awareness to persons with disabilities, including voter registration and ensure that when voting, persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their choice;
Take measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in all areas of public and political life, including in the Majlis al-Dawla (Council of State) and the Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Assembly).

Russian Federation (2018)

58. The Committee is concerned that the State Party does not have a comprehensive and binding legislation guaranteeing the exercise of electoral rights of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee notes that the decision of the federal Central Electoral Commission of 9 August 2017 in this regard has only the status of 'recommendations'.

59. The Committee urges the State party to adopt a comprehensive legislation or amend the current law on elections in order to ensure the accessibility of elections and the relevant information for voting to all persons with disabilities in line with paragraph 26 of this Concluding Observations.

Seychelles (2018)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The low level of participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life;
- (b) The lack of information in accessible formats on the electoral processes;
- (c) The inaccessibility of registration, polling stations and voting procedures.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures to ensure the right of all persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life, including electoral matters. It recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt specific steps to increase the participation and effective representation of persons with disabilities, particularly women, in political and public decision-making positions;**
- (b) Provide information about electoral processes in accessible formats;**
- (c) Remove all physical and other barriers from, and provide reasonable accommodation throughout, the whole electoral process.**

Slovenia (2018)

49. The Committee is concerned at:

The denial of the right to vote for persons presumed 'incapable of understanding the meaning, purpose and effect of elections' because of impairment, and the lack of accessible voting materials for persons with intellectual disabilities;

The low political and participation in public life of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure the right to vote for all persons regardless impairment and provide them with supported decision making, including accessible voting materials for all persons with disabilities, irrespective of impairment;

Enable persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, to exercise their political rights, including the right to stand for public office and participate in the conduct of public affairs.

Sudan (2018)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

Elections laws excluding persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from electoral processes, by establishing "mental capacity" as a pre-requisite for the right to vote and running for public office;

The inaccessibility of the voting environment and the absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read;
The lack of training for election officials to address the requirements of persons with disabilities at the polling centres;
The lack of support to persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities to exercise their right to vote and stand for election.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Review its elections laws, in line with the Committee's general comment No.1 (2014), with a view to including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in electoral processes, and removing the prerequisites that prevent persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities from exercising their right to vote and run for office;

Adopt measures to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities;

Conduct appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities, at all stages of the electoral process to enable their effective participation in electoral and political processes;

Provide adequate support to persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to enable them to exercise their rights to vote and run for public office.

Latvia (2017)

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessibility to electoral processes, facilities and materials for persons with intellectual or physical disabilities, as well as for blind or deaf persons.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee the right to vote independently by ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to use for all persons with disabilities.

Luxembourg (2017)

50. The Committee is concerned that the rights of persons with disabilities under guardianship to vote and be elected remain restricted by law. It is also concerned that voting procedures, facilities and materials lack accessibility. The Committee notes with concern the low rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities in political life and public decision-making.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a) Take the legal and other measures necessary to enable the political and public participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including the right to vote;

(b) Ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate and accessible for all persons with disabilities, including in sign language, Braille and Easy Read;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making.

Montenegro (2017)

52. The Committee is concerned about the growing exclusion of persons with disabilities from public life due to the increasing number of persons with disabilities whose legal capacity is restricted. It notes with concern that:

Persons whose legal capacity is restricted are deprived of the rights to vote and to stand for election;

Several physical and informational barriers remain in the voting process.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the electoral law(s) and the rules of procedure in order to:

Give all persons with disabilities the rights to vote and to stand for election;

Ensure unhindered physical access to voting, secure mechanisms to ensure secrecy of the ballot regardless of the form of disability, and the availability of other electoral materials and information in accessible formats, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Morocco (2017)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

The inaccessibility of the voting environment and the absence of electoral materials and information in accessible formats, such as Braille, sign language and Easy Read, for persons with disabilities;

The lack of training for election officials on addressing the requirements of persons with disabilities at polling centres.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a plan to ensure the accessibility of the voting environment, including through the provision of electoral materials and information in accessible formats for all persons with disabilities, and provide appropriate training for election officials on the rights of persons with disabilities at all stages of the electoral process.

Panama (2017)

56. The Committee is concerned at the small number of persons with disabilities involved in political and public life, especially how few of them hold elected office. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of accessibility at all stages of the electoral process, in particular the accessibility of polling stations and voting materials, for persons with disabilities.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to encourage and help persons with disabilities to exercise their political rights, including the right to stand for public office, and that it ensure that there are no legal or practical barriers to the right to vote of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure that electoral procedures, facilities and materials are fully accessible to persons with disabilities in urban, rural and indigenous areas alike, including that all polling stations have sufficient accessible ballots, with a view to guaranteeing assisted and secret voting. In addition, it recommends that the State party adopt programmes to encourage persons with disabilities to stand for public office.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

60. The Committee is concerned at the insufficient information on accessibility and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at all stages of the electoral cycle aimed at facilitating the exercise of the rights to vote, to vote in private and to be assisted by an assistant of one's own choice. It is also concerned about the low number of persons with disabilities running for or holding elected public office.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, take appropriate measures to secure accessibility for persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of impairment, repeal provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities to vote, and ensure the provision of reasonable accommodation to guarantee the possibility of and right to universal and secret suffrage.

Armenia (2017)

51. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities do not participate in electoral processes on an equal basis with others, as a result of inaccessible polling stations and the lack of support services and election-related information in accessible formats. It is also concerned about the low rates of participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, in political life and public decision-making.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party take the legal and other measures necessary to enable the political and public participation of all persons with disabilities, including with respect to their right to vote and stand for elections, ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are accessible for all persons with disabilities and promote the participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women, in political life and public decision-making.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

52. The Committee is concerned at the exclusion of persons with disabilities from public life, especially women with disabilities, as well as at the lack of legislation on effective and transparent measures for providing accessible voting materials and information.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the electoral law(s) and the rules of procedure relevant to the Central Election Commission to ensure equality of participation for persons with disabilities in the electoral process, as well as allowing persons deprived of legal capacity to vote, allowing unhindered physical access to voting, putting in place secure mechanisms to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, and ensuring the availability of other electoral materials and information in accessible formats in line with general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Canada (2017)

51. The Committee observes that the State party and different provinces have developed programmes and strategies to facilitate the right to vote of persons with disabilities. However, it notes that those measures do not specifically include persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party set up measures to facilitate and ensure access to the election process for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, including through easy-read information on electoral campaigns and other accessible multimedia material, including tutorials on how to vote, to support participation in political life by all persons with disabilities.

Cyprus (2017)

57. The Committee is deeply concerned that persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities are not adequately included, supported and trained to exercise their right to vote and stand for election, with some also being legally deprived of those rights. The Committee is furthermore concerned about the absence of data regarding the effective exercise of these rights by persons with disabilities.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party expeditiously take legislative amendments to guarantee to all persons with disabilities the right to vote and to stand for election and to collect reliable and disaggregated data regarding their exercise of those rights.

Honduras (2017)

61. Preocupa al Comité que la declaratoria de interdicción sea impedimento para que una persona con discapacidad pueda ejercer su derecho al voto, así como el bajo número de

personas con discapacidad que participan en la vida política y pública, principalmente mujeres, afrohondureños e indígenas. Preocupa también al Comité la falta de accesibilidad de los centros de votación, así como de materiales de voto para las personas con discapacidad.

62. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas necesarias para garantizar que no se prive del derecho al voto y a la participación en la vida política y pública a ninguna persona por razón de discapacidad o por limitaciones en su capacidad jurídica y que aumente sus esfuerzos para promover a las personas con discapacidad, especialmente con discapacidad intelectual o psicosocial, en los cargos electivos y los cargos públicos. También le recomienda que intensifique sus esfuerzos por garantizar que sus procedimientos, instalaciones y materiales electorales sean plenamente accesibles para las personas con discapacidad tanto en las zonas urbanas como en las rurales. Asimismo, le recomienda que adopte las medidas legislativas necesarias para garantizar que, cuando sea necesario y a petición de ellas, se permita que una persona de su elección les preste asistencia para votar. También le recomienda que todos los colegios electorales cuenten con suficientes papeletas accesibles, para garantizar el voto asistido y secreto.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

54. The Committee is concerned about measures that deny the right of persons with sensory impairments, and persons with psychosocial and /or intellectual disabilities to stand as candidates to the Parliament. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessibility of election materials and facilities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal provisions from the Elections Act and other laws that deny the right to exercise civil and political rights based on impairment or restriction of legal capacity; and

Ensure through legislative and other measures, accessibility of election materials and facilities, and that persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice when voting.

Jordan (2017)

55. The Committee is concerned that, reportedly, election materials are rarely accessible to blind persons or to persons with intellectual disabilities and polling stations are often not physically accessible. It is also concerned at the reported low number of persons with disabilities competing for public office.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Ensure through legislative and other measures that persons with disabilities are able to access ballots, election materials and polling stations and that, when voting, they are allowed to have assistance from a person of their own choice;

Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, especially persons with sensory and intellectual disabilities, in civic and political processes.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

52. The Committee is concerned that:

The rights of persons with disabilities under guardianship to vote and be elected remain restricted by law;

Electoral processes, facilities and materials are not accessible; ^[SEP]

The rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities in ^[SEP]political life and public decision-making are extremely low.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take the legal and other measures, including consultations with organizations of persons with disabilities, necessary to enable the political and public participation of persons with disabilities;

Ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to use for all persons with disabilities;
Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making.

Bolivia (2016)

65. The Committee notes with concern that persons who have been declared legally unfit cannot exercise their right to vote or to be elected and that they are not registered on the electoral roll.

66. The Committee urges the State party to repeal the provisions that limit the right to vote on grounds of legal capacity and to adopt the necessary legal measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities, especially with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are registered in the electoral roll and may exercise their right to vote and stand as candidates for elected office.

Colombia (2016)

64. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions on the political participation of persons with disabilities, in particular that persons for whom a declaration of judicial interdiction has been issued cannot exercise their right to vote, and that accessibility is not ensured in elections.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, including the repeal of legislation, in order to:

Ensure the right to vote and participate in political life to all persons with disabilities, including those whose legal capacity is legally restricted owing to interdiction procedures;

Provide for the accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials in urban and rural areas alike;

Ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in public life, including in the referendum on the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Long-lasting Peace, and make available promotional and informational materials in accessible formats.

Ethiopia (2016)

63. The Committee is concerned that restriction to the right to vote of “notoriously insane persons” is possible under law. It is further concerned that persons with disabilities are not guaranteed support to exercise their right to vote in law and in practice.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party take all legislative and other measures to guarantee the political rights of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, including by removing any restrictions on the exercise of political rights, in law or in practice.

Guatemala (2016)

67. The Committee is concerned by the fact that some persons with disabilities, especially those deprived of their legal capacity, those living in mental health facilities and those belonging to indigenous communities, are unable to vote and that voting procedures are not accessible. It is also concerned that ballot papers in Braille are not currently available in polling stations where they are needed and that the right to vote by secret ballot is not guaranteed.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities are able to exercise their right to vote and to stand for election on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of accessible facilities and means of communication, in both urban and rural areas. The Committee also

recommends providing a sufficient number of ballot papers in Braille in all polling stations, in order to guarantee the right to vote by secret ballot.

Italy (2016)

73. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual disabilities and/or psychosocial disabilities do not receive adequate support in order to exercise their right to vote, and that article 48 of the Constitution, which restricts the right to vote based on “civil incapacity”, is inconsistent with the Convention. The Committee is concerned about the inability of persons with disabilities to vote wherever they choose due to legal restrictions imposed on them. It is also concerned that the regulation on assistance for persons with disabilities in order to cast their vote is not consistent with the Convention.

74. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal article 48 of the Constitution and provide support and facilitation services to ensure all persons with disabilities can exercise their right to vote, including persons with intellectual disabilities and/or psychosocial disabilities. It also recommends that the State party repeal law No. 62/04, which restricts persons with disabilities to vote at polling stations of their choice. It further recommends that the State party harmonize its regulatory framework on assistance for persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote in compliance with the Convention.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

53. The Committee is concerned:

That article 70 (3) of the Constitution and articles 85 and 86 of the Civil Code deny the right to exercise civil and political rights, including the right to vote and stand for election, to persons deemed incompetent by reason of “imbecility or insanity” or restricted in the exercise of their legal capacity;

That legislation on voter assistance provisions for persons with disabilities violates the secrecy of voting;

About the lack of information on measures taken to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in civic and political processes.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal article 70 (3) of the Constitution and provisions of the Civil Code and other laws that deny the right to exercise civil and political rights on the basis of disability or restriction of legal capacity;

Ensure, through legislative and other measures, accessibility to ballots, election materials and polling stations and also ensure that, when voting, persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice;

Take measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in civic and political processes.

Uruguay (2016)

61. Preocupa al Comité que la declaratoria de interdicción sea impedimento para que una persona con discapacidad pueda ejercer su derecho al voto así como el bajo número de personas con discapacidad que participan en la vida política y pública, principalmente mujeres. Preocupa también al Comité la falta de accesibilidad de materiales y locales de voto para las personas con discapacidad.

62. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte las medidas necesarias para garantizar que no se prive del derecho al voto y a la participación en la vida política y pública a ninguna persona por razón de un impedimento o por limitaciones en su capacidad jurídica y que aumente sus esfuerzos para promover a las personas con discapacidad en los cargos electivos y el servicio público. También le recomienda que intensifique sus esfuerzos por garantizar que sus procedimientos, el entorno físico, instalaciones y materiales electorales sean plenamente accesibles para las personas con discapacidad.

Chile (2016)

61. Al Comité le preocupa que la declaratoria de interdicción sea impedimento para que una persona con discapacidad pueda ejercer su derecho al voto y a la participación política.

62. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte la revisión del registro electoral para garantizar que no se prive del derecho al voto a ninguna persona por razón de un impedimento o por limitaciones en su capacidad jurídica.

Lithuania (2016)

57. The Committee is concerned that:

The Constitution denies persons with disabilities the right to vote and stand for election if they have been declared legally incapable;

There is lack of reliable statistical information on the number of persons with disabilities who have been removed from the electoral register on grounds of disability;

Current laws on election do not allow autonomous, free and secret participation by all persons with disabilities in the electoral process.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities:

Repeal provisions in the law and the Constitution denying the right of persons with disabilities to vote and stand for election, including by eliminating the possibility of declaring persons with disabilities legally incapable on the ground of disability;

Restore voting rights to all people with disabilities who are excluded from the national voter registry;

Collect reliable and disaggregated statistics and data on the political participation of persons with disabilities as voters and as candidates for election;

Expedite the parliamentary approval of election laws to ensure the legally enforceable right of persons with disabilities to vote and have access to, among others, accessible ballots, election materials and polling stations, and the provision of freely chosen, adequate and necessary assistance in order to facilitate voting by all persons, regardless of impairment.

Portugal (2016)

54. The Committee is extremely concerned that in the State party there are persons with disabilities, and especially those who have been deprived of their legal capacity or who live in psychiatric institutions, who are deprived of exercising their right to vote or are prevented from exercising this right in elections, and that electoral processes, including political campaigns, are not accessible. It is also concerned about the existence of internal regulations that may require a person with disabilities to present a medical document proving his/her capacity to vote, if the person in charge of the polling station believes that he/she demonstrates "notorious mental incapacity".

55. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with organisations of persons with disabilities, take necessary measures so that persons with all types of disabilities, including those who are subjected to guardianship or confined to psychiatric institutions, may exercise their right to vote and to stand as candidates under the same conditions as others, among other things, by providing accessible facilities and means of communication .

Serbia (2016)

59. The Committee is concerned at the exclusion of persons with disabilities from public life, especially women with disabilities and Roma persons with disabilities.

60. The Committee recommends the State party increase efforts to include persons with disabilities in positions of elected representation and public office. It also recommends the

State party to ensure that upcoming elections are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, including voting facilities and campaign materials.

Slovakia (2016)

77. The Committee notes with deep concern that all citizens with disabilities are not able to fully exercise their right to vote and stand for election.

78. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal sections 4 (c) and 6 (c) of the Elections Act and provide for an accessible electoral system to enable all persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote, including by electronic means, and their right to stand for election.

Thailand (2016)

59. The Committee is concerned about restrictions on the right of persons with disabilities to vote and stand for election and the lack of measures to ensure the secrecy of their vote. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessible formats of voting procedures.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party revise all laws that limit the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life in order to enable all persons with disabilities to vote and to stand for election, including by restoring legal capacity as required, and to ensure that all stages of an election are made fully accessible, including the political campaigns and their materials and the act of voting, including with respect to the secrecy of voting.

Uganda (2016)

56. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions in the Constitution and the electoral law that prevent persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities from standing for election, thus discriminating against them; it is also concerned about the inaccessibility of the voting environment, the absence of electoral materials in accessible formats and the lack of secrecy in the voting process for persons with disabilities.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal discriminatory legal provisions that restrict persons with disabilities from exercising their right to stand for election;

Provide voter education and awareness to persons with disabilities and adopt measures to ensure that the electoral process is accessible to voters with disabilities including voter registration, accessible polling centres and materials and assistance to vote from persons of their choice;

Inform persons with disabilities about their right to vote and provide financial support to organizations of persons with disabilities to conduct the election processes of persons with disabilities in a transparent manner.

Brazil (2015)

52. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities under interdiction are discriminated against in relation to their right to vote. The Committee is also concerned that many polling places are not accessible to persons with disabilities, and that voting information is not provided in all accessible formats.

53. The Committee, recalling its views in communication No. 4/2011 (Zsolt Bujdosó and five others v. Hungary) that legislative restrictions on the right to vote of persons with disabilities whose legal capacity was restricted pursuant to guardianship breached article 29 of the Convention, urges the State party to remove legal restrictions and immediately restore the right to vote for persons deprived of legal capacity through interdiction. The Committee also recommends the State party to increase its efforts to ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

European Union (2015)

68. The Committee notes with deep concern that across the European Union persons with disabilities, especially those deprived of their legal capacity or residing in institutions, cannot exercise their right to vote in elections, and participation in elections is not fully accessible.

69. The Committee recommends that the European Union take measures, in cooperation with its Member States and representative organisations of persons with disabilities, to enable all persons with all types of disabilities including those under guardianship, to enjoy their right to vote and stand for elections, including by the provision of accessible communication and facilities.

Gabon (2015)

62. The Committee is concerned that the Electoral Code contains restrictions on the right of persons with disabilities to vote, including those subjected to “interdiction” or any other kind of deprivation of legal capacity. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about physical and informational barriers in the voting process.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the relevant provisions in the Electoral Code in order to enable all persons with disabilities to vote, restoring legal capacity as required, and to ensure that all stages of elections are made fully accessible, including in political campaigns and their materials, the act of voting and guaranteeing secrecy of voting.

Kenya (2015)

51. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions in the right to vote and stand for elections of persons with disabilities and the lack of measures to ensure the secret vote. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessible information on voting procedures.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Repeal constitutional provisions that restrict the right of persons with disabilities to be elected as members of Parliament and to vote on equal basis with others; and

Guarantee full accessibility to polling stations throughout the country in election processes and design and develop election-related information on accessible formats for persons with disabilities.

Mauritius (2015)

39. The Committee is concerned that articles 34 (1) and 43 of the Constitution as well as some electoral rules and regulations limit the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and be elected.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the discriminatory provision contained in articles 34 (1) and 43 of the Constitution as well as related regulations and ensure that all persons with disabilities enjoy their rights to vote and to be elected.

Qatar (2015)

51. The Committee is concerned that legislation on voter assistance provisions for persons with disabilities violates the secrecy of vote.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials and polling stations and that when voting, persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice.

Ukraine (2015)

54. The Committee is concerned that the State party's legislation prevents citizens with disabilities whose legal capacity has been restricted from fully exercising their right to vote. The Committee is also concerned that election materials are not provided in formats accessible to persons with visual impairments and deaf persons.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws so that all persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to vote and stand for election regardless of guardianship or other regimes. It also recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials, and of polling stations.

Cook Islands (2015)

51. The Committee is concerned that the Electoral Act both denies the right to vote and stand for election to some groups of persons with disabilities, and fails to systematically protect the right to vote in private at polling stations. It is further concerned that elections are not accessible to persons with disabilities.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal provisions of the Electoral Act 2004 to ensure that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their disability, can vote in private at polling stations, and stand for election. The Committee further recommends to ensure persons with disabilities access to polling booths, supply tools and instruments such as Braille voting sheets, make the ballot papers available to persons with disabilities with accessible technology, have available sign language interpreters so that persons with disabilities can vote in all elections; independently and secretly and if needed with a support person of their own choice.

Croatia (2015)

45. The Committee is concerned that the electoral process is not yet fully accessible to all persons with disabilities. Furthermore it is concerned about the still low number of persons with disabilities in executive and representative public bodies.

46. The Committee recommends that measures be taken to make the electoral process fully accessible to all persons with disabilities and to facilitate participation of persons with disabilities in representative and executive bodies.

Czech Republic (2015)

56. The Committee is concerned that under the new Civil Code and the election legislation persons with disabilities with restricted legal capacity may be denied the right to vote or to stand for election, or vote at referendums. The Committee is also concerned that election materials are reportedly rarely accessible to blind persons or to persons with intellectual disabilities, that polling stations are often not physically accessible, that ballots may not be accessible to blind persons.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws so that all persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to vote and stand for election regardless of guardianship or other regimes. It also recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials, and of polling stations.

Dominican Republic (2015)

54. Preocupa al Comité la poca accesibilidad en centros de votación en el Estado parte, y en la información sobre los procesos electorales dirigida a las personas con discapacidad.

55. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte realizar consultas vinculantes a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en el diseño y desarrollo de los procesos electorales, desde la accesibilidad en la información y comunicación, física y durante el sufragio. También recomienda incluir a las personas con discapacidad dentro de la legislación relativa a los derechos electorales y fomentar la participación política de personas con discapacidad, en todos los niveles de participación, desde las organizaciones civiles y partidos políticos hasta la promoción de candidaturas de elección popular.

Germany (2015)

53. The Committee is concerned about exclusion of persons with disabilities from electoral rights stipulated in Section 13 No. 2 and No. 3 of the Federal Electoral Act (BWG) and equivalent Länder legislation as well as practical barriers preventing persons with disabilities from exercising the right to vote on an equal basis with others.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal all laws and regulations that deprive persons with disabilities of the right to vote, reduce barriers and put in place appropriate support mechanisms.

Mongolia (2015)

45. While noting that the State party recognizes inadequacies in ensuring the full participation persons with disabilities in political and public life, the Committee is concerned about reports that the State party's "Great Khural's Election Law" neither contains specific references to persons with disabilities nor assistive or support measures to accommodate persons with visual, hearing or mobility impairments.

46. The Committee recommends the State party repeal legal provisions which deny or restrict the right to vote based on disability and develop appropriate legal measures to ensure persons with disabilities can fully participate in elections and public life as citizens, voters and/or candidates.

Turkmenistan (2015)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of participation of persons with disabilities as candidates in elections. It is further concerned about the exclusion of persons who are under guardianship from the right to vote.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party make sure that all restrictions of the right to vote of persons with disabilities are removed, immediately by restoring the right to vote for persons deprived of legal capacity and by providing full accessibility and information in relation to their right to vote. Similarly, the State party should facilitate assistance for persons with disabilities to be candidates in national as well as local elections.

...

New Zealand (2014)

61. The Committee notes that under the Electoral Act 1992, persons who are blind or vision-impaired may receive the assistance of an official to cast their vote in an election.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party consider the introduction of accessible electronic voting to enable persons with disabilities to cast their votes in a truly secret manner.

Denmark (2014)

60. The Committee is concerned that under the Constitution, the Parliamentary Elections Act and other electoral laws, and the Guardianship Act (section 6), persons under guardianship are not allowed to vote or to stand for election in parliamentary, municipal, regional or European Parliament elections, or referendums. The Committee is also concerned that

election materials are reportedly rarely accessible to blind persons or to persons with learning and intellectual disabilities, that polling stations are often not physically accessible, that ballots may not be accessible to blind persons, and that persons under guardianship may not be able to freely choose the kind of voting assistance that they would wish to use.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party amend the relevant laws, including the Parliamentary Elections Act and other laws governing municipal, regional and European Parliament elections, so that all persons with disabilities can enjoy the right to vote and stand for election regardless of guardianship or other regimes. It also recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials, and of polling stations, and that it ensure that freely chosen, adequate and necessary assistance is provided in order to facilitate voting by all persons.

Republic of Korea (2014)

55. The Committee is concerned that many polling booths are not fully accessible to persons with disabilities and that voting information is not provided to persons with disabilities in consideration of the various types of disabilities. It is also concerned about the low level of participation of persons with disabilities in political activities and as candidates in elections due to the barriers that they continue to face in that regard. It is also concerned that persons declared incompetent are denied the right to vote and stand for elections.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to ensure that voting is fully accessible to all persons, irrespective of disability, and that voting information is provided in all accessible formats. It further recommends that the State party take specific measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in elected bodies. It also recommends that the State party repeal provisions denying the right to vote and stand for elections and provide the right to vote and stand for elections regardless of type of disability.

Mexico (2014)

55. The Committee is concerned that persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are denied the right to vote and that voting procedures, facilities and materials are not accessible.

56. The Committee urges the State party to amend the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures to give all persons with disabilities the right to vote. It further recommends that the State party ensure the accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials in urban and rural areas alike.

Sweden (2014)

51. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on accessibility and accommodation for persons with disabilities, during all stages of the electoral cycle, facilitating their exercise of the right to vote, and at the low number of persons with disabilities running for or holding public office.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that voter education through mass media is made accessible, that information about elections is provided in accessible formats, that electoral campaigns are made fully accessible, that support at polling stations is made available, that the mechanisms put in place to facilitate voting assistance are developed in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities to suit their needs, and that polling assistants are trained to accommodate voters. It also recommends that the State party ensure that all persons with disabilities who are elected to a public position are provided with all required support, including personal assistants.

Azerbaijan (2014)

44. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the participation of persons with disabilities as candidates in elections and their representation in elected and appointed bodies. The Committee is further concerned about the exclusion of the right to vote of persons with disabilities who are under guardianship.

45. The Committee urges the State party to remove restrictions and immediately restore the right to vote for persons deprived of legal capacity and to continue to improve its efforts to ensure that voting is fully accessible to all persons, irrespective of disability, and that voting information is provided in all accessible formats. It further recommends the State party to take specific measures to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in elected bodies. In this regard, the State party should provide information in its next periodic report on the representation of persons with disabilities in all elected and appointed bodies of the State party.

Costa Rica (2014)

59. The Committee regrets that the State party has denied the right to vote to persons with disabilities declared legally incompetent. It is also concerned about the absence of information concerning persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities who have been removed from the electoral register on grounds of their disability. It is also concerned at the fact that no Costa Rican sign language interpretation was provided for information on the 2014 elections.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately restore the right to vote of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. It further calls for the right to vote to be recognized to all persons with disabilities, including those who require more extensive assistance, ensuring that procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use. It also recommends that information on elections should be provided in accessible formats, including using Costa Rican sign language.

Australia (2013)

51. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are automatically excluded from the electoral roll. It is further concerned that persons with disabilities face significant barriers in the voting process.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party enacts legislation restoring the presumption of the capacity of persons with disabilities to vote and exercise choice; and to ensure that all aspects of voting in an election are made accessible to all citizens with a disability.

Austria (2013)

48. The Committee commends the State party for its upholding of article 29 of the Convention by allowing all persons to vote including persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. However, it does appear that many polling booths are not fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

49. The Committee recommends that more work be done to ensure that voting is fully accessible to all persons, irrespective of disability, and that voting information is provided in all accessible formats.

El Salvador (2013)

59. The Committee regrets that the Electoral Code prevents persons with psychosocial or intellectual impairments from exercising their right to run for municipal office. The

Committee notes with concern that there are no mechanisms in place to ensure that persons with disabilities can vote in secret and that measures to ensure the accessibility of polling centres are inadequate.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the provisions limiting the right to vote of persons with disabilities and adopt measures to ensure that such persons can run for public office. The Committee encourages the State party to increase opportunities for the political and social participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Paraguay (2013)

69. The Committee notes with concern the continued application in the State party of Act No. 834 on the Electoral Code, which places restrictions on deaf persons' right to vote. It also regrets the lack of information on the number of persons with disabilities who are not allowed to vote. It also regrets that disabled persons' organizations were not consulted on the adoption of a mechanism for secret voting and universal suffrage for persons with visual impairments, and that there are no measures to promote the right of persons with disabilities to stand as candidates for elected office.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities of any kind to vote and that, in consultation with disabled persons' organizations, it adopt measures to guarantee the right of universal, secret suffrage.

Argentina (2012)

47. The Committee would like to express its recognition of the fact that the State party has repealed the provisions in its Electoral Code that barred deaf-mute persons who do not know how to communicate in writing and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities who have been interned in public institutions from exercising their right to vote. Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned by:

The fact that the amendments to the Electoral Code have not included the elimination of the provision whereby persons who have been declared legally incompetent by a court of law are barred from exercising their right to vote;

The lack of appropriate measures for ensuring that institutionalized persons with disabilities have access to the polls and can leave the institutions in question in order to vote.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Review the Electoral Code and introduce the necessary amendments to bring it into line with the standards set forth in the Convention, particularly with respect to legal capacity and the exercise of the right to vote on an equal basis;

Pursue its efforts to ensure that institutionalized persons with disabilities have access to the polls by, for example, devising and implementing a national plan for ensuring that people are able to exercise their right to participation in political life (CRPD/C/ARG/Q/1/Add.1, para. 249) or other alternative solutions.

China (2012)

45. The Committee is concerned with article 26 of the Election Law, which excludes citizens with intellectual and psychosocial impairments from the voting process.

46. The Committee recommends the state party to revise article 26 of the Election Law to ensure that all persons with disabilities have the right to vote on an equal basis with others.

Hong-Kong (2012)

81. The Committee is concerned about the low number of persons with disabilities holding public offices and the inaccessibility of some polling stations for voters with disabilities.

82. The Committee urges Hong Kong, China, to enhance the active participation of persons with disabilities in politics through affirmative action and ensure the accessibility of all voting stations.

Hungary (2012)

45. The Committee is very concerned about the provision in the State party's new Fundamental Law which permits a judge to remove the right to vote from those with "limited mental ability", and that legislation allows for the right to vote of persons with intellectual or psycho-social disabilities to be restricted if the person concerned has been deprived of his or her legal capacity.

46. The Committee recommends that all relevant legislation be reviewed to ensure that all persons with disabilities regardless of their impairment, legal status or place of residence have a right to vote, and that they can participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others.

Peru (2012)

44. The Committee commends the State party for issuing a resolution in October 2011 that nullified previous policies excluding persons with certain psychosocial and intellectual disabilities from the electoral rolls, as well as for updating the National Identity and Civil Status Registry (RENIEC) accordingly. However, the Committee remains concerned at:

The fact that persons with disabilities, who have been judicially interdicted, remain ineligible to vote and that the names of those excluded from the national voter registry have not yet been fully restored;

The lack of information on measures taken in order to inform the persons with disabilities on the above-mentioned developments and prevent such violations from happening in the future;

Numerous cases of persons in institutions who have not been able to exercise their right to vote because they lack identity documents or because of the interdiction to leave the institution, absence of special assistance or the distance from the polling station.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party

Restore voting rights to all people with disabilities who are excluded from the national voter registry, including people with disabilities subject to judicial interdiction;

Reach out to vulnerable individuals and protect people with disabilities from such violations in the future, including through relevant training.

Guarantee the right to vote of people with disabilities in institutions, by ensuring that they are physically permitted to go to assigned polling stations and have the support required to do so, or to permit alternative options.

Spain (2011)

47. The Committee is concerned that the right to vote of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities can be restricted if the person concerned has been deprived of his or her legal capacity, or has been placed in an institution. It is further concerned that the deprivation of this right appears to be the rule and not the exception. It regrets the lack of information on standards of evidence or grounds, and criteria used by judges when depriving persons of their right to vote. It notes with concern the number of persons with disabilities denied their right to vote.

48. The Committee recommends that all relevant legislation be reviewed to ensure that all persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairment, legal status or place of residence, have the right to vote and participate in public life on an equal basis with others. The Committee requests the State party to amend article 3 of Organic Act 5/1985, which allows the denial of the right to vote based on individualized decisions taken by a judge. The amendment should ensure that all persons with disabilities have the right to vote.

Furthermore, it is recommended that all persons with disabilities who are elected to a public position are provided with all required support, including personal assistants.

Tunisia (2010)

35. The Committee recommends the urgent adoption of legislative measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons who are currently under guardianship or trusteeship, can exercise their right to vote and participate in public life, on an equal basis with others.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 30 CRPD
(Participation in cultural life,
recreation, leisure and sport)*

September 2025

Article 30 - Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities:

a) Enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats;

b) Enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats;

c) Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.

2. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate steps, in accordance with international law, to ensure that laws protecting intellectual property rights do not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access by persons with disabilities to cultural materials.

4. Persons with disabilities shall be entitled, on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture.

5. With a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:

a) To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;

b) To ensure that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize, develop and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities and, to this end, encourage the provision, on an equal basis with others, of appropriate instruction, training and resources;

c) To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues;

d) To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system;

(e) To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
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Ukraine (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
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Mongolia (2023)
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Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)
Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)

Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
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Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)

Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
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European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)

Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
New Zealand (2014)
Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Belgium (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
El Salvador (2013)

There are no recommendations on Canada (2025), Belgium (2024), Azerbaijan (2024), Poland, Latvia, Canada, Ethiopia, Uruguay, Chile, Mongolia, Australia, Austria, Paraguay, Argentina, China, Hungary, Peru, Spain, Tunisia, Mexico, China, New Zealand and Singapore.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

58. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited access of a small group of persons with disabilities living in Pyongyang to cultural, recreational, and sporting activities in the State Party, while the majority of persons with disabilities are excluded.

(b) The lack of a concrete plan to effectively implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

59. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop and implement a strategy with benchmarks, indicators, and adequate resources to guarantee equitable access to cultural, leisure, and sporting opportunities for all persons with disabilities, including those living outside Pyongyang and from socioeconomically disadvantaged background;

(b) Adopt a plan on the effective implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Finland (2025)

58. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The low participation of persons with disabilities in sports and cultural activities;

(b) High costs of adapted sports equipment for persons with disabilities limiting or restricting their participation on an equal basis with others;

(c) The lack of information on the impact of the new cultural policy strategy and the review of the Sports Act on the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, recreational, leisure, and sports activities on the Åland Islands.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Develop a national action plan to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in sports and cultural life, that includes measures to support athletes and artists with disabilities, and ensure accessible cultural and sports facilities;

(b) Ensure that adapted sports equipment for persons with disabilities is affordable so that persons with disabilities can participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport on an equal basis with others;

(c) Conduct a study on the impact of the new cultural policy strategy and the review of the Sports Act on the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, recreational, leisure, and sports activities on the Åland Islands, to ensure its alignment with the Convention.

Kiribati (2025)

57. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the lack of policies, programmes, and accessible facilities to promote access to cultural events, artistic expression, recreational activities, tourism, and sporting opportunities for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, beyond those targeted to persons with disabilities;

(b) About the limited opportunities and support for the participation of persons with disabilities in arts and sports, including the lack of necessary devices and equipment and the insufficient support to the Kiribati National Olympic Committee (KNOC) to develop inclusive sports, particularly for children with disabilities;

(c) That the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Allocate resources to implement policies and programmes to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, recreational, tourism, and sporting activities;
- (b) Ensure effective development and participation of persons with disabilities in sport, support those pursuing arts and sport careers through providing devices and equipment, and provide sufficient support to the Kiribati National Olympic Committee (KNOC) to develop sports for persons with disabilities, in particular for children with disabilities;
- (c) Ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled and implement it in the national law.

Maldives (2025)

59. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That recreational, cultural and sports spaces are not accessible to all persons with disabilities across all islands;
- (b) The persistence of segregated sports activities for persons with disabilities;
- (c) At the lack of books in accessible formats such as audiobooks, books in Braille, and Easy Read, among others, and that the few available materials in accessible formats are only available in the national library in Malé;
- (d) That the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that all public buildings, including cultural, recreation, leisure and sporting facilities provide for accessibility and other accommodations, including assistive devices, to facilitate private and independent enjoyment of the right of persons with disabilities to cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports;
- (b) Promote the training of professionals to ensure that schools on all islands have staff trained in inclusive sports practices, and promote, the participation of children and adolescents with disabilities in sports activities, both recreational and professional;
- (c) Ensure the availability of books in accessible formats such as audiobooks, books in Braille and Easy Read, throughout the State party, in particular on the outer islands;
- (d) Consider ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled and implement it in the national law.

Dominican Republic (2025)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessibility of most cultural and historical sites, touristic, recreation, leisure and sport facilities and the shortcomings in increasing the use of such facilities by persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, strengthen measures to increase the accessibility of cultural and historical sites, touristic, recreation, leisure and sports facilities and encourage and facilitate their use by persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities.

European Union (2025)

70. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The implementing Directive of the Marrakesh Treaty allows, as does the Marrakesh Treaty, Member States to require non-profit organizations that create accessible formats to pay compensation;
- (b) Cultural performance venues, sites of historical significance tourist, recreational, leisure and sports facilities are often inaccessible;

- (c) Many persons with disabilities live in institutional environments located on the outskirts of cities or in rural areas, reducing their opportunities for participation in cultural life, recreational activities and sports;
- (d) Recognition of the cultural and linguistic identity of deaf persons is insufficient.

71. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Delete Article 3(6) in the EU Directive for the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty;**
- (b) Make accessibility a mandatory condition for EU funding of culture, leisure and sports;**
- (c) Support deinstitutionalization processes to ensure better participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports;**
- (d) Include and promote deaf culture as part of the cultural and linguistic landscape of the EU.**

Palau (2025)

57. The Committee is concerned at:

- (a) The lack of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats, access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats and access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services and sport services;
- (b) The lack of opportunity for persons with disabilities, particularly athletes with disabilities, to participate in the Paralympic Games due to not having membership status;
- (c) That the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop and implement strategy with benchmarks, indicators and adequate resources to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats, access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats and access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services and sport services;**
- (b) Take proactive measures to expedite the accreditation and athlete classification process to enable Palau's participation in future Paralympic Games;**
- (c) Enforce the Persons with Disabilities Act to ensure all public buildings, including cultural, recreation, leisure and sporting facilities provide for accessibility and other accommodations, including assistive devices, to facilitate private and independent enjoyment of their right to cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports;**
- (d) Consider ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled and implement it in the national law.**

Tuvalu (2025)

55. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That recreational, cultural and sports spaces are not accessible to people with all types of disabilities across all islands;
- (b) At the lack of support and promotion of programs for the involvement and participation of persons with disabilities in culture and art;
- (c) About the lack of information on the resources allocated to ensure effective participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports for persons with disabilities;
- (d) That the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that all public buildings, including cultural, recreation, leisure and sporting facilities provide for accessibility and other accommodations, including assistive devices,**

to facilitate private and independent enjoyment of the right of persons with disabilities to cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports;

(b) Allocate resources and programs for the development of accessible recreation, art and leisure spaces in both rural and urban areas for persons with all types of disabilities and make the existing sports and recreation infrastructures accessible to all persons with disabilities;

(c) Ensure effective development and participation of persons with disabilities in sport and encourage those who choose to pursue arts and sport supporting them with all necessary devices and equipment to make meaningful careers in art and sport, and provide sufficient support to the Tuvalu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee to develop sports for persons with disabilities, in particular for children with disabilities;

(d) Consider ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled and implement it in the national law.

Viet Nam (2025)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information and communication on physical accessibility and the lack of physical accessibility itself of cinemas, theatres, libraries, beaches and hotels and recreational and cultural venues;

(b) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities in recreational and cultural places and employment, such as as tourist guides and operators.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Establish a comprehensive programme to ensure information and communication on physical accessibility and implement physical accessibility itself in cinemas, theatres, libraries, beaches and hotels and recreational and cultural venues;

(b) Provide training for persons with disabilities who wish to pursue activities such as acting, singing, tour guiding, cultural management, and more.

Belarus (2024)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of clear action plan and measures to fully and efficiently implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, since its entry into force for the State party in 2020;

(b) The absence of measures to promote cultural diversity in society;

(c) The lack of access to services of leisure and sports for persons with disabilities.

60. The Committee recommends that in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, the State party:

(a) Adopt national legislation or ensure specific provisions to implement effectively the provisions of Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;

(b) Develop action plans and allocate resources to improve and promote cultural diversity in the society;

(c) Ensure access to general recreational, leisure and sporting venues and activities for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and provide them with the necessary assistance and support to achieve this objective.

Benin (2024)

59. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled
- (b) That recreational, cultural and sports spaces are not accessible to persons with all types of disabilities in urban and rural areas;
- (c) The lack of support and promotion of programmes for the involvement and participation of persons with disabilities in culture and art;
- (d) The lack of information on allocated resources to grant effective participation in cultural life recreation leisure and sport of persons with disabilities.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the ratification process of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled and ensure full access to information and cultural materials for persons with disabilities;
- (b) Enforce The Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 59 to 62) to ensure that all public buildings, including cultural, recreation, leisure and sporting facilities, provide for accessibility and other accommodations, including assistive devices, to facilitate private and independent enjoyment of the right of persons with disabilities to cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports;
- (c) Allocate resources and establish programmes for the development of accessible recreation, art and leisure spaces in both rural and urban areas for persons with all types of disabilities and make the existing sports and recreation infrastructure accessible to all persons with disabilities;
- (d) Ensure effective development and participation of persons with disabilities in sport and encourage those who choose to pursue arts and sport, supporting them with all the devices and equipment necessary to have meaningful careers in art and sport.

Burkina Faso (2024)

56. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) Whereas the Burkina Faso Copyright Office and NGOs working in the field of disability are providing technical support to organizations of persons with disabilities authorised by the World Intellectual Property Organization to translate works, the State has not yet recognised organizations of persons with disabilities as entities authorized to reproduce published works in accessible formats;
- (b) The absence of mechanisms and budget allocation to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream sports.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Recognize and support persons with disabilities and their organizations authorized by WIPO as entities permitted to reproduce published works in accessible formats;
- (b) Take measures to provide adequate support to sports and cultural associations of persons with disabilities to participate in cultural and recreational life as well as in leisure and mainstream sports on an equal basis with others.

Denmark (2024)

77. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy access to cultural material, television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats, and access to places of cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas and libraries, tourism and sport services.

78. The Committee recommends that the Kingdom of Denmark, in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to cultural material, television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, to places for cultural

performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas and libraries, tourism services and sport services;

(b) Improve on its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, can effectively exercise their right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others.

79. The Committee is concerned that Greenland and the Faroe Islands have not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled of June 27, 2013.

80. The Committee recommends Greenland and the Faroe Islands ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled of June 27, 2013 and implement it.

Ghana (2024)

58. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Copyright Act is not aligned with the Marrakesh Treaty in order to facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or otherwise print-disabled;

(b) Most sports and cultural facilities, museums, cultural and recreational centres, tourist attractions and stadiums, as well as public libraries are inaccessible to persons with disabilities including in rural and remote areas;

(c) Persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism face significant cultural barriers and negative stereotypes as they are subjected to discrimination, rejection and social exclusion which prevents them from participating in traditional cultural events and community activities.

59. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) To amend the copyright Act to make it consistent with the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible, to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled;

(b) Implement a comprehensive accessibility audit of all sport facilities, cultural facilities, museums, recreational centres, tourist attractions and stadiums, as well as public libraries across the country to identify barriers and prioritize the installation of ramps, accessible seating, and proper signage and, allocate sufficient funding and resources, enhance political commitment, and conduct awareness campaigns to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities including children with disabilities in leisure, cultural activities and sports;

(c) Launch targeted public awareness programmes to challenge cultural stereotypes and discriminatory practices against persons with disabilities, particularly those with albinism and foster inclusive community engagement and participation in traditional cultural events and activities, ensuring all individuals can freely and actively take part without facing social exclusion or prejudice.

Mauritius (2024)

53. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Accessibility requirements are limited to newer sports and recreational facilities and that other sporting, recreational, entertainment, leisure, cultural and tourism venues, activities and services remain largely inaccessible to persons with disabilities, notably persons with physical and visual impairments and reduced mobility, including deaf, blind, deafblind and partially sighted persons;

(b) There is an absence of an action plan to implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Adopt measures and allocate resources to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others in urban and rural areas, including through improved accessibility of existing and future infrastructure;
- (b) Develop a comprehensive action plan to further amend the legislation and enhance accessibility and reasonable accommodation to ensure the effective implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Netherlands (2024)

65. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessibility of some cultural, recreation, leisure and sport facilities and the shortcomings in increasing the use of such facilities by persons with disabilities, especially persons with disabilities with high support requirements and children with disabilities;

66. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, strengthen measures to encourage and facilitate the use and the accessibility of cultural, recreation, leisure and sport facilities by persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities.

Ukraine (2024)

60. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a national plan with specific targets and timeline for the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;

(b) The lack of comprehensive measures to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy access to cultural materials, television programs, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats, as well as access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas and libraries, tourism and sport service;

(c) The lack of measures to ensure children with disabilities equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including activities in the school system.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Swiftly implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Blind Persons, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;

(b) Expand the scope of its legislation on the right of persons with disabilities, with the aim to include children with disabilities to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities access cultural materials, television programmes museums, libraries, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats and participate in cultural life as playwrights, producers, actors, librarians and other relevant roles;

(d) Prohibit discrimination of children with disabilities and ensure equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation, leisure and sporting activities, including activities in the school system.

Bahrain (2024)¹

60. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a national strategy to make cultural life and the creative arts inclusive for persons with disabilities.

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

- (b) Lack of accessibility in theaters, cinemas, museums and tourist places, and lack of availability of information and cultural materials in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, especially sign language and easy reading.
- (c) Failure to promote the cultural and linguistic identity of the deaf community.
- (d) Lack of availability of books, magazines and cultural materials in accessible formats, including Braille, audio formats and easy reading.
- (e) Lack of integration of persons with disabilities in sports clubs and activities, and insufficient support for sports for persons with disabilities.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party

- (a) Develop, in close consultation and with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations, a comprehensive national strategy aimed at achieving the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in cultural life**
- (b) Provide accessibility, accommodation and accessible formats, including sign translation, simplified reading and audio description in cultural, recreational and tourist venues**
- (c) Recognize and promote the cultural and linguistic identity of the deaf community through educational curricula and awareness-raising campaigns, with the active participation of deaf persons and their organizations.**
- (d) Ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, and ensure that persons with disabilities have full access to information sources and cultural materials**
- (e) Develop legal and practical measures for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in sports clubs and activities and provide support for sports games**

Costa Rica (2024)

51. El Comité nota con preocupación la falta de medidas para que las personas con discapacidad puedan tener acceso a material cultural, programas de televisión, películas, teatro y otras actividades culturales en formatos accesibles, así como los insuficientes esfuerzos en la aplicación efectiva del Tratado de Marrakech para facilitar el acceso a las obras publicadas a las personas ciegas, con discapacidad visual o con otras dificultades para acceder al texto impreso. Le preocupa también la falta de accesibilidad en los centros recreativos para personas con discapacidad, en particular los lugares considerados patrimoniales e históricos, playas, miradores y áreas tropicales.

52. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte adoptar medidas para que las personas con discapacidad puedan tener acceso a material cultural, programas de televisión, películas, teatro y otras actividades culturales en formatos accesibles, así como adoptar medidas para lograr la aplicación efectiva del Tratado de Marrakech para facilitar el acceso a las obras publicadas a las personas ciegas, con discapacidad visual o con otras dificultades para acceder al texto impreso, mediante consultas estrechas y la participación activa de las personas con discapacidad a través de las organizaciones que las representan. El Comité recomienda también elaborar un manual de accesibilidad que garantice el acceso físico a los lugares donde se realizan las actividades recreativas, incluidos los considerados patrimoniales e históricos, playas, miradores y áreas tropicales, y se asignen recursos humanos y financieros para la promoción de la cultura, deporte y actividades recreativas para personas con discapacidad y para la construcción de pasarelas accesibles en las playas y miradores.

Kazakhstan (2024)

63. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

64. **The Committee encourages the State party to expedite the ratification and implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.**

Nicaragua (2024)

62. Preocupa al Comité la falta de accesibilidad al medio físico y a la información y las comunicaciones para personas con discapacidad en los centros recreativos, culturales y deportivos, así como el poco financiamiento para la promoción de la cultura y actividades recreativas, por lo que se limita con ello el disfrute de este derecho.

63. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte normas de accesibilidad al medio físico, a la información y las comunicaciones para garantizar el acceso a las actividades recreativas a todas las personas con discapacidad, incluidos los niños y las niñas con discapacidad, y que asigne recursos humanos y financieros para la promoción de la cultura, deporte y actividades recreativas, también para personas con discapacidad.**

Sweden (2024)

65. The Committee is concerned about the barriers to access to recreational, leisure and sport activities for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and children with disabilities.

66. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations:**

(a) **Strengthen mechanisms to ensure that sporting, recreational, cultural and leisure activities are accessible for persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to personal assistance at no cost to practise sport and attend cultural and social activities.**

Zambia (2024)

59. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That Section 48 of the Persons with Disabilities Act No 6 (2012) which provides that Persons with Disabilities shall enjoy the right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport has not been enforced;

(b) That recreational, cultural and sports spaces are not accessible to persons with all types of disabilities in urban and rural areas;

(c) At the lack of support and promotion of programs for the involvement and participation of persons with disabilities in culture and art;

(d) That the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

60. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Enforce the Persons with Disabilities Act to ensure all public buildings, including cultural, recreation, leisure and sporting facilities provide for accessibility and other accommodations, including assistive devices, to facilitate private and independent enjoyment of their right to cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports;**

(b) **Allocate resources and programs for the development of accessible recreation, art and leisure spaces in both rural and urban areas for persons with all types of disabilities and make the existing sports and recreation infrastructures accessible to all persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Allocate adequate resources to the Paralympic Committee to ensure effective development and participation of persons with disabilities in sport and encourage those who choose to pursue arts and sport supporting them with all necessary devices and equipment to make meaningful careers in art and sport;**

(d) **Ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled and implement it in the national law.**

Andorra (2023)

61. The Committee notes the Integra and Integra Plus programmes for the inclusion of children with disabilities in leisure time activities and initiatives to promote inclusive tourism. However, it is concerned about the following:

- (a) That the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;
- (b) The insufficient access for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, to inclusive sporting, leisure, tourism and cultural activities and services.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;**
- (b) Strengthen mechanisms to assess accessibility barriers and ensure that sporting, recreational, cultural and tourism venues are accessible for all persons with disabilities, in close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations.**

Austria (2023)

67. The Committee is concerned about the lack of inclusivity and accessibility of mainstream cultural, recreational, tourism and sporting venues and activities for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and children with disabilities;

68. The Committee recommends that the State party render mainstream cultural, recreational, tourism and sporting venues and activities accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and children with disabilities, by, inter alia, training the respective personnel, adjusting the infrastructure, providing information in accessible formats, and providing an adequate budget.

Germany (2023)

67. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of accessibility in public libraries, museums, and touristic areas and monuments;
- (b) Barriers persons with disabilities encounter to benefit from the personal assistance services to exercise the right to sport and entertainment;
- (c) The absence of policies and programs to promote the cultural and linguistic identity of deaf persons ;
- (d) The lack of inclusivity and accessibility in some faculties of creative arts;
- (e) The lack of measures to promote cultural diversity in the society, in particular with respect to the contribution of the refugees with disabilities to diversity.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen mechanisms to ensure that sporting, recreational, cultural and tourism venues are accessible for persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Ensure persons with disabilities have access to personal assistance at no cost to practice sport and attend cultural and social activities;**
- (c) Promote the cultural and linguistic identity of deaf persons , with close participation of their representative organizations, in educational curriculum, media and social events;**
- (d) In close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, promote inclusion and accessibility to all creative arts studies;**
- (e) Promote cultural diversity in society and the contribution of the refugees with disabilities to diversity.**

Israel (2023)

61. The Committee is concerned about the slow progress in accessibility to religious sites, including synagogues, holy places, including Christian, Jewish and Muslim premises and religious events and barriers to access parks, places for cultural performances, and sport centres and events.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, takes steps to provide access to all religious sites and events, cultural, leisure, tourism and sporting facilities and services in the public and private sector, and monitor progress.

63. The Committee is concerned that the regulation that relates to playground accessibility for children with disabilities does not cover all existing playgrounds.

64. Recalling its General comment No. 2 on accessibility, the Committee recommends that the State party expand the scope of the regulations to cover all existing and new playgrounds for children with disabilities.

Malawi (2023)

61. The Committee is concerned that Section 19 of the Disability Act of 2012, which recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport is not enforced. It also notes that sports and recreation infrastructure as well as places of cultural performances or services are not accessible to persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of measures to enable persons with disabilities to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures including legislation and policy to improve accessibility by all persons with disabilities to sport and leisure infrastructures including theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism sights as well as providing cultural and leisure information materials in accessible formats to all persons with disabilities;

(b) Encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;

(c) Collaborate with persons with disabilities to create incentives to utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential for their own benefit as well as that of the society.

Mauritania (2023)

51. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient access for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, to inclusive sporting, leisure and cultural activities and services. It is also concerned that State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others, as well as to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Mongolia (2023)

59. The Committee is concerned about a lack of measures to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats, access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats and access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services and sport services.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Develop measures to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats, access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats and access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services and sport services;**
- (b) **Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled through close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**
- (c) **Increase its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, enjoy their right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others.**

Paraguay (2023)

53. Al Comité le preocupa la falta de accesibilidad física, a la información y comunicación para personas con discapacidad en los centros recreativos, así como el poco financiamiento para la promoción de la cultura, y actividades recreativas limitando con ello el disfrute de este derecho.

54. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte normas de accesibilidad física, a la información y comunicación para garantizar el acceso a las actividades recreativas a todas las personas con discapacidad, incluyendo a los niños y niñas con discapacidad, y que asigne recursos humanos y financieros para la promoción de la cultura, deporte y actividades recreativas, incluyendo para personas con discapacidad.**

Angola (2023)

51. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of accessibility of all museums, cultural and recreational centres, tourist attractions and stadiums, including provision in public libraries of information in accessible formats for persons who are blind or visually impaired, including the lack of sufficient funding to enable persons with disabilities participate actively in sports and recreational activities, including in rural and remote areas;

(b) That the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

52. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Take concrete measures to eliminate all barriers militating against the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life, recreational and sports activities and encourage their participation on an equal basis with others, including expediting action on the establishment of the national disability sports centre,**

(b) **Ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.**

Argentina (2023)

57. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) La limitada accesibilidad en lugares turísticos, espacios culturales, deportivos y recreativos, y la poca aplicación de ajustes razonables en estos entornos, en particular para personas con discapacidad visual;

b) Los obstáculos que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad para acceder a los programas de televisión, las actividades culturales y las publicaciones electrónicas;

c) Los programas como el de Colonia Rodante que segregan a las personas con discapacidad;

d) El poco apoyo para artistas con discapacidad.

58. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:**

- a) Redoblar sus esfuerzos para garantizar la accesibilidad física, a la información y comunicación en los lugares turísticos, espacios culturales, deportivos y recreativos, incluyendo mayor presupuesto, campañas de concientización sobre las barreras que enfrentan las personas con discapacidad y capacitaciones sobre accesibilidad y ajustes razonables a las entidades que brindan estos servicios;
- b) Facilitar el acceso a programas de televisión y actividades culturales en formatos accesibles, y reforzar las medidas de aplicación del Tratado de Marrakech para Facilitar el Acceso a las Obras Publicadas a las Personas Ciegas, con Discapacidad Visual o con Otras Dificultades para Acceder al Texto Impreso, con el fin de aumentar la disponibilidad de obras publicadas accesibles;
- c) Eliminar los programas que segregan a personas con discapacidad en aras de promover su participación en actividades recreativas, culturales o deportivas;
- d) Implementar programas de apoyo económico, incluyendo becas para artistas con discapacidad.

Georgia (2023)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The State party not yet having ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;
- (b) Persons with disabilities facing barriers to access tourism venues, including cultural monuments, taking part in cultural life and participating in sporting events, and the absence of measures for persons with disabilities to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, in the long-term human rights strategy (2022-2030).

60. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;**
- (b) **Strengthen mechanisms to ensure sporting, recreational, cultural and tourism venues are accessible for persons with disabilities, particularly outside of the capital Tbilisi, assess accessibility barriers, and closely consult organizations of persons with disabilities in the development of mechanisms to remedy accessibility barriers;**
- (c) **Include the right of persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, in the long-term human rights strategy (2022-2030) and its subsequent strategies, policies and programmes.**

Peru (2023)

60. Al Comité le preocupa la falta de accesibilidad física, a la información y comunicación en los centros recreativos para personas con discapacidad, así como el poco financiamiento para la promoción de la cultura, y actividades recreativas limitando con ello el disfrute de este derecho.

61. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que elabore un manual de estándares de accesibilidad física, a la información y comunicación que garantice el acceso a las actividades recreativas a todas las personas con discapacidad, que abarque todas las deficiencias y que asigne recursos humanos y financieros para la promoción de la cultura, deporte y actividades recreativas para personas con discapacidad.**

Togo (2023)

57. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient access for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, to inclusive sporting, leisure and cultural activities and services. It is also concerned that State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others, as well as to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Tunisia (2023)

53. The Committee is concerned that the implementation of Part No. 8 of the Policy Law No. 38 of 2005 on Free Access to Public, Cultural, Sports and Entertainment Spaces has not been effective and it is little known among persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. It is also concerned that the Ministry of Culture does not meaningfully involve persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in its awareness raising programmes on the importance of organizing cultural activities for persons with disabilities. It is particularly concerned that they are neither involved in the design, planning, implementation and follow up of the organized programmes, when many of them are not even aware of these programmes, nor in the assessment of accessibility to monuments, theatres, and other recreational and leisure places.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure effective implementation and awareness raising of Part No. 8 of the Policy Law No. 38 of 2005 on Free Access to Public, Cultural, Sports and Entertainment Spaces to ensure facilitation and free access by all persons with disabilities to these places;**
- (b) Adopt measures to ensure that information on cultural activities, cultural materials and contents are accessible to persons with disabilities, including through the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs);**
- (c) Take measures to ensure close consultation and active participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in its awareness raising programmes on the importance of organizing cultural activities for persons with disabilities, and in particular, ensure they are involved in the design, planning, implementation and follow up of the organized programmes;**
- (d) Carry out regular assessment of accessibility to monuments, theatres, and other recreational and leisure places with active participation and in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations;**
- (e) Support artistic, cultural and sports productions developed by persons with disabilities and disseminate them to the public.**

Bangladesh (2022)

57. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The lack of accessibility of all museums, cultural and recreational centres, tourist attractions and stadiums, including provision in public libraries of information in accessible formats for persons who are blind or visually impaired, including the lack of sufficient budgetary allocations to enable persons with disabilities participate actively in sports and recreational activities, including in rural and remote areas.**
- (b) The State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or otherwise printed disabled;**

58. The Committee recommends that the State party take concrete measures to eliminate all barriers militating against the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life, recreational and sports activities and encourage their participation on an equal basis with others, including expediting action on the establishment of the national disability sports centre, as well as to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled as soon as possible.

Indonesia (2022)

62. The Committee is concerned at the limited efforts undertaken to provide accessibility and infrastructure that guarantee persons with disabilities equal enjoyment of sites of cultural value, including in cultural buildings, theatres and tourist sites.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others.

Japan (2022)

63. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Limited accessibility at tourist locations and entertainment facilities;
- (b) Barriers to access television programs, cultural activities, and electronic publications;
- (c) Restrictions on participation in sporting events, in particular, as regards persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Enhance efforts to ensure accessibility at tourist locations and entertainment facilities, including those of a small scale;**
- (b) Secure the access to television programs and cultural activities in accessible formats, and strengthen measures to implement the Marrakesh Treaty to increase the availability of accessible published works;**
- (c) Ensure the access to sport activities for all persons with disabilities, including the provision of reasonable accommodation.**

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

56. The Committee notes:

- (a) That the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled;
- (b) With concern the low participation of persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities belonging to ethnic groups, in cultural life, and recreational and sports activities.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all appropriate measures to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled;**
- (b) Eliminate social and environmental barriers hindering the participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women and children with disabilities belonging to ethnic groups, in cultural life, and recreational and sports activities, and encourage their participation on an equal basis with others.**

Republic of Korea (2022)

61. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific measures put in place to effectively implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print-Disabled and the insufficient measures taken to promote the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty through close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party increase its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, enjoy their right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others.

Hungary (2022)

58. The Committee is concerned about the remaining barriers to access to recreational, leisure and sporting venues and activities for persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities and children with disabilities.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to general recreational, leisure and sporting venues and activities for persons with disabilities, with a particular emphasis on persons with intellectual disabilities and children with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, and provide them with the necessary assistance and support to achieve this objective.

Jamaica (2022)

54. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That despite the adoption of the Copyright Amendment Act in 2015 to facilitate access to published work for persons with disabilities who are blind or visually impaired, the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty and has not adopted national legislation;

(b) At the limited access for deaf persons to arts and cultural events, as sign language interpretation service is not generally provided in most cultural places;

(c) That cultural centres, theatres and library services which provide access to the Internet by persons with disabilities, including computers with speech software for persons with visual impairments, are sometimes inaccessible and far away from the community, and that the availability of audio materials is very limited.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others, as well as to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Switzerland (2022)

57. The Committee notes with concern the insufficient measures to implement the Marrakesh Treaty and to recognize the specific cultural and linguistic identity of deaf persons.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Strengthen measures to implement the Marrakesh Treaty and to increase the availability of accessible published works;**

(b) **Recognize the specific cultural and linguistic identity of deaf persons, including sign languages and deaf culture.**

Venezuela (2022)

50. The Committee takes note of the process of updating the electoral register to identify more voters with disabilities, but remains concerned about their limited participation in the reform and the fact that persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, are underrepresented in electoral processes and selection procedures for decision-making bodies.

51. The Committee recommends that persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities and persons with intensive support needs, should be consulted through their representative organizations about potential electoral policy and law reforms to guarantee that they are able to vote, be elected to public office and participate in decision-making bodies.

Djibouti (2021)

53. The Committee is concerned about the lack of sufficient access for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, to inclusive sporting, leisure and cultural

activities and services. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party adopts measures to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others, as well as to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

France (2021)

60. The Committee is concerned about lack of information on measures to implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, and about access to mainstream sporting, recreational and tourism venues for persons with disabilities, the lack of play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities for children with disabilities. It also notes with concern the lack of support to the organizational structure for Deaf sports and the lack of recognition of Deaf Olympic.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation at the national level of the relevant European Union legislation enacted following the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled;

Set up specific budgets to promote the right of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others;

Take measures to encourage the Deaf Olympic and give effect to the recommendations issued by the Defender of Rights, in 2008.

Estonia (2021)

58. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access for persons with disabilities to cultural materials, places for cultural performances and services. It is also concerned about the lack of access for persons with intellectual disabilities to recreational, leisure and sporting activities, in which they are impeded from participating on an equal basis with others.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to places for cultural performances, ensure the provision by museums of information in sign language and provide cultural materials in accessible formats. The State party should promote inclusive recreational, leisure and sporting activities for both adults and children with disabilities.

Albania (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly children, face barriers to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party itemize a budget to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities, particularly children, to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others. It encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Australia (2019)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of specific measures put in place to effectively implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print-Disabled and the insufficient measures taken to promote the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty through close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party increase its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, enjoy their right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others.

Ecuador (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned at a lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities in all sport, recreational and cultural facilities and at the lack of participation by children with disabilities in sports and cultural events. It is also concerned at the insufficient nature of the steps taken to implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee physical and communication access for persons with disabilities at sports, cultural and recreational facilities by putting in place the necessary accessibility measures in both urban and rural areas; that it provide more training for the public employees working in such facilities; and that sign language guides and information in accessible formats, such as Braille and other modes and means of communication, be used to foster the participation of children with disabilities in sport and cultural events. It also recommends that the State party take targeted action to implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

El Salvador (2019)

56. The Committee is concerned that accessible tourist viewing points, as well as the development of accessibility for sporting events in general, have focused on physical accessibility.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that all tourist viewing points and sports events open to the public use accessible communication modes, means and formats and that persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, have full access to sports, cultural and other leisure centres, in both urban and rural areas. It also recommends that the State party collect disaggregated data on the number of persons with disabilities who participate in mainstream sports and recreation programmes, particularly those living in rural and remote areas.

Greece (2019)

44. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities face barriers in their participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others due to, inter alia, the limited access to cultural materials and activities in accessible formats, cultural performances and services, sporting activities, monuments and sites of national cultural importance.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party take all steps necessary to provide and promote inclusive and accessible facilities for recreational, leisure and sporting activities, guaranteeing equal access and ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities. It encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation at the national level of the relevant European Union legislation enacted following the ratification of the Marrakesh

Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

India (2019)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures to ensure access to mainstream recreation, cultural activities, leisure and sports by persons with disabilities, and the insufficient measures to further promote the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party monitor the accessibility of leisure and sports sites, recognize cultural identities and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural performances and cultural exchanges. It also recommends that the State party adopt policies to incentivize publishers to make reading material available in accessible formats, and promote the cross-border exchange of resources in accordance with the Marrakesh Treaty.

Iraq (2019)

55. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

56. The Committee encourages the State party to expedite review of the draft bill to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty.

57. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities face barriers in participating in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party itemize a budget to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others, including measures that provide assistance as needed.

Kuwait (2019)

58. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. It is also concerned about the lack of information about measures taken to:

Promote deaf culture and the linguistic identity of persons who are deaf;

Ensure access to all cultural, recreational, tourism-related and sporting events and services for children and adults with disabilities;

Ensure equal access to and the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in all mainstream sporting activities and facilities.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty. It also recommends that the State party:

In close consultation with and with the active participation of organizations of deaf persons, promote deaf culture and the linguistic identity of persons who are deaf;

Ensure the accessibility of cultural, recreational, tourism-related and sporting events and services in the public and private sectors, beyond those specifically dedicated to persons with disabilities, to children and adults with disabilities;

Ensure equal access to and the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in all mainstream sporting activities and facilities.

Myanmar (2019)

57. The Committee is concerned that:

The participation of persons with disabilities, particularly children with disabilities, in cultural life, recreational and sports activities remains low;

The State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Eliminate social and environmental barriers hindering the participation of persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities, in cultural life, recreational and sports activities and encourage their participation on an equal basis with others;

Take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Cuba (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned that

Access to sports and leisure facilities, which hinders the effective participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities is lacking;

The State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Implements measures that promote the participation of persons with disabilities in sports at all levels, including in national and international sport competitions, take steps to support and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities, including children, in sports and cultural activities based on the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention, and adopt accessibility plans with regard to historical, heritage and tourist sites and cultural and leisure facilities;

Take all necessary measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty.

Niger (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned about:

The lack of accessibility of sporting, recreation and cultural centres, for persons with disabilities, and the lack of financial resources for persons with disabilities to engage in such activities;

The fact that the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled is not yet ratified.

50. The Committee recommends that the State Party adopt measures to ensure that all sports, recreational and cultural facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities, including persons with physical disabilities, blind and visually impaired persons, and persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, and provide budgetary allocations to ensure that they participate actively in such activities; and ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty.

Norway (2019)

47. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, children in particular, face barriers to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary steps to secure and promote inclusive and accessible facilities for recreational, leisure and sporting activities, including UNESCO World Heritage sites, providing equal access and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, particularly children. It also encourages the State party to promptly ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Rwanda (2019)

55. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not signed or ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind,

Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. It is also concerned by the lack of efforts to increase accessible spaces of recreation and leisure, both in rural and urban areas, and limited opportunities for persons with disabilities, including children, to participate in sports and cultural activities.

56. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to sign, ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty. It also recommends that the State party take concrete measures to increase accessible and inclusive spaces of recreation and leisure, and support and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities, including children, in sports and cultural activities.

Saudi Arabia

53. The Committee is concerned at the limited participation of women and girls with disabilities in physical education at school, in national tournaments and in sports leagues.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party support and encourage the participation of women and girls with disabilities in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities in and outside of school.

Senegal (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or otherwise printed disabled.

52. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Spain (2019)

56. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or otherwise printed disabled.

57. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all necessary measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Türkiye (2019)

58. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or otherwise printed disabled.

59. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

60. The Committee is concerned about the limited information about participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities and sports facilities.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in mainstream sporting activities at all levels.

Vanuatu (2019)

50. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or otherwise printed disabled.

51. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Algeria (2018)

50. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. It is also concerned about insufficient measures to provide access to tourist sites, museums, art galleries, cultural centres, public parks and other public cultural facilities for all persons with disabilities and to encourage the participation of children with disabilities in recreational, leisure and sporting activities.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, to ensure the accessibility of tourist sites, museums, art galleries, cultural centres, public parks and other public spaces for all persons with disabilities and to encourage the participation of young persons with disabilities in recreational, sport, and cultural activities on an equal basis with others.

Bulgaria (2018)

63. The Committee is concerned that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

64. The Committee encourages the State party to promptly ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

65. The Committee is concerned about the State party's insufficient efforts to support access to and participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities

66. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to support and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities, including children, in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities.

Malta (2018)

43. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities face barriers to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others and that their participation in most cases still depends on assistance by a relative or caregiver. It also notes that the State party is awaiting the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled by the European Union.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party itemize a budget to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others, including measures that provide assistance as needed. It encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to prepare the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty upon its ratification in order to allow access to materials to persons with visual impairments, or otherwise print disabled.

Philippines (2018)

52. The Committee is concerned that the State Party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

53. The Committee encourages the State party to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

54. The Committee is concerned about the policy of granting national funding only for the Paralympics, and Special Olympics to participate in competitions abroad, excluding persons

with disabilities enrolled in other sports. It is also concerned about the lack of measures to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in cultural and recreational activities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Allocate public funds for equal access and practice of sports by all persons with disabilities;

Adopt measures to ensure all persons with disabilities to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport;

Adopt a strategy and allocate resources at the national and local levels to develop inclusive facilities, programmes and activities for persons with disabilities, in areas such as theatre, dance, music, in partnership and close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

South Africa (2018)

48. The Committee is concerned about the delay in revising the Copyright Act (1978) and ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite action to complete the process of the revision of the Copyright Act (1978) and the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.

North Macedonia (2018)

54. The Committee is concerned about the State party's insufficient efforts to support access to and participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities. The Committee regrets that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to support and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities, including children, in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities. It also encourages the State party to promptly ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Haiti (2018)

54. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities face barriers to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party itemize a budget to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others. It encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Nepal (2018)

43. The Committee is concerned about how the National Sports Policy, 2010, which was adopted to develop and expand para-sports in order to encourage persons with disabilities to participate in sports of their interest, has been effective in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities under article 30, particularly those with visual, speech and hearing impairment. The Committee also notes that while the State party has signed the Marrakesh Treaty, it is yet to ratify it.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate action and measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting programs. The Committee also encourages the State party to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Oman (2018)

53. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. It is also concerned about insufficient measures to develop deaf culture as well as measures adopted to provide accessibility to tourist sites, museums, art galleries, cultural centres, public parks and other public cultural facilities for all persons with disabilities, including the participation of children in recreational, leisure and sporting activities.

54. The Committee recommends that the State Party take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as well as adopt measures for the development of deaf culture and to ensure the accessibility of tourist sites, museums, art galleries, cultural centres, public parks and other public spaces for all persons with disabilities, including the participation of children with disabilities in recreational, sport and cultural activities.

Russian Federation (2018)

60. The Committee is concerned that there is a lack of transparent information on the implementation of laws mentioned in paragraph 191 of the Replies to the List of Issues, with special regards to procedures for assisting persons with disabilities to exercise their cultural rights and that there is no information about the implementation of the Federal Act No. 34 with regard to mandatory audio description and captioning of movies. The Committee is also concerned that apart from persons with physical disabilities, persons with sensory or other types of disabilities do not seem to be covered by the services for tourists, including accommodation. The Committee furthermore notes with concern that there are no mandatory standards of accessibility for tourist services.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party improve the access to culture to all persons with disabilities, including persons with sensory disabilities, by establishing transparent procedures and the evaluation mechanisms, as well as binding standards for the tourist and cultural infrastructures and services in the Russian Federation in line with the General Comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility.

Seychelles (2018)

51. The Committee notes the brilliant performance of athletes with disabilities at the regional and international levels and the excellent performance of artists with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of inclusive leisure, recreation and sports activities;
- (b) The fact that the State party has not yet acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled;
- (c) The absence of systematic policies and practices for the promotion of accessibility in the tourism sector.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promote inclusive leisure, recreation and sports activities;**
- (b) Accede to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled as soon as possible;**
- (c) Ensure that tourism policies and practices are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, and disseminate the World Tourism Organization Recommendations on Accessible Tourism to all travel agencies and tourism agencies.**

Slovenia (2018)

51. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

52. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled as soon as possible.

Sudan (2018)

61. The Committee is concerned about the State party's insufficient efforts to support access and participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities. The Committee is concerned that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to support and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities, including children, in cultural, recreational, leisure and sporting activities. It also recommends that the State party promptly ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Luxembourg (2017)

52. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities face barriers to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party itemize a budget to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport on an equal basis with others. It encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Montenegro (2017)

54. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. The Committee is also concerned that sports centres do not sufficiently promote inclusive regular sports programmes.

55. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible. It recommends that the State party allocate the necessary resources to increase access to inclusive sports to persons with disabilities of all ages.

Morocco (2017)

56. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite action to complete the process for the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Panama (2017)

58. The Committee is concerned at the lack of effective implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. Furthermore, it is concerned by the lack of State efforts at all

levels to support access for persons with disabilities, especially children, to accessible sports activities.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to support and encourage the participation of persons with disabilities, including children, in sports. It also recommends that the State party adopt accessibility plans with regard to historical, heritage and tourist sites and cultural and leisure facilities. Lastly, it recommends that the State party promptly take all necessary measures to implement the Marrakesh Treaty.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

62. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. It is also concerned about the low level of accessibility to sports stadiums with individual seating for persons with disabilities and their families, friends and personal assistants, and to national heritage sites, including those appointed as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) heritage sites.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Take all necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled as soon as possible;

Adopt a concrete plan of action, with resources and measurable objectives, to implement legislation, regulation and standardization to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to inclusive participation in all sports facilities and heritage sites, including UNESCO heritage sites.

Armenia (2017)

53. The Committee is concerned about the limited access and participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas, with respect to sports and cultural activities and events. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to and actively participate in cultural and sports activities and have equal access to facilities and services, such as libraries, sports and other cultural events and facilities. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty without delay.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

54. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments and persons with print disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that despite the fact that there is an adopted strategy for the period 2016-2021 for promoting the accessibility of educational, cultural and sports facilities, no significant progress can be identified so far.

55. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible. It also recommends that, in line with paragraph 15 of general comment No. 2 (2014), more attention be paid to educational, cultural and sport facilities in terms of coordination based on the suggested action plan.

Cyprus (2017)

59. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party take all steps necessary to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Honduras (2017)

63. El Comité toma nota con beneplácito de la ratificación del Tratado de Marrakech para Facilitar el Acceso a las Obras Publicadas a las Personas Ciegas, con Discapacidad Visual o con Otras Dificultades para Acceder al Texto Impreso. Sin embargo le preocupa la falta de accesibilidad a sitios históricos, culturales, patrimoniales y turísticos para las personas con discapacidad en el Estado parte.

64. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte planes de accesibilidad, con indicadores y plazos concretos, en sitios de valor histórico y patrimonial, sitios turísticos e instalaciones donde se desarrollan actividades culturales y recreativas. Asimismo, el Comité alienta al Estado parte a fortalecer el acceso a la información y a la lectura para personas ciegas y con baja visión promoviendo la colaboración con editoriales, bibliotecas, centros de documentación, centros educativos y universidades, entre otros.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

56. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

57. The Committee encourages the State party to take all necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Jordan (2017)

57. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, which provides for access to published material by blind persons, persons with visual impairments or persons who have other difficulties in accessing printed materials.

58. The Committee encourages the State party to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

54. The Committee is concerned about the limited access that persons with disabilities have to cultural activities and sport facilities and that athletes with disabilities are not supported on an equal basis with other athletes. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities participate in cultural activities and sport, and that athletes with disabilities receive support on an equal basis with other athletes. It encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Bolivia (2016)

67. The Committee is concerned at:

The scant support provided to sportsmen and women with disabilities, especially elite sportsmen and women, and their lack of opportunities to participate in international competitions;

The lack of accessibility to historic, cultural, heritage and tourist sites;

The fact that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Allocate the necessary material and human resources to promote sports among persons with disabilities at the educational, recreational and elite levels;

Adopt accessibility plans, including indicators and specific time frames, at sites of historical and heritage value, tourist attractions and facilities that host cultural and recreational activities;

Ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Colombia (2016)

66. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

67. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Guatemala (2016)

69. The Committee notes the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled and the efforts to promote the creation of a national network of entities that are authorized to produce published material in accessible formats.

70. However, the Committee is concerned that Decree No. 33-98 on copyright and related rights has not yet been brought into line with the Marrakesh Treaty and that a national network of entities that are authorized to produce published material in accessible formats has not been created.

71. The Committee encourages the State party to expedite the harmonization of Decree No. 33-98 on copyright and related rights with the Marrakesh Treaty and the creation of a national network of entities that are authorized to produce published material in accessible formats. It further encourages the State party to improve access to information and reading for persons who are blind or visually impaired and to promote collaboration with publishing houses, libraries, documentation centres, schools and universities, among others.

Italy (2016)

75. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

76. The Committee recommends that the State party streamline all efforts for the prompt ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of measures taken to include persons with disabilities, especially children, in recreational, sport and cultural activities, which remain mostly segregated.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in recreational, sport and cultural activities and in society at large.

Lithuania (2016)

59. The Committee is concerned at reports stating that public cultural spaces such as the World Heritage sites of the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) largely remain inaccessible to persons with disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of State party documentation on how European Union structural funds contribute to the removal of barriers to accessibility.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, take the steps necessary to secure and promote inclusive and accessible facilities for recreational, leisure and sporting activities, including UNESCO World Heritage sites, providing equal access to and participation for persons with disabilities, as set out in targets 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Portugal (2016)

56. The Committee is concerned that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, which provides access to printed works for persons who are blind or partially sighted or experience other difficulties to access such publications.

57. The Committee encourages the State party to take all appropriate measures to ratify the World Intellectual Property Organization Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Serbia (2016)

61. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled, which provides for access to published material by blind persons and persons with visual impairments or print disabilities.

62. The Committee encourages the State party to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Slovakia (2016)

79. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

80. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

81. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accessibility of libraries for all persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities.

82. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that public libraries increase their accessibility and stock of easy-to-read, digital, audio and Braille publications.

Thailand (2016)

61. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

62. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Uganda (2016)

58. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party take all steps necessary to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Brazil (2015)

54. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which would enable persons who are blind, visually impaired or

otherwise print disabled to access published works. It is also concerned that tourist areas and facilities are not fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify the Marrakesh Treaty. It further recommends to take appropriate measures to ensure that libraries are accessible to all persons with disabilities, including persons with cognitive or psycho-social impairments and those who are deaf-blind. It further recommends to step up its efforts to make tourism in Brazil fully accessible.

European Union (2015)

70. The Committee is concerned that the European Union has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or print disabilities in accessing printed materials.

71. The Committee encourages the European Union to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Gabon (2015)

64. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or print disabilities in having access to printed materials.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Kenya (2015)

53. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

54. The Committee encourages the State party to take all necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Mauritius (2015)

41. The Committee regrets that the State party has not yet acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty. It is also concerned with the lack of policies regarding accessibility in tourism and travel sector.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party

Accede to the Marrakesh treaty as soon as possible;

Ensure accessibility of libraries, audiovisual materials and broadcast services to persons with disabilities;

Ensure that tourism policies and practices are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, and disseminate the World Tourism Organization Recommendations on Accessible Tourism for all among travel agents and tourism agencies.

Qatar (2015)

53. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or persons with print disabilities in having access to printed materials.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Ukraine (2015)

56. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

57. The Committee encourages the State party to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Cook Islands (2015)

53. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not acceded the Marrakesh treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, and that libraries do not have books available in Braille, easy to read formats and available digital resources. It is further concerned that there are no policies in place in the tourism and travel sector to facilitate tourist travel by persons with disabilities

54. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Accede the Marrakesh treaty as soon as possible;

Ensure libraries have books available in Braille, easy to read formats and accessible digital resources;

Ensure that tourism policies and practices are inclusive of persons with disabilities, and disseminate the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Recommendations on Accessible Tourism for All among travel agents and tourism agencies.

Croatia (2015)

47. The Committee is concerned about the low participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life. It is further concerned that Croatia has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

48. The Committee recommends the State party to take appropriate steps to ensure accessibility of mainstream cultural facilities and to take appropriate measures, e.g. disability art festivals, to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential. It is recommended that the State Party ratifies the Marrakesh Treaty.

Czech Republic (2015)

58. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or persons who have other difficulties in accessing printed materials.

59. The Committee encourages the State party to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Dominican Republic (2015)

56. Al Comité le preocupa que el Estado parte aún no haya ratificado el Tratado de Marrakech para Facilitar el Acceso a las Obras Publicadas a las Personas Ciegas, con Discapacidad Visual o con Otras Dificultades para Acceder al Texto impreso. Asimismo, le preocupa la poca accesibilidad de los sitios turísticos, monumentos históricos y patrimoniales, museos y otras instalaciones para el desarrollo de actividades artísticas y culturales.

57. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

Ratificar el Tratado de Marrakech; e

Implementar un plan para hacer accesibles los sitios turísticos, monumentos históricos e instalaciones, donde se desarrollan actividades artísticas y culturales y fomentar la participación de personas con discapacidad en las mismas.

Germany (2015)

55. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet acceded to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

56. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures including ratifying to and implementing the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible in order to facilitate access to published material for blind persons, persons with visual impairments and persons with other difficulties in accessing published works.

Turkmenistan (2015)

51. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

52. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures in order to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

New Zealand (2014)

63. The Committee notes that only about 10 per cent of television programmes are captioned and only about one to two hours of television programmes each day are audio-described.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party take further measures to increase the captioning and audio description of television programmes.

65. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the World Intellectual Property Organization Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or persons who have other difficulties in accessing printed materials.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party take all appropriate steps to speedily ratify the Marrakesh Treaty.

Denmark (2014)

62. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or persons who have other difficulties in accessing printed materials.

63. The Committee encourages the State party to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Republic of Korea (2014)

57. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or persons with other difficulties in having access to printed materials.

58. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Belgium (2014)

40. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, adopted in 2013 by the World Intellectual Property Organization, which facilitates access to published material for blind persons, persons with visual impairments and persons with other difficulties in accessing published works.

41. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Ecuador (2014)

46. The Committee is concerned that facilities for sports and cultural development at the national level may not have undergone the necessary adaptation for access and use by persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that school and sports centres do not promote inclusive sports programmes for persons with disabilities, especially for the very young. The Committee further expresses its concern that theatres, cinemas and other recreational and cultural facilities do not have the necessary infrastructure and qualified staff for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party launch a national plan for accessible sport and update its cultural and recreational policy so that its main facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the plans and instruments used for overseeing theatres, cinemas and other recreational facilities take account of their accessibility to persons with disabilities, and that sanctions be imposed when such facilities do not have conditions suited to all users.

48. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which would enable persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled to have access to published works.

49. The Committee encourages the State party to take all the necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Mexico (2014)

57. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

58. The Committee encourages the State party to take all necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Sweden (2014)

53. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not signed or ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which allows access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or persons with other difficulties in having access to printed materials.

54. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to sign, ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

Azerbaijan (2014)

46. The Committee is concerned about the fact that the State party has not signed or ratified the World Intellectual Property Organization Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled which allows the access to published material to blind persons, persons with visual impairments or persons with other difficulties in having access to printed materials.

47. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to sign, ratify and implement the Marrakesh treaty as earliest as possible.

Costa Rica (2014)

61. The Committee is concerned about the fact that the State party has still not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, which would enable persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled to access published works.

62. The Committee urges the State party to take the appropriate steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.

El Salvador (2013)

61. The Committee is concerned at the lack of measures regarding access to and participation in cultural activities, such as the theatre and museums, and at the meagre progress in private-sector promotion of participation in cultural life by persons with disabilities, including children and adolescents.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to devise policies and measures to ensure participation in cultural life, recreational activities, relaxation and sports by persons with disabilities, including the conclusion of public-private agreements with civil society organizations and businesses to establish accessible recreational and cultural spaces.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 31 CRPD
(Statistics and data collection)*

September 2025

Article 31 - Statistics and data collection

1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall:

- a) Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;*
- b) Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.*

2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

3. States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
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China (2012)
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Peru (2012)

Spain (2011)

Tunisia (2010)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 31 on Czech Republic.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

60. The Committee welcomes the use of the Washington Group short set of questions on disability in population censuses to create a database on persons with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned about the lack of publication of reliable, disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, including by type of impairment, age, gender, geographic location, and socioeconomic status.

61. The Committee recommends that the State Party use the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, promote inclusivity and improve disability data collection systems, with data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, urban or rural location and migrant, refugee or asylum-seeking situation. The Committee also recommends the State Party to strengthen institutional data collection and analysis capacity and develop and publish comprehensive, disaggregated, and rights-based disability data in line with international standards, and ensure the involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all stages of data collection and analysis.

Finland (2025)

60. The Committee notes with concern the serious shortcomings in the collection and publication of data on the exercise of the rights under the Convention.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party develop comprehensive national disability data collections and statistics, including on the Åland Islands, to frame policies on the implementation of the Convention and monitor its compliance.

Kiribati (2025)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The insufficient skills in implementation of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions and the lack of disability awareness among statisticians and enumerators;
- (b) The limited collection and coordination of disability-related data across ministries, and the insufficient analysis of data contained in the Kiribati Disability Monograph 2025 in order to inform resource allocation and policy measures across ministries.

60. Recalling Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 17.18 to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data, the Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations:

- (a) Train and build capacity of the National Statistics Officers and enumerators on implementation of the Washington Group questions, on disability awareness and the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Analyse the data contained in the disability monograph in order to inform resource allocation and policy measures across all ministries, including measures within the National Disability Policy and Action Plan.

Maldives (2025)

61. The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party incorporated the Washington Group short set of questions in its last Census. However, it is concerned:

- (a) About the coordination and consistency of disaggregated data and statistics on the situation of children and adults with disabilities in the State party, including on the outer islands to assist with policy development and review;
- (b) The dissemination and accessibility of data and statistics on children and adults with disabilities across Ministries, to development partners and to persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party adhere to the Convention in its efforts to achieve Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 17.18 to

significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and in particular:

(a) Closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in its efforts to increase the collection of data and statistics on disability;

(b) Ensure that data collection measures, censuses and surveys are disability inclusive and continue to incorporate the Washington Group short set of questions, and provide training and capacity building to statistical officers;

(c) Develop an accessible disability monograph from all data sources and statistics for dissemination across ministries, for development partners and for persons with disability and their representative organisations, and ensure that such data is available in Braille, sign language, Easy Read and accessible digital formats, including for persons with disabilities in outer islands.

Canada (2025)

60. The Committee notes that the State Party implements the short set of questions of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, as well as its active participation in high-level data collection on the status of the National Dementia Strategy through the WHO Global Dementia Observatory. However, it remains concerned that:

(a) The State party's existing surveys, including those feeding the Indicators for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, are not based on the human rights model of the Convention and do not mainstream disability, hindering the gathering of comprehensive and intersectional information on persons with disabilities, and that the Canadian Survey on Disability does not gather information about children with disabilities under 15 years of age, even when the Canadian Health Survey for Children and Youth collects disability information for those 1 to 14 years of age;

(b) The insufficient participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design and monitoring of data collection for the effective implementation of the Convention.

61. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Conduct a review of its statistics and data collection tools at federal, provincial, and territorial levels, in order to mainstream disability and intersectionality in information gathering systems, including in the Disaggregated Data Action Plan;

(b) Develop and improve the design and monitoring of data collection on compliance with the Convention at the Federal, provincial, and territorial levels.

Dominican Republic (2025)

57. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Statistical information on persons with disabilities being scarce and dispersed among different State institutions, without unified criteria for its collection and analysis;

(b) The lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, including in relation to sex, age, socioeconomic level, education, race, among others.

58. Recalling the Washington Group short set of questions on functioning the Committee recommends that the State party establish an integrated system for the collection of data on persons with disabilities, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and with their active participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of that system, and its use to populate indicators, involving all government ministries and entities that collect data, including statistical data. Such a system should collect data disaggregated by factors such as age, sex, type of impairment, type of support required, sexual orientation and gender identity, socioeconomic status, ethnicity and migrant or refugee situation.

European Union (2025)

72. The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Disability Database by Eurostat, but notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of disaggregated data by type of disability, which prevents identification of support measures and comparative data analysis;
- (b) The omission of persons with disabilities living in institutions in data collection;
- (c) The lack of data disaggregated by LGBTIQ+ identity, gender, race, ethnicity, standard of living, and age.

73. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Further expand the use of the Washington Group Short Set of questions and disaggregate its data by type of disability in key areas of life, and include barriers and possible support measures;**
- (b) Include persons with disabilities in institutions in its data collection, as envisaged in pilot studies set to begin in 2027;**
- (c) Disaggregate data collection on persons with disabilities by LGBTIQ+ identity, gender, race, ethnicity, standard of living and age.**

Palau (2025)

59. The Committee appreciates that the Washington Group short set of questions on disability was used in the 2015 and 2020 population censuses to create a database on persons with disabilities. However, it is concerned about the unclear use of this collected database and its contribution to improving the quality of services provided for persons with disabilities.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions and improve disability data collection systems, with data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, urban or rural location and migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and pay close attention to the links between article 31 and target 17.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular:

- (a) Reform its system of data collection and collect data on the situation of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age and gender, particularly about persons with disabilities from marginalised communities, across all sectors including health, education, employment, political participation, access to justice, social protection, violence, migration and internal displacement;**
- (b) Take steps to collect data on categories of persons with disabilities who are excluded such as persons who are deafblind in all future census, including housing survey and ensure that such data is available in Braille, sign language, Easy Read and electronic formats, including for persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas.**

Tuvalu (2025)

57. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) About the coordination and consistency of disaggregated data and statistics on the situation of children and adults with disabilities in the State party, including on the outer islands to assist with policy development and review;
- (b) The dissemination and accessibility of data and statistics on children and adults with disabilities across Ministries, to development partners and to persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party adhere to the Convention in its efforts to achieve Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 17.18 to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and in particular:

- (a) Closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in its efforts to increase the collection of data and statistics on disability;**
- (b) Ensure that data collection measures, censuses and surveys are disability inclusive and incorporate the Washington Group short set of questions, and provide training and capacity building to statistical officers;**
- (c) Develop an accessible disability monograph from all data sources and statistics for dissemination across ministries, for development partners and for persons with disability and their representative organisations, and ensure that such data is available in Braille, sign language, Easy Read and electronic formats, including for persons with disabilities in outer islands.**

Viet Nam (2025)

61. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a disaggregated data-collection system and unified indicators across the State party concerning the human rights of persons with disabilities, and identifying barriers in their exercise of those rights;**
- (b) The fact that the results of the first National Study on Persons with Disabilities prepared in 2016 have not been widely disseminated and have not been updated, and laws, policies and programmes have not been adapted or reformed in accordance with the results of that study.**

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Utilize the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on functioning and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, promote inclusivity and improve disability data collection systems, with data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, urban or rural location and migrant, refugee or asylum-seeking status (CRPD/AZE/CO/2-3; CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1; CRPD/PRY/CO/2-3);**
- (b) Widely disseminate the results of the survey among decision makers, the population in general and among organizations of persons with disabilities in accessible ways and means, and that it be updated to date;**

Belarus (2024)

61. The committee is concerned about:

- (a) The existing disaggregated data about persons with disabilities in particular within the minority groups, employment, social protection and education is not reliable, and the discord in data in the published reports due to lack of accurate and credible data collection system;**
- (b) The disability related questions were not included in 2019 national census;**
- (c) The inaccuracies in several thematic statistical assessments regarding the disability features because of the widespread use of the medical model in identifying persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Insufficiency of measures in-place to ensure and secure the confidentiality of the personal data of persons with disabilities.**

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish reliable and transparent disability national data collection system and use disaggregated data effectively, in the disability planning process;**
- (b) Incorporate the Washington Group set of questions in the public census and the thematic assessments in particular in health, family, education and employment sectors;**
- (c) Use holistic standards based on the human rights model in identifying persons with disabilities;**
- (d) Develop effective legal and practical measures to ensure confidentiality for the personal data of and information about persons with disabilities and their families.**

Belgium (2024)

62. The Committee is concerned that the data available in the State party is exceedingly limited, difficult to compare, partially due to varying definitions of disability, and dispersed among different policy areas; that it is therefore difficult to identify developments in state, economy and society, and establish links between different databases; and that the lack of properly interpretable quantitative data renders it difficult, if not impossible, to develop the policies and actions required to implement the Convention.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party define the term “disability” in their data collection to achieve comparability for contextual interpretation. It further recommends that the State party use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on disability and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and that it establish a system for centralised recording of both federal and regional data in order to be able to devise policies on the implementation of the Convention based on all available data.

Benin (2024)

61. The Committee is concerned:

(a) By the limited disaggregated data relating to persons with disabilities, on the challenges encountered in accessing education, health, recreation, leisure and sports facilities and services at all levels, including employment opportunities, and linkages between the incidence of disability and the risk of poverty and hardship;

(b) By the absence of data on persons with specific disabilities, such as persons who are deafblind, and by the fact that the statistical information disseminated among persons with disabilities is not in an accessible formats.

62. Taking into account Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 17.18 ,the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in its efforts to increase the collection of data and statistics on disability;

(b) Develop nationally consistent data-collection measures and public reporting of disaggregated data across the full range of obligations contained in the Convention and adequately train census enumerators and other officials in the use of the Washington Group short set of questions on functioning;

(c) Take steps to collect data on all persons with disabilities, including persons who are deafblind, in all future censuses and housing surveys and ensure that such data are available in Braille, sign language, Easy Read and electronic formats, including for persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas.

Burkina Faso (2024)

58. The Committee notes with concern the gaps in the collection of disaggregated data and statistics on persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention, as well as:

(a) The lack of systematic and comprehensive research on the living conditions of persons with disabilities and the obstacles they face in the exercise of their rights;

(b) The lack of a disaggregated data-collection system and unified indicators across the State party concerning the human rights of persons with disabilities, and identifying barriers in their exercise;

(c) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities in designing data collection systems in the area of disability;

(d) The insufficient information on the extent to which disability-related indicators are effectively applied in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on functioning and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, promote inclusivity and improve disability data collection systems, with disaggregated data. The Committee also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen its system for collecting data on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment status and place of residence, in all areas of life, ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying obstacles the enjoyment of their rights;**
- (c) Support independent research, both quantitative and qualitative, with the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, to enhance disability-related policies and ensure participatory planning and implementation of data collection;**
- (d) Ensure involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in designing, planning, implementing, analyzing and disseminating data collection and research related to persons with disabilities.**

Denmark (2024)

81. While noting the efforts to collect statistical data on persons with disabilities in the Kingdom of Denmark, including through the Survey of Health, Impairment and Living Conditions, the Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Despite data collection through the SHILD surveys and the contributions to the development of indicators for living conditions by organisations of persons with disabilities and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, there are still insufficient systematic disaggregated data-collection and unified indicators concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, and a lack of participation of persons with disabilities in designing data collection systems;**
- (b) The Living Conditions and Labour Market Surveys lack permanent funding, and that the SHILD surveys did not receive funding in 2024.**

82. The Committee recommends that Denmark:

- (a) Use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on functioning and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, promote inclusivity and improve disability data collection systems, with data disaggregated by race, age, sex, gender, ethnicity, urban or rural location and migrant situation (CRPD/AZE/CO/2-3; CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1; CRPD/PRY/CO/2-3), and closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design of data collection and statistics.**
- (b) Provide the Living Conditions Survey, the Labour Market Survey and the SHILD surveys with sufficient permanent funding.**

83. The Committee is concerned at the very scarce statistical data on persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, the barriers they encounter, and their living conditions in Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

84. The Committee recommends that Greenland and the Faroe Islands, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, systematically develop data collection and statistical and research systems on persons with disabilities, the barriers they encounter, and their living conditions, that can form as a basis to formulate and implement policies that give effect to the Convention.

Ghana (2024)

60. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of systematic collection and disaggregated statistics on persons with disabilities by the Ministries, Departments, and agencies to help in the correct development of public policies;
- (b) The fact that the data collected through the National Census of 2021 through The Washington Group set of questions was not inclusive as it left out account of persons with albinism, persons with psychosocial disabilities, autistic persons and children with disabilities below the age of five;
- (c) There is lack of accurate and disaggregated data on persons with disabilities as required by the Data Protection Act, 2012 (Act 843).

61. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) In close consultation and with the active involvement of person with disabilities, review data collection processes at the Ministries, Departments, and agencies to make them disability inclusive and connect them with the Central Data and statistics agent in order to increase the availability of inclusive data and ensure that the data collected is disseminated to the general population and to organizations of persons with disabilities and serves as a basis for policies and programs to ensure that they are inclusive of all persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Review the Data collection methodology at the national level to include all persons with disabilities, and ensure that data is disaggregated by gender, age, type of impairment, demographic distribution and other necessary attributes.**
- (c) Review the Data Protection Act, to include questions on persons with disabilities disaggregated by gender, age, type of disability and other necessary attributes.**

Mauritius (2024)

55. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) There is a lack of clarity on the different information management systems the State party has used over the years to collect data on persons with disabilities, including those that are no longer operational, and there is insufficient disaggregated data available about persons with disabilities across sectors;
- (b) There is insufficient consultation and involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the designing, collection and analysis of data, including for the 2022 Housing and Population Census.

56. Recalling the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on functioning and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the National Empowerment Authority's centralized register of persons with disabilities to facilitate systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination, disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, place of residence and other criteria, including about women and girls with disabilities, persons with disabilities who may be affected during an emergency situation, persons with disabilities who are involuntarily and voluntarily being deprived of liberty in mental healthcare centres and persons with disabilities who are employed;**
- (b) Utilize this information to concretely and effectively inform the development of laws, policies, plans, programmes and services;**
- (c) Ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in designing, planning, implementing, analysing and disseminating data collection and research related to persons with disabilities.**

Netherlands (2024)

67. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The shortcomings in the collection and publication of data on the situation of persons with disabilities across the entire state party including the Caribbean Netherlands and across all areas of life, including health, education, employment and the justice system;
- (b) The lack of disaggregated data, including in relation to the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, persons with disabilities under temporary protection, children with disabilities (in particular concerning education), women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on functioning and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, promote inclusivity and improve disability data collection systems, with data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, urban or rural location and migrant, refugee or asylum-seeking situation, and:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive national disability data framework to ensure appropriate, nationally consistent measures for the collection, interpretation and public reporting of disaggregated data on the full range of obligations under the Convention, across the entire state party, including the Caribbean Netherlands, and that in its collection of disaggregated data, the State party fully respect its privacy legislation.
- (b) Ensure appropriate disaggregated data collection including with respect to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, ethnic and racialized minorities, refugees and stateless persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, persons with disabilities under temporary protection, children with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions.

Ukraine (2024)

762. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive disaggregated data-collection system and unified indicators across the State Party concerning the human rights of persons with disabilities, and to identify barriers in their exercise, as well as the lack of involvement of persons with disabilities in designing data collection systems in the area of disability;
- (b) The lack of information related to the armed conflict, including persons that acquired a conflict-related disability, persons with disabilities that have died in the same context, persons with disabilities that are internally displaced, refugees and asylum seekers, including those living outside formal camps or resettlement areas and those in refugee-like situations;
- (c) The delay in the process of introducing the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on functioning.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Promote inclusivity and improve disability data collection systems, with data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, urban or rural location and migrant, refugee or asylum-seeking status including by using The Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on functioning;
- (b) Implement the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;
- (c) Develop statistics related to persons with disabilities in conflict-affected areas, disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, urban or rural location and migrant, refugee or asylum-seeking situation.

Azerbaijan (2024)

65. The Committee is concerned that the State party's census does not include persons with disabilities facing multiple and intersectional discrimination.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on disability and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, promote inclusivity and improve disability data collection systems, disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnicity, urban and rural areas, migrant, refugee, asylum-seeking situation.

Bahrain (2024)¹

62. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The inaccuracy of the figures showing the number of persons with disabilities, which indicate that the number of persons with disabilities amounted to 10,712 in 2016, representing 1 per cent of the total population, as these figures reflect a gap between the State party's official data and global estimates of the proportion of disability in societies; (b) The lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities and the status of their rights in specific areas such as education, employment and social services.

(b) The lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities indicating their number and the status of their rights in specific areas such as education, employment and social services.

(c) Persons with disabilities are not included in the qualitative surveys conducted by the Central Information Agency.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt an inclusive definition of disability based on a human rights model and use reliable statistical tools such as the Washington Group of Questions to produce realistic figures and data on persons with disabilities.**

(b) **Establish a database containing information and disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in the areas of education, employment, health, social protection, political participation and others.**

(c) **The inclusion of questionnaires in qualitative surveys conducted by various executive bodies to ensure that they include persons with disabilities.**

Costa Rica (2024)

53. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) La falta de información sobre las medidas adoptadas para garantizar la participación plena y efectiva de las organizaciones que representan a las personas con discapacidad en todo el proceso (diseño, planificación, implementación, análisis y difusión) de recopilación de datos e investigación;

b) Que, en el marco del Censo de Población del 2020, se hayan realizado consultas solamente a 150 personas con discapacidad con el fin de brindar opinión sobre la propuesta para la medición de discapacidad, obtenida del Grupo de Washington de Estadísticas sobre Discapacidad.

54. Recordando el cuestionario breve sobre discapacidad del Grupo de Washington y el marcador de políticas sobre la inclusión y el empoderamiento de las personas con discapacidad del Comité de Asistencia para el Desarrollo de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Establecer la unificación de un sistema integrado de recopilación de datos sobre las personas con discapacidad en estrecha consulta y con la participación activa de las

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en el diseño, desarrollo y evaluación, que involucre a todos los Ministerios del país y a las entidades generadoras de datos o estadísticas, desglosados por factores como la edad, el sexo, el tipo de deficiencia, el tipo de apoyo necesario, la orientación sexual y la identidad de género, la situación socioeconómica, el origen étnico y el lugar de residencia, incluyendo las instituciones residenciales;

b) Reforzar los esfuerzos para desarrollar una amplia aplicación de indicadores para el procesamiento de datos sobre personas con discapacidad con base en el cuestionario breve sobre discapacidad del Grupo de Washington y el marcador de políticas sobre la inclusión y el empoderamiento de las personas con discapacidad del Comité de Asistencia para el Desarrollo de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos.

Kazakhstan (2024)

65. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in national statistics due to the use of the medical model of disability;

(b) Limited information on persons with disabilities facing multiple and intersectional discrimination, including women and girls with disabilities, older persons with disabilities, children with disabilities, migrants with disabilities, including stateless persons, refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons with disabilities.

66. **The Committee recommends that the State party use the Washington Group on Disability Statistics short set of questions on disability and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and:**

(a) **Adopt the human rights model of disability in the public censuses and in thematic assessments of the situation of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Collect disaggregated data and conduct research on the situation of persons with disabilities facing multiple and intersectional discrimination in order to inform policy development.**

Nicaragua (2024)

64. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) Las actuales deficiencias en los datos estadísticos, fiables y desagregados, sobre la situación de las personas con discapacidad;

b) Que el programa “Todos con Voz”, dependiente del Ministerio de Salud, sea la principal fuente de información en el Estado parte sobre personas con discapacidad y no exista un involucramiento activo por parte de otros Ministerios para recopilar información sobre la situación de las personas con discapacidad que atienden ejerciendo sus funciones y se desconoce si la información se difunde de manera regular entre la sociedad en general y organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en particular.

65. **Recordando el cuestionario breve sobre discapacidad del Grupo de Washington y el marcador de políticas sobre la inclusión y el empoderamiento de las personas con discapacidad del Comité de Asistencia para el Desarrollo de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte desarrollar un sistema de recopilación de datos sobre las personas con discapacidad con la participación activa y efectiva de organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en el diseño, desarrollo y evaluación, que involucre a todos los Ministerios del país, desglosados por factores como la edad, el sexo, el tipo de deficiencia, el tipo de apoyo necesario, la orientación sexual y la identidad de género, la situación socioeconómica, el origen étnico y el lugar de residencia, incluyendo las instituciones residenciales.**

Sweden (2024)

67. The Committee notes that Statistics Sweden carries out surveys on living conditions on an annual basis. However, it is concerned:

(a) At the shortcomings in the collection and publication of data on the situation of persons with disabilities across all areas of life, including living conditions, health, education, employment, social protection and the justice system;

(b) At the lack of disaggregated data, including in relation to persons with disabilities facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, national minority persons with disabilities, migrant persons with disabilities, including refugees, asylum-seekers, and persons with disabilities under temporary protection, and children with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities, as well as persons with disabilities in institutions;

(c) The lack of involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development of indicators for the monitoring of implementation of the disability related policies and programmes.

68. Recalling the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultations and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensure appropriate, nationally consistent measures for the collection, implementation and public reporting of disaggregated data on the situation of persons with disabilities, in particularly persons with disabilities facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, national minority persons with disabilities, migrant persons with disabilities, such as refugees, asylum-seekers, and persons with disabilities under temporary protection, children with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions.

Zambia (2024)

61. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That persons with disabilities were neither involved nor consulted in the 2022 National Census;

(b) At the limited disaggregated data related to persons with disabilities including challenges encountered in accessing education, health, recreation, leisure and sports facilities and services at all levels including employment opportunities and linkages between incidence of disability and the risk of poverty and actual hardship;

(c) At the absence of data on some categories of persons with disabilities such as the deafblind, and that the dissemination of statistical information among persons with disabilities is not in accessible format.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party adhere to the Convention in its efforts to achieve Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 17.18 to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and in particular:

(a) Actively and meaningfully consult and collaborate with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in its efforts to increase the collection of data and statistics on disability;

(b) Develop nationally consistent data collection measures and public reporting of disaggregated data across the full range of obligations contained in the Convention and adequately train census enumerators and other officials in the use of the Washington short set of questions;

(c) Take steps to collect data on categories of persons with disabilities who are excluded such as persons who are deafblind in all future census, including housing survey and ensure that such data is available in Braille, sign language, Easy Read and electronic formats, including for persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas.

Andorra (2023)

63. The Committee expresses concern about the lack of:

- (a) Disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention, as it is only produced on the number of persons with disabilities and the number of aids provided;
- (b) Awareness and use of international guidelines and protocols on data collection regarding disability, in particular, the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and its short set of questions on disability;
- (c) Participation of persons with disabilities in designing data collection systems in the area of disability.

64. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Strengthen its system for collecting data on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by a range of factors, such as age, sex, type of impairment, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, migration status, and place of residence, in all areas of life, ensuring confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) **Ensure that the data generated by the Department of Statistics can be disaggregated by disability and include the short set of questions on disability of the Washington Group on Disability in future population censuses and in periodic household surveys;**
- (c) **Guarantee the close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, throughout the planning, design and implementation of the data-collection processes.**

Austria (2023)

69. The Committee notes with concern;

- (a) The serious shortcomings in the collection and publication of data on the situation of persons with disabilities across all areas of life, including in health, education, employment and the justice system;
- (b) The lack of disaggregated data, including in relation to the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, refugee and stateless persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, persons with disabilities under temporary protection, children with disabilities (especially concerning education), women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive national disability data framework to ensure appropriate, nationally consistent measures for the collection, interpretation and public reporting of disaggregated data on the full range of obligations under the Convention, especially with regard to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, refugee and stateless persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, persons with disabilities under temporary protection, children with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities in institutions.

Germany (2023)

69. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The effectiveness of the microcensus method used in disability statistics and the extent to which this method reflects the number of refugees with disabilities in the country;
- (b) The medical model reflections on the disability statistics, in particular adopted criteria to classify and distinguish between severe, moderate and mild disability.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure public and thematic censuses are inclusive and disability sensitive by using appropriate data collection methods such as the Washington Group on Disabilities Statistics questions, and incorporate questions to obtain specific data about refugees with disabilities;**
- (b) Adopt human rights-based standards to identify and classify the different types of disability.**

Israel (2023)

65. The Committee expresses concern about the limited information about persons with disabilities facing multiple and intersectional discrimination, including women and girls with disabilities, children with disabilities, migrant, refugee and asylum seekers with disabilities, persons with disabilities in Haredi communities, persons with disabilities in Arab communities, Palestinians with disabilities including Palestinian refugees with disabilities, persons with disabilities in Bedouin or herder communities, and LGBTIQ persons with disabilities.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party collect disaggregated data and conduct research about the situation of persons with disabilities experiencing multiple and intersectional discrimination to inform policy development including the adoption of anti-discrimination measures, including positive measures.

Malawi (2023)

63. The Committee is concerned that many persons with disabilities including their representative organizations as well as government officials at local government level are not aware of the population of persons with disabilities in their respective districts making planning very uncertain. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities were not meaningfully involved in the training of the enumerators in the last census whose outcome on the population of persons with disabilities was contested by them.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Make available disability accurate data and statistical information, disaggregated by sex, age, education and training, employment status and any other factors necessary for planning to persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and to all officials at local government levels as well as other stakeholders;**
- (b) Ensure participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in all disability data collection processes including in the planning, training of enumerators and assessment of data collection tools.**

Mauritania (2023)

53. The Committee notes with concern gaps in the collection of disaggregated data and statistics on persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention. It also notes with concern the lack of systematic and comprehensive research about the living conditions of persons with disabilities and the barriers that they face in exercising their rights.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party use the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen its system for collecting data on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment situation and place of residence, in all areas of life, ensuring confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying barriers to their implementation;**
- (c) Support independent research, both quantitative and qualitative, to inform disability-related policies and measures aimed at ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, and**

ensure the active involvement of and close consultation with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, throughout the planning, design and implementation of the data-collection processes.

Mongolia (2023)

61. The Committee is concerned about the lack of consistent measures at the national level for the collection and public reporting of disaggregated data on the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party use the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities and further recommends that the State party:

(a) Expediently develop a system and procedures for collecting data on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment situation and place of residence. The system and procedures should ensure confidentiality and respect the privacy of persons with disabilities;

(b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying barriers to their implementation. The State party should build the capacity of municipal authorities to conduct periodic research on barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

(c) Support independent and participatory research, both quantitative and qualitative, to inform the disability-related policies and measures taken for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities.

Paraguay (2023)

55. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) Las actuales deficiencias en los datos estadísticos, confiables y desagregados sobre la situación de las personas con discapacidad;

b) El estancamiento en la aplicación de los indicadores para el procesamiento de datos contemplados en el Plan de Acción Nacional para los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad en el eje/área 2;

c) La falta de información sobre la implementación de los indicadores de derechos humanos elaborados por el Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social en el 2013 con apoyo de ACNUDH en particular sobre las desagregaciones comprometidas sobre las personas con discapacidad;

d) Que en el último censo de 2022 se hayan eliminado las preguntas sobre personas con discapacidad psicosocial e intelectual, refiriéndose únicamente a las personas con discapacidad auditiva, visual y física.

56. Utilizando el cuestionario breve sobre discapacidad del Grupo de Washington y el marcador de políticas sobre la inclusión y el empoderamiento de las personas con discapacidad del Comité de Asistencia para el Desarrollo de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Recopilar de forma exhaustiva datos y estadísticas sobre personas con discapacidad, desglosados por factores como la edad, el sexo, el tipo de deficiencia, el tipo de apoyo necesario, la orientación sexual y la identidad de género, la situación socioeconómica, el origen étnico y el lugar de residencia, incluyendo las instituciones residenciales y los hospitales psiquiátricos;

b) Desarrollar de inmediato la aplicación de indicadores para el procesamiento de datos sobre personas con discapacidad contemplados en el Plan de Acción Nacional para los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad en el eje/área 2;

c) Implementar los indicadores de derechos humanos elaborados por el Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social en el 2013 con apoyo de ACNUDH en particular sobre las

desagregaciones comprometidas sobre las personas con discapacidad a la brevedad posible;

d) Llevar a cabo, lo antes posible, una encuesta complementaria al censo del 2022 sobre personas con discapacidad, desglosada por edad, sexo, el tipo de discapacidad, el tipo de apoyo necesario, la orientación sexual y la identidad de género, la situación socioeconómica, el origen étnico y el lugar de residencia.

Angola (2023)

53. While noting some efforts undertaken by the State party in collecting data, through the National Statistics Institute, on persons with disabilities, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The gaps in collecting disaggregated data and statistics on persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention;

(b) The lack of systematic and comprehensive research about the living conditions of persons with disabilities and the need to identify the barriers faced by them in exercising their rights.

54. The Committee recalls the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a system and procedures for collecting data on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment situation and place of residence ensuring the confidentiality and respect for their privacy;

(b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying barriers to their effective enjoyment, support independent and participatory research to inform measures affecting their rights and consider capacity-building measures to permit municipal authorities to periodically collect data on their status, consistent with their right to privacy.

Argentina (2023)

59. El Comité observa con preocupación:

a) La falta de datos completos y desglosados sobre las personas con discapacidad en todos los ámbitos de la vida, en particular de las personas con discapacidad que viven en instituciones residenciales y en hospitales psiquiátricos;

b) Las dificultades de las personas con discapacidad para participar de la plataforma digital del Censo Nacional de Población, Hogares y Vivienda de 2022, y su limitado alcance, la ausencia de información sobre su acceso a educación, empleo y vivienda y sobre las personas con discapacidad que experimentan formas de discriminación interseccional.

60. Recordando el cuestionario breve sobre discapacidad del Grupo de Washington y el marcador de políticas sobre la inclusión y el empoderamiento de las personas con discapacidad del Comité de Asistencia para el Desarrollo de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

a) Desarrollar un sistema de recopilación de datos sobre las personas con discapacidad en todos los ámbitos de la vida, desglosados por una serie de factores, como la edad, el sexo, el tipo de deficiencia, el tipo de apoyo necesario, la orientación sexual y la identidad de género, la situación socioeconómica, el origen étnico y el lugar de residencia, incluyendo las instituciones residenciales y los hospitales psiquiátricos;

b) Garantizar la accesibilidad en los estudios estadísticos y que las personas con discapacidad puedan de manera autónoma participar de los mismos, incluyendo las modalidades presencial y digital;

c) **Contar con la participación activa y efectiva de organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en el diseño, desarrollo y evaluación de la Encuesta Nacional sobre las Personas con Discapacidad a realizarse en el 2024 según lo reportado por el Estado parte.**

Georgia (2023)

61. The Committee expresses concern about the lack of:

(a) Disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, existing data neither reflecting the actual number of persons with disabilities nor the barriers they face in exercising their rights. It notes with particular concern the absence of data on older persons with disabilities;

(b) Awareness and use of international guidelines and protocols on data collection regarding disability, particularly the "Washington Group on Disability Statistics" and its "Short Set of questions on Disability".

62. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Establish a mechanism to ensure continuous data collection about persons with disabilities and the barriers they face in exercising their rights, in order to devise and implement policies regarding the implementation of the Convention;**

(b) **Adopt internationally established norms and safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality, ethical principles of data use and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Ensure the data generated by Geostat can be disaggregated by disability and include the short Set of questions on Disability by the Washington Group on disability in future population censuses as well as in periodic household surveys.**

Peru (2023)

62. Al Comité le preocupan las deficiencias en los datos y estadísticas sobre la situación de las personas con discapacidad a nivel estatal, regional y municipal. Desde 2012, cuando se realizó la Primera Encuesta Nacional Especializada sobre Discapacidad (ENEDIS), no se ha llevado a cabo ninguna otra encuesta especializada para investigar las necesidades específicas de las personas con discapacidad, estos datos son necesarios para informar de manera efectiva la formulación e implementación de políticas para cumplir con la Convención.

63. **El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que recopile de forma exhaustiva datos y estadísticas desglosados a nivel estatal, regional y municipal utilizando el breve conjunto de preguntas sobre discapacidad del Grupo de Washington y que asegure que el Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) lleve a cabo la Segunda Encuesta Nacional sobre Discapacidad con el fin de investigar información específica sobre las personas con discapacidad que no está considerada en las estrategias periódicas de recopilación de información, para informar mejor las políticas y la aplicación de la Convención.**

Togo (2023)

59. The Committee welcomes the inclusion of the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the related methodology in the data collection guide for its fifth population and housing census in 2022. However, it is concerned about the inadequate quantitative and qualitative information, including disaggregated statistics and data provided in the State party's initial report, due to lack of training of census enumerators and other officials who work with data and statistics. It is also concerned that disability is not featured in the Biometric Identification Registration process and that disability issues are not included in the monitoring indicators for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and that the dissemination of statistical information among persons with disabilities is not in accessible format.

60. **The Committee recommends that the State party adhere to the Convention in its efforts to achieve Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 17.18 to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated**

by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and in particular:

- (a) Actively and meaningfully consult and collaborate with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in its efforts to increase the collection of data and statistics on disability and to adequately train census enumerators and other officials in the use of the Washington short set of questions;
- (b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying barriers to their implementation;
- (c) Ensure that disability is included in the Biometric Identification Registration process;
- (d) Support independent and participatory research, both quantitative and qualitative, to inform the disability-related policies and measures taken for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (e) Ensure that such data is available in Braille, sign language, Easy Read and electronic formats, including for persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas.

Tunisia (2023)

55. The Committee is concerned that up to date accurate and disaggregated data on persons with disabilities is not available. Both the Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Statistics Office database have not been updated over a long time. It is further concerned that although the 2014 National Census used the Washington group of questions, it is clear that its results did not reflect the actual situation on the ground given the low figures it produced and this may have been attributed to inadequate training of the enumerators.

56. **The Committee, recalling SDG's goal 17.18 on, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Develop a national system for the systematic collection of updated statistical and research data indicators, disaggregated by age, sex, type of impairment, and other relevant factors, which reflects the situation of persons with disabilities for the purpose of formulating and implementing policies to give effect to the Convention;
- (b) Facilitate and ensure the full and meaningful participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the development, measurement and monitoring of data collection and research, as well as in the training of census enumerators.

Bangladesh (2022)

59. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accurate, comprehensive, quality, timely and reliable data on persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, minorities, migrants, refugees and older persons with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons affected by leprosy, in all areas of the State party, and the non-inclusion of disability concerns in the monitoring indicators for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the absence of information on statistical data and its dissemination in accessible formats to persons with disabilities.

60. **The Committee recalls the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Take necessary measures to meaningfully consult with and include representative organisations of persons with disabilities, including those belonging to minorities, in the forthcoming national census and the Disability Detection Survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, and to design a system for the collection of up-to-date

disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, including considering the use of the Washington Group short set of questions;

(b) Pay special attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals to increase significantly the availability of high-quality and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

(c) Adopt measures for analysing such data in order to enable the State party to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention and ensure that such data is available in Braille, sign language, Easy Read and electronic formats, including for persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas.

China (2022)

58. The Committee notes with concern the lack of statistical data provided on persons with disabilities, including on their living conditions, assistance and services received in the State Party, disaggregated by province or region and ethnicity, and about the use of such data and statistics for the development and implementation of policies designed to comply with the Convention.

59. The Committee recalls the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and recommends that the State party develop data collection systems on the situation of persons with disabilities with the data disaggregated by a range of factors, such as age, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, place of residence, socioeconomic status and ethnicity. These systems should cover all areas of life and should include information on violence against persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party promote participatory research projects in cooperation with persons with disabilities on matters concerning them.

Indonesia (2022)

64. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Serious shortcomings of data and statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, provincial, city and regency and sub-district levels, including the lack of disaggregated data and uniform methodology and interpretation;

(b) The lack of disaggregated data, including in relation to the situation of women and girls with disabilities, children with disabilities and indigenous persons with disabilities;

(c) The lack of comprehensive quantitative and qualitative research about the situation of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities and indigenous persons with disabilities.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the data collection system to comprehensively collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities at the national, provincial, city and regency and sub-district levels, using uniform methodology and interpretation, including the Washington Group Short Set of Questions for the national census;

(b) Broaden data collection on persons with disabilities to include disaggregated fields, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation and indigenous status;

(c) Develop a comprehensive research program to facilitate quantitative and qualitative research on the situation of persons with disabilities and promote the use of disability inclusive research methodologies;

(d) Ensure all data collection systems and procedures respect the confidentiality and privacy of persons with disabilities.

Japan (2022)

65. The Committee notes with concern the:

- (a) Lack of comprehensive disaggregated database on persons with disabilities, covering all areas of life;
- (b) Overlook of persons with disabilities in residential institutions and psychiatric hospitals in surveys conducted.

66. Recalling the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party develop data collection system and data base on persons with disabilities at all areas of life and disaggregated by a range of factors, such as age, sex, type of impairment, type of support they require, sexual orientation and gender identity, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, place of residence, including residential institutions and psychiatric hospitals.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

58. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Absence of the systematic disaggregated collection of quality and reliable data on the situation of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, mainly due to the lack of disability-related questions in the national census;
- (b) Limitations in the design, data collection and quality control of the 4th National Population and Housing Census in 2015, which reported 2.77 per cent of disability prevalence of the overall population;
- (c) Lack of an accessible and consistent database on the situation of persons with disabilities and barriers to issue disability identification cards.

59. Recalling the Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 17.18, and the Washington Group short set of questions on disability, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Collect, analyse and disseminate quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by disability, sex, age, ethnicity, religion, geographical location, and socioeconomic status, on the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention, in collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Improve the use of the Washington Group short set of questions on disability when collecting information about the situation of persons with disabilities, by taking into consideration the local context, training for the interpretation of data and the barriers to the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities, including the next National Population and Housing Census;
- (c) Introduce the Disability Management Information System to consolidate the various sector-specific disability records, make it accessible, support the rollout of a nationwide disability identification process, and increase efforts to issue disability ID cards for all persons with disabilities.

New Zealand (2022)

57. The Committee notes with concern the serious shortcomings of data and statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities across all life domains, including in health, education, employment, justice, and the lack of disaggregated data, including in relation to the situation of Māori, Pasifika, LGBTIQ+, children and women and girls with disabilities;

58. The Committee recommends that the State party in conjunction with Statistics New Zealand, develop a national disability data framework to ensure appropriate, nationally consistent measures for the collection and public reporting of disaggregated data on the full range of obligations contained in the Convention, especially with regard to Māori, Pasifika, LGBTIQ+, children and women and girls with disabilities.

Republic of Korea (2022)

63. The Committee is concerned about the lack of consistent measures at the national level for the collection and public reporting of disaggregated data on the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

64. The Committee recalls the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

(a) Expediently develop a system and procedures for collecting data on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment situation and place of residence. The system and procedures should ensure confidentiality and respect the privacy of persons with disabilities;

(b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying barriers to their implementation. The State party should build the capacity of municipal authorities to conduct periodic research on barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

(c) Support independent and participatory research, both quantitative and qualitative, to inform the disability-related policies and measures taken for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities.

Singapore (2022)

57. While noting some efforts undertaken by the State party in collecting data, such as the National census of 2020 which included the Washington Group short set of questions on disability, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) Serious gaps in collecting disaggregated data and statistics on persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention, in particular in the areas of work, employment, education, and persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty;

(b) The lack of systematic and comprehensive research about the living conditions of persons with disabilities and to identify the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party reinforce the use of the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in all its data collecting programmes, taking into consideration the local context, and providing training for the interpretation of data, and:

(a) Strengthen its system for collecting data on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment situation and place of residence, in all areas of life. The system and procedures should ensure confidentiality and respect the privacy of persons with disabilities;

(b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying barriers to their implementation;

(c) Support independent research, both quantitative and qualitative, to inform disability-related policies and measures taken for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, and ensure active involvement of and close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in the planning, design and at all stages of the data collection processes.

Hungary (2022)

60. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of disaggregated data and information on persons with disabilities, including on their living conditions and the assistance and services they receive in the State Party;
- (b) The fragmented data systems on persons with disabilities, maintained by different authorities and providing different figures, particularly on persons placed under substitute decision-making regimes.

61. The Committee recalls the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Collect data on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, health status, race, ethnicity, income, migration and/or asylum-seeking or refugee status, level of education, employment situation, place of residence and services received, as well as on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society, including data related to deinstitutionalization, legal capacity status and victims of violence, abuse and ill-treatment;
- (b) Establish a unified statistics and data collection system on persons with disabilities.

Jamaica (2022)

56. While noting some efforts undertaken by the State party in collecting data, such as the Annual Jamaica Survey on living conditions, and the 2022 Population and Housing Census, which will include data and statistics on persons with disabilities, the Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The remaining gaps in collecting disaggregated data and statistics on persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention, mainly due to the lack of disability-related questions in the national census;
- (b) The lack of systematic and comprehensive research about the living conditions of persons with disabilities and the need to identify the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

57. The Committee recalls the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a system and procedures for collecting data on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment situation and place of residence. The system and procedures should ensure confidentiality and respect the privacy of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying barriers to their implementation. The State party should build the capacity of municipal authorities to conduct periodic research on barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- (c) Support independent and participatory research, both quantitative and qualitative, to inform the disability-related policies and measures taken for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities.

Mexico (2022)

66. The Committee is concerned about serious shortcomings of data and statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities at the state and municipal level, and about the use of such data and statistics for the development and implementation of policies designed to comply with the Convention.

67. The Committee recommends that the State party comprehensively collect disaggregated data and statistics on all levels of government, using the Washington Group short set of questions on disability.

Switzerland (2022)

59. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That there is no comprehensive disability data framework across all levels of government to collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on the situation of persons with disabilities in all areas of life;

(b) The lack of collection of disaggregated data in the context of international cooperation.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a comprehensive disability data framework at the federal, cantonal and municipal levels for the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in all areas of life;

(b) Promote independent and inclusive research, in partnership with persons with disabilities, to provide an evidence base to inform disability-related policies and programmes;

(c) Collect disaggregated data on disability in all humanitarian and development programmes.

Venezuela (2022)

54. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There are no reliable statistics available to the public, or persons with disabilities in particular, on the social programmes designed to support persons with disabilities, or their implementation and follow-up;

(b) No information is available on the assessment process for persons with disabilities for the purpose of issuing disability certificates;

(c) No information is available on employers' compliance with their obligation to submit biannual reports to the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the National Institute of Statistics on the number of employees with disabilities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party, based on the short set of questions of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics:

(a) Incorporate, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, a human rights perspective into the information contained in the registers used to collect data and statistics on disability, and widely disseminate information on the services to which they have access, including how many such services exist, and on the implementation of relevant policies and programmes;

(b) Ensure that the decision to issue disability certificates is made by an interdisciplinary group of professionals and not based solely on a diagnostic approach;

(c) Ensure that employers circulate reports on the number of employees with disabilities in order to improve public policy in that area.

Djibouti (2021)

55. The Committee notes with concern the absence of systematic, collection of quality, timely and reliable data on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by disability, sex, age, geographical location, socioeconomic status and employment status, as well as data on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in gaining access to their rights under the Convention. The Committee is also concerned about the insufficient information on the extent to which disability-related indicators are effectively applied in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party collect, analyse and disseminate quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by disability, sex, age, geographical location, socioeconomic status and employment status, on the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention, in collaboration with representatives organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of

women with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party adhere to the Convention in its efforts to achieve Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 17.18. The Committee also recommends that the State party analyse those data in order to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention.

France (2021)

62. The Committee notes with concern the lack of systematic and disaggregated data collection about the situation of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, mainly due to the lack of disability-related questions in the national census.

63. The Committee recalls the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, and recommends that the State party develop data collection systems on persons with disabilities disaggregated by a range of factors, such as age, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, place of residence, socioeconomic status, ethnicity. These systems should cover all areas of life, and should include information on violence against persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party promote participatory research projects in cooperation with persons with disabilities on matters concerning them.

Estonia (2021)

60. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The remaining gaps in collecting disaggregated data and statistics on persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention, not only education and employment;
- (b) The lack of systematic and comprehensive research about the living conditions of persons with disabilities and the need to identify the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

61. The Committee recalls the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop a system and procedures for collecting data on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, income, migration status, level of education, employment situation and place of residence. The system and procedures should ensure confidentiality and respect the privacy of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Allocate funds to undertake periodic research on the rights of persons with disabilities with the aim of identifying barriers to their implementation. The State party should build the capacity of municipal authorities to conduct periodic research on barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities;**
- (c) Support independent and participatory research, both quantitative and qualitative, to inform the disability-related policies and measures taken for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities.**

Albania (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned that data collection about persons with disabilities in the State party is based on the medical approach, is fragmented, and is not effectively disseminated among persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that the State party is not systematically collecting and analysing disaggregated data on the situation of persons with disabilities in close consultation with representative organisations with a view to designing adequate public policies.

52. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish systematic data collection and reporting procedures under the Institute of Statistics in line with the Convention;
- (b) Increase the use of the methodology of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, in particular for the 2020 national census, to collect, analyse and disseminate data on its population disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, employment, barriers encountered and place of residence, and data on cases of discrimination or violence against persons with disabilities;
- (c) Develop evidence-based public policies to respond to the situation of persons with disabilities, in collaboration with their representative organizations.

Australia (2019)

57. The Committee is concerned about the lack of nationally consistent measures for the collection and public reporting of disaggregated data on the full range of obligations contained in the Convention.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party, in conjunction with the Office of the National Data Commissioner, develop a national disability data framework to ensure appropriate, nationally consistent measures for the collection and public reporting of disaggregated data on the full range of obligations contained in the Convention, especially with regard to women, children and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with disabilities.

Ecuador (2019)

55. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not make provision for mainstreaming the human rights of persons with disabilities and that persons with disabilities do not effectively participate through their representative organizations in the compilation of relevant records, such as those contained in the National Disabilities Register.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party incorporate a human rights perspective into the information contained in the National Disabilities Register so that, in coordination with persons with disabilities and their organizations, the effective exercise of their rights is recognized; that it mainstream those rights in public policy and in policy follow-up and evaluation; and that it incorporate information on the participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of social life, such as education, paid work, recreation and political affairs. It also recommends that the State party disseminate the information contained in the National Disabilities Register widely once it has been reformed.

El Salvador (2019)

58. The Committee is concerned that organizations of persons with disabilities were not included when preparing the sustainable development report for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and that the report did not take into account indicators relevant to persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that the first national survey of persons with disabilities using the Washington Group's short set of questions on disability lacked data disaggregated by barriers within society, human rights violations, gender-based violence, living conditions and other intersectional dimensions to better understand the situation of persons with disabilities.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party involve organizations of persons with disabilities in its progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals. It also recommends that the State party, based on the results of the first national survey, widely disseminate the results, and establish, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, a database to gather information from the population census and other

statistics in order to better understand the situation of persons with disabilities, with the purpose of adequate public policy design.

Greece (2019)

46. The Committee is concerned that data collection on persons with disabilities in the State party, such as the 2019 health survey and the national register of beneficiaries of social and welfare allowances, is based mainly on the medical model of disability and is fragmented, unsystematic, incomplete and not entirely adequate in order to understand the situation of persons with disabilities with a view to developing effective public policies. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has not adopted the methodology of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability.

47. Taking into consideration target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive data collection and reporting system in line with the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, as well as on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society, relying on the methodology of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability.

India (2019)

he available official statistics are based on the medical model of disability, and that questions concerning persons with disabilities limit the possibility of self-identification.

65. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party rely on the methodology of the Washington Group short set of questions on disability statistics to collect, analyse and disseminate data on its population of persons with disabilities, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, employment, barriers encountered and place of residence, and data on cases of discrimination or violence against persons with disabilities, ensuring both disability-specific and disability-inclusive or mainstream data collection.

Iraq (2019)

59. The Committee is concerned about the absence of systematic, disaggregated data on persons with disabilities across all sectors of the State party, including persons with disabilities who have been subjected to violence and persons with disabilities who are internally displaced, migrants, refugees, stateless and/or belong to minority groups. The Committee is also concerned about the insufficient information on the extent to which disability-related indicators are effectively applied in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take into consideration the short set of questions of the United Nations Children's Fund/Washington Group on Disability Statistics module on child functioning in preparing the next national census, planned for 2020, and in the national survey on disability;

(b) Apply disability-related indicators in monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially target 17.18;

(c) Increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by socioeconomic status, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant to its national context, and strengthen the capacity and resources of the Central Statistical Organization of the Ministry of Planning (in its implementation of art. 15 (9) of Law No. 38 (2013)) and the Kurdistan Region Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the collection, management, analysis and dissemination of statistics and data concerning persons with disabilities.

Kuwait (2019)

60. The Committee is concerned about a serious lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities, including non-Kuwaitis and Bidoon with disabilities.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, disability, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, on the fulfilment of the rights of all persons with disabilities, including non-Kuwaitis and Bidoon with disabilities, in all areas of the Convention;

(b) Take into consideration the short set of questions of the United Nations Children's Fund/Washington Group on Disability Statistics module on child functioning in preparing the national census, household surveys, disability-specific surveys and other demographic surveys, as relevant.

Myanmar (2019)

60. The Committee recommends that the State party collect, analyse, and disseminate quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by disability, sex, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, geographical location, socioeconomic status and employment status, on the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention, in collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party adhere to the Convention in its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 17, in particular target 17.18, and take into consideration the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability when collecting information about the situation of persons with disabilities and the barriers to the exercise of their rights.

Cuba (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comparable disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in all sectors of the State party.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically encourage the collection, analysis and dissemination of comparable disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in all sectors, taking into consideration the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability. The Committee further recommends that the State party consider the linkages between article 31 of the Convention and Goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Niger (2019)

51. The Committee is concerned about the limited data and analysis on the situation of persons with disabilities, and the lack of their meaningful consultation and participation, through their representative organizations, in the elaboration of the questionnaire for the next general population census.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party collaborate with representative organisations of persons with disabilities to strengthen data collection and analysis on the situation of persons with disabilities; and consider using the Washington Group's short set of disability questions in data collection, and adhere to article 31 of the Convention in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 17 (target 17.18) to increase the availability of high-quality and reliable disaggregated data.

Norway (2019)

49. The Committee is concerned at the lack of consistent statistics on persons with disabilities and the lack of human rights indicators in the available data, which makes it difficult for the State party to develop appropriate policies. The Committee is also concerned

about the limited extent to which disability-related indicators are effectively applied in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

50. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Rely on the methodology of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to collect, analyse and disseminate data on its population disaggregated by sex, age, ethnic origin, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment, barriers encountered and place of residence, and data on cases of discrimination or violence against persons with disabilities;

(b) Develop evidence-based policies to respond to the situation of persons with disabilities, in consultation with their representative organizations.

Rwanda (2019)

57. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not systematically collect disaggregated statistical data on persons with disabilities.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party pay close attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, type of impairment, geographic location, as well as data on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society and other characteristics relevant in its national context. It recommends that the State party use the collected and analysed data with a view to developing the appropriate policies to improve the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party consider the use of the short set of questions issued by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics for its census and household surveys.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

55. The Committee is concerned at the limited availability of unified data on the enjoyment of persons with disabilities of the rights granted under the Convention, which represents an obstacle for the development of adequate policies, the establishment of baselines and the evaluation of the impact of measures taken to promote the rights of persons with disabilities by the State party.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by gender, age, region, religion, ethnicity, nationality and type of disability, on the enjoyment of persons with disabilities of their rights in all areas covered by the Convention. It moreover recommends that the State party use the concepts provided for in the Convention for the assessment of the current state, as well as of progress made towards the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Senegal (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned about the inadequate quantitative and qualitative information, including appropriately disaggregated statistical and research data provided in the report of the State party, and is further concerned about the non-inclusion of disability concerns in the monitoring indicators for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and that dissemination of statistical information to persons with disabilities is not in accessible formats.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party actively and meaningfully consult and collaborate with persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in its efforts to increase data and statistics on disability. It recommends that the State party adopt measures towards utilising the Washington Group set of disability questions in data collection and pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and

Sustainable Development Goal 17 (target 17.18) to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. It further recommends that such data be analysed in order to enable the State party to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention.

Spain (2019)

58. The Committee is concerned at the lack of progress to ensure the availability of disaggregated data and statistics on persons with disabilities, with a view to adequately informing public policies. It is also concerned at the lack of disaggregated data and statistics as well on the barriers within the society for persons with disabilities, and on human rights violations in the mental health services, including gender-based violence, forced treatment, involuntary commitment, mechanical restraints, and other forms of coercion.

59. Bearing in mind target 17.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures on persons with disabilities in line with the Convention and the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability;**
- (b) Collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on the condition of persons with disabilities as well as on barriers that they face in society;**
- (c) Establish a mandatory register for any forced treatment, including involuntary commitment, mechanical restraints, forced medication and electroconvulsive therapy occurred in mental health care services;**
- (d) Ensure the involvement of organizations of person with disabilities in the development of data collection methodologies and analysis.**

Türkiye (2019)

62. The Committee is concerned that the National Disability Database does not cover all persons with disabilities, for example persons with disabilities in institutions. It is also concerned about the lack of regular data about the situation of persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, geographic location, and other criteria, identifying the barriers facing persons with disabilities in exercising their rights. It is further concerned that civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities cannot participate in processes concerning statistics and data collection.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Reinforce the use of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability when collecting information about the situation of persons with disabilities and the barriers to the exercise of their rights, and develop and regularly update a centralized database, in which data is disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity, geographical location, and including residential settings, and impairment type.**
- (b) Adopt measures to ensure the active involvement of and close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in the planning and design stages of data collection processes.**

Vanuatu (2019)

52. The Committee is concerned at the lack of full participation of persons with disabilities in the process of data collection for the 2009 census. It is further concerned at the lack of systematic collection of disaggregated data on the situation of persons with disabilities, which makes it difficult for the State party to develop appropriate public policies.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop systematic statistical and data collection procedures for the next census, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, geographic location and other characteristics**

relevant in the national context, in accordance with the human rights-based model of disability focusing on barriers experienced by persons with disabilities in order to design appropriate public policies;

(b) Ensure the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organization in the development, implementation and monitoring of data collection.

Algeria (2018)

52. The Committee is concerned about the absence of systematic data collection on persons with disabilities disaggregated by disability, sex and age across all sectors, including those subjected to violence. It also regrets the long delays in the implementation of the national disability survey foreseen since 2011.

53. Bearing in mind the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data, ensuring the active participation and close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the planning and design stages of data collection activities;

(b) Expedite the implementation of the national survey on disability taking into consideration the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability;

(c) Design and implement policies based on participatory research in line with General Comment No. 7 (2018) to give effect to the Convention.

Bulgaria (2018)

67. The Committee is concerned about the lack of disaggregated data collected on persons with disabilities, and its dissemination in the State party. It is also concerned about the lack of involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in this process, which makes it difficult for the State party to develop appropriate targeted policies.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by Goal 17, especially Target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals in its efforts to establish systematic data collection and reporting procedures under the National Statistical Institute in line with the Convention, and:

(a) Take into consideration Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability to collect, information about the situation of persons with disabilities and barriers to the exercise of their rights;

(b) Adopt measures to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data, ensuring the active participation and close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the planning and design stages of data collection activities;

(c) Develop evidence-based policies to respond to the situation of persons with disabilities, in close and meaningful consultation with their representative organizations.

Malta (2018)

45. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a disaggregated data-collection system and unified indicators across the State party concerning the human rights of persons with disabilities. It also notes the lack of information on the accessibility of statistics by persons with disabilities.

46. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a unified data collection system that is in line with the Convention and takes into account the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability;

(b) Ensure the access of all statistical data to persons with disabilities in accessible formats.

Philippines (2018)

56. The Committee is concerned that the home assessment survey conducted from March 2009 to March 2010. NHTS-PR lacks of disaggregated data on women, children, persons with disabilities, people living in poverty, indigenous peoples, among others disaggregated by type of impairment, gender, age, geographical location, and other appropriate variables.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Work in consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to establish a system for the collection of up-to-date, appropriate, disaggregated data, in line with the proposal by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics;

(b) Strengthen the capacity and resources of the National Council for Disability Affairs and the Philippine Statistics Authority concerning collection, management, analysis and dissemination of statistics and data concerning persons with disabilities;

(c) Collect data on its population with disabilities disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, as well as data on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society and their level of poverty;

(d) Pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 17, target 17.18 to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disability data disaggregated by income, gender, age, ethnicity, migratory status, geographic locations and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Poland (2018)

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

(a) Data on persons with disabilities, including at local level;

(b) National database on persons with disabilities and therefore absence of information to implement the Convention.

51. Bearing in mind target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures, that are in line with the Convention and take into account the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability; collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data in line with art. 31 of the Convention; it further recommends to ensure involvement of organisations of person with disabilities in data collection, including in the development of the methodologies of data collection and in the data analysis process.

South Africa (2018)

50. The Committee is concerned about the lack of accurate and comprehensive data on persons with disabilities in all sectors of the State party, and is further concerned about the non-inclusion of disability concerns in the monitoring indicators for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the absence of information on statistical data and its dissemination to persons with disabilities in all accessible formats.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Meaningfully consult with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations to create a system for the collection of up-to-date disaggregated appropriate data on persons with disabilities;

(b) Pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals to increase significantly the availability of high-quality and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

(c) Analyse such data in order to enable the State party to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention and ensure that such data is available in Braille, sign language, Easy-Read and electronic formats.

North Macedonia (2018)

56. The Committee is concerned at the lack of consistent and comparable statistics on persons with disabilities and the lack of human rights indicators in the available data. The Committee is also concerned about the extent to which disability-related indicators are effectively applied in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party apply disability-related indicators in the monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially target 17.18, and significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status (including asylum-seeking and refugee status), disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in its national context.

Haiti (2018)

56. The Committee is concerned at the lack of systematic collection of disaggregated data on the situation of persons with disabilities in all areas, which makes it difficult for the State party to develop appropriate policies.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party fully include disability in the monitoring indicators for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 17, target 17.18 to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in its national context. It also recommends that the State party continue to develop tools in order to use all of the questions proposed by the Washington Group on disability statistics in its next census and household surveys.

Nepal (2018)

45. The Committee is concerned that the latest census carried in 2011 through the Central Bureau of Statistics did not collect disaggregated data on disabilities and accordingly inadequately reflects the situation of disability in the State party.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 17, target 17.18 to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts and to analyse the data to provide tailored services for persons with disabilities. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party utilises the Washington Group Set of Questions in future censuses in order to capture comprehensively data on disability.

Oman (2018)

55. While noting positive steps in regard to data collection on persons with disabilities, including the introduction of a new methodology based on recommendations of the Washington Group for Disability Statistics, the Committee is concerned about the inadequate qualitative information, including appropriately disaggregated statistical and research data provided in the report of the State party.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party actively and closely collaborate with persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, and adopt measures towards utilising the Washington Group short set of disability questions in data collection and pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and Sustainable

Development Goal 17 (target 17.18) to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. It further recommends that such data be analysed in order to enable the State party to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention.

Russian Federation (2018)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the quality and accessibility of services provided to persons with various forms of disability following the establishment of the federal Registry of Persons with Disabilities. It is also concerned about the lack of information on the comprehensive and transparent strategy for disaggregated data collection.

63. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party improve the Registry of Persons with Disabilities in line with the Convention and by respecting the right to privacy as well as to collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on the characteristics of its population with disabilities, including sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socio-economic status, employment, place of residence, as well as on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society. The Committee also recommends that the State party rely on the methodology of Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

Seychelles (2018)

53. The Committee notes with concern that the approximate number of persons with disabilities identified in the 2010 census is much lower than the global World Health Organization estimate of 15 per cent of the population. It is also concerned at the lack of updated comprehensive and reliable statistical data and information about the situation of persons with disabilities, which is not disaggregated by sex or age, resulting in difficulties for the development of appropriate public policies.

54. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish systematic data - collection and reporting procedures under the National Institute of Statistics;**
- (b) Systematically collect data on disability in accordance with the Convention, such as by including the short set of questions on disability designed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics;**
- (c) Develop evidence-based policies to respond to the situation of persons with disabilities, in collaboration with their representative organizations.**

Slovenia (2018)

53. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systemic and disaggregated data on persons with disabilities and their social condition, including barriers that they face in society.

54. Bearing in mind target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures, through the Disability Information System of the State Commission and representative organisations of persons with disabilities, that are in line with the Convention and take into account the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability;**
- (b) Collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on its population with disabilities, including data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, as well as data on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society and their level of poverty.**

Sudan (2018)

63. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comparable disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in all sectors of the State party.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party include the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability in the upcoming census, include disability matters in the monitoring indicators for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 17, target 17.18 to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in its national context.

Latvia (2017)

52. The Committee is concerned about the lack of disaggregated data collected on persons with disabilities, its dissemination in the State party and the lack of involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in this process.

53. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures, through the disability information system of the State Medical Commission and representative organizations of persons with disabilities, that are in accordance with the Convention, taking into account the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability, and that it collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on its population with disabilities, including data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment status and place of residence, as well as data on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society.

Luxembourg (2017)

54. The Committee is concerned that data collection on the situation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the State party is fragmented and not disaggregated by gender or age, which makes it difficult for the State party to develop appropriate policies.

55. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish systematic data collection and reporting procedures under the National Institute of Statistics in line with the Convention;

(b) Rely on the methodology of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to collect, analyse and disseminate data on its population disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment, barriers encountered and place of residence, including persons with disabilities who have been placed in institutions abroad with funding by the State party, and data on cases of discrimination or violence against persons with disabilities;

(c) Develop evidence-based policies to respond to the situation of persons with disabilities, in collaboration with their representative organizations.

Montenegro (2017)

56. The Committee notes with concern that the State party does not sufficiently systematically collect disaggregated data on persons with disabilities across all sectors and that data collection is scattered among various institutions.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a unified and comprehensive system to collect, analyse and disseminate data on the situation of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment, place of residence, as well as on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society. The Committee also recommends that the State rely on the methodology and questions of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

Morocco (2017)

58. The Committee is concerned about the extent to which disability-related indicators are effectively monitored in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

59. **The Committee recommends that the State party fully apply the disability-related indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Goals, with a view to increasing significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status (including asylum-seeking and refugee status), disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in its national context. It further recommends that the State party use the full set of questions issued by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics for its census and household surveys.**

Panama (2017)

60. The Committee is concerned about the lack of comparable disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in all sectors of the State party.

61. **The Committee recommends that the State party systematically encourage the collection, analysis and dissemination of comparable disaggregated data on persons with disabilities in all sectors and that it be guided by the work of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The Committee further recommends that the State party consider the linkages between article 31 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 17.**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

64. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a unified data-collection system and indicators across the State party concerning the situation of persons with disabilities. It notes the limited collection of disaggregated data in surveys and censuses on the general population.

65. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 17, significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by, among others, income, sex, age, gender, race, ethnic origin, migratory, asylum-seeking and refugee status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including in all general population surveys and censuses. It also recommends that the State party use the sets of questions and tools developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics for the collection of comparable disability statistics.**

Armenia (2017)

55. The Committee notes with concern the lack of disaggregated statistical data on the situation of persons with disabilities in the State party, which hinders the effective implementation of the Convention.

56. **In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures that are in line with the Convention, and collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on the characteristics of its population with disabilities, including sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, and on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society.**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

56. The Committee is concerned that data collection on persons with disabilities in the State party is based on the medical approach and that it is fragmented and lacks effective

dissemination. The Committee is also concerned that the State party is not collecting and analysing proper and disaggregated data on the situation of persons with disabilities.

57. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party develop systematic data-collection and reporting procedures which are in line with the Convention and that it collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on the characteristics of its population with disabilities, including sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, as well as on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society. The Committee also recommends that the State party make sure that the use of all derogatory language in reference to persons with disabilities is eliminated.

Canada (2017)

53. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not have up-to-date quantitative and qualitative data on the situation of persons with disabilities and the enjoyment of their human rights.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically facilitate the collection, compilation and updating of data and statistics on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, barriers encountered, ethnicity and geographic location, including data on their type of housing or institution and on cases of discrimination or violence against them. The Committee recommends that the State party consult with organizations of persons with disabilities in this process.

Cyprus (2017)

61. The Committee is concerned about the absence of a unified data-collection system allowing for an assessment of the extent to which all persons with disabilities are exercising all of their rights under the Convention.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate adequate funding and, in close collaboration with organizations representing persons with disabilities, and in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention, establish a unified data-collection system in order to collect quality, sufficient, timely and reliable disaggregated data regarding persons with disabilities and their access to the rights under the Convention.

Honduras (2017)

65. Preocupa al Comité la ausencia de datos e información desglosados y comparables sobre las personas con discapacidad en el Estado parte en todos los sectores, así como la falta de indicadores de derechos humanos en los datos disponibles. Preocupa también al Comité la ausencia de temas de género, infancia, violencia y el tipo de deficiencia en los datos estadísticos.

66. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que facilite sistemáticamente la recopilación, el análisis y la difusión de datos desglosados comparables sobre las personas con discapacidad en todos los sectores. También recomienda que, en cooperación con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan, desarrolle un sistema de indicadores basado en los derechos humanos. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 31 de la Convención y la meta 17.18 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

58. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systems to collect data on the situation of persons with disabilities, including the barriers that they face to exercise their rights, and disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnic, linguistic background, migrant, asylum seeking and refugee status.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party work in consultation and when appropriate in cooperation with persons with disabilities through their representative

organizations to create a system for the collection of up-to-date disaggregated appropriate data, in line with the proposal by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

Jordan (2017)

59. The Committee notes the absence of systematic collection of up-to-date information, including appropriately disaggregated statistical and research data that would facilitate formulation and implementation of policies to give effect to the Convention.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party collaborate closely with persons with disabilities, organizations representing them and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to develop a centralized and regularly updated database, with data disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, rural/urban population and impairment type so as to enable the formulation and implementation of policies to give effect to the Convention, with due respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, ethics, legal safeguards, data protection, confidentiality and privacy.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

56. The Committee is concerned that data collection on persons with disabilities in the State party is based on a medical approach and is fragmented, and that information is not disseminated.

57. In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures, through the National Bureau of Statistics that are in line with the Convention, and that it collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on its population with disabilities, including data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment and place of residence, as well as data on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society.

Bolivia (2016)

69. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not have up-to-date quantitative and qualitative data on the situation of persons with disabilities and the enjoyment of their human rights.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party take a rights-based approach to the compilation and updating of data and statistics on persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, barriers encountered, ethnicity and geographic location, including data on their type of housing or institution, and cases of discrimination or violence against them. The Committee also recommends that the State party consult with organizations of persons with disabilities in this process. It further recommends that the State party be guided by article 31 of the Convention in its efforts to achieve target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Colombia (2016)

68. The Committee is concerned about the lack of updated information and statistics on the number of persons with disabilities in the State party, as well as on the status of their human rights enjoyment throughout the territory.

69. The Committee recommends that the State party collect and update data and statistics on persons with disabilities using a rights-based model. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, existing barriers, ethnicity and geographical location and include the type of residence or institution and cases of discrimination or violence against those persons. These processes should be undertaken in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 31 of the Convention in pursuing target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ethiopia (2016)

65. The Committee is concerned about the absence of systematic data collection on persons with disabilities disaggregated by disability, sex and age across all sectors, including those subjected to violence.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals to increase significantly the availability of timely and reliable data, including through consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

Guatemala (2016)

72. The Committee is concerned about the lack of consistent and comparable statistics on persons with disabilities and the lack of human rights indicators in the data that are available.

73. The Committee recommends that the State party, in cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, use a human rights-based system of indicators and a comprehensive comparable data collection system, with data disaggregated, at least, by gender, age, ethnic group, rural/urban population and type of disability. In addition, it recommends rapidly finalizing the second National Survey on Disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the twelfth Population Census and seventh Housing Census. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 31 of the Convention in its implementation of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Italy (2016)

77. The Committee is concerned at the availability and quality of data collection in surveys and censuses on the general population that is disaggregated by disability, sex and age.

78. The Committee recommends that the State party be guided by article 31 of the Convention in implementing target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by, among others, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including in all surveys and censuses.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

57. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That the State party does not systematically collect disaggregated statistical data on persons with disabilities in all areas, including in respect of violence and access to justice;
- (b) About the lack of data collected on migrant workers with disabilities and on migrant workers who have acquired a disability.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated statistical data in all areas of the demographics of persons with disabilities, including migrant workers with disabilities, in order to enable it to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention. It also recommends that the State party be guided by article 31 of the Convention in the implementation of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uruguay (2016)

63. Preocupa al Comité la ausencia de datos e información desglosados y comparables sobre las personas con discapacidad en el Estado parte en todos los sectores, así como la falta de indicadores de derechos humanos en los datos disponibles. Preocupa también al Comité la ausencia de temas de género, infancia y violencia en los datos estadísticos.

64. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que fortalezca la recopilación sistemática, el análisis y la difusión de datos desglosados comparables sobre las personas con

discapacidad en todos los sectores. También recomienda que, en cooperación con las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan, desarrolle un sistema de indicadores basado en los derechos humanos. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que se guíe por el artículo 31 de la Convención en la implementación de la meta 17.18 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible para aumentar de forma significativa la disponibilidad de datos oportunos, fiables y de alta calidad desglosados por grupos de ingresos, género, edad, origen étnico, condición migratoria, discapacidad, ubicación geográfica y otras características pertinentes en los contextos nacionales.

Chile (2016)

63. El Comité observa que la última encuesta sobre personas con discapacidad implementada en el Estado parte (ENDISC-II) en 2015, no haya incluido a personas con discapacidad institucionalizadas, privadas de libertad, en situación de calle, o indígenas. Además, nota la ausencia de registros sobre casos por discriminación o por violencia contra personas con discapacidad.

64. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte la recopilación y actualización de datos y estadísticas acerca de personas con discapacidad sobre la base del modelo de derechos humanos, desglosados por edad, sexo, tipo de deficiencia, pertenencia étnica y localización geográfica, que incluyan datos sobre tipo de residencia o institucionalización, casos por discriminación o por violencia en contra de estas personas; en el desarrollo de estos procesos recomienda la consulta con organizaciones de personas con discapacidad. Además, recomienda al Estado parte que preste atención a los vínculos entre el artículo 31 de la Convención y el objetivo 17 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, en particular la meta 17.18.

Lithuania (2016)

63. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) There is a lack of disaggregated and reliable statistical data regarding persons with disabilities across all sectors;
- (b) The statistical data relating to persons with disabilities collected by the State party fail to take into account the diversity of persons with disabilities, thereby rendering it impossible to evaluate the impact of each policy on persons with disabilities.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, residence, geographic area and types of support received, in relation to all sectors, taking note of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Portugal (2016)

58. The Committee is concerned about the lack of standard and comparable statistics regarding persons with disabilities in the State party, as well as the lack of human rights indicators in available data.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, establish a system of human rights-based indicators and a comparable and comprehensive system to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, rural/urban residency and type of disability. The Committee also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and SDG 17, target 17.18 to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Serbia (2016)

63. The Committee welcomes that a comprehensive database on local services will be set up, however; the Committee is concerned that little information has been provided on how the database will contribute to the quality of services provided for persons with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned that the State party is not collecting and analysing data on the situation of persons with disabilities that provides sufficient information to implement the Convention.

64. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the database on services for persons with disabilities will refer to the quality and availability of social services provided for persons with disabilities and a speedy implementation of statistics in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee recommends the State party update and collect data and statistics on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, type of impairment, ethnicity and geographic position, including the type of residential or institutional setting, cases filed for discrimination and/or for violence against these persons, and using a human rights-based approach. While developing these processes, it recommends the State Party meaningfully involve with organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee recommends the State party pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal 17, target 17.18

Slovakia (2016)

83. The Committee is concerned about the absence of systematic data collection disaggregated by disability, sex and age across all sectors. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned at the lack of coordinated research about the lives of persons with disabilities and their families.

84. The Committee recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age and disability, and coordinate research to obtain a full understanding of the lives of persons with disabilities, the barriers they face and the solutions required to enable their full participation in society.

Thailand (2016)

63. The Committee is concerned that the State party is not collecting data necessary to enable it to implement the Convention.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party review its data collection and analysis and bring them into line with the Convention. It also recommends that the State party pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Uganda (2016)

60. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systems to collect information on the situation of persons with disabilities, including refugees.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of**
- (b) disaggregated data about persons with disabilities and the barriers they face;**
- (c) Pay attention to the links between article 31 of the Convention and target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Brazil (2015)

56. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not systematically collect disaggregated data across all sectors according to sex, age, disability, indigenous peoples and geographic location.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data across all sectors including health, education, employment, political participation, access to justice, social protection, and violence by disability and according to other categories listed above, and amend the census questions, in close cooperation with organisations of persons with disabilities, to accurately reflect the population.

European Union (2015)

72. The Committee is concerned at the lack of consistent and comparable data on persons with disabilities in the European Union and the lack of human rights indicators.

73. The Committee recommends that the European Union develop a human rights-based indicators system in cooperation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, as well as a comparable comprehensive data collection system, with data disaggregated by gender, age, rural/urban population and impairment type.

Gabon (2015)

66. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not systematically collect disaggregated data across all sectors according to sex, age, disability, indigenous peoples (such as Pygmies) and geographic location. In particular, the Committee is concerned at the low estimated numbers of persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas.

67. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data across all sectors including health, education, employment, political participation, access to justice, social protection, and violence by disability and according to other categories listed above, and amend the census questions, in close cooperation with organisations of persons with disabilities, to accurately reflect the population.

Kenya (2015)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systems to collect information on the situation of persons with disabilities, including the barriers that they face to exercise their rights.

56. The Committee recommends that the State systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data according to sex, age, disability, indigenous communities, refugee or migrant status, geographical location, across all sectors including health, education, employment, political participation, access to justice, social protection, violence, etc by disability and according to other categories listed above, and amend the census questions, in close cooperation with organisations of persons with disabilities, to accurately reflect the population.

Mauritius (2015)

43. The Committee is concerned that the State party's disability figures are well below the WHO estimates, which might indicate some challenges in the collection of data, especially as regard the ambiguous terminology currently used in the State party on communication-related disabilities. The Committee also regrets that data on all areas covered by the Convention are not available.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the 2012 data collection on persons with disabilities in order to collect data disaggregated by gender, age, rural/urban population and impairment type on all areas covered by the Convention in order

to develop coherent policies and monitor the enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities.

[Qatar \(2015\)](#)

55. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not systematically collect disaggregated statistical data on persons with disabilities. It is also concerned by the lack of data collected on migrant workers with disabilities and who have acquired a disability.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated statistical data across all sectors on the demographics of persons with disabilities in order to enable it to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention.

[Ukraine \(2015\)](#)

58. The Committee notes with concern the lack of statistical information about the situation of persons with disabilities in the State party, particularly by impairment group, and the absence of data disaggregated by disability across all sectors which impede effective policy formulation.

59. The Committee recommends the State party to reform its system of data collection and collect data on the situation of persons with disabilities, disaggregated by age and gender, particularly persons with disabilities from marginalised communities, across all sectors including health, education, employment, political participation, access to justice, social protection, violence, migration and internal displacement.

[Cook Islands \(2015\)](#)

55. The Committee is concerned that the current census does not record the numbers of persons with disabilities born in the Cook Islands who relocate internationally to access health and education services because of their lack of provision on the islands.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Update the census questionnaire to provide a representative picture of persons with disabilities across the islands, including those who relocate;

(b) Develop a centralised and regularly updated database, with data disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, rural/urban population and impairment type.

57. The Committee is concerned at the lack of data and statistics on children with disabilities across the State party.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party collect disaggregated data across all sectors concerning children including monitoring abuse and violence in all care settings for children with disabilities.

[Croatia \(2015\)](#)

49. The Committee is concerned that the system of data collection does not enable the State party to gather information needed to plan and strategize for the fulfilment of its duties under the Convention. e.g. because data on violence against women and girls with disabilities is lacking.

50. The Committee recommends the State party to systematically review and reform the data collection system as it pertains to women and men with disabilities and to actively involve and closely consult with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

[Dominican Republic \(2015\)](#)

58. Al Comité le preocupa la escasez de datos e información desagregada sobre las personas con discapacidad, en particular, la ausencia de cifras que indiquen nivel de alfabetización o número de personas con discapacidad que cuentan con seguro familiar de

salud; le preocupa también la inconsistencia en la cifra registrada de personas con discapacidad por el Censo de Población de 2010 y la encuesta de hogares ENHOGAR de 2013.

59. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

(a) Sistematizar la recolección de datos e información desagregada acerca de las personas con discapacidad; y

(b) Unificar criterios y metodología para la recolección de datos estadísticos acerca de las personas con discapacidad.

Germany (2015)

57. The Committee is concerned that indicators used for the collection of data regarding persons with disabilities do not follow a human rights-based approach and that they fail to demonstrate the removal of barriers.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability across all sectors and develop human rights indicators to provide information on the implementation of the Convention and the removal of barriers.

Mongolia (2015)

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of data and statistics on the number and situation of persons with disabilities in the State Party.

48. The Committee recommends the State Party to collect data and statistics using the disability rights based model, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, about persons with disabilities, in particular, to collect this information on persons with disabilities that are currently in institutional settings, persons with disabilities under social protection of the Persons with Disabilities, Law on Social insurance and Law on Social welfare respectively.

Turkmenistan (2015)

53. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information provided about the involvement of persons with disabilities in consultations on reforming the statistical system, particularly to ensure disaggregated data on persons with disabilities.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to create a database and systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, with special regards to women and children with disabilities in particular, age and disability as well as region; and develop gender- and age-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, taking into consideration the shift from the medical- to the human rights-based approach to disability.

New Zealand (2014)

67. The Committee notes that Statistics New Zealand conducted a disabilities survey in 2013.

68. The Committee recommends that Statistics New Zealand produce a report from the Disability Survey 2013 comparing the human rights outcomes of disabled women and men with those of non-disabled women and men, and where possible, make data tables available from the Disability Survey 2013 so that data users are able to compare the human rights outcomes of disabled men and women with those of non-disabled men and women.

69. The Committee is concerned that government departments, crown entities and local authorities do not always collect and publish disaggregated data on people with disabilities in their annual reports.

70. The Committee recommends that government departments, crown entities and local authorities should collect and publish disaggregated data on people with disabilities in their annual reports.

Denmark (2014)

64. While noting the efforts to collect statistical data on persons with disabilities in Denmark, including IT-based data collection on assistance and benefits to persons with disabilities in Greenland, and general data collection in the Faroe Islands, the Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by gender, age, disability and region; enhance capacity-building in this regard; and develop gender- and age-sensitive indicators, paying due regard to the need to move from a medical-based to a human rights-based approach to disability.

Republic of Korea (2014)

59. The Committee is concerned that the statistical data relating to persons with disabilities collected by the State party fail to take into account the diversity of persons with disabilities, thereby rendering it impossible to evaluate the impact of each policy on persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that statistical data is not being produced and shared in all accessible formats.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, place of residence, geographic area and types of benefits received, and that the statistics be freely accessible by all persons with disabilities through the provision of the information in accessible formats.

Belgium (2014)

42. The Committee regrets the lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. It recalls that such information is indispensable to: understanding the situations of specific groups of persons with disabilities in the State party who may be subject to varying degrees of vulnerability; developing laws, policies and programmes adapted to their situations; and assessing the implementation of the Convention.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by gender, age and disability; enhance capacity-building in that regard; and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to implementation of the various provisions of the Convention.

44. The Committee is concerned that there is insufficient data on matters affecting girls, boys and women with disabilities.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data on girls, boys and women with disabilities.

Ecuador (2014)

50. The Committee is concerned that there is still no unified data-collection system in Ecuador allowing for an assessment of the extent to which all persons with disabilities are exercising their rights.

51. The Committee recommends the establishment of a system that will resolve any discrepancies between the various institutions that manage data on disabilities which are currently fragmented, as well as a monitoring system with clear indicators for gauging how much progress has been made in complying with the various rights under the Convention.

52. The Committee is concerned that the national system for classifying disabilities does not include disaggregated data on indigenous children, Afro-Ecuadorian children and Montubio people. The situation of these sectors of the population may be aggravated by multiple discrimination and it is necessary to have reliable information to meet their specific requirements.

53. The Committee recommends that specific surveys be conducted and that the national population census include information on the number of persons with disabilities, especially Montubio or Afro-Ecuadorian women and children living in rural areas, in order to devise programmes on access to rights especially tailored to their situation.

Mexico (2014)

59. The Committee notes that the State party has set up a specialized technical committee for information on disability. However, it is concerned that there are no up-to-date statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective participation of disabled persons' organizations in the specialized technical committee for information on disability. The Committee enjoins the State party to urgently establish a system for the compilation, analysis and publication of statistical data on persons with disabilities – disaggregated by urban and rural place of residence, state and indigenous community – taking into account the situation of all marginalized groups and the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 and 34 and the concerns expressed in paragraphs 43 and 47 above.

Sweden (2014)

55. The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. It recalls that such information is indispensable to: understanding the situations of specific groups of persons with disabilities in the State party who may be subject to varying degrees of vulnerability; developing laws, policies and programmes adapted to their situations; and assessing the implementation of the Convention.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by gender, age and disability; enhance capacity-building in that regard; and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention.

57. The Committee is concerned that data is scarce on matters affecting girls, boys and women with disabilities, including those belonging to indigenous groups

58. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data on girls, boys and women with disabilities, including those belonging to indigenous groups.

Azerbaijan (2014)

49. While noting that the State party is in the process of developing a database on issues affecting persons with disabilities and its efforts to collect data, the Committee is concerned at the lack of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the creation of a database and systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability as well as region; enhance capacity-building in this regard; and develop gender- and age-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, taking into

consideration the changes from the medical to the human rights-based approach to disability.

Costa Rica (2014)

63. The Committee is concerned that the concept of disability used in the last population census, in 2011, is the medical model, and that the census results have not been made available. It is also concerned at the lack of consistency in collecting data on the situation of persons with disabilities.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party gather disaggregated data on persons with disabilities that is consistent with the human rights model, and that it consult disabled persons' organizations regarding the criteria used in gathering that data. It also recommends that the State party systematize the gathering, analysis and publication of statistical data taking account of specific sectors of persons with disabilities.

Australia (2013)

53. The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data collected and publically reported on persons with disabilities. It further regrets that there is little data about the specific situation of women and girls with disability, in particular indigenous women and girls with disabilities.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party develops nationally consistent measures for data collection and public reporting of disaggregated data across the full range of obligations contained in the Convention, and that all data be disaggregated by age, gender, type of disability, place of residence and cultural background. It further recommends that the State party commissions and funds a comprehensive assessment of the situation of girls and women with disability, in order to establish a baseline of disaggregated data against which future progress towards the Convention can be measured.

55. The Committee regrets that the situation of children with disabilities is not reflected in the data on the protection of children. It further regrets the paucity of information on children with disabilities, in particular data on indigenous children, alternative care for children with disabilities and children with disabilities living in remote or rural areas.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, on the status of children including any form of abuse and violence against children. It further recommends that the State party commissions and funds a comprehensive assessment of the situation of children with disabilities, in order to establish a baseline of disaggregated data against which future progress is made towards the implementation of the Convention.

Austria (2013)

50. While noting the launch of a new reporting forum on women's issues, the Committee is concerned at reports that data are rarely collected on matters affecting women with disabilities.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on women and girls with disabilities and enhance capacity-building in this regard; that it develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and that it report on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention.

El Salvador (2013)

63. The Committee, while concerned that official statistics do not reflect the situation of persons with disabilities, takes note of the conclusion of agreements to conduct a survey of such persons.

64. The Committee urges the State party to incorporate in its next census the collection of data on the status of the rights of persons with disabilities, including children, in rural and urban areas.

Paraguay (2013)

71. The Committee notes that there is no disaggregated data on the situation of persons with disabilities in the State party. It takes note of the preliminary results of the latest population census in the State party; it is nevertheless concerned that there is no information on the methods used to collect data on persons with disabilities and in particular on the criteria used in developing the census instruments.

72. The Committee recommends that the State party gather disaggregated data on persons with disabilities that is consistent with the human rights model, and that it consult disabled persons' organizations regarding the criteria used in gathering that data.

73. The Committee notes the introduction of a disability certificate giving access to rights and disability benefits; it is nevertheless concerned at the fact that the certificate is issued on the basis of physical deficiencies alone, and not in accordance with the human rights model used in the Convention.

74. The Committee recommends that the State party review and modify the assessment criteria used in issuing the disability certificate, in line with the principles of the Convention, and establish a simple, no-fee procedure for obtaining it.

Argentina (2012)

49. The Committee would like to express its recognition of the State party for the work it has begun in order to conduct the second national disability survey and to underscore the importance of compiling up-to-date data which will provide an accurate picture of the situation of specific groups of persons with disabilities who may be subject to multiple forms of exclusion, particularly women, children, institutionalized persons, those who have been deprived of legal capacity and those belonging to indigenous peoples.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize its collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics and data, taking into consideration the situation of specific groups of persons with disabilities who may be subject to multiple forms of exclusion. The Committee urges the State party to step up its capacity-building measures in this area and to develop indicators that will reflect issues of multiple discrimination and intersectionality as they relate to persons with disabilities, taking into consideration the changeover from a medical to a human rights model of disability.

China (2012)

47. The Committee takes note that disaggregated appropriate information, including statistical and research data which enables the state party to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the CRPD is often not available due to laws and regulations on guarding state's secrets as revised in 2010.

48. The Committee recommends to review the secrecy laws and appropriately revise them so that information on issues and problems regarding the implementation of the CRPD – e.g. the number of sterilized women with disabilities or the number of involuntary commitments to institutions- can be publicly discussed. The Committee reminds the state party that this information should be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Hungary (2012)

47. The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. It notes that the State party has included information on disability in its two last censuses. It regrets, however, that the preliminary data from the 2011 census, released in April 2012, did not include any indication on disability related statistics.

48. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information regarding Roma children with disabilities. It is further concerned by the understanding of the State party of the way in which confidentiality and privacy towards children with disabilities should be considered.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party systematise the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability; enhance capacity-building in this regard; and develop gender- and age-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, taking into consideration the changes from the medical to the human rights based approach to disability.

50. The committee recommends the State party to develop appropriate data collection to understand the nature and characteristics of Roma persons with disabilities in general and children in particular.

Peru (2012)

46. The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. The Committee recalls that such information is indispensable to: understanding the situations of specific groups of persons with disabilities in the State party who may be subject to varying degrees of exclusion, especially indigenous people, women and children with disabilities and persons who live in rural areas; developing laws, policies and programmes adapted to their situations; and assessing the implementation of the Convention.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability; enhance capacity-building in this regard; and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, taking into consideration the changes from the medical to the social model.

Spain (2011)

49. The Committee regrets the low level of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. The Committee recalls that such information is indispensable to: understanding the situations of specific groups of persons with disabilities in the State party who may be subject to varying degrees of vulnerability; developing laws, policies and programmes adapted to their situations; and assessing the implementation of the Convention.

50. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability; enhance capacity-building in this regard; and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention.

51. The Committee regrets that the situation of children with disabilities is not reflected in the data on the protection of children.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, on abuse and violence against children.

Tunisia (2010)

36. The Committee welcomes the plans to develop a database to store all available data on persons with disabilities (CRPD/C/TUN/1, para. 7), but regrets the low level of visibility of women with disabilities. The Committee recalls that such information is indispensable to understanding the situation of women with disabilities in the State party, and to assessing the implementation of the Convention.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party systematize the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, enhance capacity-building in this regard, and develop gender-sensitive indicators to support legislative developments, policymaking and institutional strengthening for monitoring and reporting on progress made with regard to the implementation of the various provisions of the Convention.

38. The Committee regrets the invisibility of children with disabilities in data related to protection of children.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, on abuse and violence against children.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 32 CRPD
(International cooperation)*

September 2025

Article 32 - International cooperation

1. States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:

- a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;
- b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;
- c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;
- d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.

2. The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the obligations of each State Party to fulfil its obligations under the present Convention.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)

Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Republic of Korea (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Norway (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)
Bulgaria (2018)
Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
South Africa (2018)

North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)
Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)

Kenya (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
New Zealand (2014)
Belgium (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Azerbaijan (2014)
El Salvador (2013)
Tunisia (2010)

Please note there are no recommendations on China, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Moldova, Mauritius, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Australia, Austria, Paraguay, Argentina, China, Hungary, Peru, Spain and Mexico.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

62. The Committee is concerned about the limited extent of international cooperation strategies and programmes as well as the lack of information provided by the State Party on the participation therein of persons with disabilities, including organisations of women and girls with disabilities, and on budget allocations made for such participation, including in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

63. The Committee recommends that the State Party adopt concrete measures to ensure close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels. The Committee also recommends the State Party to take measures to strengthen its cooperation for the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032 and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

Finland (2025)

62. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) Significant reductions in the budget for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in international and development cooperation;
- (b) The withdrawal of the State party from the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure active involvement and close participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation and development, including by allotting sufficient financial means to this end;
- (b) Continue to abide by the provisions on victim assistance of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Kiribati (2025)

61. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) Insufficient focus in donor investment and partnerships to advance the implementation of policies and programmes that address specific critical gaps for children and adults with disabilities, such as the provision of assistive devices and wheelchairs and the associated maintenance and repair capability, the development of sign language interpreter services and sign language training, and technical assistance for developing accessibility standards and an anti-discrimination framework.
- (b) The lack of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements and programmes that benefit persons with disabilities, such as international worker schemes and climate refugee agreements.

62. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations:

- (a) Strengthen efforts to work with donors to ensure investment and partnerships focus on specific critical gaps for persons with disabilities and that all donor investment includes disability-specific indicators and disability-inclusive design and delivery;
- (b) Establish bilateral and multilateral agreements that benefit persons with disabilities, including in relation to international worker schemes and climate refugee agreements;
- (c) Strengthen its cooperation for the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032, the 2016 Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

Maldives (2025)

63. The Committee is concerned about the lack of long-term efforts and strategies to seek out and engage cooperation partners to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, low priority given to the planning, programming and financing of programmes and activities relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities within the framework of international cooperation. It is also concerned at the insufficient consultation and inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women with disabilities, as partners in development cooperation, in the design and implementation of international agreements and programmes.

64. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations work with donors to ensure investment and partnerships focus on specific critical gaps for persons with disabilities and that all donor investment includes disability specific indicators and disability inclusive design and delivery. It also recommends that the State party take measures to strengthen its cooperation for the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032 and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

Canada (2025)

62. The Committee commends the State Party on devoting between 6-10% of its international development assistance to projects whose main focus is the rights of persons with disabilities, and on the use the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) disability policy marker to monitor inclusivity in development assistance. However, it remains concerned that despite assurances that the State Party’s arms exports and control regime policies are compliant with international and humanitarian law, the exemption of certain export permits of items, parts, and components shipped to the United States to integrate into larger weapons systems, which are then exported to other countries, may facilitate the violation of the rights of persons with disabilities and jeopardizes their access to humanitarian assistance.

63. Recognizing the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of 9 January 2025 on the impact of arms transfers on human rights (A/HRC/58/41), the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Ensure that all its arms exports and control regime policies are compliant with the State Party’s obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty, International Humanitarian Law, the Convention, and other international human rights instruments, and incorporate into its domestic legislation mandatory human rights due diligence legislation for all arms exports;
(b) Conduct a comprehensive analysis of its current policy on exports of arms, items, parts, and components to identify and cease any Canadian military exports used to facilitate or commit – through the export of items to other countries, including to the United States of America, for their integration into larger weapons systems, indirect exports, or re-exports – grave human rights violations against persons with disabilities;

(c) Implement the 2024 recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on transparency and accountability on arms exports [CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/10 para. 13(d) and 14(c)].

64. The Committee notes with concern that the State party does not closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design, approval and tracking of development and humanitarian projects in international cooperation.

65. The Committee recommends that the State Party develop mechanisms to ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their

representative organizations, in all its humanitarian, reconstruction, development and post-conflict projects with international, regional, and local partners.

Dominican Republic (2025)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The general lack of the systematic and active involvement of and close consultation with persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the State party's international cooperation activities;
- (b) The lack of information or data on measures taken to include the disability perspective in the design of international cooperation projects or to establish a monitoring and accountability framework to assess the impact of international cooperation programmes, projects and policies, including programmes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and monitoring of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, and:

- (a) Ensure that international cooperation, including international development cooperation, is inclusive, accessible and participatory for persons with disabilities and is fully in line with the human rights approach to disability and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (b) Recalling the disability policy marker of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, mainstream the disability perspective in the design of international cooperation projects and establish a monitoring and accountability framework to assess the impact of international cooperation programmes, projects and policies.**

European Union (2025)

74. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a comprehensive Disability Action Plan in EU external action, leading to incoherence in external policies and programmes relating to persons with disabilities established with EU funds, and uneven implementation of existing external policies relating to the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (b) That despite substantial progress, the focus on disability inclusion in the European Commission's Official Development Assistance projects is still limited;
- (c) The lack of a legally entrenched framework for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations in EU external action, and a lack of such consultation and involvement in country-level consultations;
- (c) Complex procedures for application to funding for organizations of persons with disabilities in EU external action;
- (d) That despite capacity building measures by the European Union, its institutions still command limited institutional capacity to design and implement disability-inclusive international cooperation programmes.

75. The Committee recalls its previous Concluding Observations and Recommendations (para. 75), and recommends that the European Union:

- (a) Develop and implement a comprehensive disability action plan and improve coordination of existing policies in EU external action to implement the Convention in all international assistance programmes, and within the negotiations of the UN conference on Financial for Development;**
- (b) Continue increasing Official Development Assistance programmes on disability inclusion, in alignment with the OECD DAC Disability Marker, and ensure that the next**

Multiannual Financial Framework for EU external action is compatible with the Convention, promotes disability inclusion and has an intersectional approach;

(c) Enact a legally entrenched mechanism for close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in EU external action, and ensure such consultation and involvement particularly at country-level consultations, including consultations on climate change, green transition and individual projects, in the design and implementation of international cooperation agreements and programmes, and specifically in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Ensure that all European Union funding, policies and programmes related to international cooperation and sustainable development, including all Team Europe and Global Gateway initiatives, adhere to the principles of accessibility and participation of persons with disabilities;

(e) Continue and strengthen systematic training for EU staff and partners implementing EU-funded programmes and develop practical guidance on disability-inclusive programming.

Palau (2025)

61. The Committee notes with concern the lack of the active and meaningful participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation agreements and activities.

62. Recalling the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt specific measures to ensure the meaningful consultation and effective participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, throughout the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases, and mainstream disability rights into the national implementation the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the monitoring thereof. The Committee also recommend that the State party strengthen its cooperation for the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032 and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

Tuvalu (2025)

59. The Committee is concerned about insufficient donor investment and partnerships to progress implementation of policies and programs for persons with disabilities, and that focus on addressing specific critical gaps for children and adults with disabilities, such as the provision of assistive devices and wheelchairs and an associated repair capability, the development of sign language and provision of sign language interpreters, technical assistance for developing accessibility standards and for the development of an anti-discrimination framework.

60. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations work with donors to ensure investment and partnerships focus on specific critical gaps for persons with disabilities and that all donor investment includes disability specific indicators and disability inclusive design and delivery. It also recommends that the State party take measures to strengthen its cooperation for the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023–2032 the 2016 Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

61. The Committee is concerned about persons with disabilities not being able to benefit from bilateral cooperation agreements and programs, such as international worker schemes, study abroad programs and climate refugee agreements due to the migrant health requirements of partner countries that deny migration of persons with disabilities.

62. The Committee recommends that the State Party, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, in its negotiations on bilateral cooperation agreements and programs, ensure that migration health requirements do not prevent persons with disabilities in Tuvalu from benefiting from these programs.

Viet Nam (2025)

63. The Committee is concerned about the lack of clarity on how persons with disabilities are involved in deciding how international cooperation for disability support programmes will be distributed;

64. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt concrete measures to ensure close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels;

(b) Take measures to strengthen its cooperation for the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2023–2032) and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

(c) Introduce the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development as a tool to ensure the disability approach is included in all international cooperation measures.

Belarus (2024)

63. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The ambiguity in the measures used to prioritize the themes in the international cooperation programs and disregard to making these programs disability inclusive;

(b) The lack of consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in identifying the priorities in the international cooperation programs and excluding them from the implementation and the monitoring processes.

64. The committee recommends that in close consultation with and with active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, the State party:

(a) Develop comprehensive measures to ensure that the international cooperation programs are inclusive for all, in particular for persons with disabilities;

(b) Effectively engage persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including women with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring processes of the international cooperation programs.

Belgium (2024)

64. The Committee is concerned about the narrowly confined inclusion of a disability perspective in the State party’s presidency of the European Union in 2024, and the overly restrictive participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the development and evaluation of international cooperation strategies and programmes.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their

representative organizations, in the establishment of international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically with respect to the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It also recommends that the State party take the measures necessary to implement the European Consensus on Development to further advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

Benin (2024)

63. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of long-term strategies to seek and engage cooperation partners to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, as raised through human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review;
- (b) The low priority accorded to planning, programming and funding of programmes and activities relating to promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in international cooperation;
- (c) The insufficient consultation and inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women with disabilities, as development cooperation partners, in the design and implementation of international agreements and programmes.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion, close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations in particular organizations of women with disabilities, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also recommends that the State party adopt the measures necessary to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, adopted in 2018 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Burkina Faso (2024)

60. The Committee notes with concern that organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women with disabilities, are not sufficiently consulted and included as partners in development cooperation in the design and implementation of international cooperation agreements, strategies and programmes.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) **Adopt concrete measures to ensure close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, particularly organizations of women with disabilities, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels;**
- (b) **Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.**

Denmark (2024)

85. The Committee recognizes that Denmark started reporting on the Disability Inclusion Marker from the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD in its international co-operation activities. It remains, however, concerned that the reported share of development assistance that includes persons with disabilities remains low and is not sufficiently supported by evidence. It is also concerned about only partial inclusion of disability in its international cooperation framework and about insufficient close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the development of international cooperation strategies and programmes.

86. The Committee recommends that Denmark ensure that its development assistance adequately include persons with disabilities, that it adopt concrete measures to implement

the European Consensus on Development to further advance the rights of persons with disabilities, and ensure close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design of international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ghana (2024)

62. The Committee is concerned at the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also notes with concern that organizations of persons with disabilities are neither fully and independently consulted nor involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and they are not consulted in anything related to international cooperation.

63. The Committee recommends that the State Party mainstream disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, and that those processes be undertaken in close consultation and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, and in anything related to international cooperation programs.

Mauritius (2024)

57. The Committee is concerned about the lack of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, at all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international agreements and multilateral cooperation programmes, including memoranda of understanding with various States and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels. It also recommends that the State party adopt the measures necessary to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, adopted in 2018 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Netherlands (2024)

69. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a systematic and coordinated strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the international cooperation activities of the State party, with the full involvement of persons with disabilities, including with regard to the European Consensus on Development;

(b) The general lack of systemic and active involvement of and close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, in its international cooperation activities.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, and:

(a) Develop a systematic and coordinated strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its international cooperation activities, including with regards to the European Consensus on Development;

(b) Establish measures to ensure the active involvement and close consultation of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design, development, monitoring and evaluation of strategies and programmes on international cooperation.

Ukraine (2024)

64. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Development, post conflict and recovery projects, including those in partnership with international, regional and local organizations, have not mainstreamed disability nor consulted with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

(b) The lack of close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the supervision of the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Recovery and postwar projects prioritize economic recovery and do not address inequalities exacerbated in the context of conflict and the reduction of social expenditure to realize the rights of persons with disabilities.

65. The Committee recalls the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (A/HRC/56/61) calling upon governments to move away from an economy driven by the search for maximizing profits to a human rights economy, this is, from the focus on the increase of levels of production and consumption, to the production of more socially useful and ecologically sustainable goods and services, which is also encompassed by the maxim of “build back better, leave no one behind ”. It recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a harmonized policy on disability-inclusive development and mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its international cooperation policies and programmes, especially those related to recovery and post-conflict;

(b) Develop mechanisms so that persons with disabilities through their representative organizations can participate in the supervision of the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Implement reconstruction, development and recovery projects under a human rights economy, which does not increase inequalities and leads to the reduction of social expenditure to realize the rights of persons with disabilities;

(d) Ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities in all stages of the peace continuum, including conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction, peacebuilding and in measures to address the root causes of conflict, and in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as mechanisms to prevent and redress human rights violations and abuses.

Azerbaijan (2024)

67. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities in developing international cooperation strategies and programmes;

(b) The limited inclusion of disability in international cooperation agreements.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Introduce mechanisms to ensure close consultation and the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities of international cooperation agreements, the process towards the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Mainstream disability, including the rights of women and children with disabilities, in international cooperation programmes.

Bahrain (2024)¹

64. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The rights and issues of persons with disabilities are not included in international cooperation agreements in the areas of development.
- (b) The lack of involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in setting priorities for them in international cooperation programs in which the State party is a partner;
- (c) The lack of indicators showing the achievement of the SDGs in the Disability Strategy 2012-2016 and its implementation plan.
- (c) The lack of indicators showing the extent to which the Sustainable Development Goals are achieved in the Disability Strategy 2012-2016 and its Implementation Plan 2023-2027.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that international cooperation agreements and programs are inclusive and responsive to the rights and issues of persons with disabilities**
- (b) Closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities and their organizations, including children, women, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities, in the prioritization of international cooperation programmes and projects**
- (c) Develop indicators that allow stakeholders, persons with disabilities and their organizations to monitor and evaluate the implementation of international cooperation programs and measure the extent to which they achieve the SDGs.**

Costa Rica (2024)

55. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) Que no se asegure la estrecha consulta y la participación activa de las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan en el diseño, implementación, supervisión y evaluación de los programas y proyectos formulados en la cooperación internacional;
- b) La insuficiente difusión de la información relacionada a las convocatorias y a los resultados de la cooperación internacional, en particular de proyectos que abordan a las personas con discapacidad auspiciados por PNUD, OFDA, USAID, CEPREDENAC, y UNICEF;
- c) La falta de información o datos sobre las medidas adoptadas para garantizar la inclusión la perspectiva de discapacidad en el diseño de proyectos de cooperación internacional, así como para establecer un marco de seguimiento y rendición de cuentas para evaluar los efectos de los programas, proyectos y políticas de cooperación internacional, incluidos los programas destinados a lograr los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

56. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Velar por la estrecha consulta y la participación activa de las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan en el diseño, formulación, seguimiento y evaluación de las estrategias y programas de cooperación internacional;**
- b) Garantizar que la cooperación internacional, incluida la cooperación internacional para el desarrollo, sea inclusiva, accesible y participativa para las personas con discapacidad y esté plenamente en línea con el enfoque de derechos humanos de la discapacidad y la promoción del cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible;**
- c) Transversalizar la perspectiva de discapacidad en el diseño de proyectos de cooperación internacional y establecer un marco de seguimiento y rendición de cuentas para evaluar los efectos de los programas, proyectos y políticas de cooperación internacional.**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

Kazakhstan (2024)

67. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information on measures to employ disability plans and programmes in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and sustainable development goals;
- (b) The limited engagement of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities through their representative organizations in all phases of the international cooperation programs, in particular in the identification of the national priorities related to their rights.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

- (a) Develop a national strategy with clear indicators to track the use of disability programs in the implementation of the SDGs;**
- (b) Adopt international cooperation programs to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, and implement and monitor them.**

Nicaragua (2024)

66. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) Que la cooperación internacional se emplea en materia de discapacidad solamente con enfoque médico y no incluye programas de inclusión social como los aspectos educativos, laborales y de desarrollo;
- b) La limitada consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en las estrategias y programas de cooperación internacional.

67. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Transversalizar el modelo de derechos humanos de la discapacidad en el diseño de proyectos de cooperación internacional, y usar esa financiación para programas que abonan a la inclusión social de las personas con discapacidad desde un enfoque de derechos humanos;**
- b) Velar por que se celebren consultas estrechas y efectivas con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, en el diseño, formulación, seguimiento y evaluación de las estrategias y programas de cooperación internacional.**

Sweden (2024)

69. The Committee acknowledges the high overall budget of the State party for international development. However, it is concerned:

- (a) About budgetary limitations adopted in November 2022 for international development which have had a negative impact on disability-specific projects in developing countries;
- (b) That disability-related measures are not included in the humanitarian aid strategy provided through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

70. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the allocation of sufficient financial resources for international development of disability-specific measures and guarantee that inclusion is a precondition for the approval of projects funded as part of international cooperation programmes;**
- (b) Ensure that disability-related measures are included in all humanitarian aid strategies, including in those provided by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).**

Zambia (2024)

63. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of efforts and long-term strategies to seek and engage cooperating partners to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, raised through human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR);

(b) Low priority accorded to planning, programming, and funding of programmes and activities relating to promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in international cooperation;

(c) The insufficient consultation and inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women with disabilities, as development cooperation partners, in the design and implementation of international agreements and programmes.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion and consultation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also recommends that the State party adopt measures necessary to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, adopted in 2018 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Andorra (2023)

65. While noting that Andorra is part of the Ibero-American Programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that the Master Plan for development cooperation in international projects gives special attention to persons with disabilities, the Committee is concerned about the following:

(a) That mainstreaming of disability in international cooperation projects and the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is not fully applied;

(b) The insufficient consultation with and inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women with disabilities, as development cooperation partners in the design and implementation of international cooperation programmes.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into the design, implementation and monitoring of its international cooperation programmes, and into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels, in close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

Austria (2023)

71. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of a systematic and coordinated strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda in its international cooperation activities, with the full involvement of persons with disabilities, especially concerning the NAP 2022-2030, and the lack of systematic involvement of and consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities in the Austrian Development Cooperation (OEZA);

(b) The lack of indicators to assess the progress in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4 (inclusive education of persons with disabilities) and SDG11 (accessibility of cities and settlements).

72. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Enact and implement a legal and administrative framework ensuring close consultation with and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation programs and projects, including those of the OEZA;

(b) Develop and implement, in close consultation with and the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, indicators to assess the progress in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4 (inclusive education of persons with disabilities) and SDG11 (accessibility of cities and settlements).

Germany (2023)

71. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of inclusion of funded projects in the developing countries and limited budgets to fund disability-specific projects;
- (b) The lack of effective consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in identifying the national priorities and the themes which will be funded in their respective countries;
- (c) The lack of accurate indicators to ensure that international funds are used in line with the Convention, its purpose and general principles, and the SDGs.

72. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure inclusion is a pre-condition to approve funded projects in international cooperation programs;**
- (b) Consult with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to the national priorities and the themes to be supported and engage them in all phases of the funded projects;**
- (c) Develop indicators to ensure that the funded projects' goals and activities are in conformity with the Convention and the SDGs.**

Israel (2023)

67. The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party about the promotion of disability mainstreaming in international cooperation programmes. It is, however, concerned about the lack of a comprehensive disability inclusive international development strategy to progress the rights of persons with disabilities, and the lack of impact assessments of existing initiatives, including capacity building and supply of devices.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close consultation and active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive disability inclusive international development strategy;**
- (b) Establish a monitoring and accountability framework to assess the impact of international cooperation programmes, projects and policies on persons with disabilities;**

Malawi (2023)

65. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the international cooperation discussions, including in projects in which their issues are addressed;
- (b) The lack of measures to involve persons with disabilities in the national and international processes to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Provide opportunity and facilitate persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to participate in international cooperation discussions particularly in projects which affect them;**
- (b) Ensure the mainstreaming of disability, gender-and-age-sensitive programmes and projects in international cooperation programmes;**
- (c) Establish a monitoring and accountability framework to assess the impact on persons with disabilities of international cooperation programmes, projects and policies, including programmes aimed at implementing the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, such as the follow-up and review process;**
- (d) Ensure that persons with disabilities meaningfully participate in the discussions, planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at local and national levels.**

Mauritania (2023)

55. The Committee notes with concern the insufficient consultation with and inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women with

disabilities, as development cooperation partners, in the design and implementation of international agreements and programmes.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion and consultation of persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also recommends that the State party adopt measures necessary to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, adopted in 2018 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Mongolia (2023)

63. The Committee is concerned about the lack of appropriate mechanism to ensure that the international development projects are disability-inclusive and based on the human rights model to disability and guarantees the close consultation and meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages of development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of those projects. It is also concerned at the lack of a mechanism to financially support organizations of persons with disabilities through development cooperation, to enable them to participate in international conferences and trainings on issues related to the human rights of persons with disabilities.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that the international development projects are disability-inclusive and based on human rights model to disability and guarantees the effective participation of organizations of persons with disabilities at all stages of development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of those projects. It also recommends that the State party take measures to financially support organizations of persons with disabilities through development cooperation so they can participate in international conferences and trainings on issues related to the human rights of persons with disabilities.

Paraguay (2023)

57. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La limitada consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en las estrategias y programas de cooperación internacional;
- b) La falta de información sobre la implementación de políticas públicas en el Marco de Cooperación para el Desarrollo que se realizó en el período 2015 a 2019 y sobre la participación de personas con discapacidad en su elaboración.

58. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) **Velar por que se celebren consultas estrechas y efectivas con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, en el diseño, formulación, seguimiento y evaluación de las estrategias y programas de cooperación internacional;**
- b) **Implementar las políticas públicas desarrolladas en el marco de la Cooperación para el Desarrollo efectuada en el período 2015-2019.**

Angola (2023)

55. The Committee notes with concern that the organizations of persons with disabilities are not always consulted in the scope of international multilateral cooperation programmes.

56. The Committee recommends that organizations of persons with disabilities be meaningfully consulted and involved at all stages of the development and implementation of international cooperation plans, programmes and projects.

Argentina (2023)

61. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) El poco alcance de la asistencia técnica de la Agencia Nacional de Discapacidad a otros organismos estatales para transversalizar la perspectiva de discapacidad en el diseño de proyectos de cooperación internacional, en particular, los vinculados con la Agenda 2030;
- b) La limitada consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en las estrategias y programas de cooperación internacional.

62. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) **Incrementar la asistencia técnica a los organismos estatales para transversalizar la perspectiva de discapacidad en el diseño de proyectos de cooperación internacional, especialmente, aquellos priorizados por la Agenda 2030, y aprobar directrices para asegurar que los programas de cooperación estén armonizados con la Convención;**
- b) **Velar por que se celebren consultas estrechas y efectivas a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, en el diseño, formulación, seguimiento y evaluación de las estrategias y programas de cooperación internacional;**
- c) **Adoptar medidas para implementar el Programa de Acción para el Decenio de las Américas por los Derechos y la Dignidad de las Personas con Discapacidad 2016-2026.**

Georgia (2023)

63. The Committee notes with concern the absence of information about the inclusion of a disability perspective and human rights in international cooperation programmes, including in projects financed by the European Union Development assistance for Georgia and in programmes related to the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. It is also concerned about the lack of information about consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities in the establishment of programmes and priorities for international cooperation.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of its international cooperation programmes, including projects financed by the European Union, and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, in close consultation with and with the active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Peru (2023)

64. Preocupa al Comité que los indicadores planteados por el Centro Nacional de Planeamiento Estratégico para el seguimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible no visibilizan la situación del país desde un enfoque de discapacidad, lo que dificulta la participación de las personas con discapacidad y sus organizaciones para coadyuvar esfuerzos con la cooperación internacional y el Estado.

65. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, en colaboración con las instituciones responsables del seguimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, elabore e implemente un plan que identifique los componentes de la discapacidad en amplia consulta con las personas y organizaciones de personas con discapacidad.

Togo (2023)

61. The Committee notes with concern the insufficient consultation with and inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women with disabilities, as development cooperation partners, in the design and implementation of international agreements and programmes, and that there is no disability perspective in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion and consultation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also recommends that the State party adopt measures necessary to ratify the Protocol to the

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, adopted in 2018 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Tunisia (2023)

57. The Committee is concerned about credible report alleging that persons with disabilities through their representative organisations were neither consulted during the negotiation nor during the implementation of the partnership cooperation agreement signed between Tunisia and Italy for the implementation of the Convention. It is further concerned that this project has recently been rolled out without the involvement of persons with disabilities.

58. The Committee recommends to the State party to take immediate steps to ensure the following:

(a) Meaningful involvement of, and in close consultation, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in all the stages of implementation and monitoring of the partnership cooperation agreements, on the implementation of the Convention, such as the one signed between the governments of Tunisia and Italy that included the development of the national strategy on disability;

(b) Mainstreaming of disability in programmes and projects developed in international cooperation efforts especially those that have disability components;

(c) Establishing a monitoring and accountability framework with appropriate disability budget lines in general programmes and projects to implement and monitor the 2030 development agenda and its impact or effectiveness on persons with disabilities.

Bangladesh (2022)

61. The Committee notes with concern the lack of active and meaningful participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation agreements and activities.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure the meaningful consultation and effective participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, through the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as to mainstream disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Indonesia (2022)

66. The Committee notes with concern the inconsistent consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities, on international multilateral cooperation programmes.

67. The Committee recommends that organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of women with disabilities, be closely consulted and actively involved at all stages of the development and implementation of international cooperation plans, programmes and projects.

Japan (2022)

67. While noting the Japan International Cooperation Agency Thematic Guidelines on Disability and Development (2015), the Committee is concerned that mainstreaming of disability in international cooperation projects is not fully applied, and related strategies and programmes are not developed in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities under the human rights model to disability.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels, in close consultation and active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Strengthen its cooperation for the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.**

Lao People’s Democratic Republic (2022)

60. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of information on the measures taken to mainstream disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;**
- (b) That the State party does not sufficiently consult with and involve representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation activities.**

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that policies and programmes for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are disability-inclusive;**
- (b) Guarantee the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation programmes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.**

New Zealand (2022)

59. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not systematically involve representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation activities.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure the effective participation, inclusion and consultation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation programmes, including the efforts aimed at the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Enabling Masterplan 2025.

Republic of Korea (2022)

65. The Committee notes with concern the lack of appropriate mechanisms to measure the impact of development cooperation efforts on persons with disabilities and the lack of information about the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, in particular organizations of women with disabilities, as development cooperation partners.

66. The Committee recommends that organizations of persons with disabilities be effectively consulted and involved at all stages of the development and implementation of international cooperation plans, programmes and projects, including the Incheon strategy as the regional framework addressing the implementation of the Convention.

Hungary (2022)

62. The Committee notes with concern the lack of:

- (a) Harmonization of international investment programmes, particularly of the European structural and investment funds, with the purpose and provisions of the Convention;**

(b) Involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the consultation, preparation, development and implementation of investment programmes that concern persons with disabilities.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Harmonize and align the use of international investment programmes, particularly European structural and investment funds, with the purpose and provisions of the Convention;

(b) Establish a mechanism to involve representative organizations of persons with disabilities to ensure that they are effectively consulted and involved at all stages of development and implementation of international cooperation plans, programmes and projects.

Jamaica (2022)

58. The Committee notes with concern that the organizations of persons with disabilities are not always consulted in the scope of international multilateral cooperation programmes.

59. The Committee recommends that organizations of persons with disabilities be effectively consulted and involved at all stages of the development and implementation of international cooperation plans, programmes and projects.

Switzerland (2022)

61. The Committee notes with concern that strategies and programmes on international cooperation do not recognize the cross-cutting nature of disability, and are not developed in close consultation with and with active involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in accordance with the Committee's general comment No. 7 (2018).

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt guidelines to ensure that all international cooperation programmes are disability-inclusive and harmonized with the Convention, and do not result in the segregation of persons with disabilities;

(b) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are closely consulted and actively involved in the design, development, monitoring and evaluation of strategies and programmes on international cooperation;

(c) Consistently apply the disability marker developed by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in all humanitarian and development projects and ensure training in its application.

Venezuela (2022)

56. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities do not always participate, through their representative organizations, in the design and implementation of international cooperation projects to ensure that such projects include a disability perspective.

57. The Committee encourages the State party, based on the commitments made at the Global Disability Summit 2022, to:

(a) Carry out timely follow-up and inform this Committee and persons with disabilities themselves, through their representative organizations, about the plans and programmes relevant to them, such as inclusive development of communities and transport and the 2016 National Strategic Plan for an Inclusive Society;

(b) Incorporate, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, a disability perspective into national plans for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and into international cooperation programmes.

Djibouti (2021)

57. The Committee notes with concern the insufficient consultation with and inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of international agreements and programmes, and that there is no disability perspective sufficiently mainstreamed into the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion and consultation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also recommends that the State party adopt measures necessary to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, adopted in 2018 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

France (2021)

64. The Committee notes with concern that social inclusion of persons with disabilities, and their deinstitutionalization has yet to be included among priorities in international investment programmes, including those of the European structural funds and the European Investment Fund. It is also concerned about the lack of systematic involvement and consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities in the scope of international multilateral cooperation programmes.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party include the rights of persons with disabilities, including to living independently and being included in the community, as a cross-cutting conditionality in all its programmes and strategies of international cooperation. The State party should ensure full and effective participation and inclusion of and consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international programmes and projects.

Estonia (2021)

62. The Committee notes with concern:

The lack of harmonization of the international investment programmes, including those for the European structural funds and the European Investment Fund, with the provisions of the Convention;

That the opinions and views of organizations of persons with disabilities have not been considered in the scope of international multilateral cooperation programmes.

63. The Committee recommends that international investment programmes, including those for the European structural funds and the European Investment Fund, be harmonized with the Convention and that organizations of persons with disabilities be effectively consulted and involved at all stages of the development and implementation of international cooperation plans, programmes and projects.

Australia (2019)

59. The Committee is concerned about the absence of appropriate mechanisms to measure the impact of development cooperation efforts on persons with disabilities and the lack of information about the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities as development cooperation partners.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt measures to ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects developed in the framework of international

cooperation efforts, including efforts such as the Development for All 2015–2020 strategy, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 7;

Adopt a development policy in line with the Convention and incorporate the policy's principles and values into all of the State party's development cooperation policies and programmes, ensuring that the policy has measurable and tangible targets and indicators, and ensure that international cooperation efforts reach persons with disabilities both by targeting them and by mainstreaming their concerns;

Mainstream disability rights and requirements in the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in monitoring progress in implementation.

Ecuador (2019)

57. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities do not participate through their representative organizations in the design and implementation of international cooperation projects.

58. The Committee encourages the State party to provide detailed information, both to the Committee and to persons with disabilities themselves through their representative organizations on how the disability perspective is being incorporated into national plans for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. It recommends that the State party increase the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in all international cooperation programmes.

El Salvador (2019)

60. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information reflecting the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in international cooperation programmes, including the lack of information on the impact and results of the implementation of such programmes. It also notes the low budget earmarked from the total international economic assistance budget for the transformation of educational centres to ensure inclusive education.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in inclusive projects in all areas of international cooperation programmes. It also recommends that the State party expedite the implementation of the Mesoamerica Project for the development of inclusive education systems in the Mesoamerican region, and of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation project for the promotion of inclusive education, ensuring that they adhere to the Convention throughout their progress, and that the State party includes information on their outcomes in the next periodic report.

India (2019)

66. The Committee is concerned at the absence of appropriate mechanisms to measure the impact of development cooperation efforts on persons with disabilities, and the lack of information about the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities as development cooperation partners.

67. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion and consultation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects developed as part of international cooperation efforts;

Mainstream disability rights and requirements into the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Iraq (2019)

61. The Committee is concerned about the absence of information on the measures taken to mainstream disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also concerned about the lack of information on the consultation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of international cooperation projects.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that policies and programmes for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, are disability-inclusive and are undertaken in consultation with and with the active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations.

Kuwait (2019)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

International cooperation programmes and policies accessible to persons with disabilities;
Mechanisms for the consultation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of international cooperation agreements, projects and programmes.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in all international cooperation efforts, including those supported by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development;

Establish mechanisms to ensure that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, participate effectively and are fully included and consulted in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation programmes, including in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the National Development Plan (2015–2020) and the 2035 Vision development plan.

Myanmar (2019)

61. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not sufficiently involve representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation activities.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure the effective participation, inclusion and consultation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation programmes, including the efforts aimed at the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, and ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 “Mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities”.

Cuba (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned by the paucity of information on whether the State party has mainstreamed a disability perspective in its sustainable development objectives and development projects carried out through international cooperation.

54. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels and that these processes be carried out in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

Niger (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned about the lack of meaningful participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in development programs financed through

international cooperation; and that a disability perspective is not sufficiently mainstreamed in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

54. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

Adhere to the rights enshrined in the Convention in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and ensure that persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations are fully consulted and participate effectively in the design and implementation of international cooperation programmes.

Consider ratifying the African Disability Protocol recently adopted by the African Union.

Norway (2019)

51. The Committee notes that the State party introduced the disability marker in 2018 in its international cooperation activities. However, it is concerned at the lack of information about the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities as development cooperation partners.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure full and effective participation, inclusion and consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects developed in international cooperation efforts in line with the Committee's General Comment No. 7 (2018).

Rwanda (2019)

59. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and about the insufficient consultation and participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation projects and programmes.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and ensure that all international cooperation efforts are fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, from the design of programmes and policies to implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and that, together with international development actors, it systematically and meaningfully consults organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the State party consider ratifying the African Disability Protocol recently adopted by the African Union.

Senegal (2019)

55. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient consultation and inclusion of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of international cooperation agreements and programmes and that a disability perspective is not sufficiently mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt measures towards the effective participation, inclusion and consultation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Take necessary measures towards the ratification of the African Disability Protocol recently adopted by the African Union.

Spain (2019)

60. The Committee is concerned about the little prioritization and sparse mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of measures for international cooperation, including with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Goals. It is also concerned that disability-related terminology in international cooperation projects is not always in line with the Convention.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities, enshrined within the Convention, including disability-related terminology, are mainstreamed into all actions aimed at implementing measures of international cooperation, including with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Goals. It also recommends that the State party ensure that, in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention, representative organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted and involved at every level of development and implementation of international cooperation plans, programmes and projects.

Türkiye (2019)

64. The Committee observes with concern:

The absence of information on guidelines for disability inclusion throughout the State party's technical cooperation and assistance programmes;

The lack of information about access by civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to international funding for implementing the rights of persons with disabilities;

The lack of information about measures to adhere to the Convention in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt policy frameworks and guidelines on international cooperation, recognizing disability as an integral part in international development policies, and allocate adequate resources;

Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities can receive or seek funding and other resources from national and international sources;

Actively involve and closely consult with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, on public budgeting processes, the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, international decision-making and international cooperation.

Vanuatu (2019)

54. The committee is concerned at:

The lack of a systematic approach to incorporate the Convention into international cooperation programs and funds;

The insufficient consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities and their limited participation and inclusion in international development projects, including in decisions around the use of international funds which could impact the rights of persons with disabilities;

The lack of a concrete plan to ensure the linkage between measures taken for persons with disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt a development policy in line with the Convention that incorporates its principles and values into all the State party's development cooperation policies and programs;

Ensure the meaningful consultation and participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and projects developed in international cooperation efforts;

Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Algeria (2018)

54. The Committee is concerned at the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also concerned that organizations of persons with disabilities are neither fully and independently consulted nor involved in the implementation of the Convention.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that those processes be undertaken in close cooperation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee encourages the State Party to consider ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, to allow for regional monitoring of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Bulgaria (2018)

69. The Committee notes with concern that the State party does not sufficiently involve the representative organisations of persons with disabilities when engaging with international non-governmental organisations, and other State parties in the field of international cooperation.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party involve representative organisations of persons with disabilities in international cooperation programmes, and adopt mechanisms to ensure mainstreaming of the human rights model of disability, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda and development goals.

Malta (2018)

47. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in its foreign and international cooperation policy and that related information is not fully disclosed to organizations of persons with disabilities in the State party. The Committee is particularly concerned about the reported insufficient involvement of the Maltese representative body of organizations of persons with disabilities in the field of international cooperation.

48. The Committee calls on the State party to involve the Maltese representative body of organizations of persons with disabilities in international cooperation, in particular to disclose policies and information.

Philippines (2018)

58. The Committee is concerned about

The lack of a systematic and institutionalized approach to incorporating the Convention into its disability-inclusive development cooperation initiatives, including programmes for the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and extent to which the State party's collaboration with international bodies;

The extent to which persons with disabilities have been included in developing, implementing and monitoring disability inclusive projects.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party review international projects undertaken by the State party in partnership with global aid agencies to ensure full compliance with the principles of the Convention, in particular to ensure the meaningful and empowered inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in designing, implementing and monitoring disability inclusive development projects and also in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 1 on poverty reduction.

South Africa (2018)

52. The Committee notes with concern that representative organisations of persons with disabilities are not consulted or included in the design and implementation of international cooperation agreements and programmes and that a disability perspective is not sufficiently mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt concrete measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion and consultation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations in international cooperation agreements and programmes, specifically in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

North Macedonia (2018)

58. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective consultations, participation of and inclusion of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in international cooperation programmes.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion and consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in international cooperation programmes.

Haiti (2018)

58. The Committee is concerned at the lack of a coherent strategy in collaboration with local representative organizations of persons with disabilities to empower persons with disabilities to effectively enjoy their fundamental rights as enshrined in the Convention. It is also concerned that most projects in the context of international cooperation are primarily focused in and around the capital city. It notes with concern the lack of systematic and effective consultation, participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations in international cooperation programmes.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt a development policy in line with the Convention into all of the development cooperation policies and programmes of the State party;

Mainstream disability by engaging the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;

Adopt measures to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects developed in international cooperation efforts.

Nepal (2018)

47. The Committee is concerned that the State party's collaboration with international bodies to improve the capacity of the State party to implement the Convention does not adequately include the participation of persons with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned about the extent to which new technologies and good practices promptly reach persons with disabilities and representative organizations of persons with disabilities and also the extent to which persons with disabilities have been included in consultations or partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party review international projects undertaken by the State party in partnership with global aid agencies to ensure full compliance with the principles of the Convention, and ensure the meaningful and empowered inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in designing, implementing and monitoring disability inclusive development projects and also in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Oman (2018)

57. The Committee is concerned about the non-inclusion of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in international cooperation programmes, and that a disability perspective is not sufficiently mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, are mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, and that persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, participate effectively, and are fully included and consulted in international co-operation programmes.

Russian Federation (2018)

64. The Committee is concerned about the reported insufficient involvement of the Russian representative organisations of persons with disabilities in the field of international cooperation.

65. The Committee calls on the State party to involve the Russian representative organisations of persons with disabilities in international cooperation as well as to ensure the inclusion of a disability rights-based perspective apart from health- and prevention related initiatives, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Seychelles (2018)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a systematic and institutionalized approach to incorporating the Convention into its development cooperation initiatives, including programmes for the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the context of small island developing States. It is also concerned about the absence of evaluation mechanisms to measure the impact of development cooperation on persons with disabilities and the lack of information about the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities as development cooperation partners.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt a development policy in line with the Convention that incorporates its principles and values into all the development cooperation policies and programmes of the State party;

(b) Mainstream disability in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Adopt measures to ensure the effective participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects developed in international cooperation efforts and in the context of small island developing States.

Slovenia (2018)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of scope on the rights, enshrined within the Convention, in international support programmes concerning persons with disabilities, including in relation to the use of the European Union funds. It is further concerned about the barriers for the national umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities to be recognised as a legal entity, which restricts its access to international cooperation. It is also concerned about the insufficient incorporation of human rights-based approach to disability in the efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

56. The Committee calls upon the State party to involve representative organizations of persons with disabilities in international cooperation, to ensure that any funding, invested

into services for persons with disabilities, complies with State party's obligations under the Convention and as a member of the European Union. It also recommends that the State party includes a disability rights-based perspective into all efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It further recommends that the State party facilitate the acquisition of the legal entity to the national umbrella organisation for enabling its participation international cooperation.

Sudan (2018)

65. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective consultations, participation of and inclusion of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in international cooperation programmes.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure effective participation, inclusion and consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in international cooperation programmes.

Latvia (2017)

54. The Committee notes with concern the limited capacity of the mechanisms to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Convention, namely the Ministry of Welfare and Office of the Ombudsman, respectively, including the lack of systemized participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in these mechanisms.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party considerably strengthen the role and capacities of both the Ministry of Welfare and the Office of the Ombudsman as the focal points designated, respectively, as coordinating and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention, while ensuring the provision of adequate funding and the full participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the coordination and monitoring processes.

Luxembourg (2017)

56. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a systematic and institutionalized approach to incorporating the Convention into its development cooperation initiatives, including programmes for the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also concerned about the absence of evaluation mechanisms to measure the impact of development cooperation on persons with disabilities and the lack of information about the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities as development cooperation partners.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt a development policy in line with the Convention that incorporates its principles and values into all the State party's development cooperation policies and programmes;

Mainstream disability in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

Adopt measures to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects developed in international cooperation efforts.

Montenegro (2017)

58. The Committee is concerned that the State party does not sufficiently involve the Montenegrin representative organizations of persons with disabilities when engaging with international non-governmental organizations and other States parties in the field of international cooperation.

59. The Committee calls on the State party to involve representative organizations of persons with disabilities in international cooperation and to ensure the inclusion of a

disability rights-based perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Morocco (2017)

60. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effective consultation with and participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the context of international cooperation programmes.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure effective participation and inclusion of and consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the context of international cooperation programmes.

Panama (2017)

62. The Committee is concerned by the paucity of information on whether the State party has mainstreamed a disability perspective in its work towards the Sustainable Development Goals and development projects carried out through international cooperation.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels and that these processes be carried out in close collaboration with representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

66. The Committee is concerned that the State party is not yet systematically mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities across all its international cooperation and development programmes.

67. The Committee recommends that the State party, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities in the countries where it works:

Expedite the process to update the Disability Framework of the Department for International Development, including by adopting measurable targets and specific commitments to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the countries where it works;

Put in place the necessary measures to ensure that all relevant departments of the State party that allocate overseas development assistance funds systemically monitor and include persons with disabilities in their international development and cooperation;

Carry out a consultation process involving organizations of persons with disabilities on all policies and programmes aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, nationally and internationally.

Canada (2017)

55. The Committee observes that the State party provides substantive international support to projects and programmes related to disability rights. However, it notes the absence of information about the effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities as partners on international cooperation projects.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party:

Adopt measures to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects developed in international cooperation efforts;

Ensure the adoption of a disability-rights perspective in all efforts aimed at implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Cyprus (2017)

63. The Committee is concerned about the scarce mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of measures of international cooperation, including

with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, and about the insufficient collaboration with organizations representing persons with disabilities in that regard.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the Convention is mainstreamed into all actions to implement measures of international cooperation, including with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, and that, in line with article 4 (3) of the Convention, representative organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted and involved at every level of development and implementation of international cooperation plans, programmes and projects.

Honduras (2017)

67. Preocupa al Comité que los principios y valores de la Convención no estén sistemáticamente incorporados en todas las políticas y programas de cooperación internacional del Estado parte. También le preocupa la falta de incorporación transversal de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en la aplicación y seguimiento nacional de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

68. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que, en estrecha colaboración con las organizaciones de las personas con discapacidad, asegure que la prevista Política Pública de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo de Honduras este armonizada con la Convención y que introduzca de forma transversal los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en la aplicación y seguimiento nacional de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, en cooperación estrecha y con la participación de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

60. The Committee observes that the State party has volunteered to the review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it notes with concern the absence of information on how the rights of persons with disabilities are fully included.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that implementation of the SDGs is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and as regards the national reporting to the High Level Political Forum.

Jordan (2017)

61. The Committee notes that a disability perspective is not sufficiently mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party collaborate closely with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bolivia (2016)

71. The Committee is concerned that the rights of persons with disabilities recognized in the Convention are not covered in national plans on the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

72. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, and that these processes are undertaken in close collaboration with, and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Colombia (2016)

70. The Committee is concerned by the fact that the rights of persons with disabilities enshrined in the Convention are absent from the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in local development plans.

71. The Committee recommends that the State party mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in its implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels and that these processes be carried out in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Ethiopia (2016)

67. The Committee is concerned at the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It notes with concern that organizations of persons with disabilities are neither fully and independently consulted nor involved in the implementation of the Convention.

68. The Committee recommends that disability rights be mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that those processes be undertaken in close cooperation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Guatemala (2016)

74. The Committee notes with concern that the limited funding sourced from international cooperation is frequently used to finance institutions where children and adults with disabilities are permanently segregated and that many such institutions are sustained by the growing trend towards voluntarism in Guatemala.

75. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that funding sourced from international cooperation is used in accordance with the Convention and substantially reinforce the mainstreaming of disability in the National Development Plan, K'atun nuestra Guatemala 2032.

Italy (2016)

79. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights as enshrined in the Convention in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

80. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, are mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that those processes be undertaken in close cooperation and involvement with organizations of persons with disabilities.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

59. The Committee is concerned that the rights of persons with disabilities are not systematically considered in international development and assistance efforts made by the State party.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all international cooperation efforts are fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, from the design of programmes and policies to monitoring and evaluation, and that, together with international development actors, it systematically consults organizations of persons with disabilities.

Uruguay (2016)

65. Preocupa al Comité que los principios y valores de la Convención no estén sistemáticamente incorporados en todas las políticas y programas de cooperación

internacional del Estado parte. También le preocupa la falta de incorporación transversal de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en la aplicación y seguimiento nacional de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

66. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que en estrecha colaboración con las organizaciones de las personas con discapacidad, adopte una política de cooperación internacional armonizada con la Convención, y que introduzca de forma transversal los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en la aplicación y seguimiento nacional de la Agenda 2030, consultando a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad.

Chile (2016)

65. Preocupa al Comité la ausencia de los derechos de personas con discapacidad reconocidos por la Convención, en la implementación y monitoreo nacionales de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

66. El Comité recomienda que los derechos de las personas con discapacidad sean transversalizados en la implementación y monitoreo de la Agenda 2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible a nivel nacional, y que tales procesos se desarrollen en colaboración e involucrando estrechamente a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad.

Lithuania (2016)

65. The Committee is concerned that disability rights have not been mainstreamed in the national, regional and global implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in designing international development assistance.

66. The Committee recommends that the rights of persons with disabilities be mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and that all related processes, including those for defining international development assistance priorities, are undertaken in close cooperation with and with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Portugal (2016)

60. The Committee notes the inclusion of disability in the Portuguese Strategic Vision for Cooperation 2014-2020, which sets out State party cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and with Timor-Leste; however, it is concerned about the failure to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in implementation and national monitoring in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, and the lack of a systematic and institutionalised approach to incorporate the principles and values of the Convention into all its international cooperation policies and programmes.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party, in partnership with organisations of persons with disabilities, adopt a development policy in line with the Convention which includes its principles and values in all international cooperation policies and programmes, and mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in implementing and national monitoring in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. in close cooperation and with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Serbia (2016)

65. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights as enshrined in the Convention in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

66. The Committee recommends disability rights, as laid down in the Convention, are mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, and these processes are undertaken in close cooperation and involvement with organisations of persons with disabilities with a transparent decision-making process and budget.

Slovakia (2016)

85. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights as enshrined in the Convention in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

86. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, are mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and these processes are undertaken in close cooperation and involvement with organizations of persons with disabilities

Thailand (2016)

65. The Committee is concerned by the lack of information on disability-specific measures envisaged to implement Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Incheon Strategy to “Make the Right Real” for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. It is also concerned that much of the State party’s South-South cooperation regarding persons with disabilities is oriented around health, in detriment of a holistic approach to disability.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party integrate a disability rights- based perspective in all international cooperation and development efforts, in close consultation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

Uganda (2016)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of mainstreaming of disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the Committee observes that organizations of persons with disabilities have not been consulted in the design of international cooperation projects and programmes.

63. The Committee recommends that disability rights, as enshrined in the Convention, be mainstreamed in the national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and these processes are undertaken in close cooperation and involvement with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Brazil (2015)

58. The Committee encourages the State party to integrate a disability rights-based perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, in all efforts aimed at achieving the post-2015 Development Agenda, including ensuring participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in monitoring its implementation.

European Union (2015)

74. The Committee notes with concern the lack of a systematic and institutionalized approach to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities across all European Union international cooperation policies and programmes. The Committee also notes the lack of coordination and coherence amongst the European Union institutions, as well as the lack of disability focal points. It is also concerned that European Union international development funding is utilized to create or renovate institutional settings for the placement of persons with disabilities, segregated special education schools and sheltered workshops, contrary to the principles and provisions of the Convention.

75. The Committee recommends that the European Union adopt a harmonised policy on disability-inclusive development and establish a systematic approach to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in all European Union international cooperation policies

and programmes, to appoint disability focal points in related institutions, and take the lead in the implementation of disability-inclusive 'Sustainable Development Goals'. The Committee further recommends that the European Union identify and put in place mechanisms to disaggregate data on disability to monitor the rights of persons with disabilities in European Union development programmes. The Committee recommends that the European Union interrupt any international development funding that is being used to perpetuate the segregation of persons with disabilities, and reallocate such funding towards projects and initiatives that aim at compliance with the Convention.

Gabon (2015)

68. The Committee is concerned that international development efforts are not inclusive of persons with disabilities.

69. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the implementation of the post-2015 development framework is fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, from the design of programs and policies, to monitoring and evaluation and that organisations of persons with disabilities are systematically consulted by the State party and international development actors.

Kenya (2015)

57. The Committee observes that organizations of persons with disabilities have not been consulted in the design of international cooperation projects and programmes.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party involve organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of projects supported by international cooperation, in order to ensure that they have an impact on progress towards the implementation of the Convention as well as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal framework.

Qatar (2015)

57. The Committee is concerned that the rights of persons with disabilities are not systematically considered in international development and assistance efforts by the State party.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all international cooperation is fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, from the design of programs and policies, to monitoring and evaluation, and that organizations of persons with disabilities are systematically consulted by the State party and international development actors.

Cook Islands (2015)

59. The Committee is concerned that the new National Disability Inclusive Development Policy does not have a timeline for implementation, nor are persons with disabilities through their representative organisations nominated as key stakeholders in the monitoring process of this policy.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party introduce a timeline for implementation of the National Disability Inclusive Development Policy and the involvement of persons with disabilities in the development and monitoring of the policy.

Croatia (2015)

51. The Committee calls for the integration of a disability rights-based perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and into the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Dominican Republic (2015)

60. Al Comité le preocupa que el Estado parte no cuente con resultados de la cooperación internacional canalizada para la implementación de la Convención. También le preocupa la falta de información sobre la inclusión de la perspectiva de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en los planes, programas y acciones para el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

61. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte monitorear con la participación de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, los proyectos que cuentan con el apoyo de la cooperación internacional, para asegurar que tengan un impacto en el avance del cumplimiento de la Convención. También le recomienda incluir la perspectiva de las personas con discapacidad en la implementación de las Metas de Desarrollo del Milenio y las Metas de Desarrollo Sustentable que serán promovidas en la agenda de desarrollo post 2015 de las Naciones Unidas.

Germany (2015)

59. The Committee is concerned about the lack of attention to the rights of persons with disabilities in the State party's policies and programmes relating to international cooperation and development, in particular related to the Millennium Development Goals.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party establish:

A disability rights-based approach to international development commitments, including the post-2015 development framework;

A monitoring and accountability framework with appropriate disability budgeting lines for targeting persons with disabilities in policies and programmes which will implement and monitor the post-2015 Agenda;

A comprehensive and integrated data base on the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in general programmes and projects of development assistance and introduce criteria by which progress of the realization of rights can be systematically analyzed and assessed. It also recommends that all development assistance be made inclusive of person with disabilities, including in terms of data collection.

Mongolia (2015)

49. The Committee is concerned that the State party's collaboration with international bodies to improve the capacity of the State party to implement the Convention does not adequately include the participation of persons with disabilities. In particular, the Committee is concerned about reports that some of the outcomes of such international co-operation have had the effect of implementing measures that are not in full compliance with the Convention, including prioritising institutional care instead of community-based care, or providing segregated education rather than inclusive education as the principal means for addressing the needs of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the lack of information on the inclusion of the perspective of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the national level.

50. The Committee recommends that further efforts are made to consider whether international projects undertaken by the State party are in full compliance with the principles of the Convention and ensure the meaningful and empowered participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in designing, implementing and monitoring disability inclusive development projects. The Committee recommends to the State party to consider the perspective of the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and in the Sustainable Development Goals that will be promoted by the Post-2015 United Nations Agenda on Social Development. The State party can ask for technical assistance from United Nations agencies to continue the implementation of the Convention and these recommendations.

Turkmenistan (2015)

55. The Committee is concerned that the State party still lacks full engagement with international non-governmental organisations in order to benefit from their expertise in the human rights monitoring, reporting and analysis, policy development and implementation and all related capacity development in international cooperation.

56. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to strengthen broad cooperation with international organisations to fully benefit from their technical assistance for the country as well as closer partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities, and to promote their more active participation in international cooperation projects. It also calls on the State party to ensure the integration of a disability rights-based perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and into the post-2015 Development Agenda.

New Zealand (2014)

71. The Committee is concerned that the withdrawal of funding to the Pacific Disability Forum is having a negative effect on persons with disabilities in the region.

72. The Committee recommends that the State party's foreign aid programme should continue a focus on disability-inclusive development. The Committee also recommends that the State party reinstate its provision of financial and other resources to the Pacific region.

Belgium (2014)

46. The Committee regrets the lack of attention given to the rights of persons with disabilities in the policy and programmes related to the Millennium Development Goals, despite the call by the United Nations General Assembly for the collection of data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities in the context of development and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

47. The Committee recommends that the State party integrate a disability rights-based perspective in the post-2015 development framework.

Sweden (2014)

59. The Committee commends the State on its adoption of both the mainstreaming and twin-track approaches to disability-inclusive international development work.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party share its good practice with Member States, United Nations bodies and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, the Committee calls for the integration of a disability rights-based perspective in the post-2015 development framework.

Azerbaijan (2014)

51. The Committee encourages the State party to ensure that all international cooperation carried out on its territory, or in partnership with it, is fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, and promotes their active participation in international cooperation projects.

52. The committee calls for the integration of a disability rights based perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and into the Post – 2015 Development Agenda.

El Salvador (2013)

65. The Committee regrets that the State party has not mandated the participation of civil society in international cooperation programmes, especially those relating to disability, which is a key to promoting an inclusive society.

66. The Committee calls on the State party to create the conditions for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of projects financed by international aid, and to base its international cooperation programmes on the human rights model contained in the Convention.

Tunisia (2010)

40. The Committee encourages the State party to ensure that all international cooperation carried out on its territory, or in partnership with it, is fully inclusive of persons with disabilities, and promotes their active participation in international cooperation projects.



IDA's Compilation of CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations

*Article 33 CRPD
(National implementation and
monitoring)*

September 2025

Article 33 - National implementation and monitoring

- 1. States Parties, in accordance with their system of organization, shall designate one or more focal points within government for matters relating to the implementation of the present Convention, and shall give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within government to facilitate related action in different sectors and at different levels.*
- 2. States Parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State Party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing such a mechanism, States Parties shall take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights.*
- 3. Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)
Finland (2025)
Kiribati (2025)
Maldives (2025)
Canada (2025)
Dominican Republic (2025)
European Union (2025)
Palau (2025)
Tuvalu (2025)
Viet Nam (2025)
Belarus (2024)
Belgium (2024)
Benin (2024)
Burkina Faso (2024)
Denmark (2024)
Ghana (2024)
Mauritius (2024)
Netherlands (2024)
Ukraine (2024)
Azerbaijan (2024)
Bahrain (2024)
Costa Rica (2024)
Kazakhstan (2024)
Nicaragua (2024)
Sweden (2024)
Zambia (2024)
Andorra (2023)
Austria (2023)
Germany (2023)
Israel (2023)
Malawi (2023)
Mauritania (2023)
Mongolia (2023)
Paraguay (2023)
Angola (2023)
Argentina (2023)

Georgia (2023)
Peru (2023)
Togo (2023)
Tunisia (2023)
Bangladesh (2022)
China (2022)
Indonesia (2022)
Japan (2022)
Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)
New Zealand (2022)
Singapore (2022)
Hungary (2022)
Jamaica (2022)
Mexico (2022)
Switzerland (2022)
Venezuela (2022)
Djibouti (2021)
France (2021)
Estonia (2021)
Albania (2019)
Australia (2019)
Ecuador (2019)
El Salvador (2019)
Greece (2019)
India (2019)
Iraq (2019)
Kuwait (2019)
Myanmar (2019)
Cuba (2019)
Niger (2019)
Rwanda (2019)
Saudi Arabia (2019)
Senegal (2019)
Spain (2019)
Vanuatu (2019)
Algeria (2018)

Malta (2018)
Philippines (2018)
Poland (2018)
South Africa (2018)
North Macedonia (2018)
Haiti (2018)
Nepal (2018)
Oman (2018)
Russian Federation (2018)
Seychelles (2018)
Slovenia (2018)
Sudan (2018)
Latvia (2017)
Luxembourg (2017)
Montenegro (2017)
Morocco (2017)
Panama (2017)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)
Armenia (2017)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)
Canada (2017)
Cyprus (2017)
Honduras (2017)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)
Jordan (2017)
Republic of Moldova (2017)
Bolivia (2016)
Colombia (2016)
Ethiopia (2016)
Guatemala (2016)
Italy (2016)
United Arab Emirates (2016)
Uruguay (2016)
Chile (2016)
Lithuania (2016)
Portugal (2016)

Serbia (2016)
Slovakia (2016)
Thailand (2016)
Uganda (2016)
Brazil (2015)
European Union (2015)
Gabon (2015)
Kenya (2015)
Mauritius (2015)
Qatar (2015)
Ukraine (2015)
Cook Islands (2015)
Croatia (2015)
Czech Republic (2015)
Dominican Republic (2015)
Germany (2015)
Mongolia (2015)
Turkmenistan (2015)
Denmark (2014)
Republic of Korea (2014)
Belgium (2014)
Ecuador (2014)
Mexico (2014)
Sweden (2014)
Costa Rica (2014)
Australia (2013)
Austria (2013)
El Salvador (2013)
Paraguay (2013)
Argentina (2012)
China (2012)
Hungary (2012)
Peru (2012)
Tunisia (2010)

Please note there are no recommendations in the Concluding Observations on art. 33 on Norway, New Zealand, Azerbaijan (2014) and Spain.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2025)

64. The Committee is concerned that the Korean Federation for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities does not operate as an autonomous institution in line with the Paris Principles. The Committee notes with deep concern the absence of formal mechanisms to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

65. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, the Committee recommends that the State Party establish an independent monitoring mechanism in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations. Noting the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in supporting the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions, the Committee encourages the State Party to seek the support and advice of OHCHR in the process.

Finland (2025)

64. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the Advisory Board for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (VANE) has reduced some of its activities, including processes of the disabled people's councils of municipalities and welfare service counties, limiting participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of the Convention;
- (b) The reduction of funding for organizations of persons with disabilities, hampering their fundamental role of monitoring the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) The State Party's remarks at the Constructive Dialogue that organizations of persons with disabilities could operate autonomously with private fundings.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are closely consulted and actively involved in the activities of the Advisory Board for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (VANE) and other coordination mechanisms;
- (b) Provide support to organizations of persons with disabilities to allow them to get involved and participate fully in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, by, inter alia, providing the requisite funding and rendering the processes and information accessible;
- (c) Develop and implement a plan for the continued public and private funding of organizations of persons with disabilities and disability rights defenders that allows them to fulfil their role under the Convention autonomously.

Kiribati (2025)

63. The Committee is concerned that there is no national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) in the State party.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate on the protection of human rights and with adequate human, technical and financial resources, in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

65. The Committee is concerned that the State Party has not designated or established an independent monitoring mechanism to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the Convention with a budget and designated functions that involves the effective and independent participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee and designate or establish an independent monitoring mechanism in compliance with the

Paris Principles, equipped with sufficient resources and authority to monitor the implementation of the Convention.

Maldives (2025)

65. The Committee notes with concern that the Human Rights Commission of Maldives, is accredited with B status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) due to the lack of plurality, diversity, adequate funding and independence.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party address the concerns raised by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the GANHRI, strengthen the Human Rights Commission of Maldives to be able to effectively and independently discharge its mandate in compliance with the Paris Principles and the supremacy of human rights, and seek the advice and support of the OHCHR in the process.

67. The Committee is concerned that the Disability Council, as the coordinating body for the implementation of the Convention across all ministries, lacks adequate resources to implement its mandate and visibility across State bodies.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party provide sufficient human, financial and technical resources to the Disability Council to enable it carry out its mandate for ensuring that rights of persons with disabilities are mainstreamed across all policies and programmes.

Canada (2025)

66. The Committee welcomes the appointment of the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) as the independent body responsible for monitoring the Government's implementation of the Convention pursuant to article 33 (2) and (3) and commends the CHRC for its important contributions in this capacity. It also notes the designation of the Office for Disability Issues as the federal focal point on disability, as provided for by article 33 (1). It is nevertheless concerned about:

(a) The lack of a permanent and specialized intergovernmental mechanism to coordinate the effective implementation of the Convention in the State party across jurisdictions, and the lack of clarity of how existing mechanisms, such as the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Forum of Deputy Ministers Responsible for Social Services and the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up on human rights, mainstream disability;

(b) The designated funding of the CHRC to carry out its mandate as an independent mechanism to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention came to an end in March 2024, confining CHRC's monitoring activities to a few selected rights under the Convention, and information provided by the State Party during the constructive dialogue that further funding is contingent upon a request by the CHRC;

(c) The lack of information on the performance of the federal focal point on disability.

67. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Establish an intergovernmental mechanism to coordinate the effective implementation of the Convention on the Federal level and in the provinces and territories, publicly report on progress, and ensure that existing mechanisms of intergovernmental cooperation mainstream disability;

(b) Provide continuing funding of the CHRC, sufficient for the promotion, protection, and monitoring of the implementation of all rights under the Convention, in close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations;

(c) Ensure effective functioning of the federal focal point in all areas of government.

Dominican Republic (2025)

61. The Committee notes with concern that the State party does not have a designated independent monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and that currently those functions are partially carried out by the Defensor del Pueblo, which does not

have the independence and authority required by the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and has therefore not been accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

62. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, the Committee recommends that the State party, with the active involvement of and in close consultation with persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, through their representative organizations:

(a) Establish an independent monitoring framework, in accordance with article 33 (2) of the Convention and ensure that it can undertake transparent and independent monitoring;

(b) Strengthen the Defensor del Pueblo to efficiently and independently discharge its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles, encourage it to apply for accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and seek the technical advice of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the process of establishing and accrediting of its national human rights institution.

European Union (2025)

76. The Committee notes with concern that some European Union institutions, including the Council of the European Union, have yet to appoint disability focal points and coordination mechanisms to implement the Convention.

77. The Committee recalls its previous concluding observations and recommendations (para. 77) and recommends that the European Union appoint disability focal points throughout all its institutions, bodies and agencies, including in the Council of the European Union, improve coordination within the Council in its efforts to implement the Convention, establish an inter-institutional mechanism for coordination, and ensure public availability of information about disability focal points.

78. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the Independent Monitoring Framework is not compliant with the Paris Principles, lacking, among others, a specific legal basis, a specific and broad mandate, and earmarked funding, and that organizations of persons with disabilities lack timely access to information to effectively participate in the work of the monitoring mechanism;

(b) The lack of mechanisms to enforce the European Ombudsman's recommendations on the rights of persons with disabilities.

79. The Committee recommends that the European Union:

(a) Enact a legislative basis for an independent monitoring mechanism, compliant with the Paris Principles, limit the European Parliament to an advisory role, provide the mechanism with a comprehensive mandate that includes the review of all existing and proposed legislation and policy and that covers all the rights under the Convention, establish procedures for other EU entities to take note of the mechanism's findings, provide earmarked funding, and clarify the legal status of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring mechanism, their access to information and their modes of participation;

(b) Establish a mechanism for the implementation of the European Ombudsman's recommendations.

Palau (2025)

63. The Committee is concerned that there is no national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) in the State party.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee and establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate on the protection of human rights and with adequate human, technical and financial resources, in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

65. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not designated an independent monitoring mechanism for the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention with a budget and designated functions that involves the effective and independent participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

66. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, the Committee recommends that the State party establish an independent monitoring mechanism with a budget and designated functions for monitoring of the implementation of the Convention that involves the effective and independent participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

67. The Committee notes with concern that in the State party, there is no mechanism to ensure full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process of the implementation of the Convention.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party take legal measures to establish mechanism to ensure full participation of persons with diverse disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process of the implementation of the Convention.

Tuvalu (2025)

63. The Committee notes with concern that despite the National Human Rights Institution Act 2017, there is no national human rights institution in the State party accredited with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights institutions (GANHRI), and the Office of the Chief Ombudsman is lacking human and financial resources to effectively monitor human rights in Tuvalu.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the Office of the Chief Ombudsman to act as a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and seek accreditation by GANHRI.

65. The Committee is concerned that despite the establishment of the Tuvalu National Disability Coordinating Committee (TNDCC) as the coordinating body for the implementation of the Convention across all ministries, the TNDCC lacks adequate resources to implement its mandate.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party provide sufficient human, financial and technical resources to the Tuvalu National Disability Coordination Committee to enable it carry out its mandate for ensuring that rights of persons with disabilities are mainstreamed across all policies and programmes.

Viet Nam (2025)

65. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There is insufficient clarity regarding the participation and support for the involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the National Committee on Disability, the national body responsible for coordinating, implementing, and monitoring the Convention;

(b) The State party has not designated an independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention, as required by Article 33, paragraph 2.

66. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are convened and receive the necessary support for their participation in the National Committee on Disability and monitoring the Convention.**

(b) **Establish an independent monitoring mechanism in accordance with the principles relating to the Status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations.**

Belarus (2024)

65. The Committee is concerned that there is no independent mechanism to monitor implementation of the Convention in the State party.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent mechanism for monitoring the Convention, in accordance with article 33 of the Convention and the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), and that it allocate material and human resources in sufficient quality and quantity for the mechanism to carry out its functions, involving organizations of persons with disabilities in the pursuit of its mandate.

Belgium (2024)

66. The Committee notes with concern that the Inter-Federal Centre for Equal Opportunities (Unia), in its role as an independent body monitoring the implementation of the Convention, does not have the independence and authority required by the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and has therefore not been accredited with A-status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). It further notes with concern that, since the establishment of a new monitoring body in the Flemish region, Unia no longer has a mandate in matters of competence of the Flemish region.

67. Recalling its General Comment No. 7 (2018), the Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (para. 49) that the State Party take the necessary measures to ensure the Unia's compliance with the Paris Principles, and recommends to apply for accreditation with A-Status of all bodies monitoring the implementation of the Convention with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI); it further recommends to adapt the organizational framework of monitoring bodies of the Convention, if necessary, to be afforded A-Status. In addition, it recommends that the State party establish clear procedures for the involvement and full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all bodies monitoring the Convention. Also, the Committee recommends that Unia and the Flemish Human Rights Institute (VRMI) build a constructive partnership for the purpose of monitoring the Convention.

Benin (2024)

65. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of formal recognition of the role of the Human Rights Commission of Benin in monitoring the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) That persons with disabilities have not been adequately involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Designate the Human Rights Commission of Benin as the national monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Convention, in line with article 33 (2) and provide it with appropriate funding and resources to perform this function;**
- (b) Ensure the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and their representative organizations in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, including by providing the necessary funding;**
- (c) ensure that it can undertake transparent and independent monitoring and receive A status accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Subcommittee on Accreditation.**

Burkina Faso (2024)

62. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the multisectoral National Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COMUD/Handicap), which was set up by decree no. 2012-406/PRES/PM/MASSN/MEF/MS of 15 May 2012 to monitor the implementation of the CRPD in Burkina Faso, does not comply with the Principles Relating To The Status Of National Institutions For The Promotion And Protection Of Human Rights (the Paris Principles) in that it falls short of independence, a clear budget and functions;
- (b) The absence of mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities in independent monitoring of the rights enshrined in the Convention.

63. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee , the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take steps to align the multisectoral National Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COMUD/Handicap) with the Principles Relating To The Status Of National Institutions For The Promotion And Protection Of Human Rights (the Paris Principles);**
- (b) Strengthen the CNDH to efficiently and independently discharge its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles and encourage the CNDH to request for accreditation with the GANHRI. The State should seek the technical advice of OHCHR in the process of establishment and accreditation of its National Human Rights Institution;**
- (c) Establish formal mechanisms for the participation of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities, including those that represent women and girls with disabilities, older persons with disabilities, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas, in monitoring the Convention.**

Denmark (2024)

87. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited extent to which a coordination mechanism has been implemented in the Faroe Islands and in Greenland;
- (b) The uncertainties about the fulfilment of the Paris Principles and the involvement and full participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations of the new monitoring mechanism on the Faroe Islands starting operation on January 1, 2025;
- (c) The lack of a monitoring mechanism fulfilling the requirements of the Paris Principles in which persons with disabilities through their representative organizations can fully participate in Greenland.

88. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee , the Committee recommends that:

- (a) The Faroe Islands and Greenland establish focal points that effectively coordinate the implementation of the Convention within their respective governments;**
- (b) The Faroe Islands apply with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) to accredit their newly created monitoring mechanism with A-status;**
- (c) Greenland establish a mechanism monitoring the implementation of the Convention that fulfils the Paris Principles Relating to the National Human Rights Institutions and apply with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) to accredit their newly created monitoring mechanism with A-status.**

Ghana (2024)

64. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The National Council for Persons with Disability which is the designated focal point for the implementation of the Convention is under-resourced and not decentralized making it difficult for it to carry out this mandate;

(b) The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) which has been monitoring the state of human rights across the country to ensure the State compliance with its treaty obligations is under resourced.

65. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Provide adequate resources and strengthen the capacity of the National Council on Persons with Disabilities as the focal point to implement the Convention;

(b) Designate an independent monitoring framework that meets the requirements of the Paris Principles and provide it with the necessary budgetary and human, technical and budgetary resources to carry out its work of promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention and ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

Mauritius (2024)

59. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There is delay in the establishment of the National Empowerment Authority as the designated focal point and coordinating body for the implementation of the Convention in the State party, meant to replace the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board and the Loïs Lagesse Trust Fund;

(b) The Independent Monitoring Mechanism envisioned under the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2024 lacks the independence to monitor the implementation of the Convention, as it is chaired by the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity and includes as members the National Empowerment Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade;

(c) The lack of a clear strategy and sustainable funding for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all aspects of the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

60. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite the establishment of the National Empowerment Authority; ensure its effective coordination and operation, managed by a sufficient number of staff equipped with relevant expertise; enable organizations of persons with disabilities to directly nominate representatives, including women with disabilities, to serve on the Board of the Authority; and ensure that these representatives have an equal voice as any other member of the Board;

(b) Reconsider the composition of its Independent Monitoring Mechanism in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles), and ensure that it is properly resourced and designated to undertake transparent and independent monitoring;

(c) Ensure sustainable and adequate funding for the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

Netherlands (2024)

71. The Committee acknowledges that the State party has an 'A' status accredited National human rights institute that is compliant with the Paris Principles. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of a systematic method of coordination amongst the various focal points that the State party has established to implement the Convention;

(b) The lack of mechanisms to ensure the involvement of representative organisations of people with disabilities from the Caribbean Netherlands in monitoring the Convention.

72. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, the Committee recommends that the State party, with the

active involvement and close consultation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including women and children with disabilities:

- (a) Establish a systematic method of coordination among the various focal points designed to implement the Convention;
- (b) Develop mechanisms to ensure full and effective involvement and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the Caribbean Netherlands in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Ukraine (2024)

66. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of effective coordination of all relevant Ministries to ensure the implementation of the Convention, its monitoring and evaluation, as well as the lack of active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations for the same end;
- (b) The absence of an independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the lack of indicators aligned with the Convention.

67. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Improve coordination for the implementation of the Convention across sectors and levels of government, and develop indicators aligned with the Convention to properly promote, implement and monitor its implementation with active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;
- (b) Establish an independent monitoring framework, in accordance with article 33 (2) of the Convention, including the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights among its mechanisms in its role of National Human Rights Institution compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to perform its functions, including in the conflict affected areas;
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations participate in monitoring processes, including on the situation of persons with disabilities in conflict-affected areas.

Azerbaijan (2024)

69. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of sectorial focal points for the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) The absence of independent monitoring of the implementation of the Convention compliant with the Paris Principles;
- (c) The absence of mechanisms to ensure involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in monitoring the Convention.

70. Recalling its Guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, included in the annex of its Rules of procedure, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Designate focal points within government, including across all branches and levels of government, with authority to implement the Convention;
- (b) Designate an independent monitoring framework for the Convention, including the participation of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in line with the Paris Principles to ensure it can undertake transparent and independent monitoring and receive A status accreditation by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA);
- (c) Ensure participation of all persons with disabilities including those in rural areas and the diversity of their representative organizations in monitoring the Convention.

Bahrain (2024)¹

66. The Committee is deeply concerned about:

- (a) The absence of a national coordination mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the Convention and provide technical support to the executive authorities.
- (b) The absence of an independent national mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention at the national level.
- (c) The lack of support provided to the national human rights institution to enable it to monitor the implementation of human rights covenants and conventions, including the Convention, at the national level.

67. The Committee recommends that the State party should:

- (a) Establish a national coordinating mechanism to support the implementation of the Convention at the national level, ensuring the effective involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations.**
- (b) Establish an independent national mechanism with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations to monitor the implementation of the Convention**
- (c) Strengthen the national human rights institution to upgrade its status to (a) and enable it to play its role in accordance with the Paris Principles in monitoring the implementation of the Convention at the national level in close consultation and with the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations**

Costa Rica (2024)

57. El Comité observa con preocupación:

- a) La falta de medidas para fortalecer a la Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República para cumplir su rol como Mecanismo Nacional de Seguimiento de la Convención, dotándolo de recursos humanos capacitados y de los recursos financieros necesarios;
- b) El debilitamiento del CONAPDIS por insuficiente asignación presupuestaria, y por el proyecto de la ampliación de sus funciones al existir la intención de que el Instituto de Desarrollo Humano e Inclusión Social pase a formar parte de la CONAPDIS;
- c) La falta de información sobre los avances del rediseño del Manual del Macroproceso de Defensa y sobre la existencia de un proceso abreviado y accesible para que las personas con discapacidad puedan presentar sus quejas ante la Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República.

58. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Fortalecer a la Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República para el seguimiento de la Convención, con personal capacitado, recursos financieros e infraestructura accesible y de diseño universal para que pueda ejercer eficazmente su mandato, y garantizar la plena participación de las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan en el proceso de supervisión y monitoreo;**
- b) La adopción de medidas y mecanismos para fortalecer la arquitectura y gestión institucional del CONAPDIS a través de la implementación y evaluación de instrumentos de planificación como el Plan Estratégico Institucional (PEI 2023-2027), la Política Nacional de Discapacidad (PONADIS 2024-2030) y su plan de acción, instrumentos alineados al marco normativo internacional y nacional en materia de derechos humanos de las personas con discapacidad, la perspectiva de igualdad de género, el análisis interseccional y el enfoque territorial;**
- c) Velar por que se difunda ampliamente el avance de la aplicación del Manual del Macroproceso de Defensa implementado por la Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República en la tramitación de denuncias.**

¹ When compiling the recommendations, the Concluding Observations were only available in Arabic. This document includes an automated translation to English by [DeepL](#).

Kazakhstan (2024)

69. The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Coordination Council on the social protection of persons with disabilities at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which includes representatives from all state bodies and civil society organizations. The Committee is, however, concerned that:

- (a) The lack of inclusive budgeting indicators to determine the significance of disability rights in the national agenda;
- (b) The Commissioner for Human Rights lacks independence to monitor the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) The lack of effective participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring processes of the Convention.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Allocate national and local budgets with indicators to promote the implementation of the Convention;**
- (b) Ensure the functional, budgetary and operational independency of the Commissioner for Human Rights, in line with the Paris Principles, strengthen its capacity to undertake transparent and independent monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, and apply for review by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) with the aim of being accredited with A status. The Committee also recommends to take into account its Guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, included in the annex of its Rules of procedure.**
- (c) Ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in monitoring the Convention, including all types of impairments.**

Nicaragua (2024)

14. El Comité toma nota de las campañas de sensibilización y promoción de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad, así como de la capacitación proporcionada a funcionarios públicos. Sin embargo, le preocupa que en la percepción pública de la discapacidad siga prevaleciendo un modelo asistencialista y médico, y que mujeres, niñas y niños con discapacidad sigan enfrentando violencia.

15. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte una estrategia nacional permanente a fin de promover un modelo de la discapacidad basado en los derechos humanos, con enfoque de género y edad entre los medios de comunicación, los funcionarios públicos, profesionales del sector de la salud y de la justicia, la policía, el público en general y las familias de las personas con discapacidad, con la participación efectiva de las personas con discapacidad en su formulación, aplicación, y evaluación periódica.

Sweden (2024)

71. The Committee notes with appreciation the establishment of the Swedish Institute for Human Rights in January 2022 as a monitoring mechanism and its application for membership in the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). However, the Committee is concerned that the Institute deems the probability to be afforded “A”-status “good, but not certain”, and lists concerns about the financing, appointment, remuneration and dismissal criteria for board members.

72. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the National Human Rights Institute is provided with adequate financial, human and technical resources and a legislative and regulatory framework in full compliance with the Principles Relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (the Paris Principles).

73. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient involvement and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process by the National Human Rights Institute.

74. The Committee recommends that the National Human Rights Institute establish procedures and protocols for the involvement and full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in its monitoring processes.

Zambia (2024)

65. The Committee notes with appreciation that the Human Rights Commission of Zambia (HRCZ) has been reviewed in 2018 and re-accredited with an “A” Status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). However, it notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of a formal recognition of the national human rights institution to monitor the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) The insufficient human, technical and financial resources provided to focal points to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities, as well as lack of coordination between the focal points and the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities;
- (c) That persons with disabilities have not been adequately involved through their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Implement the recommendations of the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) for the National Human Rights Commission of Zambia to ensure that it functions effectively and independently and discharges its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The Committee further recommends that the State party designate the Human Rights Commission of Zambia as the National monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the full involvement and participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and their representative organizations in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, including by providing the necessary funding;**
- (b) Build the capacity of focal points and equip them with sufficient powers and increased human, technical and financial resources to fulfil their responsibilities under article 33 of the Convention, as well as enhance the coordination between focal points and the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities;**
- (c) Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, are meaningfully involved in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention through their representative organizations.**

Andorra (2023)

67. The Committee notes with concern the following:

- (a) There is no monitoring mechanism that meets the requirements of the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles);
- (b) The State party indicates that the monitoring mechanism to supervise the implementation of the Convention is the Andorran Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FAAD);
- (c) Persons with disabilities have not been adequately involved through their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

68. The Committee, taking into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish a national human rights institution that meets the requirements of the Paris Principles, and ensures that it has sufficient human, technical and financial resources to fulfil its mandate, including monitoring the implementation of the Convention;**
- (b) Raise awareness about the different roles of the Andorran Federation of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (FAAD) and an independent monitoring mechanism in line with the Convention;**

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including women and children with disabilities, and their representative organizations are meaningfully involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Austria (2023)

73. The Committee notes that the Austrian Ombudsman Board (AOB) was reaccredited with A-status by GANHRI, but the Committee would draw attention to the appraisal by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation that the selection and appointment process laid down in Federal Constitutional Law is not sufficiently broad and transparent and that it issued several recommendations.

74. The Committee recommends the State party address the recommendations issued by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of GANHRI and strengthen the AOB accordingly.

Germany (2023)

73. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The insufficient human, technical and financial resources of focal points to fulfil their responsibilities and the limited involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Convention;

(b) The lack of mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Convention at the Länder level.

74. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Build the capacity of and equip focal points with sufficient powers and increased human, technical and financial resources to fulfil their responsibilities under article 33 of the Convention, and ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are effectively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Enact legislation establishing permanent independent monitoring mechanisms at the Länder level, in full compliance with the Paris Principles, and allocate human, technical and secure financial resources to support their mandates.

Israel (2023)

69. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities lacks authority to ensure mainstreaming of the human rights of persons with disabilities across all government portfolios;

(b) The Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities lacks independence to monitor the implementation of the Convention and does not meet the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles);

(c) The diversity of organisations of persons with disabilities in monitoring the Convention is limited.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the authority and competencies of the Commission for Equal Rights of Persons with Disabilities to ensure disability is mainstreamed across all government programmes;

(b) Establish an independent monitoring framework under article 33 (2) of the Convention that complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and take into account the Committee's rules of procedure (see CRPD/1/Rev.1, annex) relating to the role and engagement of independent monitoring frameworks;

(c) Ensure full participation of the diversity of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process. The State party should provide inclusive and accessible methodologies, and human, financial and technical resources for periodic monitoring.

Malawi (2023)

67. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited information about the capacity and coordination mechanisms of the disability focal points at the community level and that the National Advisory and Coordinating Committee on Disability through which persons with disabilities are expected to participate in the monitoring and implementation of the Convention is not operational;
- (b) Information indicating challenges for the Malawi Human Rights Commission to operate freely and about the limited funding and the serious understaffing of this entity, which undermine its independent monitoring role of human rights, including in the realm of disability rights;
- (c) The absence of measures to ensure participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in monitoring the rights recognized in the Convention.

68. The Committee, recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the continuing functioning of the National Advisory and Coordinating Committee on Disability, appoint disability focal points at the community level and ensure appropriate training and coordination mechanisms to strengthen their role in implementing the Convention;**
- (b) Strengthen the Malawi Human Rights Commission to perform its independent monitoring role under article 33 (2), including by allocating appropriate funding, ensuring its ability to freely determine its priorities and activities, filling up the over 50 percent vacant positions, and that it operates in accordance with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles);**
- (c) Ensure the provision of appropriate resources for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including support through independent and self-managed funding, to enable them to meaningfully take part in the independent monitoring of the Convention and to work directly with the Human Rights Commission as the designated independent monitoring mechanism.**

Mauritania (2023)

57. The Committee notes with concern about the lack of progress made towards the implementation of recommendations of the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) made in 2020 during the re-accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission of Mauritania (CNDH), to further strengthen its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party implement the recommendations of the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) to continue strengthening its efforts to address all human rights violations, to ensure that its website is accessible to all, to advocate for an appropriate level of funding, to ensure the appropriate gender balance in its composition and to engage with the civil society, in order to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission of Mauritania (CNDH) functions effectively and independently and discharges its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

59. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not designated an independent monitoring mechanism for the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention with a budget and designated functions that involves the effective and independent participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party take action, bearing in mind the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), to establish an independent monitoring mechanism

with a budget and designated functions for monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

Mongolia (2023)

65. The Committee notes with concern about the lack of progress made towards the implementation of recommendations of the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) made in 2021 during the re-accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM), to ensure the formalization of a clear, transparent and participatory selection and appointment process.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party implement the recommendations of the GANHRI to continue advocating for the formalization of a clear, transparent and participatory selection and appointment processes and enhance diversity and pluralism, in the composition of its Council, in order to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM) functions effectively and independently and discharges its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

67. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not designated an independent monitoring mechanism for the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention with a budget and designated functions that involves the effective and independent participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party take action, bearing in mind the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), to establish an independent monitoring mechanism with a budget and designated functions for monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

69. The Committee is concerned that despite the establishment of the National Council for Ensuring the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with Sub-councils at ministries and Branch-councils in the capital city districts and provinces, there is a lack of focal points in different ministries to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party clearly designate one or more focal points within the Government with the sufficient authority, human resources and budget allocations to carry out their mandate for ensuring that rights of persons with disabilities are mainstreamed across all policies and programme.

Paraguay (2023)

59. Al Comité le preocupa:

a) La falta de formalización y aplicación de un proceso de selección y nombramiento claro, transparente y participativo del Defensor del Pueblo, la carencia de financiación adecuada para llevar a cabo su mandato, así como de un mandato explícito para alentar la ratificación de los instrumentos regionales e internacionales de derechos humanos o la adhesión a ellos y cooperar eficazmente con los sistemas regionales e internacionales de derechos humanos;

b) La falta de un mecanismo de monitoreo independiente que cumpla con los Principios de París, incumpliendo con la Resolución Ministerial N.º1655/15 del Estado parte;

c) La falta de avances en el fortalecimiento de capacidades técnicas de los puntos focales para el seguimiento de la implementación de la Convención.

60. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte tenga en cuenta sus directrices sobre los marcos independientes de supervisión y su participación en la labor del Comité y que:

a) Fortalezca la figura del Defensor del Pueblo para que pueda cumplir su mandato de manera eficaz e independiente de conformidad con los Principios de París y siguiendo las recomendaciones del Sub-Comité de Acreditación de GANHRI, y que solicite el apoyo y el asesoramiento del ACNUDH en el proceso;

b) Establezca un mecanismo de monitoreo independiente, dentro de la Defensoría del Pueblo, en cumplimiento de la Resolución Ministerial N.º 1655/15, con los recursos

humanos y financieros necesarios para que pueda ejercer eficazmente su mandato y garantizar la estrecha participación de las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan en el proceso de supervisión y monitoreo;

c) Acelere el fortalecimiento de las capacidades técnicas de los puntos focales para el seguimiento de la Convención.

Angola (2023)

57. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) While noting the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman as an institution, the institution does not meet the requirements of the Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions (Paris Principles);
- (b) Persons with disabilities through their representative organisations have not been adequately involved in the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Consider making necessary adjustments to ensure that the office of the Ombudsman meet the requirements of the Paris Principles, or establishing a separate independent National Human Rights Institution meeting those requirements;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities through their representative organisations, including women and girls with disabilities are meaningfully involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.**

Argentina (2023)

63. Al Comité le preocupa la falta de un mecanismo de monitoreo independiente que cumpla con los Principios de París, y la falta de designación formal del titular de la Defensoría del Pueblo de la Nación Argentina.

64. Teniendo en cuenta sus directrices sobre los marcos independientes de supervisión y su participación en la labor del Comité, el Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

- a) Establecer un mecanismo independiente de seguimiento en cumplimiento de los Principios de París, con los recursos humanos y financieros necesarios para que pueda ejercer eficazmente su mandato y garantizar la plena participación de las personas con discapacidad y las organizaciones que las representan en el proceso de supervisión;**
- b) Acelerar la designación del titular de la Defensoría del Pueblo mediante un proceso de selección y nominación claro, transparente y participativo, considerando las recomendaciones emitidas en 2017 por el comité subsidiario de la Alianza Global de Instituciones Nacionales de Derechos Humanos.**

Georgia (2023)

65. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The limited human, technical and financial resources of the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) That permanent participation of organizations of persons with disabilities at the independent monitoring mechanism has yet to be developed;
- (c) The lack of implementation of the recommendations issued by the Public Defender's of Georgia concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the human, technical and financial resources of the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee, build the capacity of focal points to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities across all sectors and levels of government, and strengthen their mandates with respect to the implementation of the Convention;**
- (b) Increase resources for the development of the monitoring mandate of the Public Defender of Georgia, to provide for accessible information and methodologies in its work and to ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are**

effectively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, including during situations of risk and emergencies and in the recovery period;

(c) Take into account the Committee's guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee and strengthen the mandate and the role of the Public Defender's Office by enforcing its recommendations and facilitating unrestricted access to information in its monitoring obligations.

Peru (2023)

66. Al Comité le preocupa que:

a) El CONADIS, en su papel de órgano de coordinación gubernamental y punto focal de la discapacidad, no está operando plenamente, ya que no se ha nombrado un nuevo presidente desde que expiró el nombramiento del último en octubre de 2022, no se ha establecido el Consejo Asesor, ni se han elegido representantes de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil;

b) En algunos gobiernos regionales y locales, la Oficina de Atención a las Personas con Discapacidad (OMAPED/OREDIS) no está operativa a pesar de existir una obligación expresa en la ley, y la mayoría de los gobiernos regionales y locales no utilizan el 0,5% de su presupuesto asignado para su funcionamiento;

c) Pese a la designación de un Mecanismo independiente para promover, proteger y supervisar la aplicación de la Convención, dentro de la Defensoría del Pueblo de Perú, no se han incrementado sus recursos para llevar a cabo sus funciones y actividades en lo que respecta a la promoción, la protección y el seguimiento de los derechos consagrados en la Convención.

67. El Comité recomienda que el Estado parte tenga en cuenta sus directrices sobre los marcos independientes de supervisión y su participación en la labor del Comité y que:

a) **Fortalezca el CONADIS, mediante un mayor presupuesto para que pueda coordinar y apoyar eficazmente la aplicación de la Convención y que finalice a la brevedad el procedimiento de elección del presidente, la conformación del Consejo Consultivo y la elección de los representantes de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil;**

b) **Asegure que los gobiernos regionales y locales cumplan con la implementación de las OREDIS y OMAPED en sus respectivas jurisdicciones y las doten de los recursos adecuados para su labor y cree mecanismos, incluyendo el apoyo técnico, para asegurar que los gobiernos regionales y municipales utilicen el presupuesto asignado para su trabajo;**

c) **Refuerce los recursos humanos, técnicos y financieros asignados a la Defensoría del Pueblo de Perú y su mecanismo de monitoreo independiente para que pueda cumplir su mandato relativo al seguimiento de la aplicación de la Convención de forma eficaz e independiente, en coordinación con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad.**

Togo (2023)

63. The Committee notes with appreciation that the Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH) has been reviewed in 2019 and accredited with an "A" Status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). However, the Committee is concerned at the limited effectiveness of the National Commission to monitor the implementation of the Convention, including the lack of participation of representatives of persons with disabilities in the monitoring process coordination of this Commission with representative organizations of persons with disabilities.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party implement the recommendations of the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) and strengthen the National Human Rights Commission to ensure that it functions effectively and independently and discharges its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the full involvement and participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and their representative organizations

in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, including by providing the necessary funding.

Tunisia (2023)

59. The Committee is concerned that there is still no clearly designated focal point for the implementation of the Convention in the State party. It is also concerned that the National Human Rights Commission which is expected to follow up on the implementation and monitoring of the Convention is not an independent mechanism. It is further concerned that no clear strategies have been put in place for the participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, as required by the Convention.

60. The Committee recommends the State party to:

- (a) Clearly designate one or more focal points within the government with sufficient authority, human resource and budget allocation to carry out their mandate for ensuring that disability is mainstreamed across all policies and programmes;**
- (b) Establish without further delay the National Human Rights Commission and provide it with a strong mandate to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and adopt measures to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the Convention, taking into account the principles relating to the status and function of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (Paris Principles), by paying particular attention to its independence, autonomy, appropriate budget and human resource allocations;**
- (c) Adopt measures to fully involve civil society, in particular persons with disabilities, and their representative organizations, including those of particular women and girls with disabilities to ensure a gender perspective, in the monitoring and implementation process and the preparation of reports in compliance with the State party's obligations under ratified international human rights treaties.**

Bangladesh (2022)

63. The Committee notes with concern the insufficient clarity on the focal points on disabilities and their mandate and the lack of an identifiable substantive independent monitoring framework to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the Convention that meets the standards of the Paris Principles, along with sufficient budgetary and human resources to enable it fulfil its mandate and the limited involvement and participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring process of the Convention.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party clarify the focal points within government and define their roles, as well as identify an independent monitoring framework that meets the mandate of the Paris Principles and that is provided with the necessary budgetary and human resources to carry out its work of promoting and monitoring implementation of the convention and ensure the active participation of civil society organisations, particularly representative organisations of persons with disabilities, in the promotion and monitoring of the convention, with sufficient budgetary allocations to carry out their work.

China (2022)

60. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of information provided on the effectiveness of the Disabled Persons' Work Committee of the State Council in mainstreaming the Convention across all sectors and levels of government;**
- (b) The absence of an independent mechanism appointed to monitor the implementation of the Convention;**
- (c) The absence of effective involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.**

61. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, Annex) and:

- (a) Recalling the commitment made in their Universal Periodic Review (2018), establish an independent mechanism for monitoring human rights in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles), with an associated time frame and including a specific mechanism for monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Strengthen the State Council Working Committee on Disability, responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Convention; build the capacity of focal points to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities across all sectors and levels of government; and strengthen their mandates with respect to implementing the Convention;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities and the whole range of their representative organizations, including those operating independently of the China Disabled Persons' Federation, are effectively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Hong-Kong (2022)

77. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of an independent mechanism appointed to monitor the implementation of the Convention;**
- (b) The absence of effective involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.**

78. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong SAR, China take into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, Annex) and:

- (a) Establish an independent mechanism for monitoring human rights with a broad mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities and the whole range of their representative organizations are effectively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Macao

88. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of an independent mechanism appointed to monitor the implementation of the Convention;**
- (b) The absence of effective involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.**

89. The Committee recommends that Macao SAR, China take into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, Annex) and:

- (a) Establish an independent mechanism for monitoring human rights with a broad mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles;**
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities and the whole range of their representative organizations are effectively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Indonesia (2022)

68. The Committee notes that the National Commission for Disability lacks independence as required under Law No. 8 of 2016 as it is situated under the Ministry of Social Affairs, and that the State Party has not established an independent monitoring mechanism for Convention implementation.

69. The Committee recommends that the State party provides the National Commission for Disability with structural and financial independence and designate an independent monitoring mechanism, which includes the National Commission on Human Rights of Indonesia (Komnas HAM) and effective involvement and participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations.

Japan (2022)

69. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) There is no national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles at the State Party;

(b) The Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities, established as the monitoring mechanism of the Convention, is in Cabinet Office, has a limited scope and insufficient representation of the diversity of disabilities and gender balance among its membership.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee and establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate on the protection of human rights and adequate human, technical and financial resources, in full compliance with the Paris Principles, and, within its framework, strengthen the formal capacity of the Commission on Policy for Persons with Disabilities, and guarantee independence, the representation of diversity of disabilities and gender balance among its membership for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022)

62. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of an independent framework for protecting, promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention, and of a national human rights institution in line with Paris Principles;

(b) The potential overlap between the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and the National Committee on Human Rights under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, concerning the implementation and monitoring of the Convention;

(c) The limited participation of all persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, Annex) and:

(a) Establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles, including its full independence and by providing it with an explicit mandate and sufficient human, technical and financial resources to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Clarify the distribution of duties on implementation, monitoring, and reporting on the Convention between the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities, and the National Committee on Human Rights;

(c) Strengthen the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including those that represent women and children, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas, in the implementation and monitoring processes of the Convention.

New Zealand (2022)

59. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Information that the State Party is not responding to or incorporating the recommendations from reports of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM);

(b) The lack of resources, including financial support available to support the Disabled People's Organisations Coalition to fulfil its mandate as one partner of the IMM, including to engage broadly with the disability community, to participate in Convention implementation activities and fora with government agencies and other stakeholders and to effectively communicate with persons with disabilities, including translation into Māori as an official language.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee(CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, Annex) and:

(a) Strengthen its accountability processes and its partnership with the IMM to track and publicly report on the outcomes and implementation of recommendations of IMM reports;
(b) Allocate adequate resources, including financial support to the Disabled People's Organisations Coalition to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate as one partner of the IMM.

Singapore (2022)

61. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not appointed an independent monitoring mechanism and does not have a national human rights institution accredited with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). It is equally concerned that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are not sufficiently involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a national human rights institution and designate an independent monitoring framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, that fulfils the Paris Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions, adopted by the General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 4 March 1994 (A/RES/48/134) and is accredited with A-status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI);
(b) Ensure that civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and a broad range of their representative organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities with sharply critical views of government policies on persons with disabilities, are involved and participate fully in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Hungary (2022)

64. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The narrow scope of actions of the current coordination mechanism for implementation of the Convention, which is mainly limited to social affairs, and the lack of capacity of the Intergovernmental Disability Committee that is designated to coordinate Governmental activities and promote the provisions of the Convention across all sectors of the Government and all areas of life in the State party;
(b) The lack of independence and capacity of the National Disability Council as the designated mechanism for monitoring implementation of the Convention;
(c) The absence of effective involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the governmental mechanism for coordinating implementation of the Convention and build the capacity of focal points to mainstream disability rights across different sectors and levels of the administration, including in the justice system, and all areas of life, and strengthen their mandates and attributions with respect to implementing the Convention;
(b) Revise its mechanism for monitoring implementation of the Convention to guarantee its full independence, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), ensure equal participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations,

including advocacy organizations, and provide the mechanism with appropriate budgetary allocations to support their participation;

(c) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities, including advocacy organizations, are effectively involved in the monitoring process of the implementation of the Convention, with reference to the Committee's general comment No. 7 (2018).

Jamaica (2022)

60. While noting the information provided by the State party delegation that the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities is acting as a focal point for the national implementation of the Convention, the Committee notes with concern that the State party has not yet appointed an independent monitoring mechanism, as it does not have a national human rights institution. It is also concerned that persons with disabilities through their representative organizations are not involved in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a national human rights institution and designate an independent monitoring framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, that, among other responsibilities, can submit alternative reports to the Committee;

(b) Ensure that persons with disabilities and the whole range of their representative organizations are effectively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mexico (2022)

68. The Committee is concerned about the undue complexity and the existence of many lacunae in the focal points and coordination mechanisms and their mutual interaction.

69. The Committee recommends that the State party comprehensively review the current system of focal points and coordination mechanisms at all levels of government, and establish a transparent system with sufficient funding, defined competences and mutual interaction.

70. With reference to paragraph 61 of its previous concluding observations, the Committee notes that despite the establishment of an independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention in Mexico, its structure, functions and activities have not been sufficiently defined with regard to the promotion, protection and monitoring of the rights enshrined in the Convention at the federal and state levels. It is further concerned about insufficient participation of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, and their representative organization in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

71. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the National Human Rights Commission and the 32 state human rights entities, as the independent monitoring mechanism for the Convention, define the mechanism's structure, goals, indicators and resources. The Committee further recommends the State party strengthen the National Commission so that it may fulfil its mandate effectively and independently, and that persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities, and their representative organizations are involved and participate fully in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

Cooperation and technical assistance

72. Under article 37 of the Convention, the Committee can provide technical guidance to the State party on any queries addressed to the experts through the secretariat. The State party can also seek technical assistance from United Nations specialized agencies with headquarters in the country or the region.

Switzerland (2022)

63. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) That the current coordination mechanism within the Government lacks the capacity to mainstream the Convention into all sectors and levels of government, particularly at the cantonal level, and that only four cantons have disability focal points;
- (b) The limited scope of the planned national human rights institution;
- (c) The lack of information about formal mechanisms to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in monitoring of implementation of the Convention.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the government mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Convention at the federal and cantonal levels, designate disability focal points in all cantons to implement the Convention, and build the capacity to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into all sectors and levels of government;**
- (b) Ensure that the national human rights institution is independent and has a broad mandate on the protection of human rights and adequate human, technical and financial resources, in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are effectively involved and participate fully in monitoring of implementation of the Convention.**

Venezuela (2022)

58. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) Despite it having been reported in 2017 that, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2019 with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, there were plans to create a national mechanism for follow-up to international human rights recommendations, no such mechanism has been established;
- (b) The State party has not established an independent monitoring mechanism for following up on and assessing the application and implementation of the Convention.

59. The Committee recommends that the State party establish an independent mechanism to monitor and assess international human rights recommendations and legally designate government focal points to mainstream disability rights in the implementation of the Convention, providing them with an adequate budget and sufficient resources; and include the Ombudsman's Office in the independent monitoring mechanism, in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), with the effective and independent participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Djibouti (2021)

59. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of independence of the National Human Rights Commission and its lack of sufficient resources to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention;
- (b) The insufficient human, technical and financial resources allocated to the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities, which prevents it from fulfilling its mandate effectively as a coordination mechanism to facilitate actions across all sectors and levels of government;

(c) The limited participation of all persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

60. Recalling general comment No. 7 and the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legal measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission fully complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), including by ensuring its full independence and by providing it with sufficient human, technical and financial resources to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, and apply to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) for accreditation;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities, including by allocating sufficient human, technical and financial resources so that it can fulfil its mandate effectively;

(c) Take the measures necessary to strengthen consultation with and the effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, including those that represent women and children, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas and in refugee camps, in the implementation and monitoring processes.

France (2021)

66. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of systematic capacity building programmes among public officials concerning the implementation of the Convention, including in the Overseas territorial collectivities;

(b) The lack of information about participation of persons with disabilities in the composition of the independent monitoring mechanisms, and about mechanisms to foster involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in the independent monitoring mechanism responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

67. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the capacity of disability focal points in all areas of the Convention, notably the Secretary General of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Disabilities and senior official in charge of disability and inclusion within each ministry, and in the Overseas territorial collectivities, aimed at ensuring they rely on the provisions of the Convention for all matters relating to persons with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Defender of Rights to accomplish its mandate concerning monitoring of the Convention;

(c) Take measures to increase diversity and participation and appoint persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities as members of the independent monitoring mechanisms;

(d) Ensure that persons with disabilities and the diversity of their representative organizations are effectively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Estonia (2021)

64. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the current coordination mechanism within the government lacks the capacity to mainstream the Convention across all sectors and levels of government, not only the area of social affairs;

(b) The lack of information about the accessibility of the premises and about the work done by the Office of the Chancellor of Justice as the independent mechanism appointed to monitor the implementation of the Convention;

(c) The lack of information about formal mechanisms to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in monitoring the Convention, including by monitoring the situation of persons with disabilities still in institutions and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the government mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the Convention, build the capacity of focal points to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities across all sectors and levels of government and strengthen their mandates with respect to implementing the Convention;

(b) Ensure continuity in the allocation of funds for the functioning of the Office of the Chancellor of Justice, which has been appointed the independent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Convention, including by earmarking resources for the development of accessible information about its work and methodologies;

(c) Ensure that persons with disabilities and the whole range of their representative organizations are effectively involved in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Albania (2019)

53. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about efforts to consider identifying a coordination mechanism, as outlined in article 33 (1) of the Convention. The Committee is concerned that the mechanism designated by the State party under article 33 (2) is not in line with the Convention. It is also concerned about the unequal representation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring process.

54. Taking into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex) and its General Comment no. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that its national implementation and monitoring framework has a stable institutional basis that allows it to operate properly over time and that it is appropriately funded and resourced. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) Consider the appointment of a coordination mechanism under article 33 (1) of the Convention;

(b) Ensure that when designating or establishing an independent monitoring framework and mechanisms, it into account the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), that it provide adequate funding for its functioning;

(c) Ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process.

Australia (2019)

61. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of sufficient resources allocated to effectively implement the National Disability Strategy;

(b) The existing legal framework limiting the scope and power of the Australian Human Rights Commission to perform the task of effectively and independently monitoring the implementation of the Convention;

(c) The lack of an effective monitoring mechanism under the National Disability Strategy, which is an overarching policy framework;

(d) The lack of a formal mechanism and sustainable funding for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in all aspects of the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

62. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation on national implementation and monitoring (CRPD/C/AUS/CO/1, para. 58) and recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that sufficient resources are available for the effective implementation of the National Disability Strategy;
- (b) Revise existing laws or enact new laws, including a national comprehensive human rights law, to expand and strengthen the scope and power of the Australian Human Rights Commission to perform the task of independently monitoring the implementation of the Convention, in line with article 33 (2) of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 7;
- (c) Establish a formal monitoring mechanism under the National Disability Strategy that includes the Office of Disability Strategy, as recommended by the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs in 2017, ensuring effective coordination between the federal and state levels;
- (d) Establish a formal mechanism and ensure sustainable and adequate funding for the meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

Ecuador (2019)

59. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not designated an independent monitoring mechanism for the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention with a budget and designated functions that involves the effective and independent participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party take urgent action, bearing in mind the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), to establish an independent mechanism with a budget and designated functions for monitoring the implementation of the Convention. The Committee recommends that the Ombudsman's Office be involved in the independent monitoring mechanism, in line with the Paris Principles, and that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations participate in it effectively and independently.

El Salvador (2019)

62. The Committee is concerned that the Office for the Defence of Human Rights, designated as the entity to evaluate the implementation of the Convention, lacks the independence, in practice, and the resources and mechanisms, for the systematic involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations that would allow it to adequately carry out its functions.

63. Taking into account the Committee's 2016 guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party allocate specific resources, including budget and personnel, for the Office to carry out monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and ensure the involvement both of persons with disabilities and of their organizations so as to guarantee compliance with article 33 of the Convention.

Greece (2019)

48. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information on the effective operation of the national implementation and monitoring framework established under article 33 of the Convention;
- (b) The insufficient level of involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process;
- (c) The absence of transparent and adequate financial support for organizations of persons with disabilities, including the lack of support for their participation ahead of the State party's review, such as submitting alternative reports.

49. In line with the Convention and the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), the

Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its national monitoring and implementation framework, ensure its effective operation and interoperability between the competent structures involved, on the basis of transparent procedures and with the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities. It encourages the State party to appoint the Greek National Commission for Human Rights as part of the independent monitoring framework under article 33 of the Convention. In light of its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the provision of appropriate resources for organizations of persons with disabilities, including support through independent and self-managed funding, to take part in the independent monitoring frameworks tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

India (2019)

68. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of executive power of the Central Advisory Board on Disability and the equivalent state bodies for coordination across different departments and sectors to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention;
- (b) The absence of an independent framework for protecting, promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention, despite the appointment of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the state commissioners for persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information about mechanisms for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the independent monitoring of the Convention.

69. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to strengthen the Central Advisory Board and the equivalent state bodies beyond an advisory role and ensure the coordination of focal points on disability, at all levels in the State party and in all sectors, for the effective implementation of the Convention;**
- (b) Ensure that the national and state human rights commissions are part of the independent monitoring framework under article 33 (2) of the Convention, providing technical, human and financial support to accomplish their mandates. The State party should take account of the Committee's guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex) when designing the independent monitoring framework;**
- (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, effectively participate in monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.**

Iraq (2019)

63. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) There is insufficient information about the representation of persons with disabilities in the Commission on the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, which was set up under article 4 of Law No. 38 (2013) and is intended to fulfil the functions of an independent national coordination mechanism in line with article 33 (1) of the Convention;
- (b) The High Commission for Human Rights does not fully comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles);
- (c) That there is a lack of information on specific mechanisms for the participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

64. Recalling its general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations,

in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure the representation of persons with disabilities, in particular women with disabilities and persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, in the Commission on the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs and its board of directors;
- (b) Take all measures necessary to ensure that the High Commission for Human Rights can effectively and independently discharge its mandate as an independent mechanism tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Convention, in line with its article 33 (2) and in accordance with the Paris Principles and taking into account the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex);
- (c) Facilitate the effective and meaningful participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the entire process of monitoring the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with the provisions of article 33 (2) of the Convention, including by providing adequate funding.

Kuwait (2019)

64. The Committee is concerned about the absence of an independent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent monitoring mechanism that is in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles), that is independent from the executive branch, in particular the Council of Ministers, and that has sufficient and appropriate resources for its operation. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that monitoring activities are carried out in close consultation with and with the active participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Myanmar (2019)

63. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited independence of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and its lack of an explicit mandate and sufficient resources to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention;
- (b) The insufficient human, technical and financial resources allocated to the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which prevents it from fulfilling its mandate effectively;
- (c) The limited participation of all persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

64. Recalling general comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, and the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, Annex) , the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission fully complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) , including by ensuring its full independence and by providing it with an explicit mandate and sufficient human, technical and financial resources to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (b) Strengthen the capacity of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including by allocating sufficient human, technical and financial resources so that it can fulfil its mandate effectively;
- (c) Take the measures necessary to strengthen consultation with and the effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative

organizations, including those that represent women and children, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas, in the implementation and monitoring processes.

Cuba (2019)

55. The Committee is concerned about the lack of an independent mechanism to monitor implementation of the Convention in the State party in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles).

56. The Committee recommends that the State party establish an independent mechanism for monitoring the Convention, in accordance with article 33 of the Convention and the Paris Principles, and that it allocate the human, technical and financial resources in sufficient quality and quantity for the mechanism to carry out its functions, involving organizations of persons with disabilities in the pursuit of its mandate.

Niger (2019)

55. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited effectiveness of the Monitoring Committee to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the lack of focal points with sufficient mandate and financial resources to implement the Convention;
- (b) The lack of an independent mechanism that takes into account the Paris Principles to monitor the implementation of the Convention with sufficient budgetary allocation;
- (c) The lack of participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the monitoring process of the Convention.

56. The Committee recommends that the State Party designate focal points, establish an independent mechanism taking into account the Paris Principles with sufficient budgetary allocation to monitor the implementation of the Convention; and ensure participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations in the monitoring process.

Rwanda (2019)

61. The Committee notes with concern that the National Commission for Human Rights does not have sufficient human, technical and financial resources, which prevents it from effectively performing its mandate. The Committee is also concerned about the limited participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the national implementation and monitoring process as a whole.

62. Taking into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party allocate human, technical and financial resources in sufficient quality and quantity to the National Commission for Human Rights to enable it to effectively perform its mandate. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and their representative organizations, in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, including by providing the necessary funding.

Saudi Arabia (2019)

57. The Committee is concerned that the State party's National Human Rights Commission does not function in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

58. Taking into account the Committee's guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party review the Charter regulating the functioning of the National Human Rights Commission to

bring it in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

Senegal (2019)

57. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The limited effectiveness of the focal points within government relating to the implementation of the Convention;
- (b) The lack of clarity on the designation of the entities that compose the independent mechanism for the monitoring and implementation of the Convention in line with Article 33 (2) of the Convention;
- (c) The lack of measures for the meaningful consultation and effective participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in adopting policies and other matters affecting them.

58. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Strengthen and build the capacity of focal points within government to implement the Convention;**
- (b) Take into account the guidelines of the Committee on independent monitoring frameworks and guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex) and the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and designate an adequate framework to monitor and implement the Convention;**
- (c) Adopt necessary measures and strengthen meaningful and effective consultation and participation of persons with disabilities and through organisations of persons with disabilities, including those that represent women and children and older persons with disabilities, persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas, when adopting policies, and on other matters that concern them.**

Spain (2019)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of support, including financial support, for ensuring the independent monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

63. Taking into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the capacity of the Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (CERMI) and its role of independent monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Convention, and provide CERMI with adequate resources and funding for its functioning.

Türkiye (2019)

64. The Committee observes with concern:

- (a) The absence of information on guidelines for disability inclusion throughout the State party's technical cooperation and assistance programmes;
- (b) The lack of information about access by civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to international funding for implementing the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (c) The lack of information about measures to adhere to the Convention in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt policy frameworks and guidelines on international cooperation, recognizing disability as an integral part in international development policies, and allocate adequate resources;**
- (b) Ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities can receive or seek funding and other resources from national and international sources;**

(c) Actively involve and closely consult with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, on public budgeting processes, the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, international decision-making and international cooperation.

Vanuatu (2019)

56. The Committee is concerned that no independent monitoring mechanism has yet been established, as required under article 33 (2) of the Convention and that persons with disabilities through their organisations are not fully and meaningfully involved in the monitoring process. It is also concerned that provincial disability committees that monitor implementation of national strategies and framework of the Convention as focal points at the provincial level, have not been established in Penama, Sanma, Torba.

57. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Designate or establish an independent monitoring mechanism in conformity with the Paris Principles and the Committee's guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (see CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex);**
- (b) Ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the process of monitoring the implementation of the Convention;**
- (c) Establish provincial disability committees in all provinces, without delay, to strengthen implementation and monitoring of national strategies and action plans of the Convention.**

Algeria (2018)

56. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Contrary to Prime Ministerial Instruction No. 368 of 21 December 2013, on the mainstreaming of disability in sectoral programmes, focal points for disability issues have not been appointed in all ministries;**
- (b) The centrally appointed focal point, the Ministry of National Solidarity, the Family and the Status of Women, lacks the capacity to effectively carry out its role;**
- (c) The National Council for Human Rights does not fully comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles);**
- (d) Pending the revision of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, there are no specific mechanisms for the participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring of the Convention.**

57. The Committee, recalling the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, Annex), recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the implementation of Prime Ministerial Instruction No. 368, of 21 December 2013, and designate focal points in all ministries to mainstream disability issues across all policies and programmes;**
- (b) Take all necessary measures to ensure that the National Council for Human Rights can effectively and independently discharge its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles;**
- (c) Facilitate the effective and meaningful participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the entire process of monitoring the implementation of the Convention, including in a revised National Council for Persons with Disabilities, consistent with the Convention;**
- (d) Ensure that the monitoring frameworks are independent from advisory bodies or the focal points appointed under article 33 (1) of the Convention.**

Bulgaria

71. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has not yet designated an independent monitoring mechanism in line with provisions of article 33 (2) and 33 (3) of the Convention.

72. Taking into account the Guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and the participation in the work of the Committee (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party designates an independent monitoring mechanism that fully complies with the Paris Principles, such as Office of Ombudsman and the Commission for the Protection against Discrimination. It furthermore calls upon the State party to ensure participation of persons with disabilities in such independent monitoring mechanism, in line with provisions of article 33 (2) of the Convention, including by providing adequate funding for their full and effective participation in the monitoring process.

Malta (2018)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of independence and transparency of the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability designated under article 33.2 of the Convention, in as much as the appointment of its members under the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413) is undertaken by the executive branch.

50. Taking into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party repeal and/or amend articles 21A(1) and 24(1) of the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Cap. 413) to ensure sufficient representation and engagement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, accountability and transparency. It further calls on the State party to review the draft of the Human Rights And Equality Commission Bill to ensure that the planned Maltese National Human Rights Institute adheres to the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

Philippines (2018)

60. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information about a coordination mechanism, and the designation of focal points across all branches of government on disability matters, which collaborate with the National Council for Disability Affairs on implementing the Convention;
- (b) The lack of specific mechanisms within the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines to engage and ensure participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations in monitoring the Convention at the national and local levels.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Strengthen the competencies and resources of the National Council for Disability Affairs concerning the implementation of the Convention, and ensure that all branches and levels of government designate disability focal points with budget allocations to carry out programmes under the Convention;**
- (b) Ensure that public authorities implementing the Convention ensure the respect of the human rights model of disability, avoid labelling of children with disabilities and ensure the protection of their rights under the Convention;**
- (c) Ensure the appointment of an independent monitoring framework in line with the Paris Principles and sufficient funding to the Commission on Human Rights for the Philippines to undertake its mandate to monitor the Convention, and to enable organizations of persons with disabilities to participate throughout the monitoring and implementation of the Convention, in line with article 33 (3) of the Convention, and taking into account the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (see CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex).**

Poland (2018)

52. The Committee is concerned about the lack of:

- (a) Capacity of the focal points that focuses predominantly on the social protection issues currently designated for matters relating to the implementation of the Convention and its coordination within Government;
- (b) Legal basis and decrease in funding for the Human Rights Defender, designated as independent authority to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Convention;
- (c) Meaningful involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring on the implementation of the Convention.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Designate a cross-sectorial authority to coordinate and lead the mainstreaming and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities across all sectors at all levels in all areas of life;**
- (b) Strengthen the capacity of the Commissioner for Human Rights as independent authority to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention, in providing it with adequate legal bases and allocating it sufficient resources and funding to be able to effectively and independently discharge its mandate;**
- (c) Ensure the comprehensive and effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring tasks under the Convention and provide them with the funding necessary for this purpose.**

South Africa (2018)

54. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information about the specific focal points and mechanisms at the regional and local levels to implement the Convention;
- (b) The absence of an independent monitoring entity to exercise the powers of an independent mechanism for the protection, promotion and monitoring of the Convention in accordance with the provisions of article 33, paragraph 2, of the Convention and in line with the Paris Principles;
- (c) The lack of processes for the meaningful consultation of organisations of persons with disabilities in adopting policies and other matters affecting them, and that their views are often not adequately reflected in the decisions adopted;
- (d) The lack of provision of the necessary resources by the Department of Social Development to promote the effective participation of organisations of persons with disabilities and the cumbersome and expensive accreditation procedures, especially in rural and remote areas.

55. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Establish a mechanism and a system of focal points, including adopting measures to strengthen the efficiency of the focal points at the national, regional and local levels to implement the Convention;**
- (b) Expedite the designation of the South African Human Rights Commission as the Independent Monitoring Mechanism and allocate sufficient financial resources to enable it fully execute its mandate;**
- (c) Establish and strengthen mechanisms for meaningful and effective consultation and participation of organisations of persons with disabilities, including those that represent women and children and older persons with disabilities, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and persons with disabilities in rural areas, when adopting policies, and on other matters that concern them, and ensure that accreditation procedures are accessible and simplified at all levels of the National Disability Rights Machinery.**

North Macedonia (2018)

60. The Committee is concerned about the lack of resources available for the effective and comprehensive monitoring conducted by the independent monitoring framework established in accordance with article 33 (2) of the Convention, which limits the support

provided to organizations of persons with disabilities to participate in the monitoring process.

61. The Committee recommends that the State party provide sufficient funding for monitoring frameworks and organizations of persons with disabilities to enable them to monitor the implementation of the Convention across the State party, taking into account the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex).

Haiti (2018)

60. The Committee is concerned by the insufficient clarity and scope of the mandates of the Office of the Protection of Citizens. It regrets that no independent monitoring mechanism as required under article 33 (2) has been designated yet. It is further concerned about the absence of mechanisms to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations in monitoring processes.

61. Recalling its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex), the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take the measures necessary to designate focal points in all areas of Government to integrate disability in all programmes and policies;**
- (b) Expedite the designation of an independent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Convention, and ensure its independence;**
- (c) Ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and organizations of civil society in the process of monitoring the implementation of the Convention.**

Nepal (2018)

49. The Committee is concerned about the lack of resources and the lack of effective and comprehensive inclusion of organizations of persons with disabilities in order to facilitate their participation in the monitoring processes regarding the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 33 (3).

50. The Committee recommends that the State party provide adequate funding for both established monitoring frameworks and organizations of persons with disabilities to enable them to monitor the implementation of the Convention across the State party, in accordance with article 33 (3) and taking into account the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex).

Oman (2018)

59. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive national action plan on disability and the lack of information regarding measures taken by the National Monitoring Committee to Promote Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with respect to implementation of the Convention by the relevant government departments. The Committee is also concerned that the National Human Rights Commission, which is responsible for monitoring the protection of human rights in the State party, is accredited with B status, essentially due to its limited independence and lack of a clear mandate, as well as the low number of complaints received by the Commission.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Establish and implement as a matter of priority a comprehensive policy on persons with disabilities that encompasses all areas covered by the Convention and develop a strategy with the elements for its application, which is supported by sufficient human, technical and financial resources;**
- (b) Ensure that the National Monitoring Committee is provided with a clear mandate and sufficient authority to coordinate all activities related to the implementation of the**

Convention at cross-sectoral, national, regional and local levels, and is provided with the necessary human, technical and financial resources for its effective operation;

(c) Take immediate steps to bring the National Human Rights Commission into full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), allocate sufficient resources for its operation and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, as well as raise awareness about the Commission, including its complaint mechanism, in the society at large, in particular among persons with disabilities.

Russian Federation (2018)

66. The Committee is concerned about the lack of an explicitly identified coordination mechanism as outlined in article 33 (1). It also notes with concern insufficient involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in monitoring the implementation of the Convention. It further notes insufficient and ineffective monitoring at the level of regions of the State party.

67. Taking into account the Guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and the participation in the work of the Committee (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Appoint focal point(s) to improve harmonized implementation of the Convention in the State party with special regard to competencies at the regional level;

(b) Ensure the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, through the representative organizations in the monitoring process, including by providing the necessary funding.

Seychelles (2018)

57. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The State party has not yet designated the focal point and/or a coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and that the role of the National Council for Disabled Persons is mostly relegated to advocacy;

(b) The National Human Rights Commission set up in 2012 and the Office of the Ombudsman do not comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);

(c) The independent monitoring mechanism has not been designated or established;

(d) Persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, are not fully involved in processes relating to monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Designate one or more focal points for the implementation of legislation and policies which are in conformity with the provisions of the Convention;

(b) Adopt measures, including providing sufficient resources, to ensure that the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission is separate from, but complements, that of the Office of the Ombudsman and that the national human rights institution complies with the Paris Principles;

(c) Designate an independent monitoring mechanism in conformity with the Paris Principles and the Committee ' s guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (see CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex);

(d) Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations participate fully in the framework monitoring the implementation of the Convention, as required by article 33 (3).

Slovenia (2018)

57. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of capacity of the appointed focal point, namely the Ministry of Labour, for the coordination of the implementation of the Convention across different sectors and at different levels;
- (b) The lack of independence, capacity and resources of the Council of Slovenia for Persons with Disabilities designated as the independent monitoring framework of the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) The lack of meaningful involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Reinforce the role and capacity of the appointed focal points for the coordination of the implementation of the Convention across different sectors and at different levels;**
- (b) Set up an independent monitoring mechanism that adheres to the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and provide it with adequate funding, bearing in mind the Guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, see Annex);**
- (c) Ensure the full involvement of the organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring tasks under the Convention and provide it with the funding necessary for this purpose.**

Sudan (2018)

67. The Committee is concerned about the lack of resources available for the effective comprehensive monitoring conducted by the independent monitoring framework established in accordance with article 33 (2) of the Convention, which limits the support provided to organizations of persons with disabilities to participate in the monitoring process.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party provide sufficient funding for monitoring frameworks and organizations of persons with disabilities to enable them to monitor the implementation of the Convention across the State party, taking into account the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex).

Latvia (2017)

54. The Committee notes with concern the limited capacity of the mechanisms to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Convention, namely the Ministry of Welfare and Office of the Ombudsman, respectively, including the lack of systemized participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in these mechanisms.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party considerably strengthen the role and capacities of both the Ministry of Welfare and the Office of the Ombudsman as the focal points designated, respectively, as coordinating and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention, while ensuring the provision of adequate funding and the full participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the coordination and monitoring processes.

Luxembourg (2017)

58. The Committee is concerned by the insufficient clarity and scope of the mandates, resources and authority of the entities designated under article 33 (2), and that discrimination occurring in the private sector is not covered. It is further concerned about the absence of mechanisms to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in monitoring processes.

59. Taking into account its draft guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, the Committee recommends that the State

party take the measures necessary to ensure that the independent monitoring mechanism complies fully with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), i.e., that it includes no government representatives, that it has an adequate budget for its functioning and that it operates in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends that the independent monitoring mechanism has the mandate to cover cases of discrimination in the public and private sectors to extend its protection.

Montenegro (2017)

60. The Committee is concerned about the lack of an explicitly identified coordination mechanism, as outlined in article 33 (1) of the Convention. It notes with concern that the Ombudsman is not carrying out the duties of an independent mechanism, as outlined in article 33 (2).

61. Taking into account the Committee's 2016 guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, it recommends that the State party:

- (a) Appoint a governmental body to be the focal point for the implementation of the Convention, and consider the appointment of a coordination mechanism under article 33 (1) of the Convention;**
- (b) Establish a national independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention and ensure its compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);**
- (c) Ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process, including by providing the necessary funding.**

Morocco (2017)

62. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of information about the specific role of the interministerial commission responsible for implementing the Convention, including with respect to the relevant specific mechanisms and focal points at the regional and local levels;
- (b) The delay in the parliament regarding the process to adopt the draft bill on the National Human Rights Council, which recognizes the competence of the Council to exercise the powers of an independent mechanism for the protection, promotion and monitoring of the Convention.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Specify the roles of the interministerial commission responsible for supporting the implementation of the Convention and those of the relevant focal points and, in particular, adopt measures to strengthen the efficiency of the commission and the focal points;**
- (b) Establish a mechanism and a system of focal points at the regional and local levels to implement the Convention;**
- (c) Expedite in the parliament the adoption of the draft bill on the National Human Rights Council, which recognizes the competence of the Council to exercise the powers of an independent mechanism for the protection, promotion and monitoring of the Convention, in accordance with the provisions in article 33 of the Convention, and allocate to the Council sufficient budgetary allocation and human resources;**
- (d) Ensure permanent participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the monitoring process of the Convention, including by providing necessary funding.**

Panama (2017)

64. The Committee is concerned that there is no independent mechanism to monitor implementation of the Convention in the State party.

65. The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent mechanism for monitoring the Convention, in accordance with article 33 of the Convention and the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), and that it allocate material and human resources in sufficient quality and quantity for the mechanism to carry out its functions, involving organizations of persons with disabilities in the pursuit of its mandate.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017)

68. The Committee notes with concern the lack of comprehensive mechanisms and sufficient resources, which limit the Office for Disability Issues in its mandate to coordinate the implementation of the Convention across the State party, as provided in article 33 (1) of the Convention.

69. The Committee recommends that the State party set up an appropriate coordinating structure of focal points with sufficient funding to strengthen the implementation of the Convention under all devolved governments and territories under its jurisdiction and/or control.

70. The Committee is concerned about the lack of resources available for the effective and comprehensive monitoring conducted by the independent monitoring framework established in accordance with article 33 (2) of the Convention, which limits the support provided to organizations of persons with disabilities to participate in the monitoring process.

71. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure in all its entities the independence of, and provide sufficient funding for, both established monitoring frameworks and organizations of persons with disabilities to enable them to monitor the implementation of the Convention across the State party, taking into account the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (see CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex).

Armenia (2017)

57. The Committee is concerned about the lack of resources allocated to the national monitoring mechanism and the insufficient participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring process.

58. Taking into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex) and the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), the Committee recommends that the State party provide adequate funding for the functioning of the independent monitoring mechanism and ensure the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring process.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017)

58. The Committee is concerned that there is no explicitly identified coordination mechanism as outlined in article 33 (1) of the Convention. In addition, the national human rights institution does not act as an independent mechanism as outlined in article 33 (2).

59. Taking into account the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, of 2016, the Committee recommends that the State party nominate focal points on the implementation of the Convention at all levels of government and set up an independent monitoring framework tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Canada (2017)

57. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not designated an independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention as required under article 33

(2). It is further concerned about the absence of mechanisms to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in monitoring processes.

58. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Set up an independent monitoring mechanism that adheres to the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). It strongly encourages the State party to formally appoint the Canadian Human Rights Commission as the independent monitoring mechanism under article 33 of the Convention, bearing in mind the guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/1/Rev.1, annex);

(b) Provide adequate funding for the functioning of an independent monitoring mechanism and the full involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in its monitoring tasks under the Convention.

Cyprus (2017)

65. The Committee is concerned that the monitoring mechanism is insufficiently resourced to perform its duties.

66. The Committee recommends that the State party allocate urgently additional funding to the mechanism in order to strengthen monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

Honduras (2017)

69. Preocupa al Comité que la Dirección General de Desarrollo para las Personas con Discapacidad no constituye un mecanismo de supervisión independiente, conforme a los principios relativos al estatuto de las instituciones nacionales de promoción y protección de los derechos humanos (Principios de París). Le preocupa además la insuficiencia en los recursos de dicha Comisión y su insuficiente rango jerárquico para llevar a cabo su mandato.

70. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte medidas para asegurar que el mecanismo que designe para promover, proteger y supervisar la aplicación de la Convención se ajuste plenamente a los Principios de París, y que sea un órgano independiente, con el rango jerárquico y los recursos suficientes para desempeñar sus funciones y que garantice la plena participación de las personas con discapacidad y de sus organizaciones representativas en dicho mecanismo.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effectiveness of existing coordination mechanism among public offices in all sectors, and national, provincial and municipal levels, concerning the implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the absence of an independent monitoring mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the lack of participation of civil society in the monitoring process.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Appoint a governmental body to be the focal point for the implementation of the Convention, and consider the establishment of a coordination mechanism under article 33 (1); and

(b) Establish a national mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention, with the participation of an institution in compliance with the Paris Principles, in line with article 33 (2) of the Convention, and ensure full participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the monitoring process in line with article 33 (3) of the Convention.

Jordan (2017)

63. The Committee notes with concern the lack of an independent national coordination mechanism in line with article 33 (2) of the Convention.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention, in line with article 33 (2) thereof and in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), allocate sufficient resources for its operation and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities.

Republic of Moldova (2017)

58. The Committee is concerned that the mechanism designated by the State party under article 33 (2) is not in line with the Convention. It also has concerns about the unequal representation in the monitoring process of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring process.

59. Taking into account its guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent monitoring mechanism in accordance with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), that it provide adequate funding for its functioning and that organizations of persons with disabilities fully participate in the monitoring process.

Bolivia (2016)

73. The Committee is concerned that the budget allocated to the Ombudsman's Office, as the body responsible for the independent monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, is unpredictable and insufficient.

74. The Committee urges the State party to allocate sufficient resources for the Ombudsman's Office to effectively carry out its mandate in terms of monitoring of the Convention, and to ensure that its independence is not undermined in this process.

75. The Committee is concerned at the fact that organizations of persons with disabilities are not taken into account or involved in the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities or in the performance of the functions of the Ombudsman.

76. The Committee recommends that the State party engage organizations of persons with disabilities in the national processes initiated by the National Committee for Persons with Disabilities and in the performance of the independent monitoring functions of the Ombudsman's Office.

Colombia (2016)

72. The Committee is concerned at the State party's failure to comply with its obligation under Statutory Act No. 1618 to designate an independent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned that the Ombudsman's Office has assigned the defence of the rights of persons with disabilities to the Office of the Specialized Ombudsman for Health, Social Security and Disability, thereby reinforcing the medical model of disability.

73. The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent mechanism for monitoring the Convention, in accordance with article 33 of the Convention and the Paris Principles, and that it acquire the material and human resources sufficient in quality and quantity to carry out its functions and involve organizations of persons with disabilities in fulfilling its mandate. It also encourages the State party to protect and promote the human rights of persons with disabilities.

Ethiopia (2016)

69. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not designated focal points in all branches of Government in order to mainstream disability issues across all policies and programmes. It notes with concern that the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission does not comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles). It is concerned at the absence of specific mechanisms for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring of the Convention.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party designate focal points in all branches of Government to mainstream disability issues across all policies and programmes. It also recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to ensure the full compliance of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission with the Paris Principles. It further recommends that the State party ensure the full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society in the entire process of monitoring the implementation of the Convention, in particular through systematic consultation with the Human Rights Commission and the Ethiopian Institution of the Ombudsman.

Guatemala (2016)

76. The Committee notes that the State party is working to strengthen the focal point designated to monitor implementation of the Convention; however, it is concerned that this focal point does not have sufficient material resources and qualified human resources to perform its role. It is also concerned that no independent monitoring mechanism has yet been designated, as required under article 33 (2) of the Convention. Lastly, it is concerned by the inadequate participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the national implementation and monitoring process as a whole.

77. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the adoption of legal reforms to strengthen the focal point and the institutions responsible for implementation of the Convention and allocate technical, material and financial resources to enable them to perform their role. It also recommends that the State party accelerate the process of designating an independent monitoring mechanism which satisfies the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) and ensure that the mechanism has sufficient resources. Lastly, it recommends providing the necessary independent financial and material resources to increase the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, in accordance with article 33 (3) of the Convention. It further recommends that the State party ensure that full consultations are held with all organizations of persons with disabilities, regardless of membership of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

Italy (2016)

81. The Committee is concerned at the lack of an independent and inclusive monitoring mechanism in line with article 33 (2) of the Convention.

82. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately establish and implement an independent monitoring mechanism that adheres to the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and that it provide adequate funding for its functioning and the full involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in its work.

United Arab Emirates (2016)

61. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the absence of high-level mechanisms to coordinate policy on the rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) That, in spite of the voluntary commitment made by the State party in the context of the universal periodic review in 2008 (see A/HRC/WG.6/15/ARE/1 and Corr.1, para. 10), the State party has not yet established a national human rights institution.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Consider establishing a high-level focal point authority at the ministerial level to coordinate matters relating to the implementation of the Convention across all sectors and between different levels of government;

(b) Establish without further delay a monitoring mechanism compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities participate in its work.

Uruguay (2016)

67. Preocupa al Comité que la Comisión Nacional Honoraria de la Discapacidad desempeña al mismo tiempo la función del mecanismo de supervisión independiente y del mecanismo de implementación de la Convención.

68. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte que adopte medidas para designar un mecanismo de supervisión que se ajuste plenamente a los Principios de París.

Chile (2016)

67. El Comité observa que el Estado parte no ha designado al mecanismo independiente de supervisión del cumplimiento de esta Convención, y que no se ha definido el rol de la sociedad civil, particularmente de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, en la aplicación y la supervisión de dicho cumplimiento.

68. El Comité solicita al Estado parte que designe el mecanismo independiente que cumpla con los principios relativos al estatuto de las instituciones nacionales de promoción y protección de los derechos humanos (Principios de París), para la supervisión del cumplimiento de la Convención. Asimismo, le recomienda que involucre de manera importante a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, tanto en la implementación como en el monitoreo del cumplimiento de la Convención.

Lithuania (2016)

67. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The Ministry of Social Security and Labour, which is in charge of coordinating implementation of the Convention, lacks the legal mandate, authority and human and financial resources to influence other ministries and State institutions and to coordinate effective implementation the Convention, and that there is no strong focal point within each ministry responsible for implementing the Convention;

(b) The Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson and the Council for the Affairs of the Disabled, which have been appointed to function as the State party's independent monitoring mechanisms, are not in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), notably because the Council falls under the mandate of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour;

(c) There is lack of consultation and involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Immediately take the steps necessary to empower and enable the Ministry of Social Security and Labour to coordinate the implementation of the Convention, and establish strong and efficient focal points within each ministry and State institution responsible for implementing the Convention;

- (b) Remove the Council for the Affairs of the Disabled from the independent monitoring framework and, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, expedite the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism that is in compliance with the Paris Principles and that has the required expertise and access to sufficient resources in accordance with article 33 (2) of the Convention;
- (c) Adopt legislation to guarantee the full participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the Convention.

Portugal (2016)

62. The Committee notes that the State party recently established the independent monitoring mechanism to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the Convention; however, it is concerned that the mechanism does not fully comply with the Paris Principles, and by the lack of funding allocated to it.

63. The Committee recommends that the State party adopts measures to ensure that the independent monitoring mechanism is in full compliance with the Paris Principles, in that no government representative should form part of it, ensure it has an adequate budget allocation to perform its duties, and that it work in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Serbia (2016)

67. The Committee is concerned there is no coordination mechanism as outlined in art.33 para. 1. In addition the National Human Rights Institution does not act as an independent mechanism as outlined in art. 33 para. 2. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information on the composition of the Council for Monitoring the implementation of UN Human Rights Mechanism Recommendations established in 2014 and the Council of the Government, and how and to what extent Civil Society takes part in them.

68. The Committee recommends the State party to ensure that independent organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) are systematically involved in the process of monitoring the Convention, and provide them with efficient budgetary support for this purpose.

Slovakia (2016)

87. The Committee notes with concern: (a) the limited capacity of the focal points and coordination mechanism; and (b) the absence of involvement and participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

88. The Committee recommends that the State party build up the capacity of focal points and coordination mechanisms to perform their duties in accordance with article 33 (1) of the Convention and provide support for the mandatory participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

Thailand (2016)

67. The Committee is concerned that the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities lacks sufficient capacity and resources to fulfil its mandate. It is also concerned about the criteria for the appointment of "disability experts", as well as the lack of a clear role for representative organizations of persons with disabilities. The Committee is further concerned that the status of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand was downgraded to "B".

68. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities closely consults with organizations representing persons with disabilities nationwide to standardize the selection of "disability experts", to ensure the quality of the experts and an adequate representation of the interests of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party develop a national action plan that incorporates a formal

system of monitoring to ensure the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Empowerment Act and other laws and policies relating to persons with disabilities. The State party is further encouraged to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention. It calls on the State party to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand fulfils the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

Uganda (2016)

64. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a strategy on the National Council for Disability to coordinate public policies in all areas covered by the Convention and that focal points have not been designated in all branches of government. It is also concerned about the insufficient resources given to the Uganda Human Rights Commission to fulfil its obligations as an independent monitoring body. It is further concerned at the absence of specific mechanisms for the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society in the entire process of monitoring the Convention, as set out in its article 33 (3).

65. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Expedite the process of appointing focal points within ministries and other government bodies, with sufficient funding, to enhance implementation of the provisions of the Convention and ensure accountability of government departments to mainstream rights of persons with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen the capacity of the Uganda Human Rights Commission with sufficient budgetary allocation and human resources to fulfil its mandate effectively and ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process, including by providing the necessary funding.

Brazil (2015)

59. The Committee is concerned that the National Council for the Protection of the Rights of People with Disabilities (CONADE) does not constitute an independent monitoring mechanism in accordance with the Paris Principles.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party establish an independent mechanism in line with the Paris Principles with the necessary resources to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the Convention, ensuring full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations herein.

European Union (2015)

76. The Committee notes with concern that the European Union Framework for implementation and monitoring of the Convention is not fully in line with the Paris principles, nor is adequately resourced. Moreover, the European Commission is designated as both the focal point (art. 33.1) and part of the monitoring framework (art. 33.2).

77. The Committee recommends that the European Union take measures to decouple the European Commission's roles - by its removal from the independent monitoring framework - to ensure full compliance with the Paris principles, and that the latter has adequate resources to perform its functions. It further recommends that the European Union consider the establishment of an inter-institutional coordination mechanism and designation of focal points in each EU institution, agency and body.

Gabon (2015)

71. The Committee is concerned about the specific role and mandate of the National Committee on Insertion of Persons with Disabilities (foreseen in Decree n°52/PR/MSNASBE, 04/02/2002) in relation to article 33(1) and that it has not been created. In addition, the Committee is concerned at the lack of an independent monitoring mechanism, including measures to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations.

72. The Committee recommends that the State party immediately designate bodies under article 33(1) and 33 (2). The latter adhering to the Paris Principles, as well as that it guarantee the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in all processes of the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

Kenya (2015)

59. The Committee is concerned about the lack of clarity in the designation of a focal point or focal points for the implementation of the Convention within the government and a coordination mechanism. It is also concerned that the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights does not form part of the national mechanism for monitoring the Convention, and that the current mechanism does not comply with the Paris Principles. It is further concerned at the absence of specific mechanisms for the participation of civil society organizations in the entire process of monitoring the Convention, as set out in article 33, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure explicit appointment of the governmental body which is the focal point for the implementation of the Convention, and consider the appointment of a coordination mechanism under Article 33 (1) and elaborate concretely on its prerogatives. It also recommends that the State party establish a national mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention, with the participation of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights as institution in compliance with the Paris Principles, in line with article 33.2 of the Convention, and ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process, including by providing the necessary funding.

Mauritius (2015)

45. The Committee is concerned that while a coordination of the implementation of the Convention is addressed, no adequate monitoring mechanism involving persons with disabilities and their representative organizations has been established so far.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent monitoring mechanism in conformity with the Paris Principles, ensuring that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations fully participate in the designation of the mechanism and monitoring the implementation of the Convention as required by article 33 (3).

Qatar (2015)

59. The Committee is concerned at the absence of high-level mechanisms to coordinate policy on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned about the independence of the National Human Rights Commission, the insufficiency of resources to carry out its tasks in relation to the Convention, and the low level of engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities.

60. The Committee recommends that the State party consider establishing a high-level framework authority at the ministerial level to coordinate matters relating to the implementation of the Convention across all sectors and between different levels of government. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide the appropriate human and financial resources to the National Human Rights Commission and to ensure its continued adherence to the Paris Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (see General Assembly resolution 48/134, annex). It also recommends that the State party ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities participate with this authority.

Ukraine (2015)

60. The Committee notes with concern the lack of independent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee is also

concerned that consultations of the civil society organizations working on the rights of persons with disabilities are not systematic and often formalistic.

61. The Committee recommends the State party to establish an independent body that should be entrusted with the mandate of the independent national monitoring mechanism in line with article 33, paragraph 2, of the Convention and in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), with allocation of adequate financial and human resources. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations working on the rights of persons with disabilities are de-jure involved on all legislative, financial and policy decisions that can have an impact on persons with disabilities.

Cook Islands (2015)

61. The Committee is concerned at the absence of an independent monitoring framework and the lack of civil society involvement.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent monitoring framework aligned to the Paris Principles, with an allocated budget and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities as required by article 33(3).

Croatia (2015)

52. The Committee is concerned that the independent monitoring body, the ombudswoman for persons with disabilities, is not designated as such by law and that it has no outreach possibilities to rural areas. It is further concerned that DPOs and other civil society organisations are not sufficiently supported by the government to participate in national implementation and monitoring.

53. The Committee recommends the State party to ensure existence of an independent monitoring body in accordance with the Paris Principles by adopting appropriate legislation on the ombudsperson of persons with disabilities. It is further recommended to provide DPOs and other civil society organizations with adequate resources for full and effective participation in the national implementation and monitoring process.

Czech Republic (2015)

60. The Committee notes with concern the lack of independent national monitoring mechanism in line with article 33, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

61. The Committee recommends the State party that the Office of Ombudsperson should be entrusted with the mandate of the independent national monitoring mechanism in line with article 33, paragraph 2, of the Convention and in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), with allocation of adequate financial and human resources.

Dominican Republic (2015)

62. El Comité observa que el Estado parte no ha designado al mecanismo independiente de seguimiento; también le preocupa el poco nivel de participación de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en los procesos de implementación y seguimiento de esta Convención.

63. El Comité recomienda al Estado parte:

(a) Designar en el más corto plazo el mecanismo independiente de supervisión de la Convención, en concordancia con el párrafo 33.2 y los Principios de París, y asigne los recursos necesarios para su funcionamiento; e

(b) Involucrar a las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad, tanto en los procesos de implementación de la Convención en concordancia con el artículo 33.1, como en el mecanismo designado según el párrafo 33.2 de la Convención.

Germany (2015)

61. The Committee is concerned that some focal points at the Länder level have not been formally designated as per the Convention requirements of article 33 (1) and that the State party does not provide the adequate resources on a permanent basis to support the independent monitoring mechanism's work according to article 33 (2).

62. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Consolidate the institutional structures in accordance with Article 33 (1) and formally implement the designation of focal points and their counterparts in the different areas of application of the Convention in all Länder;

(b) Reinforce the necessary resources and conditions for focal point independent activity, including the legal status of all Länder "Commissioners for Matters Relating to Disabled Persons";

(c) Strengthen the capacities of the independent monitoring mechanism according to art. 33 (2) ensure availability of resources for more comprehensive and effective monitoring at the Länder and municipal levels.

Mongolia (2015)

51. The Committee is concerned about the insufficient human, technical and financial resources allocated to foster a coherent national-level disability law and institutionalising policy changes for implementation of the Convention.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party specifically designate one or more national monitoring mechanisms in conformity with the Paris Principles to monitor implementation of the Convention. In doing so, the State party should ensure that this mechanism(s) is provided with adequate human, technical and financial resources. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that specific measures be undertaken for ensuring the full participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organisations in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

Turkmenistan (2015)

57. The Committee is concerned at the low attention paid to the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the establishment and functioning of an independent monitoring mechanism. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet identified a focal point in line with article 33.1 of the Convention.

58. The Committee calls on the State party to expedite the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism, with the active involvement of persons with disabilities and a focal point responsible for disability issues in accordance with the Convention and other international standards.

Denmark (2014)

66. While noting the operation of the State party's Interministerial Committee, the Committee is concerned that it seeks inputs from representative organizations of persons with disabilities in Denmark only occasionally, and that there is an absence of coordination with the representative organizations of persons with disabilities in the Faroe Islands and Greenland. The Committee is also concerned at the absence of coordination and of independent monitoring mechanisms in the Faroe Islands.

67. The Committee recommends that the State party enable civil society and, in particular, representative organizations of persons with disabilities, to fully and regularly participate in monitoring of the implementation of the Convention. The State party should also take the necessary measures for the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism, and of an independent monitoring mechanism, in the Faroe Islands. The Committee also recommends that the Government of the Faroe Islands establish a human

rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Republic of Korea (2014)

61. The Committee takes notes that the Bureau of Policy for Persons with Disabilities is in charge of the overall implementation of the Convention, the Policy Coordination Committee for Persons with Disabilities formulates, coordinates and monitors the implementation of basic policy on persons with disabilities, and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea provides advice or comments to the Policy Coordination Committee for Persons with Disabilities on the implementation of the Convention. However, the Committee is concerned that the Policy Coordination Committee for Persons with Disabilities is not functioning properly, and that the National Human Rights Commission of Korea lacks sufficient human and financial resources to monitor effectively the implementation of the Convention.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the Policy Coordination Committee for Persons with Disabilities carries out its role of effective development and implementation of policies related to persons with disabilities, and provide the National Human Rights Commission of Korea with sufficient human and financial resources to monitor effectively the implementation of the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party adopt legal provisions to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

Belgium (2014)

48. The Committee is concerned that the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention, appears to lack the independence required by the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

49. The Committee recommends that the State party complete the process to ensure the Centre's compliance with the Paris Principles.

Ecuador (2014)

54. The Committee is concerned that the Ombudsman's Office does not form part of the national mechanism for monitoring the Convention, which is made up of the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control and the Centre for Citizen Monitoring of Respect for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ecuador. The Committee is also concerned at the absence of specific mechanisms for the participation of civil society organizations in the entire process of monitoring the Convention, as set out in article 33, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

55. The Committee reminds the State party that the national monitoring mechanism must be independent and carry out specific tasks related to promotion, protection and monitoring the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee urges the State party to adopt the necessary legal measures to clearly establish the independent mechanism under the Convention in line with the Paris Principles, strengthen its capacities with the necessary budget and resources to fulfil its mandate effectively and ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the monitoring process.

Mexico (2014)

61. The Committee notes that despite the establishment of an independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention in Mexico, its structure, functions and

activities have not been defined with regard to the promotion, protection and monitoring of the rights enshrined in the Convention at the federal and state levels.

62. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission and the 32 state human rights entities, as the independent monitoring mechanism for the Convention, define the mechanism's structure, goals, indicators and resources. Moreover, the State party should strengthen the National Commission so that it may fulfil its mandate effectively and independently.

Sweden (2014)

61. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet introduced an independent mechanism based on the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (Paris Principles) to monitor the implementation of the Convention. The Committee is further concerned that coordination responsibility lies with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs instead of the ministry responsible for human rights and discrimination.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party establish an independent monitoring mechanism to fulfil effectively the obligation enshrined in the Convention in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Costa Rica (2014)

65. Al Comité le preocupa que el Estado parte no haya designado puntos focales relacionados con la aplicación de la Convención y la ausencia de consulta con organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en esta materia. Preocupa al Comité que no se haya establecido el mecanismo independiente de seguimiento que cumpla con los Principios de París, así como la escasa participación de la Defensoría de los Habitantes en esta función.

66. El Comité llama al Estado parte a establecer o designar los puntos focales encargados de la implementación de la Convención en consulta con las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad y en caso de que decida establecer mecanismos de coordinación para dicho fin. El Comité urge al Estado parte que designe un mecanismo independiente de monitoreo, que cumpla con los Principios de París y que fortalezca sus capacidades con presupuesto y recursos adecuados para garantizar efectivamente su mandato.

Australia (2013)

57. The Committee is concerned that Australia lacks a participatory and responsive structure for the implementation and monitoring of the Convention in line with Article 33.

58. The committee recommends the State party to immediately set up a monitoring system that would be fully in line with the provisions of art.33 of the Convention.

Austria (2013)

52. The Committee observes the creation of the "Independent Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" as Austria's article 33(2) independent monitoring mechanism. However, the Committee is concerned that the monitoring committee does not have its own budget and it appears to lack the independence required by the Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights (Paris Principles).

53. The Committee recommends that the full independence of the independent monitoring committee be guaranteed in accordance with the Paris principles. The Committee further recommends that the Länder create their own independent monitoring mechanisms to further coordinate disability policies and practices throughout Austria.

54. The Committee recommends that the Independent Monitoring Body be allocated a transparent budget and be given the power to administer that budget autonomously.

El Salvador (2013)

67. The Committee is concerned that the National Council for Persons with Disabilities still does not meet the requirements of the Convention regarding implementation mechanisms.

68. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a system for the implementation of the Convention fully in line with the provisions of article 33 of the Convention.

69. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not set up a framework to oversee the implementation of the Convention.

70. The Committee recommends that the State party officially designate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Convention in the country, involving both civil society and an institution fulfilling the Paris Principles regarding independent human rights institutions.

Paraguay (2013)

75. The Committee notes the creation of the Secretariat for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SENADIS), whose mandate is to coordinate policy on the rights of persons with disabilities in consultation with the National Commission on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS). It is nevertheless concerned that SENADIS has been given the task of implementation and independent monitoring even though it does not comply with the Paris Principles.

76. The Committee recommends that the State party set up an independent mechanism in compliance with the Paris Principles, with the necessary resources to monitor implementation of the Convention; that mechanism should be in permanent consultation with disabled persons' organizations at the national level.

77. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information in the State party on progress made with implementation of articles 17 (protecting the integrity of the person), 20 (personal mobility), 22 (respect for privacy) and 23 (respect for home and family).

78. The Committee asks the State party to include in its next periodic report exhaustive information on measures taken to guarantee those rights and to protect them and ensure their implementation.

Argentina (2012)

51. The Committee notes with concern that the National Advisory Commission on the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS) is not of a sufficiently high institutional rank to effectively carry out its duties as a mechanism for facilitating and coordinating matters relating to the implementation of the Convention at all levels and in all sectors of government. The Committee also notes with concern that the National Disability Observatory, which is tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Convention, is a subsidiary body of CONADIS, in violation of article 33, paragraph 2, of the Convention and the Paris Principles.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party raise the institutional rank of CONADIS and endow it with the human and financial resources it needs in order to effectively fulfil its mandate to coordinate the implementation of the Convention at all levels and in all sectors of government. The Committee urges the State party to designate an independent national oversight mechanism that is in full compliance with the Paris Principles and to provide guarantees, as a matter of priority, for the full participation of persons with disabilities and the organizations that represent them in the oversight process.

China (2012)

49. The Committee is concerned at the overall absence of independent bodies and DPOs systematically involved in the implementation process of the CRP. Considering that the China Disabled Persons' Federation remains the sole official representative of persons with disabilities in the state party, the Committee is concerned about the participation of civil society. In addition the Committee wonders which body or organization in China is designated the independent national monitoring mechanism as required by art. 33 (2) CRPD.

50. The Committee strongly recommends that the state party revise article 8 of the Law on the Protection of Disabled Persons, thus allowing non-governmental organizations other than the China Disabled Persons' Federation to represent the interests of disabled people in the state party and be involved in the monitoring process. It further recommends the establishment of an independent national monitoring mechanism in line with Art 33 (2) CRPD and in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Hong-Kong (2012)

83. The Committee is worried by the low rank of the focal point, the Commissioner for Rehabilitation and the lack of an independent monitoring mechanism according to article 33 (2).

84. The Committee recommends that Hong Kong, China, strengthen the authority of the Commissioner for Rehabilitation and set up an independent monitoring mechanism that involves the active participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Hungary (2012)

51. In spite of the efforts the State party has taken to put in place a monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Convention, the Committee is concerned that the National Disability Council, which has been designated to function as an independent monitoring mechanism, is not in compliance with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles) and, hence, not in line with article 33(2) of the Convention.

52. The Committee calls upon the State party to set up an independent monitoring mechanism in accordance with the Paris Principles and article 33(2) of the Convention, and to ensure the full participation of civil society, especially organizations of persons with disabilities, in the monitoring process and framework.

Peru (2012)

48. The Committee is concerned at the lack of clarity as to the functions and division of responsibilities of Multi-Sectoral Permanent Commission and CONADIS, as well as the fact that they are not compliant with the Paris Principles.

49. The Committee recommends that the State party specifically designate a national monitoring mechanism that is in conformity with the Paris Principles, and ensure, as a matter of priority, the full participation in the monitoring process of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Tunisia (2010)

41. The Committee takes note of the existence of specialized institutions mandated to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, namely the Higher Council for the Social Advancement and Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. However, it is concerned by the low participation of persons with disabilities in, and the independence of, these institutions.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that disabled persons' organizations are able to participate in the Higher Council for the Social Advancement and Protection of Persons with Disabilities, and thus play a central role in monitoring the implementation of the Convention;**
- (b) Ensure that the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms complies with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (see General Assembly resolution 48/134, annex), and establish a dedicated unit on disabilities.**