

International Disability Alliance

Breaking barriers & making CRPD rights real

An article-by-article synthesis of the concluding observations from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Purpose and scope

This is a synthesis of human rights standards from the concluding observations from the CRPD Committee's reviews of States parties intended for organizations of persons with disabilities, public authorities, national human rights institutions, development partners and advocates. The coverage is Articles 1 to 33, the substantive content of the CRPD.

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Article 1 Purpose

Implementation must secure the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and respect for inherent dignity. The Committee translates this purpose into a requirement to reform the way disability is understood, assessed and addressed throughout government.

- 1. Apply the human rights model of disability.** Recognize persons with disabilities as rights holders whose exclusion results from the interaction between impairments and barriers.¹ Replace approaches that make charity, medical treatment or protection by others the organizing basis of disability policy. Health care and support remain important and should be provided in ways that respect the person's dignity, choices and autonomy, and support their equal participation in society.²
- 2. Use an inclusive understanding of disability.** Bring definitions across legislation and administrative systems into line with the Convention.³ Its reference to persons with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments is inclusive rather than an exhaustive diagnostic list. Avoid excluding groups from rights and support because an assessment system fails to recognize their particular barriers or support requirements.⁴
- 3. Assess barriers and support requirements.** Redesign disability assessment and certification so that they examine environmental and legal barriers and the support needed for independent living and inclusion.⁵ Make procedures accessible and transparent, and avoid unnecessary repeat assessments. A medical diagnosis alone does not establish whether a person can exercise rights in their actual environment.⁶
- 4. Measure equal enjoyment of rights.** Evaluate whether people can make choices, participate and obtain the support they require across their lives. National disability strategies need measurable goals, resources and public accountability.⁷ Counting registrations or services delivered is insufficient to demonstrate that the Convention's purpose has been achieved.⁸

Questions for assessment

Do disability definitions and eligibility rules include groups previously overlooked? Do assessments identify barriers and support requirements, and do national indicators measure the exercise of rights?

¹ Mexico (2022), [CRPD/C/MEX/CO/2-3](#), para. 12; Nepal (2018), [CRPD/C/NPL/CO/1](#), para. 8.

² Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 6. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 6.

³ Nepal (2018), [CRPD/C/NPL/CO/1](#), para. 8; Jamaica (2022), [CRPD/C/JAM/CO/1](#), para. 7(b).

⁴ Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 6. Australia (2019), [CRPD/C/AUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 6.

⁵ South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 5; Paraguay (2023), [CRPD/C/PRY/CO/2-3](#), para. 8(b).

⁶ Belgium (2024), [CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3](#), para. 7. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 11. Australia (2019), [CRPD/C/AUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 6.

⁷ Kenya (2015), [CRPD/C/KEN/CO/1](#), para. 8(a); Paraguay (2023), [CRPD/C/PRY/CO/2-3](#), para. 8(d).

⁸ Australia (2019), [CRPD/C/AUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 6. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8.

Article 2 Definitions

The definitions in Article 2 determine how duties across the Convention operate. They should be incorporated consistently into legislation, standards, public administration and the work of private service providers.

- 1. Recognize the full range of communication and language.** Communication includes accessible digital information, Braille, tactile communication, large print, audio, plain language, human readers, and augmentative and alternative modes and formats. Language includes signed and non-spoken languages. Services must respond to the person's communication requirements rather than assume that speech, standard print or one digital channel is sufficient.⁹
- 2. Define disability discrimination by its purpose or effect.** Cover distinctions, exclusions and restrictions that impair equal enjoyment of rights, whether or not discriminatory intent can be proved. The definition applies across political, economic, social, cultural, civil and other fields, and expressly includes denial of reasonable accommodation.¹⁰
- 3. Make reasonable accommodation effective.** Require necessary and appropriate adjustments in a particular case, subject to the Convention's disproportionate or undue burden qualification. Establish clear procedures for discussing requirements with the person, deciding and implementing adjustments, and challenging refusal. The duty should appear across relevant laws and services rather than be confined to employment or education.¹¹
- 4. Use universal design from the outset.** Design products, environments, programmes and services for use by the widest range of people, with the least need for later adaptation.¹² Universal design does not remove the need for assistive devices or individual support. Apply the concept to legislation, standards, procurement and publicly financed development.¹³
- 5. Keep accessibility and individual accommodation connected.** Accessibility establishes the general conditions for equal access; reasonable accommodation responds to a particular person's situation. An accessible building or standard platform may still require individual adjustments. Conversely, responding to isolated requests does not discharge the duty to identify and remove systemic barriers.¹⁴

Questions for assessment: Do laws define these concepts consistently? Can a person request an adjustment, understand the decision and obtain a remedy if it is refused?

⁹ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 6. On accessible communication and related training, Cook Islands (2015), [CRPD/C/COK/CO/1](#), para. 42; Sudan (2018), [CRPD/C/SDN/CO/1](#), para. 44(b).

¹⁰ India (2019), [CRPD/C/IND/CO/1](#), para. 13. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 19.

¹¹ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 6. Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 12.

¹² Philippines (2018), [CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1](#), para. 21(a); Uruguay (2016), [CRPD/C/URY/CO/1](#), para. 22.

¹³ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 6. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 18.

¹⁴ Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 12. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 17. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 20.

Article 3 General principles

All eight principles must shape the interpretation and implementation of every article. They provide a test for the design of laws and programmes as well as for decisions affecting an individual.

- 1. Respect dignity, autonomy and independence.** Preserve the person's freedom to make choices and direct their own life, including when extensive support is required.¹⁵ Reform laws and practices that authorize others to determine a person's life on the basis of disability. Assistance must enable autonomy rather than transfer control to the provider or family.¹⁶
- 2. Secure non-discrimination and equality of opportunity.** Identify direct and indirect exclusion, provide reasonable accommodation, and address the social conditions that prevent equal participation.¹⁷ Apply this approach to the interaction between disability and other grounds of discrimination.¹⁸
- 3. Make participation and inclusion effective.** Ensure persons with disabilities can influence decisions through their representative organizations and participate in ordinary community life.¹⁹ Presence at a consultation, or physical placement in a mainstream setting without appropriate support, is insufficient to establish effective participation.²⁰
- 4. Respect difference and human diversity.** Remove derogatory language, stigma and policy assumptions that treat a particular impairment or way of communicating as evidence of lesser worth.²¹ Recognize the diversity of persons with disabilities, including people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and groups whose rights have received less attention.²²
- 5. Embed accessibility and gender equality.** Make accessibility a routine requirement of every policy and service. Apply equality between women and men throughout disability measures, and include disability in gender equality measures.²³ Women and girls with disabilities must have influence over both agendas.²⁴
- 6. Respect children's evolving capacities and identities.** Support children with disabilities to form and express views, give those views due weight according to age and maturity,

¹⁵ Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 26(a); Tunisia (2023), [CRPD/C/TUN/CO/2-3](#), para. 20.

¹⁶ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 7. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 24. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 37.

¹⁷ South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 9(a)–(b); Mexico (2022), [CRPD/C/MEX/CO/2-3](#), para. 16(a)–(b).

¹⁸ India (2019), [CRPD/C/IND/CO/1](#), para. 13. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 10.

¹⁹ Argentina (2023), [CRPD/C/ARG/CO/2-3](#), para. 10(a); Peru (2023), [CRPD/C/PER/CO/2-3](#), para. 9.

²⁰ Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 37. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 47.

²¹ Indonesia (2022), [CRPD/C/IDN/CO/1](#), para. 7(a); Mexico (2022), [CRPD/C/MEX/CO/2-3](#), para. 10.

²² Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 6. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 9. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 16.

²³ Haiti (2018), [CRPD/C/HTI/CO/1](#), para. 11(a)–(b); Indonesia (2022), [CRPD/C/IDN/CO/1](#), para. 13(b).

²⁴ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 18. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 12.

and preserve their identity and community connections.²⁵ Decisions should reflect the child's rights and development rather than assumptions that disability eliminates the capacity to participate.²⁶

Questions for assessment

Whose choices control the policy or service? Does its design advance all eight principles, including accessibility, gender equality and children's participation?

²⁵ Mauritius (2024), CRPD/C/MUS/CO/2-3, para. 14(c); Brazil (2015), CRPD/C/BRA/CO/1, para. 19.

²⁶ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 14. Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 14.

Article 4 General obligations

Implementation requires coordinated action across the whole State and the regulation of private actors. The Committee consistently calls for enforceable legal reform, funded plans, meaningful participation and accountability for results.

- 1. Review and reform the entire legal framework.** Audit existing and proposed laws, regulations, policies, administrative practices and discriminatory customs against the Convention.²⁷ Amend or repeal incompatible provisions and establish a procedure to prevent new incompatibilities. A disability act alone cannot remedy exclusion embedded in civil, criminal, family, education, health, employment or social protection law.²⁸
- 2. Mainstream disability across government.** Integrate rights into every relevant sector and assign clear responsibilities across ministries and levels of government.²⁹ National, regional, local and federal arrangements must secure consistent enjoyment of rights throughout the territory; decentralization does not excuse gaps in implementation.³⁰
- 3. Adopt a costed implementation plan.** Translate legal commitments into actions with responsible authorities, timelines, targets, indicators and adequate financial and human resources.³¹ Make budgets traceable and connect performance reporting, evaluation and corrective action to the plan. Ministry-specific disability allocations are one approach recommended.³²
- 4. Apply resource obligations accurately.** For economic, social and cultural rights, take measures using the maximum available resources towards progressive realization, including through international cooperation where needed. This does not postpone obligations that apply immediately, including non-discrimination. Assess budget reforms for their impact on rights; the Committee has required the avoidance and reversal of retrogressive cuts.³³
- 5. Formalise close consultation and active involvement.** Establish permanent and accessible procedures to involve persons with disabilities, including children, through their representative organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of decisions affecting them.³⁴ Provide relevant information early enough, allow sufficient time to respond and make participation possible across government portfolios and locations.³⁵

²⁷ Argentina (2023), [CRPD/C/ARG/CO/2-3](#), para. 8(a); Kenya (2015), [CRPD/C/KEN/CO/1](#), para. 6(a)–(c).

²⁸ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 6. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8. Australia (2019), [CRPD/C/AUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 6.

²⁹ Indonesia (2022), [CRPD/C/IDN/CO/1](#), para. 7(b); New Zealand (2022), [CRPD/C/NZL/CO/2-3](#), para. 6(a).

³⁰ Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 7.

³¹ Jordan (2017), [CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1](#), para. 10; Kenya (2015), [CRPD/C/KEN/CO/1](#), para. 8(a).

³² Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 6. Australia (2019), [CRPD/C/AUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 6. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8.

³³ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 7. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 55.

³⁴ Mexico (2022), [CRPD/C/MEX/CO/2-3](#), para. 14; Peru (2023), [CRPD/C/PER/CO/2-3](#), para. 9.

³⁵ Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8. Australia (2019), [CRPD/C/AUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 8. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 6.

- 6. Enable independent and diverse organizations of persons with disabilities.** Prioritize representative organizations led by persons with disabilities; service providers and other organizations working for them cannot substitute for their participation.³⁶ Fund and strengthen these organizations, including those representing women, children, Indigenous persons and people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities. Support sustained work beyond short projects, remove unreasonable administrative barriers and protect freedom to organize, advocate and obtain resources without reprisals.³⁷
- 7. Regulate public and private conduct.** Ensure public authorities act consistently with the Convention and address discrimination by businesses and other private actors. Use legislation, contracting, procurement conditions and enforcement to require accessible, non-discriminatory services.³⁸ Promote universal design and affordable assistive technology and provide accessible information about available support.³⁹
- 8. Build capacity and secure enforcement.** Train officials and professionals on the human rights model and on the duties relevant to their work.⁴⁰ Establish effective remedies and accessible accountability mechanisms, including the ability of representative organizations to pursue enforcement where appropriate. Monitor whether decisions produce changes in practice.⁴¹
- 9. Preserve stronger existing protection.** Article 4(4) preserves national and international provisions that are more conducive to realizing rights.⁴² The Convention cannot be used to justify reducing rights already recognized in another source of law. Review proposed reforms for both compliance with the CRPD and any loss of more protective existing guarantees.⁴³
- 10. Review reservations and strengthen international accountability.** The Committee has called on States to review and withdraw particular reservations or declarations and to ratify the Optional Protocol.⁴⁴ These are recommendations to strengthen implementation and access to international remedies. Ratification of the Optional Protocol is a separate treaty act, not an obligation created simply by ratifying the CRPD.⁴⁵

³⁶ Bangladesh (2022), [CRPD/C/BGD/CO/1](#), para. 10; France (2021), [CRPD/C/FRA/CO/1](#), paras. 9(a), 10(b).

³⁷ Georgia (2023), [CRPD/C/GEO/CO/1](#), para. 10. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 6. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 9.

³⁸ Philippines (2018), [CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1](#), para. 21(c); Senegal (2019), [CRPD/C/SEN/CO/1](#), para. 16(b).

³⁹ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 18. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 20. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 40.

⁴⁰ Jamaica (2022), [CRPD/C/JAM/CO/1](#), para. 7(c); Paraguay (2023), [CRPD/C/PRY/CO/2-3](#), para. 10(c).

⁴¹ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 6. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 10.

⁴² On maintaining existing disability protections, Thailand (2016), [CRPD/C/THA/CO/1](#), paras. 7–8.

⁴³ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 7. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8.

⁴⁴ Jordan (2017), [CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1](#), para. 6; Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 6(c).

⁴⁵ Australia (2019), [CRPD/C/AUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 6. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 8.

Questions for assessment: Is there a publicly funded plan with accountable ministries and deadlines? Can diverse organizations influence its content, and can people enforce their rights throughout the territory?

Article 5 Equality and non discrimination

Equality requires effective protection against exclusion and changes to the conditions that produce it. The Committee addresses both individual discrimination and the structural disadvantage experienced by particular groups.

- 1. Prohibit all forms of disability discrimination.** Protect against direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and denial of reasonable accommodation in every area of life, including conduct by private actors.⁴⁶ Cover discrimination by association and perceived disability, and do not make protection dependent on a particular certified level of impairment.⁴⁷
- 2. Recognize multiple and intersectional discrimination.** Address how disability interacts with sex, gender, age, race, ethnicity, Indigenous identity, sexual orientation, migration status and other circumstances.⁴⁸ Establish legal protection, evidence and targeted strategies that respond to the combined disadvantage rather than examining each ground in isolation.⁴⁹
- 3. Provide reasonable accommodation in practice.** Make denial of accommodation an actionable form of discrimination.⁵⁰ Require dialogue with the person and clear procedures for requesting, providing and reviewing adjustments across all relevant services and sectors. The statutory duty must translate into an adjustment the person can actually use.⁵¹
- 4. Remove discriminatory laws and status rules.** Repeal restrictions that exclude groups from marriage, movement, public participation or other rights because of an impairment or associated condition.⁵² The recommendations concerning persons affected by leprosy illustrate the need to review laws beyond the principal disability statute.⁵³
- 5. Use specific measures to achieve substantive equality.** Article 5(4) permits measures necessary to accelerate or achieve equality.⁵⁴ Combine mainstream reform with targeted measures for groups experiencing entrenched exclusion. Assess results through changes in access, participation and outcomes, rather than treating identical treatment as sufficient in unequal circumstances.⁵⁵

⁴⁶ On direct and indirect discrimination and discrimination by association, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017), [CRPD/C/GBR/CO/1](#), para. 17(b).

⁴⁷ Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 12. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 19. Spain (2011), [CRPD/C/ESP/CO/1](#), para. 20.

⁴⁸ Nepal (2018), [CRPD/C/NPL/CO/1](#), para. 10; Mexico (2022), [CRPD/C/MEX/CO/2-3](#), para. 16(a).

⁴⁹ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 10. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 19. India (2019), [CRPD/C/IND/CO/1](#), para. 13.

⁵⁰ South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 9(a); Iraq (2019), [CRPD/C/IRQ/CO/1](#), para. 12(b).

⁵¹ Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 12. China (2022), [CRPD/C/CHN/CO/2-3](#), para. 13.

⁵² Jordan (2017), [CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1](#), para. 8(b).

⁵³ India (2019), [CRPD/C/IND/CO/1](#), para. 13.

⁵⁴ On targeted measures to achieve equality, Iraq (2019), [CRPD/C/IRQ/CO/1](#), para. 12(b); Jamaica (2022), [CRPD/C/JAM/CO/1](#), para. 11(c).

⁵⁵ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 10. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 53.

6. Provide effective remedies and investigate patterns. Ensure accessible legal remedies, appropriate compensation and redress for discrimination.⁵⁶ Resource complaint bodies, remove barriers to bringing a case, and analyze complaints and outcomes to identify systemic problems. Use this evidence to develop corrective plans with timelines and indicators.⁵⁷

7. Read reproductive law recommendations in their context. In its 2017 UK observations, the Committee called for amendment of rules permitting termination at any stage because of fetal impairment, while affirming women's reproductive and sexual autonomy. This country-specific recommendation should be read with informed choice and bodily autonomy; it is not a general prohibition of abortion.⁵⁸

Questions for assessment

Can a person challenge indirect discrimination or refusal of an adjustment in any sector? Do equality measures address intersecting disadvantage, and do remedies change the discriminatory practice?

⁵⁶ Costa Rica (2024), [CRPD/C/CRI/CO/2-3](#), para. 10(a); South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 9(c)–(d).

⁵⁷ India (2019), [CRPD/C/IND/CO/1](#), para. 13. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 10. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 26.

⁵⁸ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017), [CRPD/C/GBR/CO/1](#), para. 12. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017), [CRPD/C/GBR/CO/1](#), para. 13.

Article 6 Women with disabilities

Women and girls with disabilities must be able to exercise rights, make decisions and shape public policy. Implementation combines their inclusion in gender equality measures with a gender perspective across disability policy and targeted measures for their advancement.

- 1. Integrate disability and gender across both agendas.** Include women and girls with disabilities in gender equality, violence prevention, education, employment, health and social protection policies.⁵⁹ Include gender equality in disability laws and programmes, and establish institutional responsibility and resources for doing so.⁶⁰
- 2. Address intersecting discrimination.** Design measures around the actual circumstances of women and girls with disabilities, including Indigenous, racialized, migrant and rural women and those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.⁶¹ Recognize differences within this population and remove barriers to justice and services for groups that are less visible.⁶²
- 3. Advance autonomy and economic inclusion.** Adopt targeted measures to expand education, decent work, health care and social protection so that women can exercise control over their lives.⁶³ Address stereotypes within families, institutions and public services that limit aspirations, mobility or access to resources.⁶⁴
- 4. Support leadership and independent organization.** Closely consult and actively involve women and girls with disabilities through their representative organizations in decisions affecting them.⁶⁵ Promote their influence in public decision-making and leadership, and provide the resources and accessibility needed for sustained participation.⁶⁶
- 5. Protect bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights.** Provide accessible information and services, respect personal free and informed consent, and remove stereotypes that deny sexuality, relationships or parenthood.⁶⁷ Prohibit forced sterilization, abortion and contraception and provide remedies for violations. Protection from violence must preserve the woman's autonomy.⁶⁸

⁵⁹ Indonesia (2022), [CRPD/C/IDN/CO/1](#), para. 13(b); Haiti (2018), [CRPD/C/HTI/CO/1](#), para. 11(a)–(b).

⁶⁰ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 12. Benin (2024), [CRPD/C/BEN/CO/1](#), para. 12. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 11.

⁶¹ Indonesia (2022), [CRPD/C/IDN/CO/1](#), para. 13(c); Jordan (2017), [CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1](#), para. 16(a).

⁶² Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 11. Angola (2023), [CRPD/C/AGO/CO/1](#), para. 10.

⁶³ Argentina (2023), [CRPD/C/ARG/CO/2-3](#), para. 14(b); Rwanda (2019), [CRPD/C/RWA/CO/1](#), para. 12(c).

⁶⁴ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 12. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 53.

⁶⁵ Haiti (2018), [CRPD/C/HTI/CO/1](#), para. 11(c); Argentina (2023), [CRPD/C/ARG/CO/2-3](#), para. 14(c).

⁶⁶ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 12. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 9. Benin (2024), [CRPD/C/BEN/CO/1](#), para. 12.

⁶⁷ Mauritania (2023), [CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1](#), para. 44(b); Netherlands (2024), [CRPD/C/NLD/CO/1](#), para. 40(c).

⁶⁸ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 12. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 33.

6. Make prevention and responses to violence inclusive. Address the particular forms of exploitation and violence experienced by women and girls with disabilities.⁶⁹ Provide accessible complaints, shelters, justice and recovery services, with appropriate communication and support, and train personnel to recognize and respond to abuse.⁷⁰

7. Track implementation and results. Set targets, deadlines and indicators; resource responsible bodies; and establish monitoring and accountability for policies concerning women and girls with disabilities.⁷¹ Collect information that can reveal both gender inequality and disability exclusion.⁷²

Questions for assessment

Do women and girls with disabilities shape both disability and gender policy? Can they obtain income, sexual and reproductive health care and protection from violence while retaining control over their decisions?

⁶⁹ Zambia (2024), CRPD/C/ZMB/CO/1, para. 32(a)–(c); Cuba (2019), CRPD/C/CUB/CO/1, para. 32(c)–(d).

⁷⁰ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 31. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 33.

⁷¹ Rwanda (2019), CRPD/C/RWA/CO/1, para. 12(a); Argentina (2023), CRPD/C/ARG/CO/2-3, para. 14(b).

⁷² Benin (2024), CRPD/C/BEN/CO/1, para. 12. Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 11.

Article 7 Children with disabilities

Children with disabilities enjoy all rights on an equal basis with other children. Their best interests must be a primary consideration, their evolving capacities respected, and their own views heard with appropriate assistance.

- 1. Include children across the child rights framework.** Mainstream disability into legislation, public policy, early childhood programmes, child protection and rights impact assessments.⁷³ Allocate resources and use disaggregated data to measure whether children with disabilities receive equal protection and opportunities.⁷⁴
- 2. Respect the child's own voice.** Establish accessible and age-appropriate ways for children to form and express views in family, school, community, administrative and legislative decisions.⁷⁵ Provide communication assistance and give their views due weight according to age and maturity. Involve organizations of children with disabilities as well as other representative organizations.⁷⁶
- 3. Enable family life and prevent institutionalization.** Provide sufficient support to children and their families to prevent abandonment, unnecessary separation and placement in institutions.⁷⁷ Develop community services and inclusive childcare. Children requiring intensive support, including deafblind children and children with multiple disabilities, must be included in these measures.⁷⁸
- 4. Provide early and continuing inclusive support.** Ensure equal access to early childhood development, inclusive education, individualized support, health care, rehabilitation and assistive devices.⁷⁹ Extend services to rural and remote areas and remove financial barriers that prevent timely access.⁸⁰
- 5. Prevent and respond to violence and neglect.** Protect children against corporal punishment, exploitation, abuse and neglect in every setting.⁸¹ Provide accessible detection and reporting procedures, investigate violations and support recovery. Collect information on violence to improve protection and prevention.⁸²

⁷³ Mauritius (2024), [CRPD/C/MUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 14(a), (d); Bangladesh (2022), [CRPD/C/BGD/CO/1](#), para. 16(a).

⁷⁴ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 14.

⁷⁵ Brazil (2015), [CRPD/C/BRA/CO/1](#), para. 19; Mauritius (2024), [CRPD/C/MUS/CO/2-3](#), para. 14(c).

⁷⁶ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 14. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 14. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 14.

⁷⁷ Kenya (2015), [CRPD/C/KEN/CO/1](#), para. 14(a)–(c).

⁷⁸ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 14. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 14. Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 15.

⁷⁹ Vanuatu (2019), [CRPD/C/VUT/CO/1](#), para. 15(a); Albania (2019), [CRPD/C/ALB/CO/1](#), para. 16(b).

⁸⁰ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 14. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 14.

⁸¹ On corporal punishment and harmful practices, Bangladesh (2022), [CRPD/C/BGD/CO/1](#), para. 16(b).

⁸² Tunisia (2023), [CRPD/C/TUN/CO/2-3](#), para. 12. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 14. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 32.

6. Respond to culture and intersecting exclusion. Ensure policies and support reflect the experiences and cultural contexts of Indigenous and racialized children and others facing additional barriers.⁸³ Protect community connections and access to information while ensuring that cultural practices do not excuse discrimination or abuse.⁸⁴

Questions for assessment

Can a child express a view using their preferred communication? Are support and services sufficient for children to grow up in families, attend inclusive education and obtain protection from violence?

⁸³ New Zealand (2022), CRPD/C/NZL/CO/2-3, para. 12.

⁸⁴ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 14. Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 14.

Article 8 Awareness raising

Awareness-raising should change attitudes and conduct that deny rights. The Committee calls for sustained, accessible programmes designed with persons with disabilities, with attention to harmful beliefs and measurable results.

- 1. Adopt a sustained national programme.** Use a comprehensive plan with clear goals, resources, timelines and monitoring. Cover public and private institutions and society as a whole, including families, schools, workplaces, religious institutions and media.⁸⁵ Reach rural and remote communities as well as major urban centres.⁸⁶
- 2. Challenge ableism and harmful stereotypes.** Address assumptions that persons with disabilities are inferior, incapable, dangerous or dependent by nature.⁸⁷ Present rights, capabilities and contributions while respecting diversity. Avoid communication that reinforces the medical or charity model or presents a person's worth as dependent on exceptional achievement.⁸⁸
- 3. Prevent harm linked to myths and prejudice.** Use targeted education to counter beliefs that expose particular groups to exclusion, abuse or threats to life, including persons with albinism.⁸⁹ Link awareness measures to protective and enforcement measures where harmful practices persist.⁹⁰
- 4. Train people whose decisions affect rights.** Provide practical education for officials, judges, law enforcement personnel, teachers, health workers, employers and media professionals.⁹¹ Training should connect rights to everyday decisions and challenge discriminatory language and practices within institutions.⁹²
- 5. Ensure accessibility and leadership by persons with disabilities.** Closely consult and actively involve representative organizations in design, delivery and evaluation.⁹³ Make materials accessible to different communication requirements and languages so that people with disabilities can use the information themselves.⁹⁴

⁸⁵ Togo (2023), [CRPD/C/TGO/CO/1](#), para. 16(a); Seychelles (2018), [CRPD/C/SYC/CO/1](#), para. 13.

⁸⁶ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 15. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 17. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 16.

⁸⁷ Panama (2017), [CRPD/C/PAN/CO/1](#), para. 25; Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), [CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1](#), para. 15(a).

⁸⁸ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 16. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 17.

⁸⁹ Uganda (2016), [CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1](#), para. 15(c); Kenya (2015), [CRPD/C/KEN/CO/1](#), para. 20(c).

⁹⁰ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 17. Benin (2024), [CRPD/C/BEN/CO/1](#), para. 20.

⁹¹ Togo (2023), [CRPD/C/TGO/CO/1](#), para. 16(b); Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), [CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1](#), para. 15(d).

⁹² Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 16. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 6.

⁹³ Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), [CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1](#), para. 15(a), (c); Panama (2017), [CRPD/C/PAN/CO/1](#), para. 25.

⁹⁴ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 15. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 16. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 17.

- 6. Respect autonomy in sensitive information.** Ensure information about disability, including information provided during prenatal screening, is comprehensive and non-directive and does not reproduce stereotypes.⁹⁵ The Committee's Canadian recommendation connects awareness-raising with respect for informed personal choices.⁹⁶
- 7. Evaluate changes in attitudes and practice.** Measure whether programmes reduce harmful beliefs and improve the conduct of services and communities.⁹⁷ Review and adapt programmes where stigma persists; numbers of campaigns or participants alone do not show that attitudes have changed.⁹⁸

Questions for assessment

Are persons with disabilities shaping public messages? Is there evidence of reduced stigma and changed practice, including in rural communities and by public officials?

⁹⁵ Belgium (2024), CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3, para. 17(b); Sweden (2024), CRPD/C/SWE/CO/2-3, para. 20(a).

⁹⁶ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 16.

⁹⁷ Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1, para. 15(b); Togo (2023), CRPD/C/TGO/CO/1, para. 16(a).

⁹⁸ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 15. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 17. Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 16.

Article 9 Accessibility

Accessibility requires the systematic identification and removal of barriers in the physical environment, transport, information, communications and services open or provided to the public. The duty concerns private as well as public provision and extends to rural areas.

- 1. Adopt comprehensive and enforceable standards.** Establish binding requirements covering buildings, roads, housing, transport, information and communications technology and other public services.⁹⁹ Include physical, sensory, cognitive and communication accessibility. Set responsibilities, deadlines and compliance mechanisms, and involve representative organizations in developing and monitoring the standards.¹⁰⁰
- 2. Prevent new barriers and remove existing ones.** Apply universal design to new development and establish funded programmes to remedy inaccessible existing infrastructure.¹⁰¹ Existing buildings should not fall outside the accessibility framework simply because they are not being renovated. Audit barriers and use clear priorities and timelines to organize their removal.¹⁰²
- 3. Make the whole journey accessible.** Address vehicles, stations, stops, booking, information, interchanges and assistance across land, sea and air transport. Aim for autonomous use. The German observations also call for protection against disability-based denial of boarding and requirements to travel with an accompanying person, and compensation for damaged mobility equipment or assistance animals.¹⁰³
- 4. Ensure digital and information accessibility.** Require accessible websites, apps, platforms, public communications and digital identification.¹⁰⁴ Apply relevant accessibility standards and test with people with different disabilities. Digital transformation must include people with intellectual disabilities and those using screen readers, sign language, Easy Read or alternative communication.¹⁰⁵
- 5. Provide communication support and assistance.** Combine accessible infrastructure with signage, Braille, live assistance and qualified interpreters where required. Ensure that information about services is accessible and that staff know how to support access without undermining autonomy or imposing unnecessary conditions.¹⁰⁶

⁹⁹ Oman (2018), CRPD/C/OMN/CO/1, para. 20(a); El Salvador (2019), CRPD/C/SLV/CO/2-3, para. 19(b).

¹⁰⁰ Germany (2023), CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 20. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 19. Kiribati (2025), CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1, para. 18.

¹⁰¹ Oman (2018), CRPD/C/OMN/CO/1, para. 20(a); Uruguay (2016), CRPD/C/URY/CO/1, para. 22.

¹⁰² Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 17. Kiribati (2025), CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1, para. 18. Germany (2023), CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 20.

¹⁰³ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 17. Kiribati (2025), CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1, para. 18. Germany (2023), CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 20.

¹⁰⁴ Senegal (2019), CRPD/C/SEN/CO/1, para. 16(d); Philippines (2018), CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1, para. 21(a).

¹⁰⁵ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 17. European Union (2025), CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3, para. 27. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 19.

¹⁰⁶ Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 19. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 41.

- 6. Use purchasing and financing to secure accessibility.** Include universal design and accessibility requirements in procurement, funding contracts and agreements with development partners.¹⁰⁷ Specify requirements before commissioning buildings, transport, technology or services so that public and donor funds do not create avoidable barriers.¹⁰⁸
- 7. Monitor compliance and enforce corrective action.** Conduct accessibility audits, monitor delivery against standards and require correction of non-compliance.¹⁰⁹ Train relevant professionals and ensure that construction and service providers implement the law. The objective is usable access in practice rather than formal compliance on paper.¹¹⁰

Questions for assessment

Can people complete an entire journey or service transaction using their preferred communication and support? Are new investments accessible, and is there a funded and enforced timetable for removing existing barriers?

¹⁰⁷ Philippines (2018), CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1, para. 21(c); Senegal (2019), CRPD/C/SEN/CO/1, para. 16(b).

¹⁰⁸ Kiribati (2025), CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1, para. 18. Maldives (2025), CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1, para. 18.

¹⁰⁹ Uruguay (2016), CRPD/C/URY/CO/1, para. 22; Portugal (2016), CRPD/C/PRT/CO/1, para. 23.

¹¹⁰ Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 19. European Union (2025), CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3, para. 27. Germany (2023), CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 20.

Article 10 Right to life

States must protect life on an equal basis, including where disability-based prejudice, discriminatory health decisions or failures of support expose people to death. The compilation also contains recommendations on specific national death penalty and assisted-dying regimes.

- 1. Prevent disability-related killings and life-threatening abuse.** Protect people exposed to abduction, murder, ritual attacks or infanticide.¹¹¹ Establish protection measures, investigate and prosecute perpetrators, and address the beliefs that enable such violence. Fund targeted protection where particular groups, including persons with albinism, face identifiable threats.¹¹²
- 2. Provide equal access to life-saving treatment.** Do not restrict intensive care, resuscitation or life-supporting treatment on the basis of disability.¹¹³ Ensure advice to individuals and families is free from assumptions that a life with disability has lesser value. Include children with disabilities in equal treatment guarantees.¹¹⁴
- 3. Respect personal consent in medical decisions.** Guarantee personal free and informed consent and eliminate substitute decision-making for medical interventions.¹¹⁵ Provide support to understand and communicate choices. Protection of life must operate alongside legal capacity, bodily integrity and the right to health.¹¹⁶
- 4. Address deprivation that places lives at risk.** Provide accessible housing, health care, community support and assistance, and address poverty, homelessness and violence. In its Canadian observations, the Committee directly links these failures in social conditions and support to the protection of life.¹¹⁷
- 5. Apply the Committee's death penalty recommendations accurately.** The Committee has called for abolition, continued moratoria, protection of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, and disability-related support for people on death row.¹¹⁸ Its Maldives recommendation includes release of persons with disabilities then on death row. This specific remedy should not be presented as the identical wording of a universal Article 10 rule.¹¹⁹

¹¹¹ Kenya (2015), [CRPD/C/KEN/CO/1](#), para. 20; South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 19.

¹¹² Benin (2024), [CRPD/C/BEN/CO/1](#), para. 20. Malawi (2023), [CRPD/C/MWI/CO/1-2](#), para. 22.

¹¹³ On non-discriminatory resuscitation decisions, Switzerland (2022), [CRPD/C/CHE/CO/1](#), para. 22.

¹¹⁴ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 19.

¹¹⁵ Portugal (2016), [CRPD/C/PRT/CO/1](#), para. 37; Chile (2016), [CRPD/C/CHL/CO/1](#), para. 42.

¹¹⁶ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 19. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 24.

¹¹⁷ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 20.

¹¹⁸ Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2017), [CRPD/C/IRN/CO/1](#), para. 23; Singapore (2022), [CRPD/C/SGP/CO/1](#), para. 20.

¹¹⁹ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 20.

6. Examine assisted-dying laws for discriminatory effects. The Committee recommended repeal of Canada's Track 2 medical assistance in dying, opposed proposed extensions to mature minors and advance requests, and called for independent oversight and investment in support. This is a concrete interpretation applied to that regime; the compilation does not establish one identical recommendation concerning every end-of-life law in every State.¹²⁰

Questions for assessment

Do protection and health systems value the lives of persons with disabilities equally? Are deaths, threats and coercive pressures linked to discrimination or unmet support investigated and addressed?

¹²⁰ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 20.

Article 11 Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

Protection and safety must be secured in armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters in accordance with international law. The Committee's recommendations extend across prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, climate policy and reconstruction.

- 1. Integrate disability throughout emergency frameworks.** Include concrete disability measures in civil protection, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, public health preparedness and climate policies.¹²¹ Establish responsibilities, budgets, capacity-building, reporting and disability inclusion indicators. Apply the framework across territories and to different types of emergency.¹²²
- 2. Give organizations a formal decision-making role.** Closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities through representative organizations in risk assessment, planning, aid allocation, delivery and monitoring.¹²³ Include marginalized communities and people outside major cities. Participation must continue during emergencies and recovery.¹²⁴
- 3. Make warnings, evacuation and shelters accessible.** Provide warnings and instructions in sign language, Easy Read, Braille and other accessible formats, with usable communication channels.¹²⁵ Ensure evacuation routes, transport, shelters, sanitation and relief information are accessible. Plans must reach people in homes, institutions, border areas and remote communities.¹²⁶
- 4. Ensure equal aid and continuity of essential support.** Provide access to food, water, electricity, health care, medication, mobility aids, assistive technologies, rehabilitation and community support.¹²⁷ Arrange safe use, repair and maintenance of personal devices and avoid making assistance inaccessible through registration or distribution procedures.¹²⁸

¹²¹ Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 20(a); Haiti (2018), [CRPD/C/HTI/CO/1](#), para. 21(a).

¹²² Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 21. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 20. Ukraine (2024), [CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3](#), para. 23.

¹²³ Palau (2025), [CRPD/C/PLW/CO/1](#), para. 20; Haiti (2018), [CRPD/C/HTI/CO/1](#), para. 21(b).

¹²⁴ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 21. Ukraine (2024), [CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3](#), para. 23.

¹²⁵ Palau (2025), [CRPD/C/PLW/CO/1](#), para. 20; Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 20(b).

¹²⁶ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 21. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 20. Ukraine (2024), [CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3](#), para. 23.

¹²⁷ On equal and accessible humanitarian assistance, Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 20(b); Haiti (2018), [CRPD/C/HTI/CO/1](#), para. 21(c).

¹²⁸ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 20. Ukraine (2024), [CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3](#), para. 23. Israel (2023), [CRPD/C/ISR/CO/1](#), para. 24.

- 5. Protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian access.** In armed conflict, identify and prevent disability-related risks, protect persons with disabilities against violence, and safeguard civilian infrastructure and services. The Israel observations call for compliance with international humanitarian law, protection of hospitals, rehabilitation centres, ambulances and schools, and unrestricted humanitarian assistance and access by humanitarian actors.¹²⁹
- 6. Protect displaced people and family unity.** Provide accessible assistance and safe accommodation for internally displaced people, refugees and persons in refugee-like situations.¹³⁰ Maintain access to entitlements and long-term support, prevent forced transfers and family separation, and support reunification. Address violence and exploitation, including sexual violence and forced marriage.¹³¹
- 7. Prevent institutionalization during evacuation and recovery.** Maintain family and community living and prevent emergency arrangements from placing people in institutions. The Ukraine observations address children sent abroad and require receiving arrangements that do not institutionalize them. Redirect funding that perpetuates segregation towards support consistent with the Convention.¹³²
- 8. Make reconstruction and climate action inclusive.** Embed accessibility, participation and long-term inclusion in recovery contracts, infrastructure, climate adaptation and development programmes.¹³³ Require businesses participating in reconstruction to meet accessibility standards and establish enforcement mechanisms. Include the livelihoods and requirements of persons with disabilities in climate planning.¹³⁴

Questions for assessment

Can every person receive a warning, evacuate and obtain assistance without losing essential support or family connections? Do emergency funding and reconstruction preserve community living and meet accessibility standards?

¹²⁹ Israel (2023), [CRPD/C/ISR/CO/1](#), para. 24.

¹³⁰ Sudan (2018), [CRPD/C/SDN/CO/1](#), para. 22(b).

¹³¹ Ukraine (2024), [CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3](#), para. 23. Israel (2023), [CRPD/C/ISR/CO/1](#), para. 24.

¹³² Ukraine (2024), [CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3](#), para. 23.

¹³³ On disability-inclusive climate policy, Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 20(a).

¹³⁴ Ukraine (2024), [CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3](#), para. 23. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 20.

Article 12 Equal recognition before the law

Persons with disabilities must be recognized as persons before the law and enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis in all aspects of life. The Committee consistently calls for the replacement of substitute decision-making with support that respects the person's will and preferences.

- 1. Recognize universal legal capacity.** Remove disability-based rules that deprive a person of the ability to hold or exercise rights.¹³⁵ Reform civil, family, mental health and other legislation so that intellectual or psychosocial disability does not justify another person taking over decisions.¹³⁶
- 2. Replace guardianship and other substitute regimes.** Eliminate substitute decision-making in law and practice and adopt a comprehensive supported decision-making framework.¹³⁷ Coordinate implementation across jurisdictions and services. Changing terminology while retaining another person's power to impose decisions does not meet the Committee's recommendation.¹³⁸
- 3. Provide individualized and accessible support.** Offer the assistance needed to understand information, consider options and express and act on decisions.¹³⁹ Support must respect autonomy and be responsive to the individual's communication and support requirements. Embed these arrangements in ordinary public services and relevant legal processes.¹⁴⁰
- 4. Follow will and preferences.** Do not replace an adult's decisions with a third party's view of their best interests.¹⁴¹ Where will and preferences are difficult to determine, the Committee's Djibouti observations call for their best interpretation rather than a substitute best-interests test. Invest in communication and support to understand the person.¹⁴²
- 5. Provide safeguards that protect rights.** Article 12(4) requires safeguards against abuse, conflicts of interest and undue influence, with measures proportionate and tailored to the person, applied for the shortest possible time and subject to regular independent review. Safeguards must respect rights, will and preferences and should not recreate a power to substitute decisions.¹⁴³

¹³⁵ Guatemala (2016), [CRPD/C/GTM/CO/1](#), para. 32; Nepal (2018), [CRPD/C/NPL/CO/1](#), para. 22.

¹³⁶ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 24. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 24. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 26.

¹³⁷ Guatemala (2016), [CRPD/C/GTM/CO/1](#), para. 32; Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 26(a).

¹³⁸ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 24. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 24. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 26.

¹³⁹ Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 26(a), (c).

¹⁴⁰ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 24. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 24.

¹⁴¹ Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 26(a).

¹⁴² Djibouti (2021), [CRPD/C/DJI/CO/1](#), para. 20.

¹⁴³ Belgium (2024), [CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3](#), para. 25. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 24.

- 6. Enable decisions about property and finances.** Remove discrimination in banking and financial services and ensure equal rights to own and inherit property, control financial affairs and obtain loans and credit.¹⁴⁴ Provide accessible processes and decision-making support while protecting against arbitrary deprivation of property.¹⁴⁵
- 7. Apply the standard across services and migration procedures.** Ensure health and mental health frameworks respect personal free and informed consent. Review representative or assistance mechanisms in immigration and other proceedings so that they operate as support based on the person's will and preferences.¹⁴⁶
- 8. Train and resource implementation.** Develop a funded national strategy with representative organizations. Train judges, public officials, health professionals, service providers and families, and explain legal capacity and supported decision-making to the public.¹⁴⁷ Monitor whether the new system changes who actually controls decisions.¹⁴⁸

Questions for assessment

Can the person make and act on decisions in every area of life? Do support and safeguards respect their will and preferences, and have substitute powers actually been removed?

¹⁴⁴ On autonomy in financial transactions, Tunisia (2023), [CRPD/C/TUN/CO/2-3](#), para. 20(b).

¹⁴⁵ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 33.

¹⁴⁶ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 24.

¹⁴⁷ Nepal (2018), [CRPD/C/NPL/CO/1](#), para. 22; Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 26(b)–(c).

¹⁴⁸ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 24. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 26. Djibouti (2021), [CRPD/C/DJI/CO/1](#), para. 20.

Article 13 Access to justice

Justice systems must enable effective participation on an equal basis, including through procedural and age-appropriate accommodations. Access concerns the whole process, from initial contact with police or an administrative body to hearings, decisions and remedies.

- 1. Make every stage of the justice process and every setting accessible.** Ensure physical, information and communication accessibility in police stations, courts, tribunals, detention facilities and administrative proceedings.¹⁴⁹ Provide accessible information about rights and procedures and make digital justice systems usable by persons with different disabilities.¹⁵⁰
- 2. Provide procedural and age-appropriate accommodations.** Establish clear procedures for identifying and providing adjustments, including sign language interpretation and accessible communication.¹⁵¹ Avoid unnecessary medical-documentation requirements and protect privacy. Provide accommodations without charging the person in civil, criminal and administrative proceedings. Procedural accommodations are distinct from reasonable accommodation and are not limited by the disproportionate or undue burden qualification.¹⁵²
- 3. Respect legal capacity and participation in all roles.** Enable people to participate as complainants, defendants, witnesses and other justice users and to work as judges, lawyers and court personnel.¹⁵³ Remove barriers in professional examinations and legal careers and provide relevant support and reasonable accommodation.¹⁵⁴
- 4. Provide effective legal assistance.** Ensure legal aid has adequate funding, sufficiently broad eligibility and appropriate subject coverage.¹⁵⁵ Provide accessible advice and representation and address uneven access between regions. The availability of a court is insufficient if costs or lack of assistance prevent a person from using it.¹⁵⁶
- 5. Remove discriminatory credibility assessments.** Train justice personnel to recognize prejudice against testimony and complaints by persons with disabilities. Address barriers faced by women and children reporting violence, including communication barriers and charges for documentation needed to pursue a case.¹⁵⁷

¹⁴⁹ Colombia (2016), CRPD/C/COL/CO/1, para. 35(c); Niger (2019), CRPD/C/NER/CO/1, para. 22(b).

¹⁵⁰ Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 27. Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 26. Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 26.

¹⁵¹ Colombia (2016), CRPD/C/COL/CO/1, para. 35(b); Niger (2019), CRPD/C/NER/CO/1, para. 22(a)–(b).

¹⁵² Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 26. Belgium (2024), CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3, para. 27. CRPD Committee, CRPD/C/GC/6, paras. 25(d) and 51. General Comment No. 6 (2018), supplementary interpretive source.

¹⁵³ Colombia (2016), CRPD/C/COL/CO/1, para. 35(b); Niger (2019), CRPD/C/NER/CO/1, para. 22(d).

¹⁵⁴ Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 26. Belgium (2024), CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3, para. 27. Dominican Republic (2025), CRPD/C/DOM/CO/2-3, para. 24.

¹⁵⁵ Niger (2019), CRPD/C/NER/CO/1, para. 22(a).

¹⁵⁶ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 26. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 27. Dominican Republic (2025), CRPD/C/DOM/CO/2-3, para. 24.

¹⁵⁷ Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 27. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 33.

6. Resource timely and effective remedies. Reduce backlogs and delays in bodies handling disability discrimination and other rights complaints. Collect disaggregated information on support provided and the progress of cases, and use it to identify barriers and improve practice.¹⁵⁸

7. Train all justice personnel. Provide continuing education on disability rights, communication, accommodations and the human rights model for police, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, prison personnel and others administering justice.¹⁵⁹ Involve representative organizations and assess whether training changes practice.¹⁶⁰

Questions for assessment

Can a person understand and participate throughout a case, with free procedural accommodations and suitable legal support? Are their evidence and complaints treated equally, and can they obtain a timely remedy?

¹⁵⁸ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 26. Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 26.

¹⁵⁹ Colombia (2016), CRPD/C/COL/CO/1, para. 35(d); Niger (2019), CRPD/C/NER/CO/1, para. 22(c).

¹⁶⁰ Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 27. Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 26.

Article 14 Liberty and security of person

The existence of a disability must never justify deprivation of liberty. The Committee applies this rule to mental health legislation, institutional confinement and disability-specific criminal justice measures, while requiring equal guarantees for people detained on other grounds.

- 1. Remove disability-based detention powers.** Repeal laws and end practices authorizing deprivation of liberty on the basis of impairment, including involuntary mental health admission and treatment regimes.¹⁶¹ The Committee's recommendations extend to community treatment orders and compulsory substance-use treatment where they operate within such coercive frameworks.¹⁶²
- 2. Provide voluntary support in the community.** Invest in rights-based, culturally appropriate mental health and substance-use support, including peer-led options. Services must respect personal choice and offer meaningful alternatives to coercive responses. Train professionals in the Convention and supported decision-making.¹⁶³
- 3. Address confinement outside formal detention systems.** Use legal, educational and protective measures against social or cultural practices that deprive persons with disabilities of liberty. Protection must cover private settings as well as hospitals, prisons and State institutions.¹⁶⁴
- 4. Reform disability-specific criminal procedures.** Remove rules that subject people considered unfit to stand trial to indefinite or harsher detention than others facing equivalent allegations.¹⁶⁵ Guarantee fair trial protections and equal access to justice, and review the procedures and duration of forensic measures.¹⁶⁶
- 5. Guarantee rights during lawful detention.** Where a person is detained on grounds that are not disability-based, provide equal safeguards, accessible infrastructure, reasonable accommodation, individualized support and health services.¹⁶⁷ Ensure support is responsive to age, gender and cultural context.¹⁶⁸
- 6. Address overrepresentation and monitor liberty restrictions.** Examine poverty, racism, gender inequality, discriminatory policing and inaccessible proceedings that contribute to the overrepresentation of persons with disabilities in prisons. Collect disaggregated data on deprivation of liberty and use it to prevent violations and evaluate reforms.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶¹ Republic of Korea (2022), [CRPD/C/KOR/CO/2-3](#), para. 32(a); El Salvador (2019), [CRPD/C/SLV/CO/2-3](#), para. 29(a).

¹⁶² Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 27. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 28. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 29.

¹⁶³ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 28. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 29.

¹⁶⁴ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 29.

¹⁶⁵ El Salvador (2019), [CRPD/C/SLV/CO/2-3](#), para. 29(a).

¹⁶⁶ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 28. Denmark (2024), [CRPD/C/DNK/CO/2-3](#), para. 44.

¹⁶⁷ El Salvador (2019), [CRPD/C/SLV/CO/2-3](#), para. 29(b)–(c); Republic of Korea (2022), [CRPD/C/KOR/CO/2-3](#), para. 32(a).

¹⁶⁸ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 28.

¹⁶⁹ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 28. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 29.

Questions for assessment

Can disability still trigger compulsory confinement or treatment? Do people detained for other reasons receive equal procedures, accommodations and support, without indefinite disability-specific restrictions?

Article 15 Freedom from torture or cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Protection against torture and ill-treatment applies in every setting. The Committee repeatedly calls for the prohibition of forced treatment, restraints, seclusion and other harmful practices, together with independent oversight and effective remedies.

- 1. Prohibit forced and harmful practices.** Adopt legislative, administrative and judicial measures to prohibit physical and chemical restraints, seclusion and other harmful practices.¹⁷⁰ Cover psychiatric and residential facilities, hospitals, prisons and schools. Reform laws that authorize these practices and enforce the prohibition in daily service delivery.¹⁷¹
- 2. Protect personal consent in treatment and research.** Article 15 expressly prohibits medical or scientific experimentation without free consent.¹⁷² The Committee also calls for prohibiting forced treatment based on disability, including forced intrusive and irreversible interventions such as electroconvulsive therapy.¹⁷³
- 3. End punitive responses to disability and distress.** Address restrictive or disciplinary practices directed at persons with disabilities in detention and care settings. The Canadian observations require action concerning highly restrictive prison environments for women with psychosocial disabilities, particularly Indigenous women, and a framework to eliminate restrictive practices across settings.¹⁷⁴
- 4. Ensure independent prevention and inspection.** Provide adequately resourced and independent monitoring of places where people with disabilities are confined or treated.¹⁷⁵ Give preventive bodies an effective disability-inclusive mandate and accessible ways to hear directly from affected people. Recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture should be identified as separate treaty recommendations.¹⁷⁶
- 5. Investigate and provide redress.** Establish accessible, independent complaints procedures capable of investigating institutions and individual perpetrators. Provide legal advice, accessible information, counselling, compensation and rehabilitation, and impose

¹⁷⁰ Ethiopia (2016), CRPD/C/ETH/CO/1, para. 34; Switzerland (2022), CRPD/C/CHE/CO/1, para. 32(a).

¹⁷¹ Germany (2023), CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 34. Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 30. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 31.

¹⁷² On consent to medical procedures and treatment, Morocco (2017), CRPD/C/MAR/CO/1, para. 33(b); Switzerland (2022), CRPD/C/CHE/CO/1, para. 32(a).

¹⁷³ Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 31. Norway (2019), CRPD/C/NOR/CO/1, para. 26.

¹⁷⁴ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 30.

¹⁷⁵ Morocco (2017), CRPD/C/MAR/CO/1, para. 33(c); Switzerland (2022), CRPD/C/CHE/CO/1, para. 32(b).

¹⁷⁶ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 30. Germany (2023), CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 34. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 31.

appropriate sanctions.¹⁷⁷ Prevent recurrence rather than treating incidents as isolated service failures.¹⁷⁸

6. Transform services and track coercion. Develop voluntary community support and monitor the use of forced treatment and restrictive practices with disaggregated data. Independent scrutiny should support the elimination of harmful practices and the transition away from institutional arrangements.¹⁷⁹

Questions for assessment

Are coercive practices prohibited and eliminated across all settings? Can independent bodies detect abuse and can affected people safely obtain investigation, redress and non-coercive support?

¹⁷⁷ Morocco (2017), CRPD/C/MAR/CO/1, para. 33(a).

¹⁷⁸ Germany (2023), CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 34. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 31.

¹⁷⁹ Germany (2023), CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 34. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 31. Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 28.

Article 16 Freedom from exploitation violence and abuse

States must prevent exploitation, violence and abuse, protect and support those affected, and ensure accountability. Measures must address disability-specific forms of harm and the different circumstances of women, children and other groups.

- 1. Adopt comprehensive prevention and response measures.** Cover violence in institutions, the community and family homes, including physical, sexual, psychological and other forms of abuse and exploitation.¹⁸⁰ Integrate disability into general violence-prevention legislation and programmes and include gender-, age- and culturally appropriate measures.¹⁸¹
- 2. Address exploitation and neglect.** Protect people against trafficking, forced begging, abandonment and neglect as well as interpersonal violence. The Burkina Faso observations address forced begging, corporal punishment, school and domestic violence, and the particular exposure of children and persons living on the streets.¹⁸²
- 3. Enable safe and accessible reporting.** Provide information on recognizing and reporting abuse in accessible formats and offer complaint channels people can use with their preferred communication and support.¹⁸³ Remove financial and procedural barriers, including charges for medical forms required to report violence.¹⁸⁴
- 4. Make protection and recovery services accessible.** Ensure access to shelters, legal assistance, health care, rehabilitation and other recovery services.¹⁸⁵ Staff must be able to recognize disability-related forms of violence and provide appropriate communication and individualized support. Respect the person's dignity and autonomy in protection and recovery.¹⁸⁶
- 5. Independently monitor facilities and programmes.** Article 16(3) requires effective monitoring by independent authorities of all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities. Provide resources and accessible contact with users, including in psychiatric and residential settings. Monitoring should detect harm and trigger corrective action.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁰ Cuba (2019), [CRPD/C/CUB/CO/1](#), para. 32(a); Zambia (2024), [CRPD/C/ZMB/CO/1](#), para. 32(a).

¹⁸¹ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 31. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 32.

¹⁸² Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 33. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 43. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 32.

¹⁸³ Zambia (2024), [CRPD/C/ZMB/CO/1](#), para. 32(a); Cuba (2019), [CRPD/C/CUB/CO/1](#), para. 32(a)–(b).

¹⁸⁴ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 32. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 33.

¹⁸⁵ On accessible shelters and recovery services, Zambia (2024), [CRPD/C/ZMB/CO/1](#), para. 32(b); Cuba (2019), [CRPD/C/CUB/CO/1](#), para. 32(d).

¹⁸⁶ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 31. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 32. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 33.

¹⁸⁷ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 43.

6. Investigate violations and ensure accountability. Investigate complaints, follow up cases, sanction perpetrators and provide redress and restorative measures for affected people.¹⁸⁸ Ensure children's protection systems include detection, complaints, investigation and justice for children with disabilities.¹⁸⁹

7. Use education and data to prevent recurrence. Train authorities and service personnel to identify abuse early and respond appropriately. Provide accessible education for persons with disabilities and families. Collect and analyze disaggregated data on violence and services so that prevention addresses the people and settings at greatest risk.¹⁹⁰

Questions for assessment

Can a person report abuse and reach a safe, accessible service without dependence on the alleged perpetrator? Are all disability facilities independently monitored and are complaints followed through to remedies?

¹⁸⁸ Zambia (2024), [CRPD/C/ZMB/CO/1](#), para. 32(d)–(e); Cuba (2019), [CRPD/C/CUB/CO/1](#), para. 32(a).

¹⁸⁹ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 32. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 33. Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 33.

¹⁹⁰ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 32. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 31. On staff training and disaggregated data, Zambia (2024), [CRPD/C/ZMB/CO/1](#), para. 32(f); Cuba (2019), [CRPD/C/CUB/CO/1](#), para. 32(c).

Article 17 Protecting the integrity of the person

Every person with disabilities has the right to respect for physical and mental integrity on an equal basis. The Committee applies this to personal medical consent, reproductive autonomy and protection against coercive or unnecessary interventions.

- 1. Require personal free and informed consent.** Ensure medical interventions and treatment respect the person's own consent, including for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.¹⁹¹ Provide accessible information and decision-making support. Consent by a guardian or another substitute cannot replace the person's rights under the Committee's approach.¹⁹²
- 2. Prohibit forced reproductive interventions.** Prohibit sterilization, abortion and contraception without free, informed and personal consent.¹⁹³ Remove legal authorizations, enforce the prohibition in practice, and ensure disability is not used to justify controlling fertility or reproduction.¹⁹⁴
- 3. Prevent female genital mutilation and other bodily violations.** Include persons with disabilities in legal protection against female genital mutilation and investigate allegations of coercive interventions. The Maldives observations specifically call for criminal prohibition and accountability for forced sterilization, female genital mutilation and forced abortion.¹⁹⁵
- 4. Protect intersex children from unnecessary interventions.** The Committee has called for explicit prohibition of medically unnecessary and deferrable surgical, hormonal or other procedures on intersex minors.¹⁹⁶ The Finnish observations also require access to remedies, health care and psychosocial support for people subjected to such violations.¹⁹⁷
- 5. Provide monitoring and survivor remedies.** Establish independent oversight of medical coercion and violations of bodily autonomy. Investigate and prosecute where appropriate, provide effective civil and administrative remedies and ensure support for survivors. Involve affected persons, including women and intersex persons, through representative organizations.¹⁹⁸

Questions for assessment: Does the person's own informed consent determine reproductive and medical interventions? Are legal exceptions, substitute permissions and coercive practices removed, with accessible remedies for survivors?

¹⁹¹ Portugal (2016), [CRPD/C/PRT/CO/1](#), para. 37; Chile (2016), [CRPD/C/CHL/CO/1](#), para. 42.

¹⁹² Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 34. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 24.

¹⁹³ Chile (2016), [CRPD/C/CHL/CO/1](#), para. 42; Netherlands (2024), [CRPD/C/NLD/CO/1](#), para. 40(c).

¹⁹⁴ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 33. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 34. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 34.

¹⁹⁵ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 34.

¹⁹⁶ Netherlands (2024), [CRPD/C/NLD/CO/1](#), para. 40(b).

¹⁹⁷ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 33.

¹⁹⁸ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 33. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 34. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 34.

Article 18 Liberty of movement and nationality

Persons with disabilities must enjoy movement, residence and nationality rights without disability discrimination. Implementation requires accessible civil registration, identity documentation and migration procedures, alongside support that makes movement possible in practice.

- 1. Guarantee nationality and identity documentation.** Ensure equal rights to acquire and change nationality, obtain and use nationality or identity documents, leave any country and enter one's own country. Decentralize and make registration, passport and identification procedures accessible, including through outreach to remote communities.¹⁹⁹
- 2. Register children promptly and without discrimination.** Provide universal and accessible birth registration and documentation for children with disabilities, including children on remote islands, in institutions or in other marginalized circumstances.²⁰⁰ Registration must enable nationality and other rights without disability-based obstacles.²⁰¹
- 3. Remove discriminatory migration and citizenship rules.** Review admission, residence and naturalization criteria and provide procedural and reasonable accommodations.²⁰² The Committee recommended repeal of a Canadian provision that can exclude persons with disabilities from residence and called for safeguards against loss of nationality in Kazakhstan's citizenship procedures.²⁰³
- 4. Ensure accessible asylum and non-refoulement protection.** Enable persons with disabilities to access asylum procedures, legal representation and relevant accommodations.²⁰⁴ Respect the applicable international non-refoulement obligations. The Kazakhstan observations expressly require migration law and practice to protect non-refoulement and access to procedures for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.²⁰⁵
- 5. Provide support and avoid immigration detention.** Ensure reception arrangements provide housing, health care, disability-related assistance and children's services. The Committee has recommended ending immigration detention and developing community-based alternatives, and has called for prevention of pushbacks and denial of access to territory for migrants with disabilities.²⁰⁶

¹⁹⁹ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 34. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 36.

²⁰⁰ Uganda (2016), [CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1](#), para. 37(b).

²⁰¹ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 34. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 36.

²⁰² Uganda (2016), [CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1](#), para. 37(a); Türkiye (2019), [CRPD/C/TUR/CO/1](#), para. 39(b).

²⁰³ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 37. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 38. Kazakhstan (2024), [CRPD/C/KAZ/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²⁰⁴ Türkiye (2019), [CRPD/C/TUR/CO/1](#), para. 39(b).

²⁰⁵ Kazakhstan (2024), [CRPD/C/KAZ/CO/1](#), para. 40. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 47.

²⁰⁶ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 36. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 47. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 36.

6. Make movement compatible with continuity of support. Address barriers created by inaccessible assessments, non-recognition of disability status and loss of benefits when people move. In the EU context, the Committee recommends mutual recognition and portability arrangements, including clear shared responsibilities for long-term relocation. Particular administrative mechanisms depend on the relevant legal setting.²⁰⁷

7. Protect migrants and people at risk of statelessness. Provide access to disability recognition, social protection, health insurance, mobility devices, housing and inclusive education. Ensure accessible and timely statelessness and registration procedures and access to residency and naturalization.²⁰⁸

Questions for assessment

Can a person obtain documents, travel and use migration procedures without disability discrimination? Are reception and relocation arrangements accessible and connected to continuing support?

²⁰⁷ European Union (2025), CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3, para. 47.

²⁰⁸ Kazakhstan (2024), CRPD/C/KAZ/CO/1, para. 40.

Article 19 Living independently and being included in the community

Independent living means choice and control over one's life with the support required for inclusion. It does not depend on living alone or being able to perform tasks without assistance. The Committee calls for the end of institutionalization and investment in ordinary community life.

- 1. Guarantee choice of where and with whom to live.** Remove restrictions and service conditions that force a person into a particular living arrangement.²⁰⁹ Enable people to choose housing, relationships, daily routines and support. Include people of all ages and impairment groups, including those requiring intensive support.²¹⁰
- 2. Adopt and implement a deinstitutionalization strategy.** Set clear timelines, resources and responsibilities for transition from all institutional settings.²¹¹ Include residential facilities, psychiatric institutions, nursing homes and group homes where people are segregated or deprived of control. Plan transitions with the people affected and their representative organizations.²¹²
- 3. Stop financing institutional arrangements.** Redirect domestic and international funding from the construction and maintenance of institutions to community inclusion.²¹³ The EU observations explicitly reject small group homes as a substitute for compliance and require funding rules and accountability to reflect this position.²¹⁴
- 4. Provide person-directed assistance and support.** Ensure access to personal assistance, home support, peer support and other individualized services that respect self-direction and control.²¹⁵ User-led budgets are one mechanism identified by the Committee. Support arrangements should enable participation throughout life rather than bind the person to a provider or place.²¹⁶
- 5. Ensure accessible and affordable housing.** Expand genuine housing options within the community, outside segregated or congregated premises. Connect housing policy with assistance, transport and ordinary services. Geographic and linguistic inequities must not force people to leave their community in order to receive essential support.²¹⁷
- 6. Make mainstream services inclusive.** Ensure ordinary education, employment, health, housing and community services are available and responsive to persons with disabilities.

²⁰⁹ Philippines (2018), [CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1](#), para. 35(a); Georgia (2023), [CRPD/C/GEO/CO/1](#), para. 40(a).

²¹⁰ Andorra (2023), [CRPD/C/AND/CO/1](#), para. 40. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 37.

²¹¹ Bulgaria (2018), [CRPD/C/BGR/CO/1](#), para. 40(a), (d); Ecuador (2019), [CRPD/C/ECU/CO/2-3](#), para. 38(c).

²¹² Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 37. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 37. Andorra (2023), [CRPD/C/AND/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²¹³ Philippines (2018), [CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1](#), para. 35(c); Georgia (2023), [CRPD/C/GEO/CO/1](#), para. 40(a).

²¹⁴ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 49. Andorra (2023), [CRPD/C/AND/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²¹⁵ Bulgaria (2018), [CRPD/C/BGR/CO/1](#), para. 40(b)–(c); Ecuador (2019), [CRPD/C/ECU/CO/2-3](#), para. 38(c).

²¹⁶ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 37. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 49. Andorra (2023), [CRPD/C/AND/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²¹⁷ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 37. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 49. Andorra (2023), [CRPD/C/AND/CO/1](#), para. 40.

Strengthen coordination and referrals without transferring control over the person's life to a service system. Address stigma and economic barriers that prevent participation.²¹⁸

7. Remove inequitable eligibility and access barriers. Review restrictions, fees, waiting lists and inconsistent local rules that prevent access to community support. Finland's observations call for a nationwide framework without age limitations, fees or waiting lists; Andorra's call for review of independent-living programme eligibility. The common requirement is effective, equitable access to support for community living.²¹⁹

8. Provide redress and monitor the transition. Establish effective complaints and monitoring of funding and service outcomes, collect disaggregated information on institutionalization and community support, and involve representative organizations. The EU observations expressly require redress and reparation for persons who were or are living in institutions.²²⁰

Questions for assessment

Can each person choose and control their home and support? Are budgets and service reforms reducing institutionalization and expanding actual community options, including for people requiring intensive assistance?

²¹⁸ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 37. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 49.

²¹⁹ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 37. Andorra (2023), [CRPD/C/AND/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²²⁰ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 49. Andorra (2023), [CRPD/C/AND/CO/1](#), para. 40.

Article 20 Personal mobility

Personal mobility must be facilitated with the greatest possible independence, in the manner and at the time of the person's choice and at affordable cost. The Committee emphasizes access to suitable equipment, assistance and reliable local support.

- 1. Provide individualized mobility support.** Ensure access to appropriate mobility aids, assistive technologies, live assistance and intermediary services.²²¹ Include children and people in remote areas, and respond to the individual's requirements rather than offer only a limited standardized range of equipment.²²²
- 2. Make devices and vehicles affordable.** Remove financial and administrative barriers through adequate funding and measures such as tax or customs exemptions.²²³ Ensure eligibility includes persons with different disabilities. Budget changes must not undermine autonomy or access to technical aids.²²⁴
- 3. Provide fitting, training, repair and maintenance.** Organize the full service needed to use a device effectively, including fitting, user training, repair and maintenance.²²⁵ Build local capacity and extend provision beyond capital cities so that broken or unsuitable equipment does not remove the person's mobility.²²⁶
- 4. Support mobility skills and human assistance.** Article 20 requires mobility-skills training for persons with disabilities and specialist staff.²²⁷ Provide quality human assistance and access to guide and assistance dogs where required, with appropriate funding and service arrangements.²²⁸
- 5. Ensure transport and licensing support independence.** Provide accessible public transport and complementary options, including in areas where ordinary transport is limited.²²⁹ Establish transparent and equitable access to mobility services and provide reasonable accommodation in driver testing and licensing.²³⁰
- 6. Promote affordable technology development.** Encourage research, development and distribution of assistive technologies and require producers to take mobility requirements into account. Link innovation to affordability, suitability and continuing support so that new technology becomes practically available.²³¹

²²¹ Azerbaijan (2024), [CRPD/C/AZE/CO/2-3](#), para. 46(a).

²²² Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 40. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 38.

²²³ Indonesia (2022), [CRPD/C/IDN/CO/1](#), para. 47; Azerbaijan (2024), [CRPD/C/AZE/CO/2-3](#), para. 46(c).

²²⁴ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 39. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 40. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 38.

²²⁵ Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 38(a); Bangladesh (2022), [CRPD/C/BGD/CO/1](#), para. 42.

²²⁶ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 38. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²²⁷ Oman (2018), [CRPD/C/OMN/CO/1](#), para. 38(c).

²²⁸ Belgium (2024), [CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3](#), para. 41.

²²⁹ Azerbaijan (2024), [CRPD/C/AZE/CO/2-3](#), para. 46(c).

²³⁰ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 39. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²³¹ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 40. Indonesia (2022), [CRPD/C/IDN/CO/1](#), para. 47.

Questions for assessment

Can a person obtain, afford and maintain the mobility equipment and assistance they choose? Are transport and licensing systems accessible, including outside major towns?

Article 21 Freedom of expression and opinion and access to information

Persons with disabilities must be able to seek, receive and impart information and express opinions through the communication of their choice. The Committee combines accessibility requirements with recognition of sign languages and protection for disability rights expression.

- 1. Provide public information in accessible formats.** Make information intended for the general public available in accessible formats and technologies in a timely manner and without additional cost, as Article 21(a) requires.²³² Include Braille, Easy Read, plain language, audio description, captioning, tactile communication and augmentative and alternative communication.²³³
- 2. Make public and private communications usable.** Require accessible government websites, digital platforms and public-service information, and promote accessibility of information from private entities and media.²³⁴ Establish standards, funding, benchmarks and monitoring for implementation rather than depend on voluntary provision.²³⁵
- 3. Recognize and promote sign languages.** Provide legal recognition and support for national sign languages, including minority sign languages.²³⁶ Develop professional training and certification for interpreters and ensure they are available in public services and across the territory.²³⁷
- 4. Accept the person's chosen communication.** Ensure people can use sign language, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication and other accessible means in official interactions.²³⁸ Develop the professional capacity needed for deafblind interpretation and other less commonly provided forms of communication.²³⁹
- 5. Reach people facing digital and geographic exclusion.** Provide information and communication support in rural areas, on outer islands and among Indigenous communities. Digital provision should be accompanied by the skills, tools and accessible formats needed to use it.²⁴⁰
- 6. Protect expression and disability rights advocacy.** Remove laws and practices that punish legitimate expression or suppress disability rights advocacy. The Viet Nam

²³² Cook Islands (2015), [CRPD/C/COK/CO/1](#), para. 42(a); Sudan (2018), [CRPD/C/SDN/CO/1](#), para. 44(b).

²³³ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 41. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²³⁴ Sudan (2018), [CRPD/C/SDN/CO/1](#), para. 44(a); Cook Islands (2015), [CRPD/C/COK/CO/1](#), para. 42(a).

²³⁵ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 41. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 42. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 41.

²³⁶ Sudan (2018), [CRPD/C/SDN/CO/1](#), para. 44(b).

²³⁷ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 42. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 41. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 41.

²³⁸ Cook Islands (2015), [CRPD/C/COK/CO/1](#), para. 42(b); Sudan (2018), [CRPD/C/SDN/CO/1](#), para. 44(b).

²³⁹ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 41. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 40.

²⁴⁰ Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 42. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 40. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 41.

observations call for reform of criminal provisions used against expression and for protection of disability rights defenders and associations from persecution.²⁴¹

Questions for assessment

Can a person obtain and share information using their chosen language and communication?
Are accessible information and interpreters reliably available, and can organizations advocate freely?

²⁴¹ Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 42.

Article 22 Respect for privacy

Privacy applies regardless of living arrangements or support requirements. The Committee addresses privacy within institutions and home support, confidentiality of records, control of personal data and protection against intrusive digital practices.

- 1. Protect private life in all settings.** Prevent arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence and unlawful attacks on honour or reputation. Institutional residence or reliance on assistance does not remove these rights.²⁴² Provide accessible complaints and effective investigation of privacy violations.²⁴³
- 2. Respect privacy in assessments and support.** Ensure evaluations for personal assistance and in-home services do not intrude unnecessarily into private life. Train officials to respect confidentiality, autonomy and the limits of legitimate information gathering when determining support.²⁴⁴
- 3. Safeguard personal and medical information.** Prevent unauthorized disclosure of medical and personal records and protect information during migration and cross-border processing. Limit collection and use to legitimate purposes and ensure safeguards apply across public agencies, service providers and digital systems.²⁴⁵
- 4. Enable accessible control over data.** Provide clear, accessible information about data rights and usable ways to consent or object to processing and control health data.²⁴⁶ The EU observations require assistive technology to remain available regardless of data-sharing decisions, preventing access to support from becoming leverage for surrendering privacy.²⁴⁷
- 5. Regulate surveillance and use of personal stories.** Apply legal safeguards to institutional monitoring and strengthen protection against online exploitation and unauthorized data sharing. Prevent the use of images and personal stories for fundraising or promotion without authorization, and allow people to control how their information is used.²⁴⁸

Questions for assessment

Can a person receive support without unnecessary disclosure or surveillance? Do they have accessible control over their data, images and stories, with a practical remedy for misuse?

²⁴² Latvia (2017), CRPD/C/LVA/CO/1, para. 37(a).

²⁴³ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 43. Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 44.

²⁴⁴ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 43.

²⁴⁵ Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 44. Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 44. European Union (2025), CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3, para. 55. Singapore (2022), CRPD/C/SGP/CO/1, para. 44; Latvia (2017), CRPD/C/LVA/CO/1, para. 37(a).

²⁴⁶ On consent and lawful processing of personal health data, Singapore (2022), CRPD/C/SGP/CO/1, para. 44.

²⁴⁷ European Union (2025), CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3, para. 55.

²⁴⁸ Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 44.

Article 23 Respect for home and the family

Persons with disabilities must enjoy equal rights in marriage, relationships, parenthood and family life. Children and parents must receive support so that disability does not become a reason for separation or denial of family roles.

- 1. Remove restrictions on relationships and parenthood.** Recognize equal legal capacity to marry, divorce, adopt and raise children.²⁴⁹ Eliminate legal and practical barriers affecting persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and challenge assumptions that disability disqualifies a person from a relationship or parenting.²⁵⁰
- 2. Protect reproductive choice and fertility.** Enable people to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of children and retain fertility on an equal basis with others. Provide accessible family planning and sexual and reproductive information. Read these obligations together with the prohibition of forced reproductive interventions.²⁵¹
- 3. Make family services and procedures accessible.** Ensure adoption, assisted reproduction and general family services provide accessible information and communication, including sign languages.²⁵² Train staff to understand disability rights and remove discriminatory assumptions in assessments and service decisions.²⁵³
- 4. Support parents with disabilities.** Provide adequately funded assistance and community services that enable parents to care for children.²⁵⁴ Tailor support to the person and family, including families in remote areas, rather than assuming that parenting capacity is determined by impairment.²⁵⁵
- 5. Prevent disability-based family separation.** Do not separate children from parents solely because of the disability of the child or a parent. Decisions concerning necessary separation must follow the lawful process and best-interests safeguards in Article 23(4). Provide support early enough to prevent avoidable out-of-home placement.²⁵⁶
- 6. Ensure children can grow up in families.** Prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation through early information, services and support.²⁵⁷ When the immediate family cannot provide care, Article 23(5) requires efforts to provide care within the wider family and, failing that, a family setting in the community. Support must reach children with intensive requirements.²⁵⁸

²⁴⁹ Uruguay (2016), [CRPD/C/URY/CO/1](#), para. 50; Croatia (2015), [CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1](#), para. 34.

²⁵⁰ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 46. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 46.

²⁵¹ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 46. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 33.

²⁵² On accessible information and access to adoption services, Croatia (2015), [CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1](#), para. 34.

²⁵³ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 45.

²⁵⁴ Uruguay (2016), [CRPD/C/URY/CO/1](#), para. 50; Croatia (2015), [CRPD/C/HRV/CO/1](#), para. 34.

²⁵⁵ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 45. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 46. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 46.

²⁵⁶ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 46. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 45.

²⁵⁷ Rwanda (2019), [CRPD/C/RWA/CO/1](#), para. 42(a); Kenya (2015), [CRPD/C/KEN/CO/1](#), para. 14(a)–(b).

²⁵⁸ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 46. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 14. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 14.

Questions for assessment

Are family decisions free from disability-based restrictions? Do parents and children receive enough support to stay together, and are alternative arrangements genuinely based in families and the community?

Article 24 Education

The right is to an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning. The Committee requires transformation of education systems, with non-exclusion, accessibility, reasonable accommodation and effective individual support.

- 1. Establish an enforceable right to inclusive education.** Align legislation, policy and administration with inclusive education and guarantee access to free and compulsory primary education and secondary education on an equal basis.²⁵⁹ Prohibit refusal of admission because of disability or a school's lack of facilities; address the resource gap rather than exclude the learner.²⁶⁰
- 2. Plan and fund the transition from segregation.** Adopt a strategy with timelines, targets, resources and monitoring to move from segregated provision to quality inclusive education.²⁶¹ Redirect resources to ordinary schools and convert segregated centres into support for inclusion where appropriate. Merely retaining parallel segregated systems does not fulfil the Committee's call for transformation.²⁶²
- 3. Make the entire learning environment accessible.** Address school buildings, transport, classrooms, toilets, digital systems, materials and extracurricular activities.²⁶³ Include remote and rural schools and apply accessibility as an enduring institutional requirement. Ensure donor-funded education infrastructure and materials meet these requirements.²⁶⁴
- 4. Provide reasonable accommodation and individualized support.** Adapt teaching, communication, assessments and learning plans to individual requirements.²⁶⁵ Provide classroom support and appropriate assistive technologies. Support should enable academic and social participation and must not depend on the learner fitting an unchanged system.²⁶⁶
- 5. Respect linguistic and communication rights.** Provide Braille, sign language, Easy Read, tactile and augmentative communication and the learning environments required by Article 24(3).²⁶⁷ Promote the linguistic identity of the deaf community and deaf culture,

²⁵⁹ Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1, para. 45(a), (e); Honduras (2017), CRPD/C/HND/CO/1, para. 52.

²⁶⁰ Japan (2022), CRPD/C/JPN/CO/1, para. 52. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 47. Maldives (2025), CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1, para. 48.

²⁶¹ Honduras (2017), CRPD/C/HND/CO/1, para. 52; Italy (2016), CRPD/C/ITA/CO/1, para. 56.

²⁶² Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 47. Japan (2022), CRPD/C/JPN/CO/1, para. 52. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 47.

²⁶³ Italy (2016), CRPD/C/ITA/CO/1, paras. 56, 60; Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1, para. 45(b), (d).

²⁶⁴ Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 47. Kiribati (2025), CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1, para. 46. Maldives (2025), CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1, para. 48.

²⁶⁵ Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1, para. 45(d); Italy (2016), CRPD/C/ITA/CO/1, para. 60.

²⁶⁶ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 47. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 47. Japan (2022), CRPD/C/JPN/CO/1, para. 52.

²⁶⁷ Honduras (2017), CRPD/C/HND/CO/1, para. 52; Italy (2016), CRPD/C/ITA/CO/1, para. 58.

and ensure deafblind learners receive appropriate support. Inclusive education must preserve these rights while preventing exclusion and segregation.²⁶⁸

6. Develop an inclusive education workforce. Train teachers and non-teaching personnel in disability rights, inclusive pedagogy and accessible communication.²⁶⁹ Increase qualified staff, recruit teachers with disabilities and provide their reasonable accommodation. Address shortages outside major population centres.²⁷⁰

7. Prevent bullying and exclusion within schools. Adopt and enforce anti-bullying policies, train staff, educate the school community and promptly investigate reports of mistreatment. Ensure children with disabilities can participate in all aspects of school life, including extracurricular activities.²⁷¹

8. Include tertiary vocational adult and lifelong learning. Remove discriminatory admission criteria and inaccessible entrance examinations, digital systems and study arrangements in higher education.²⁷² Provide accommodations throughout learning and training, and extend inclusion to vocational education, adult education and lifelong learning as Article 24(5) requires.²⁷³

9. Measure participation learning and completion. Monitor enrolment, attendance, retention, educational attainment and children outside the education system, with appropriate disaggregation.²⁷⁴ Audit implementation, involve representative organizations and learners, and correct policies that fail to deliver equal opportunities.²⁷⁵

Questions for assessment

Can every learner attend and participate in inclusive education with appropriate language, communication and support? Are resources moving towards inclusion, and do data show learning, retention and completion rather than enrolment alone?

²⁶⁸ Japan (2022), [CRPD/C/JPN/CO/1](#), para. 52. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 47.

²⁶⁹ Honduras (2017), [CRPD/C/HND/CO/1](#), para. 52; Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), [CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1](#), para. 45(c).

²⁷⁰ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 47. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 47. Japan (2022), [CRPD/C/JPN/CO/1](#), para. 52.

²⁷¹ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 48.

²⁷² Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), [CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1](#), para. 45(f); Honduras (2017), [CRPD/C/HND/CO/1](#), para. 52.

²⁷³ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 47. Japan (2022), [CRPD/C/JPN/CO/1](#), para. 52. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 48.

²⁷⁴ Lao People's Democratic Republic (2022), [CRPD/C/LAO/CO/1](#), para. 45(g); Italy (2016), [CRPD/C/ITA/CO/1](#), para. 56.

²⁷⁵ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 46. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 47. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 47.

Article 25 Health

Persons with disabilities have the right to the highest attainable standard of health without disability discrimination. Implementation concerns ordinary health systems as well as disability-related services, and includes accessibility, affordability, informed consent and sexual and reproductive health.

- 1. Ensure equal access to the full range of health care.** Provide the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care as for others, alongside services needed because of disability.²⁷⁶ Include health promotion, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. Do not confine disability policy to rehabilitation or specialist services.²⁷⁷
- 2. Remove physical communication and digital barriers.** Make facilities, health information, booking and patient portals accessible and provide sign language interpretation and other communication support.²⁷⁸ Ensure transport to health facilities and back home is accessible. Include telemedicine and remote services in the accessibility framework.²⁷⁹
- 3. Provide services near communities.** Extend quality services to rural areas and outer islands through accessible primary care, outreach and community-based delivery. Train and retain health workers and integrate support into local clinics. Place of residence should not determine whether the person can obtain essential care.²⁸⁰
- 4. Make services medicines and insurance affordable.** Address the cost of medication and treatment and ensure social health insurance includes persons with disabilities and essential medicines. Article 25(e) also requires non-discrimination in health insurance and life insurance where permitted by national law, provided fairly and reasonably.²⁸¹
- 5. Respect personal free and informed consent.** Ensure health decisions are based on the person's informed consent, with accessible information and supported decision-making when required.²⁸² Train professionals to respect autonomy and remove discriminatory substitute-consent practices.²⁸³
- 6. Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights.** Provide accessible, inclusive services and information for women and girls and others with disabilities, including people

²⁷⁶ On equal access to health services, Cyprus (2017), [CRPD/C/CYP/CO/1](#), para. 52.

²⁷⁷ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 48. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 49.

²⁷⁸ Mauritania (2023), [CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1](#), para. 44(c); Cyprus (2017), [CRPD/C/CYP/CO/1](#), para. 52.

²⁷⁹ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 49. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 48. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 49.

²⁸⁰ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 49. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 48.

²⁸¹ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 49. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 49.

²⁸² Portugal (2016), [CRPD/C/PRT/CO/1](#), para. 37; Mauritania (2023), [CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1](#), para. 44(b).

²⁸³ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 48. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 49. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 24.

with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.²⁸⁴ Address stigma, ensure reproductive autonomy and provide appropriate HIV information and services.²⁸⁵

7. Provide rights-respecting mental health support. Develop voluntary, culturally appropriate community mental health services, including peer support. Apply the Convention's requirements concerning consent, liberty and integrity throughout mental health care.²⁸⁶

8. Prevent discriminatory denial and train personnel. Article 25(f) prohibits discriminatory denial of health care, health services, food and fluids on the basis of disability. Ensure equal access to life-saving care and train health professionals on rights, communication and reasonable accommodation.²⁸⁷ Monitor violations and the implementation of inclusive health policies.²⁸⁸

Questions for assessment

Can a person obtain affordable, accessible care close to home, understand their options and make their own decisions? Do health outcomes and complaint records reveal barriers affecting particular disability groups?

²⁸⁴ Mauritania (2023), CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 44(b); Cyprus (2017), CRPD/C/CYP/CO/1, para. 52.

²⁸⁵ Kiribati (2025), CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1, para. 48. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 49. Maldives (2025), CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1, para. 50.

²⁸⁶ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 28. Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 24.

²⁸⁷ Mauritania (2023), CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 44(c); Cyprus (2017), CRPD/C/CYP/CO/1, para. 52.

²⁸⁸ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 19. Kiribati (2025), CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1, para. 48. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 49.

Article 26 Habilitation and rehabilitation

Habilitation and rehabilitation should enable maximum independence, abilities, inclusion and participation. They must be voluntary and based on individual strengths and requirements, with services across health, employment, education and social life.

- 1. Provide comprehensive and individualized services.** Use multidisciplinary assessments of strengths, requirements and goals to develop individual plans.²⁸⁹ Offer coordinated services across sectors and life stages, beginning at the earliest possible stage as Article 26(1) requires. Make information and access procedures understandable and accessible.²⁹⁰
- 2. Respect choice participation and peer support.** Ensure programmes are voluntary and support participation and inclusion.²⁹¹ Article 26 explicitly includes peer support. Set goals with the person and ensure rehabilitation supports their own life choices rather than being imposed as a condition for recognition or inclusion.²⁹²
- 3. Bring services close to communities.** Decentralize provision and use outreach and community services to reach rural areas and outer islands.²⁹³ Where specialized services require travel, provide appropriate financial support. Avoid arrangements that leave access dependent on moving permanently away from home.²⁹⁴
- 4. Build and retain professional capacity.** Train and retain the range of professionals needed, including rehabilitation, therapy, communication and assistive-device specialists.²⁹⁵ Integrate services into health and community systems to support continuity rather than isolated short interventions.²⁹⁶
- 5. Provide assistive technology and continuing support.** Ensure the availability and use of appropriate technologies, devices and professional support.²⁹⁷ Connect rehabilitation with equipment provision, fitting, repair and maintenance, and make services accessible for people with different disabilities.²⁹⁸
- 6. Monitor quality and provide complaints procedures.** Regularly evaluate whether programmes support inclusion and individual goals. Establish accessible monitoring and

²⁸⁹ Armenia (2017), [CRPD/C/ARM/CO/1](#), para. 46.

²⁹⁰ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 51. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 52.

²⁹¹ On participation and inclusion in rehabilitation, Qatar (2015), [CRPD/C/QAT/CO/1](#), para. 48.

²⁹² Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 51. Andorra (2023), [CRPD/C/AND/CO/1](#), para. 54.

²⁹³ Qatar (2015), [CRPD/C/QAT/CO/1](#), para. 48.

²⁹⁴ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 50. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 52.

²⁹⁵ On continuing training for rehabilitation personnel, Belgium (2024), [CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3](#), para. 53(b).

²⁹⁶ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 50.

²⁹⁷ Philippines (2018), [CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1](#), para. 45(c).

²⁹⁸ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 50. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 52. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 38.

complaint mechanisms and use findings to improve service quality, availability and enforcement.²⁹⁹

Questions for assessment

Are services voluntary, coordinated and directed towards the person's own goals? Can people obtain them locally, with appropriate technology and a way to challenge inadequate provision?

²⁹⁹ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 51. Andorra (2023), CRPD/C/AND/CO/1, para. 54. On monitoring service quality and compliance, Slovakia (2016), CRPD/C/SVK/CO/1, para. 72; Philippines (2018), CRPD/C/PHL/CO/1, para. 45(a).

Article 27 Work and employment

Persons with disabilities have the right to freely chosen or accepted work in an open, inclusive and accessible labour market. The Committee calls for an end to segregated employment and for equal conditions, accommodation and practical pathways into decent work.

- 1. Prohibit discrimination throughout working life.** Cover recruitment, hiring, advancement, retention, safe working conditions and termination, including disability acquired during employment.³⁰⁰ Make denial of reasonable accommodation actionable discrimination and provide effective complaints and enforcement in public and private employment.³⁰¹
- 2. Provide equal pay and labour rights.** Guarantee equal remuneration for work of equal value, fair conditions, safe workplaces and protection against harassment.³⁰² Ensure equal access to applicable minimum wages, contracts and employment benefits. Article 27 also protects trade union rights and freedom from slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.³⁰³
- 3. Transition from segregated employment.** Adopt a strategy with timelines and measurable outcomes to move from sheltered workshops and other segregated arrangements to the open labour market. Redirect public financing and procurement incentives that sustain segregation, while providing support for people making the transition.³⁰⁴
- 4. Make recruitment workplaces and training accessible.** Ensure accessible vacancy information, applications, interviews, online portals, workplaces and occupational safety information. Train recruitment and human resources personnel and provide individualized workplace adjustments and support.³⁰⁵
- 5. Provide vocational guidance and employment pathways.** Offer inclusive vocational training, skills development, placement support and opportunities linked to actual labour demand.³⁰⁶ Address barriers faced by women and people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and prevent training from becoming a pathway into permanent segregation.³⁰⁷

³⁰⁰ South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 45(b); Bangladesh (2022), [CRPD/C/BGD/CO/1](#), para. 52(a)–(b).

³⁰¹ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 52. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 53. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 54.

³⁰² South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 45(b); Bangladesh (2022), [CRPD/C/BGD/CO/1](#), para. 52(b).

³⁰³ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 65. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 53. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 52.

³⁰⁴ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 54. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 65.

³⁰⁵ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 53. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 52. South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 45(c); Bangladesh (2022), [CRPD/C/BGD/CO/1](#), para. 52(a).

³⁰⁶ Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 50(a); Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 51(e).

³⁰⁷ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 53. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 52. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 65.

- 6. Use targeted employment measures.** Adopt appropriate measures such as hiring incentives, employment equity policies, quotas or accommodation funds, with monitoring of results.³⁰⁸ These are implementation tools that should secure decent work and equal rights, rather than substitutes for non-discrimination and workplace accessibility.³⁰⁹
- 7. Support self-employment and entrepreneurship.** Provide accessible information, training and financial opportunities for starting businesses, cooperatives and other freely chosen work.³¹⁰ Ensure persons with disabilities can access mainstream enterprise support and address specific barriers to participation.³¹¹
- 8. Support retention and return to work.** Address the situation of people who acquire disabilities while working and provide accommodation, rehabilitation and support for continued or renewed employment.³¹² Counter stigma associated with employment-injury benefits and protect equal access to relevant entitlements.³¹³
- 9. Measure the quality of employment outcomes.** Collect disaggregated data across public, private and informal employment, including gender, impairment, location and level of employment.³¹⁴ Use indicators to assess entry into the open labour market, fair conditions and sustained participation, and involve representative organizations in policy design and monitoring.³¹⁵

Questions for assessment

Can a person obtain and retain freely chosen work with equal pay, rights and support? Are employment measures reducing segregation and producing sustained opportunities in the open labour market?

³⁰⁸ Republic of Moldova (2017), [CRPD/C/MDA/CO/1](#), para. 49(a); Bangladesh (2022), [CRPD/C/BGD/CO/1](#), para. 52(c).

³⁰⁹ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 53. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 53. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 54.

³¹⁰ On self-employment and entrepreneurship programmes, Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 50(b); Azerbaijan (2024), [CRPD/C/AZE/CO/2-3](#), para. 60(d).

³¹¹ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 53. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 52.

³¹² South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 45(d).

³¹³ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 54. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 52.

³¹⁴ South Africa (2018), [CRPD/C/ZAF/CO/1](#), para. 45(a).

³¹⁵ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 53. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 54. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 53.

Article 28 Adequate standard of living and social protection

Social protection must enable an adequate standard of living and participation in society, including by addressing the additional costs of disability. The Committee calls for adequate benefits, inclusive basic services and assessment rules that support autonomy.

- 1. Ensure an adequate income and living conditions.** Include persons with disabilities in poverty reduction, social protection and housing policies.³¹⁶ Ensure benefits and other entitlements are sufficient to reduce poverty and support adequate food, clothing and housing and continuous improvement in living conditions. Extend coverage to people without other sources of income.³¹⁷
- 2. Cover additional disability-related costs.** Provide allowances, subsidies or other support that reflects the costs of disability, including assistance, equipment, transport and services.³¹⁸ Benefit adequacy must be assessed in light of these costs rather than assume that the same nominal income gives everyone the same standard of living.³¹⁹
- 3. Reform eligibility and assessment.** Move away from narrowly medical approaches and assess barriers and support requirements without discrimination between impairment groups. Simplify application and review procedures, coordinate schemes and provide accessible information and guidance so that people can claim their entitlements.³²⁰
- 4. Preserve autonomy family choices and employment.** Review income tests and benefit rules that penalize relationships or undermine independent choices. The Committee's Canadian observations address family and autonomy effects of income testing; its Maldives observations call for compatibility between disability benefits and employment. Support for disability-related costs should be considered alongside income-replacement functions.³²¹
- 5. Provide accessible basic services and housing.** Ensure access to safe and affordable water, sanitation, accessible housing and other basic services in rural as well as urban areas. Include disability in mainstream housing and poverty programmes and address the requirements of women, children, older persons and people living remotely.³²²
- 6. Protect against harmful budget reductions.** Assess the disability impact of reforms, cuts and cost-saving measures. Allocate budgets sufficient to deliver entitlements and address

³¹⁶ Algeria (2018), [CRPD/C/DZA/CO/1](#), para. 47; North Macedonia (2018), [CRPD/C/MKD/CO/1](#), para. 51.

³¹⁷ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 55. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 56. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 54.

³¹⁸ North Macedonia (2018), [CRPD/C/MKD/CO/1](#), para. 51.

³¹⁹ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 54. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 55.

³²⁰ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 54. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 55. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 56.

³²¹ Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 56. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 56.

³²² Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 54. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 55. Canada (2025), [CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3](#), para. 56.

adverse effects on living standards. The Committee's Finnish observations connect central budget decisions, local delivery and continuity of benefits for people relocated abroad.³²³

7. Include pension and life-course protection. Article 28 covers equal access to retirement benefits and programmes, poverty reduction, assistance with disability-related expenses and public housing. Ensure support remains accessible across age and life transitions, and coordinate rules that otherwise leave people without adequate protection.³²⁴

Questions for assessment

After disability-related costs, can a person maintain an adequate standard of living? Do benefit rules support employment and family choices, and are budgets and procedures sufficient to deliver entitlements?

³²³ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 55. Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 7.

³²⁴ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 56. Kiribati (2025), CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1, para. 54. North Macedonia (2018), CRPD/C/MKD/CO/1, para. 51.

Article 29 Participation in political and public life

Persons with disabilities must be able to vote, stand for election, hold public office and participate in public affairs on an equal basis. Accessible voting must preserve choice, secrecy and the individual's legal capacity.

- 1. Remove disability-based disenfranchisement.** Repeal laws that restrict voting or political participation because of disability or denial of legal capacity.³²⁵ Include persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and people living in institutions, and remove discriminatory constitutional and electoral provisions.³²⁶
- 2. Make the entire electoral process accessible.** Provide accessible registration, campaign information, election materials, polling places and voting procedures.³²⁷ Audit access and make arrangements before polling day. Develop procedures so that people in institutions and other excluded settings can exercise their rights.³²⁸
- 3. Protect secrecy and assistance of choice.** Enable every voter to cast a secret ballot and freely express their choice.³²⁹ Article 29 permits assistance by a person of the voter's own choice when requested. Accessible voting technology and other mechanisms must protect privacy, autonomy and security of the vote.³³⁰
- 4. Enable candidacy public office and leadership.** Remove barriers to standing for election, holding office and participating in public decision-making bodies. Promote participation by women and other underrepresented persons with disabilities and make political platforms and public offices accessible.³³¹
- 5. Support civic education and political participation.** Provide accessible education on voting, candidacy and public affairs and build the capacity of persons with disabilities to participate. Raise awareness among political parties and the public about their rights and contributions.³³²
- 6. Enable independent representative organizations.** Provide resources and an enabling environment for organizations of persons with disabilities to participate in public life. Article 29 also protects forming and joining such organizations and participation in non-governmental organizations and political parties.³³³

³²⁵ Poland (2018), CRPD/C/POL/CO/1, para. 49.

³²⁶ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 59. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 57.

³²⁷ Poland (2018), CRPD/C/POL/CO/1, para. 49.

³²⁸ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 59. Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 57. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 57.

³²⁹ Poland (2018), CRPD/C/POL/CO/1, para. 49.

³³⁰ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 59. Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 57.

³³¹ Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 59. Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 57. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 57.

³³² Canada (2025), CRPD/C/CAN/CO/2-3, para. 59. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 57.

³³³ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 57. Viet Nam (2025), CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1, para. 6.

7. Monitor participation without compromising privacy. Collect information on voters, candidates and representation to identify exclusion and plan accessibility. Protect confidentiality when collecting disability-related registration data and avoid making disclosure a new barrier to political participation.³³⁴

Questions for assessment

Can a person vote secretly, obtain assistance of choice and stand for office without a disability-based restriction? Are representative organizations resourced and free to take part in public affairs?

³³⁴ Finland (2025), CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1, para. 57. Ghana (2024), CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, para. 57.

Article 30 Participation in cultural life recreation leisure and sport

Participation in culture, leisure and sport is a right in its own terms. Implementation must enable persons with disabilities to take part as audiences, participants, athletes, artists and creators and to enjoy their cultural and linguistic identities.

- 1. Make venues programmes and materials accessible.** Ensure access to museums, libraries, tourism, cultural venues, sports facilities and recreational spaces, together with the information and services needed to use them.³³⁵ Conduct audits and fund the removal of barriers, including in rural and remote areas.³³⁶
- 2. Support artistic and sporting participation.** Adopt and resource plans that support artists and athletes with disabilities, access to equipment, and opportunities to develop and use creative and sporting potential. Address affordability and provide relevant accommodation and assistance.³³⁷
- 3. Include children in play and sport.** Ensure children with disabilities can participate in play, recreation and sport, including within schools.³³⁸ Train education and sports personnel in inclusive practices and provide appropriate facilities, equipment and support.³³⁹
- 4. Respect cultural and linguistic identity.** Article 30(4) requires recognition and support for specific cultural and linguistic identities, including sign languages and deaf culture. Cultural inclusion should also remove prejudice that excludes people from community traditions and events, including persons with albinism.³⁴⁰
- 5. Remove copyright barriers to accessible works.** Ensure intellectual property rules do not create unreasonable or discriminatory barriers to cultural materials. The Committee recommends ratification and implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty and domestic copyright reform, and the provision of books in accessible formats.³⁴¹
- 6. Support mainstream and disability-specific participation.** Article 30(5) covers participation in mainstream sport and opportunities to organize and participate in disability-specific sport and recreation. Provide appropriate instruction, training and resources without limiting a person to one predetermined pathway. Monitor whether plans improve actual participation.³⁴²

³³⁵ On accessible recreational and sports facilities, Greece (2019), [CRPD/C/GRC/CO/1](#), para. 45.

³³⁶ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 59. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 60.

³³⁷ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 59. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 58.

³³⁸ Greece (2019), [CRPD/C/GRC/CO/1](#), para. 45; Iraq (2019), [CRPD/C/IRQ/CO/1](#), para. 58.

³³⁹ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 60. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 58.

³⁴⁰ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 59. Japan (2022), [CRPD/C/JPN/CO/1](#), para. 52.

³⁴¹ Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 59. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 58. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 60. On ratification and implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty, Serbia (2016), [CRPD/C/SRB/CO/1](#), para. 62; Luxembourg (2017), [CRPD/C/LUX/CO/1](#), para. 53.

³⁴² Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 59. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 58.

Questions for assessment: Can a person enjoy and contribute to culture, sport and leisure in the way they choose? Are children included, cultural identities respected and accessible materials and equipment affordable?

Article 31 Statistics and data collection

States must collect appropriate information to formulate and implement Convention-compliant policies. The Committee emphasizes disaggregation, participation, confidentiality, inclusion of overlooked populations and the use of evidence to identify barriers.

- 1. Establish comprehensive disability data systems.** Integrate disability into censuses, surveys, administrative records and research across relevant sectors.³⁴³ Coordinate statistical authorities and ministries, resource regular collection and use information to frame and monitor implementation throughout the territory.³⁴⁴
- 2. Use appropriate methods and trained personnel.** The Committee frequently recommends the Washington Group questions and training of statistical officers and enumerators.³⁴⁵ Select methods capable of identifying relevant populations and barriers; one short question set does not by itself provide all the information needed to assess rights implementation.³⁴⁶
- 3. Disaggregate to reveal unequal outcomes.** Analyze information by disability and relevant characteristics such as sex, gender, age, income, race, ethnicity, migration status, education, employment and location.³⁴⁷ Include intersecting characteristics where appropriate and safe so that averages do not conceal exclusion.³⁴⁸
- 4. Include people missing from ordinary surveys.** Review methods and coverage to include persons in institutions and other populations at risk of being overlooked. Collect information about barriers and required support as well as impairment or functioning. Ensure geographic coverage includes remote areas.³⁴⁹
- 5. Combine quantitative and qualitative evidence.** Fund periodic and independent research that explains obstacles to rights and experiences of services.³⁵⁰ Use qualitative evidence alongside statistics to interpret gaps and develop appropriate responses.³⁵¹
- 6. Involve persons with disabilities throughout.** Closely consult and actively involve representative organizations in designing, planning, conducting, analyzing and

³⁴³ Turkmenistan (2015), [CRPD/C/TKM/CO/1](#), para. 54; Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017), [CRPD/C/BIH/CO/1](#), para. 57.

³⁴⁴ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 61. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 61. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 62.

³⁴⁵ Singapore (2022), [CRPD/C/SGP/CO/1](#), para. 58; Mauritania (2023), [CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1](#), para. 54.

³⁴⁶ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 73. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 62. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 60. Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 59.

³⁴⁷ Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017), [CRPD/C/BIH/CO/1](#), para. 57; Turkmenistan (2015), [CRPD/C/TKM/CO/1](#), para. 54.

³⁴⁸ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 73. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 62. Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 59.

³⁴⁹ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 73. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 61. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 61.

³⁵⁰ Singapore (2022), [CRPD/C/SGP/CO/1](#), para. 58(b)–(c); Mauritania (2023), [CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1](#), para. 54(b)–(c).

³⁵¹ Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 59.

disseminating data collection and research.³⁵² Ensure participation is accessible and includes groups whose experiences are poorly represented in current information.³⁵³

7. Protect confidentiality and control of personal information. Apply legal safeguards for privacy, data protection and ethical collection and use, as Article 31 requires.³⁵⁴ Do not make sensitive information available in ways that expose individuals to harm. Read statistical needs together with the rights to consent, object and control data under Article 22.³⁵⁵

8. Publish accessible findings and use them. Disseminate data in accessible formats to the public, ministries, development partners and representative organizations. Use findings to design policy, monitor results and correct barriers rather than treating the production of statistics as the endpoint.³⁵⁶

Questions for assessment

Does data reveal who is excluded and why, including people outside ordinary household surveys? Can representative organizations influence the methods, access the findings and see how they change policy?

³⁵² Singapore (2022), [CRPD/C/SGP/CO/1](#), para. 58(c); Mauritania (2023), [CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1](#), para. 54(c).

³⁵³ Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 59. Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 62.

³⁵⁴ Singapore (2022), [CRPD/C/SGP/CO/1](#), para. 58(a); Mauritania (2023), [CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1](#), para. 54(a).

³⁵⁵ Burkina Faso (2024), [CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1](#), para. 59. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 55.

³⁵⁶ Maldives (2025), [CRPD/C/MDV/CO/1](#), para. 62. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 61. Bosnia and Herzegovina (2017), [CRPD/C/BIH/CO/1](#), para. 57; Turkmenistan (2015), [CRPD/C/TKM/CO/1](#), para. 54.

Article 32 International cooperation

International cooperation, including development programmes, must be inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities. The Committee applies this across donor and recipient action and calls for participation, appropriate investment, disability indicators and accountability for impact.

- 1. Apply the Convention across international assistance.** Include disability in the design, funding, implementation and monitoring of cooperation in all sectors, including infrastructure, climate action, humanitarian response and sustainable development.³⁵⁷ Adopt coherent action plans and responsibilities so that inclusion extends across the portfolio.³⁵⁸
- 2. Make organizations of persons with disabilities partners in decision-making and implementation.** Establish sustained and accessible consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities through representative organizations, including at country and project level.³⁵⁹ Provide sufficient resources for participation in cooperation agreements, programmes and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.³⁶⁰
- 3. Combine mainstream inclusion with investment in specific gaps.** Ensure all investment is designed and delivered inclusively while funding critical unmet requirements of persons with disabilities.³⁶¹ The Kiribati observations call for donor partnerships focused on these gaps and disability-specific indicators; the EU observations call for increased assistance for disability inclusion.³⁶²
- 4. Make funded programmes accessible.** Apply accessibility and participation requirements to infrastructure, services, technology and partner delivery.³⁶³ Include enforceable provisions in procurement and financing agreements. International funding should help remove barriers and must not create new ones.³⁶⁴
- 5. Ensure cooperation does not finance segregation.** Review funding for institutions, segregated education or employment and redirect it towards inclusive systems and community support.³⁶⁵ The Committee's EU and Ukraine observations expressly address

³⁵⁷ Gabon (2015), [CRPD/C/GAB/CO/1](#), para. 69.

³⁵⁸ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 75. Dominican Republic (2025), [CRPD/C/DOM/CO/2-3](#), para. 60. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 62.

³⁵⁹ Gabon (2015), [CRPD/C/GAB/CO/1](#), para. 69.

³⁶⁰ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 63. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 75. Dominican Republic (2025), [CRPD/C/DOM/CO/2-3](#), para. 60.

³⁶¹ Tuvalu (2025), [CRPD/C/TUV/CO/1](#), para. 60.

³⁶² Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 62. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 75.

³⁶³ On making inclusion a condition of international funding, Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 72(a).

³⁶⁴ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 75. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 18. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 46.

³⁶⁵ On avoiding segregation in international cooperation, Switzerland (2022), [CRPD/C/CHE/CO/1](#), para. 62(a).

the use of international resources to sustain institutionalization, including arrangements involving children displaced abroad.³⁶⁶

6. Build capacity and share knowledge and technology. Article 32 includes capacity-building, exchange of experience, training, research and access to scientific and technical knowledge and accessible technologies. Train staff and implementing partners and provide practical guidance on inclusive programming, with partnerships that benefit persons with disabilities.³⁶⁷

7. Track funding results and accountability. Use disability indicators, monitoring and accountability frameworks to assess the effects of cooperation.³⁶⁸ The Committee refers to the OECD DAC disability marker as a tracking tool. A programme's marker classification is not, by itself, proof that its design or results comply with the Convention.³⁶⁹

8. Maintain domestic responsibility. Article 32(2) makes clear that international cooperation does not displace each State's obligation to fulfil the Convention. Donor support should strengthen accountable national systems and inclusive implementation; the absence of external support does not remove domestic responsibilities under Article 4.³⁷⁰

Questions for assessment

Do all cooperation programmes include accessibility and meaningful participation, with resources and measurable results? Can people challenge funding that sustains exclusion, and does assistance strengthen inclusive national systems?

³⁶⁶ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 49. Ukraine (2024), [CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3](#), para. 23. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 65.

³⁶⁷ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 75. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 62. On training and capacity in international cooperation, Switzerland (2022), [CRPD/C/CHE/CO/1](#), para. 62(c); Mongolia (2023), [CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3](#), para. 64.

³⁶⁸ Switzerland (2022), [CRPD/C/CHE/CO/1](#), para. 62(c); Kazakhstan (2024), [CRPD/C/KAZ/CO/1](#), para. 68(a).

³⁶⁹ Dominican Republic (2025), [CRPD/C/DOM/CO/2-3](#), para. 60. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 75. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 62.

³⁷⁰ Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 62. Germany (2023), [CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3](#), para. 8.

Article 33 National implementation and monitoring

The Convention distinguishes government implementation from independent monitoring and requires participation by civil society, particularly persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. These functions must have the authority, independence and resources needed to work.

- 1. Designate effective government focal points.** Appoint focal points with clear responsibilities, expertise and resources for implementation.³⁷¹ Make their roles and contact arrangements known. Distribute responsibility across ministries or institutions where necessary so that implementation is not confined to a single social welfare unit.³⁷²
- 2. Coordinate government action.** Give due consideration to a coordination mechanism and ensure coherent action across sectors and levels of government.³⁷³ The Committee recommends inter-institutional coordination in the EU and effective participation of representative organizations in Finland's coordination bodies.³⁷⁴
- 3. Establish an independent monitoring framework.** Maintain, strengthen, designate or establish a framework with one or more independent mechanisms to promote, protect and monitor implementation.³⁷⁵ Provide a clear legal basis and take the Paris Principles into account as Article 33(2) requires. The Committee calls for mechanisms compliant with those principles.³⁷⁶
- 4. Give monitoring a comprehensive mandate and resources.** Enable scrutiny of existing and proposed laws and policies across all Convention rights. Ensure adequate financial, technical and human resources and institutional independence. The EU observations call for earmarked funding, clarity of legal status and procedures requiring institutions to take note of monitoring findings.³⁷⁷
- 5. Ensure full participation in monitoring.** Enable persons with disabilities through their representative organizations participate fully in monitoring, with access to information, accessible processes and sufficient funding.³⁷⁸ Clarify their role and preserve their ability to express independent views.³⁷⁹

³⁷¹ On the capacity of focal points and coordination mechanisms, Slovakia (2016), [CRPD/C/SVK/CO/1](#), para. 88.

³⁷² European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 77. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 65.

³⁷³ Slovakia (2016), [CRPD/C/SVK/CO/1](#), para. 88; Greece (2019), [CRPD/C/GRC/CO/1](#), para. 49.

³⁷⁴ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 77. Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 65.

³⁷⁵ Greece (2019), [CRPD/C/GRC/CO/1](#), para. 49.

³⁷⁶ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 79. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 65. Kiribati (2025), [CRPD/C/KIR/CO/1](#), para. 66.

³⁷⁷ European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 79. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 65.

³⁷⁸ Greece (2019), [CRPD/C/GRC/CO/1](#), para. 49; Slovakia (2016), [CRPD/C/SVK/CO/1](#), para. 88.

³⁷⁹ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 65. European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 79. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 65.

6. Protect organizational autonomy and continuity. Provide an enabling environment and sustainable support so that representative organizations and disability rights defenders can fulfil their Convention roles autonomously.³⁸⁰ Public funding must be compatible with their independence rather than make participation dependent on agreement with government.³⁸¹

7. Connect findings to implementation and remedies. Establish procedures for government and other responsible bodies to respond to monitoring findings, implement recommendations and report progress. Preserve the distinction between the authority implementing policy and the body independently assessing it. Coordinate monitoring with accessible complaints and other accountability mechanisms.³⁸²

Questions for assessment

Are government responsibilities clear and independently scrutinized? Does the monitoring framework have sufficient authority and resources, and can representative organizations participate autonomously and influence follow-up?

³⁸⁰ On independent, self-managed funding for participation in monitoring, Greece (2019), [CRPD/C/GRC/CO/1](#), para. 49.

³⁸¹ Finland (2025), [CRPD/C/FIN/CO/1](#), para. 65. Viet Nam (2025), [CRPD/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 6.

³⁸² European Union (2025), [CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3](#), para. 79. Ghana (2024), [CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1](#), para. 65.