



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding observations on the initial report of the Islamic Republic of Iran*

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the initial report of the Islamic Republic of Iran (CRPD/C/IRN/1) at its 302nd and 303rd meetings (see CRPD/C/SR.302 and 303), held on 22 and 23 March 2017. It adopted the present concluding observations at its 321st meeting, held on 5 April 2017.
2. The Committee welcomes the initial report of the State party, which was prepared in accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines. It also appreciates the State party's written replies (CRPD/C/IRN/Q/1/Add.1) to the list of issues prepared by the Committee (CRPD/C/IRN/Q/1).
3. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue held during the consideration of the report and commends the State party for its high-level delegation, headed by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Committee likewise welcomed the participation of Zahra Nemati, an Iranian citizen and winner of a gold medal at the 2016 Paralympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

II. Positive aspects

4. The Committee notes that the Convention is considered a domestic law in the State party and is applicable according to article 9 of the State party Constitution. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party since the ratification of the Convention, including the adoption of the following legislative measures:
 - (a) The Charter on Citizens' Rights, ratified on 17 July 2016, which states that persons with disabilities should be provided with a suitable civic and social environment;
 - (b) Act No. 77303 of 6 September 2015, which establishes measures regarding accessibility of information and communication, including the production of books in Braille and accessibility of websites;
 - (c) The new Code of Criminal Procedure of 2015, which stipulates a duty to prosecute cases of violation of financial rights, inheritance or family relations against persons with disabilities under guardianship.
5. The Committee welcomes the State party's measures to develop a policy framework for implementing the Convention, including measures to encourage entrepreneurship

* Adopted by the Committee at its seventeenth session (20 March-12 April 2017).



among persons with disabilities, the provision of equal pay for women with disabilities for fewer working hours and the comprehensive plan of action on the rights of the child and juvenile on the horizon of 2025, adopted in 2014, which established measures for children with disabilities.

III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1-4)

6. The Committee notes with concern the general reservation made by the State party upon its accession to the Convention, and the lack of awareness among public authorities and society about the Convention. It is also concerned about the absence of information to indicate whether and when the State party will ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

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

- (a) **Withdraw its reservation to the Convention;**
- (b) **Disseminate the Convention and the Committee's general comments to the Government, ministries, members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the judiciary, law enforcement officers and religious and community leaders, so as to create greater awareness of the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities;**
- (c) **Conduct a dialogue with religious and community leaders about the compatibility of Islamic laws and the Convention;**
- (d) **Take measures to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.**

8. The Committee notes with concern that:

- (a) The State party understands disability as a health condition or "disorder" which is "continuous" or "considerable" (see CRPD/C/IRN/1, para. 13), and prioritizes the prevention of impairment, medical treatment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities;
- (b) The legislation and policy measures entail "charity", "care" and "welfare" for persons with disabilities, rather than recognizing them as rights holders;
- (c) The legislation contains derogatory language, such as the terms "mentally ill", "insane" and/or "retarded".

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

- (a) **Bring its legislation, particularly the Comprehensive Law on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2004), into line with the Convention on the basis of the human rights model of disability, and repeal derogatory terminology referring to persons with disabilities, including in the new Criminal Code;**
- (b) **Ensure that the State Welfare Organization recognizes the evolving concept of disability as a result of the interaction between any type of impairment and barriers that impede full participation of persons with disabilities in society;**
- (c) **Withdraw article 90 of the Sixth Development Plan of Iran that provides for compulsory premarital genetic testing and consultation to prevent the birth of children with disabilities;**
- (d) **Reaffirm the right of all persons with disabilities to found a family, to marry, and to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.**

10. The Committee notes with concern the lack of mechanisms to consult with organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes concerning the implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the lack of information about support for the work and advocacy of these organizations.

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

(a) **Ensure meaningful consultation with, and participation by, representative organizations of persons with disabilities in an independent manner, including organizations of women and children with disabilities, in the development and implementation of the Convention and ensure that they can access financial resources to advocate for human rights;**

(b) **Ensure that representative organizations of persons with disabilities engage freely with international mechanisms regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, including in the periodic examination of State party reports by the Committee and the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of a definition of disability-based discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;

(b) Multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities, in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and discrimination against persons perceived to have a disability, including on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation, who are forced to undergo medical treatment;

(c) The lack of information about measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities on an equal basis with others;

(d) The difference in measures taken by the State Welfare Organization and the Foundation of Martyr and Veterans Affairs concerning persons with disabilities and veterans of war.

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

(a) **Introduce disability as a ground for discrimination in its legislation and prohibit direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of disability, intersectional and multiple discrimination, including discrimination by association;**

(b) **Define in its legislation the concept of reasonable accommodation, in line with article 2 of the Convention, and the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;**

(c) **Withdraw legislation that restricts rights of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and tackle discrimination against persons perceived to have a disability due to their gender identity or sexual orientation, by prohibiting forced medical treatment and providing appropriate remedies and redress;**

(d) **Adopt public policies to ensure access by persons with disabilities to all rights enshrined in the Convention, in particular members of religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities;**

(e) **Ensure that all persons with disabilities and veterans of war, irrespective of impairment, receive equal protection concerning their rights under the Convention;**

(f) **Take into account article 5 of the Convention while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

14. The Committee is concerned about multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, including various forms of gender-based violence against them, as well as the absence of public policies aimed at ensuring their development,

advancement and empowerment. It also notes with concern that legislation and public policies emphasize caring roles of women in families with children with disabilities, instead of recognizing women and girls with disabilities themselves as rights holders under the Convention.

15. The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognize in its legislation and practices the principle of equality between women and men with disabilities established in article 3 (g) of the Convention, and take measures to prevent multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;

(b) Establish a time frame and a strategy to enforce the comprehensive legislation for securing women against violence, and prohibit all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including violence within the family;

(c) Ensure that the Office of the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs allocates human, technical and budgetary resources for the advancement of the rights of women and girls with disabilities and promotes full participation of organizations of women with disabilities in its work;

(d) Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol;

(e) Bear in mind its obligations under article 6 of the Convention while implementing targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

16. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of mechanisms for children with disabilities to express their views and opinions regarding all matters affecting them;

(b) The lack of information on measures to prevent abandonment and mistreatment of children with disabilities;

(c) The absence of strategies to promote the best interests of the child in action concerning children with disabilities;

(d) The lack of disaggregated data about access by girls and boys with disabilities to health services, education, an adequate standard of living including social protection and enjoyment of sports, leisure and cultural activities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Set up guidelines aimed at consulting with children with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensuring support according to their age and disability, in relation to issues affecting them;

(b) Adopt a strategy to sensitize families and communities about respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities, combat stereotypes against them and prevent isolation and neglect;

(c) Provide community-based services and support for children with disabilities with a view to eliminating institutionalization.

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

18. The Committee is concerned about the absence of public campaigns, including campaigns in the media, aimed at raising awareness about the dignity and value of persons with disabilities.

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

(a) **Develop a targeted strategy to raise awareness among society about the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities and to promote respect for the diversity of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention;**

(b) **Ensure appropriate dissemination of the Convention and the Committee's general comments and its concluding observations and recommendations in the Persian (Farsi) language and using accessible formats, modes and means of communication;**

(c) **Initiate dialogue in society and prevent the development of confusion between having a different sexual orientation and being a person with disabilities.**

Accessibility (art. 9)

20. The Committee observes that the State party has adopted accessibility standards and carried out plans to improve accessibility of housing. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information about plans to ensure accessibility in rural areas;

(b) The absence of measures to achieve accessibility of information and communication, including information and communication technologies;

(c) The absence of measures to monitor and sanction non-compliance with accessibility standards, in both the public and the private sector;

(d) The lack of information about plans to ensure accessibility to services and buildings, including schools, medical facilities and workplaces, and about ways in which representative organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted in the development of measures to achieve accessibility.

21. **The Committee, in line with its general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a national action plan on accessibility with time-bound benchmarks and budget allocations, that covers rural and urban areas and all dimensions of accessibility;**

(b) **Include in its legislation the principle of universal design and promote the application of universal design by relevant stakeholders;**

(c) **Make public investments, through public procurement measures, aimed at providing accessible and subsidized information and communication technologies and systems for persons with disabilities;**

(d) **Introduce mechanisms to monitor and evaluate compliance with accessibility standards in both the public and the private sphere;**

(e) **Consult on a permanent basis with persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, about the accessibility measures required for them to access facilities and services;**

(f) **Bear in mind the linkages between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7.**

Right to life (art. 10)

22. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, may face a greater risk of incurring the death penalty because of a lack of procedural accommodations in criminal proceedings.

23. **The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to replace the death penalty as a form of punishment and ensure that persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their life.**

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

24. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party about its demining programme. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of appropriate preparedness and information about risk reduction strategies during emergencies, in formats accessible to persons with disabilities, and information about accessibility of shelters and evacuation routes;

(b) The absence of information on the situation of refugee persons with disabilities and the way in which they are included in disaster risk reduction strategies.

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

(a) **Ensure that the disaster risk reduction plan and strategies provide for accessibility and the inclusion of persons with disabilities, in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;**

(b) **Take measures to facilitate the protection of persons with disabilities in refugee camps, through measures such as accessible shelters, water and sanitation, education and health, evacuation during emergencies and rehabilitation.**

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

26. The Committee is concerned about the guardianship regime for persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities which has been set up in civil law and the law governing non-litigious matters. It is also concerned about the absence of supported decision-making for persons with disabilities.

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

(a) **Review its civil and criminal legislation with the aim of withdrawing the guardianship regime affecting persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and recognize the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in all areas of life;**

(b) **Develop a system of supported decision-making for all persons with disabilities, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law;**

(c) **Raise awareness in society, including among families, about the contents and scope of the right to equal recognition before the law, and about ways of respecting the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.**

Access to justice (art. 13)

28. The Committee observes that the State party provides legal representation for persons with disabilities in civil and criminal proceedings. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The denial of access to justice to persons deprived of their legal capacity;

(b) The absence of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations that allow persons with disabilities themselves to exercise an active role as direct and indirect participants in all legal procedures, including through accessible information;

(c) The absence of information about training for judges and other personnel, including the police and prison staff, concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

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

(a) **Review its legislation with the aim of enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in any type of legal proceedings, including exercising their roles as victims, defendants and witnesses;**

(b) **Develop protocols for the judiciary aimed at identifying procedural, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities, including provision of documents of legislation and court proceedings through sign**

language interpretation, braille, easy-read and other accessible formats, modes and means of communication;

(c) Develop a capacity-building strategy within the judicial branch on the rights of persons with disabilities, targeting lawyers, magistrates, judges, prison staff and the police.

Liberty and security of person (art. 14)

30. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities can be detained in institutions such as hospices and rehabilitation and care centres on the basis of impairment. The Committee is concerned that having a psychosocial and/or intellectual impairment is a reason for not standing trial and being subjected to detention in psychiatric hospitals, in the context of criminal procedures.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Repeal legislation, policies and practices that allow forced institutionalization of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, including for the purpose of psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation or the alleged need for “care”;

(b) Reaffirm the right to a fair trial of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in accordance with the Convention, and end detention in psychiatric hospitals on the basis of impairment.

Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)

32. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities in cases of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, particularly in residential institutions and psychiatric hospitals;

(b) The enforcement of mutilation as a form of criminal sentence, and the stigmatization of persons who have impairment as a consequence of such punishment;

(c) The absence of measures to protect persons with disabilities against obligatory medical or scientific research or experimentation.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish a mechanism to file complaints against all forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and a monitoring mechanism to prevent torture in all settings where persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty;

(b) Enact legislation to prohibit all corporal punishment of children with disabilities and to protect them from such practices;

(c) Provide explicit guidelines for judges in order to replace the punishment of mutilation with other types of penalty, and combat stigma against persons with physical impairments due to mutilation;

(d) Introduce the requirement for, and protocols to ensure, free and informed consent of persons with disabilities concerning scientific research.

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)

34. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information about measures to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities;

(b) The absence of information about prosecutions and convictions in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(c) The absence of remedies and redress for all persons with disabilities who have faced any form of exploitation, violence and abuse, including psychosocial counselling, reparations and compensation.

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

(a) **Adopt a strategy to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities, including through early identification of instances of exploitation and specific risks of gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities;**

(b) **Strengthen its efforts to ensure that religious leaders participate in strategies to prevent any form of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Introduce guidelines for private non-governmental organizations on procedures for filing complaints in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities;**

(d) **Set up a comprehensive data collection system for cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnic background and type of impairment;**

(e) **Enforce article 66 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and ensure prosecutions and convictions in cases of violence against persons with disabilities, and provide early recovery, legal remedies, counselling and accessible services for victims.**

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

36. The Committee notes with concern that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities may be subjected to forced sterilization at the request of third parties, including guardians.

37. **The Committee recommends that the State party repeal legislation that allows the sterilization of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities at the request of guardians and establish a mechanism for supported decision-making about sexual and reproductive health and rights. It also recommends that the State party ensure that free and informed consent is provided prior to any form of medical treatment.**

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

38. The Committee notes with concern the absence of information about the ways in which persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities access services and obtain protection of their rights under the Convention. It is further concerned about the absence of measures to guarantee that migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities are provided with appropriate support and reasonable accommodation in immigration proceedings.

39. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and/or religious minorities, including those living in rural and remote areas, have access to identity documents and can access services and obtain protection of their rights under the Convention.**

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

40. The Committee is concerned about isolation and institutionalization of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who depend on “care” provided by their families or in institutions. It is further concerned about the absence of support services, including personal assistance aimed at ensuring inclusion of persons with disability in the community.

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

(a) **Adopt a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities, with a specified time frame, budget and measurable indicators, and withdraw the**

community mental health centre programme run by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education;

(b) **Redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services and increase budgets to enable persons with disabilities to live independently with access to services, including personal assistance;**

(c) **Raise awareness about the right to autonomy and self-determination of persons with disabilities, including decisions about where and with whom they live.**

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)

42. The Committee is concerned by:

(a) The lack of recognition of Persian Sign Language and the limited provision of sign language interpreters;

(b) The lack of availability of accessible information and communication technology for persons with disabilities, including easy-read formats;

(c) The lack of accessible public information, including accessible websites.

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

(a) **Recognize Persian Sign Language as an official language and its use in schools, and establish, jointly with organizations of deaf persons, a mechanism to certify the quality of interpretation services and ensure opportunities for continuous training for sign language interpreters;**

(b) **Promote and facilitate the use of easy-read and other accessible formats, modes and means of communication and grant persons with disabilities access to information and communication technology, including the provision of assistive technologies for all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas;**

(c) **Ensure accessibility of Government websites and websites of private entities which provide public services.**

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

44. The Committee is concerned about restrictions in the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities related to marriage, family, and parenthood, particularly in relation to persons deprived of their legal capacity. It is further concerned about restrictions on adoption by persons with disabilities and the lack of measures to prevent removal of children born to parents with disabilities.

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

(a) **Repeal legislation that prevents persons with disabilities from exercising their rights to marriage and parenthood;**

(b) **Provide access to reproductive and family planning education for all persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their parental rights and adopt children.**

Education (art. 24)

46. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The prevalence of the model of special education in the State party, the low number of children in the mainstream school system and the gap between girls and boys with disabilities participating in mainstream education;

(b) The lack of measures to train teachers, educational personnel and parents about inclusive education;

(c) The lack of information on the provision of reasonable accommodation and support for students in the mainstream setting;

(d) The absence of measures to improve access to education for children with disabilities living in rural communities.

47. **The Committee calls upon the State party to:**

(a) **Establish a time frame for the transition process from segregated to inclusive and quality education and ensure the availability of budgetary, technical and personal resources to complete the process;**

(b) **Collect disaggregated statistics by age, sex, gender, ethnic background and migrant, asylum-seeker or refugee status, on the advancement of the inclusive education system;**

(c) **Ensure and enforce the non-rejection of students with disabilities from mainstream schools and introduce reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities as an obligation at private and public mainstream schools;**

(d) **Take measures to employ teachers with disabilities at all levels of education;**

(e) **Take measures, including by encouraging public-private partnerships, to ensure the provision of assistive technologies in classrooms;**

(f) **Ensure the training of all teachers in inclusive education.**

Health (art. 25)

48. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of strategies to provide all persons with disabilities with access to health services;

(b) The absence of information about accessible information and equipment, including gynaecological services for women with disabilities;

(c) The lack of information about coverage of early identification programmes among children with disabilities in rural and urban areas;

(d) The lack of health insurance beyond the basic level for persons with disabilities who do not qualify as “war disabled veterans” and/or martyrs.

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

(a) **Ensure that all persons with disabilities, including women, girls and boys with disabilities, have access on an equal basis with others to affordable, accessible, quality and culturally sensitive health services, in both urban and rural areas;**

(b) **Strengthen its efforts to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services and information are fully accessible and incorporate a gender perspective;**

(c) **Introduce a data-collection system, based on international standards, on the health status of persons with disabilities, including an identification and follow-up mechanism for children with disabilities;**

(d) **Implement a strategy to provide health insurance for all persons with disabilities regardless of their impairment, cause of impairment, place of residence, age, sex, gender or refugee status.**

Work and employment (art. 27)

50. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The low compliance with the three-per-cent quota for employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector;

(b) The lack of recognition of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the workplace;

(c) The fact that measures to promote employment of war veterans are not implemented for other persons with disabilities;

(d) Gaps in the participation of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, and the fact that persons with disabilities remain in “sheltered workshops”.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt measures to comply with the quota of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector, and provide accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the workplace so as to increase the employment rate of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Increase its efforts to create job opportunities for persons with disabilities, including through affirmative action programmes, entrepreneurship, age-appropriate training, loans, microcredits and technical assistance for business management;**

(c) **Bear in mind the linkages between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure that persons with disabilities obtain productive and decent employment, in line with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.**

Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)

52. The Committee is concerned with the discriminatory treatment in social protection among persons with disabilities by the State Welfare Organization and the Foundation of Martyr and Veterans Affairs. It is further concerned about the lack of information about measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for women with disabilities who are heads of households.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Ensure that all persons with disabilities are ensured an adequate standard of living, and that additional social protection schemes are adopted and monitored, bearing in mind target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals;**

(b) **Expand the coverage of the programmes of housing and interest-free loans to all persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Work in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities to create a system for disaggregated data collection on the percentage of persons with disabilities who are beneficiaries of social programmes, such as payment of financial assistance for in-home support, disability pension and complementary health insurance, and the number of persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities who have received disability pensions.**

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

54. The Committee is concerned about measures that deny the right of persons with sensory impairments and persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities to stand as candidates for election to parliament. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessibility of election materials and facilities.

55. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Repeal provisions from the Elections Act and other laws that deny persons with disabilities the right to exercise civil and political rights based on impairment or restriction of legal capacity;**

(b) **Ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of election materials and facilities, and ensure that persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice when voting.**

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)

56. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

57. **The Committee encourages the State party to take all necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.**

C. Specific obligations (arts. 31-33)

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

58. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systems to collect data on the situation of persons with disabilities, including the barriers that they face in exercising their rights, and the lack of data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnic or linguistic background, and migrant, asylum-seeker or refugee status.

59. **The Committee recommends that the State party work in consultation and, where appropriate, in cooperation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to create a system for the collection of up-to-date, appropriate, disaggregated data, in line with the proposal by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.**

International cooperation (art. 32)

60. The Committee observes that the State party has volunteered to be reviewed by the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017. However, it notes with concern the absence of information on ways in which the rights of persons with disabilities are fully included.

61. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in respect of national reporting to the high-level political forum.**

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effectiveness of the existing mechanism for coordination among public agencies in all sectors, and among the national, provincial and municipal levels, in respect of implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the absence of an independent monitoring mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the lack of participation of civil society in the monitoring process.

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

(a) **Appoint a governmental body as the focal point for implementation of the Convention, and consider the establishment of a coordination mechanism under article 33 (1) of the Convention;**

(b) **Establish a national mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention, with the participation of an institution in compliance with the Paris Principles, in line with article 33 (2) of the Convention, and ensure full participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the monitoring process in line with article 33 (3) of the Convention.**

Cooperation and technical assistance

64. Under article 37 of the Convention, the Committee can provide technical guidance to the State party on any queries addressed to the experts via the secretariat. The State party can also seek technical assistance from United Nations specialized agencies with offices in the country or the region.

IV. Follow-up

Dissemination of information

65. **The Committee requests that the State party provide, within 12 months and in accordance with article 35 (2) of the Convention, information on the measures taken**

to implement the Committee's recommendations as set forth in paragraphs 9 (a) and 35 (a) and (e) above.

66. The Committee requests that the State party implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and the Islamic Consultative Assembly, officials in relevant ministries, local authorities, organizations of persons with disabilities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies.

67. The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic report.

68. The Committee requests the State party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and representative organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats including easy-read, and to make them available on the Government website on human rights.

Next periodic report

69. The Committee requests that the State party submit its combined second, third and fourth reports by no later than 19 June 2022, and include therein information on the implementation of the present concluding observations. The Committee invites the State party to consider submitting the above-mentioned reports under the Committee's simplified reporting procedure, according to which the Committee prepares a list of issues at least one year prior to the due date set for the report/combined reports of a State party. The replies of a State party to such a list of issues constitute its next report.
