



# General Assembly

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### Third Committee

Agenda item 70 (a)

#### Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

**Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Belize, Ecuador, Finland, France,  
Honduras, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain and Sweden: draft resolution**

#### **Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: accessibility**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution [72/162](#) of 19 December 2017, as well as relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

*Recalling also* the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms without discrimination,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>2</sup> and the Optional Protocol thereto,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>6</sup> and all other relevant international human rights instruments,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.



*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>7</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>8</sup> and the New Urban Agenda,<sup>9</sup>

*Welcoming* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged to leave no one behind, and acknowledging that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind,

*Expressing concern* that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which limit their enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others, and recognizing that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, is crucial to making progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

*Welcoming* the fact that, since the opening for signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto on 30 March 2007, 162 States and 1 regional integration organization have signed and 180 States and 1 regional integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention and 94 States have signed and 96 States have ratified the Optional Protocol,

*Noting with appreciation* the work and activities that have been and continue to be undertaken in support of the Convention and towards the fulfilment and mainstreaming of the rights of all persons with disabilities, particularly through, inter alia, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, the Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Policy, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, other human rights treaty bodies, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

*Welcoming* progress towards the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities in the work of the United Nations and the launch of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy,

*Recognizing* the leadership of the Secretary-General in bringing about transformative and systematic change on disability inclusion across the United Nations system,

*Recognizing also* that persons with disabilities face discrimination and other barriers that limit their access to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or available to the public, in both urban and rural areas, and, therefore, the need for the identification and elimination of environmental and attitudinal barriers to accessibility, as well as the development of minimum standards to ensure the access of persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairment, to any service, facility or environment, either virtual or physical, on an equal basis with others,

*Emphasizing* that accessibility is the precondition for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community, participate fully and equally in all aspects of life and have unrestricted enjoyment of all their human rights and fundamental

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<sup>7</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution 70/1.

freedoms on an equal basis with others, and recognizing the implementation of accessibility measures, including through the use of universal design and the use of assistive technologies, as a means of investing in society as a whole and as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda,

*Recognizing* the benefits of utilizing universal design as a means of designing environments, including technologies, products, programmes and services, that are inclusive and accessible to all, including persons with disabilities, and recognizing also that the application of universal design from the initial stages of any development could help to make the building of accessible environments, both physical and virtual, much less costly than retrofitting adaptations to remove barriers to accessibility,

*Recognizing also* that accessibility standards, laws and policies should include reasonable accommodations which are necessary and appropriate modifications and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure that persons with disabilities may enjoy or exercise on an equal basis with others all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recognizing further* the need for States to accelerate the development, implementation and mainstreaming of strategies that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all persons with disabilities, including women and girls, to the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights without discrimination by adopting legislation, policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities, and affirming that realizing their human rights requires their full, effective and meaningful participation and inclusion in all aspects of public, political, economic, cultural, social and family life, on an equal basis with all others,

*Recognizing* that information and communications technologies, including assistive technology and devices, have shown their potential to strengthen the exercise of human rights, and that they can create conditions enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy their human rights and can contribute to their empowerment and allow them to live independently in the community on an equal basis with others,

*Stressing* the importance of closely consulting and actively involving persons with disabilities, including women and girls, through their representative organizations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies that affect their lives and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, and recognizing that their direct involvement in the development and implementation of accessible and inclusive policies and programmes minimizes the risk of creating barriers to accessibility and enhances the understanding and outcomes for all persons with disabilities,

*Acknowledging* the importance of taking measures to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities in order to eliminate discrimination, stereotypes, prejudices and other barriers which constitute a major impediment to their full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making,

*Concerned* that the continuing lack of reliable statistics, data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, policies and programmes, and, in this regard, recognizing the need to intensify efforts to build the capacity of Member States and to strengthen data collection and analysis and disaggregate data by disability, sex and age to support the development and monitor the implementation of evidence-based policies and programmes that are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, on an equal basis with others,

1. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>2</sup> and the Optional Protocol thereto<sup>3</sup> as a matter of priority;
2. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Convention and submitted one or more reservations to it to review regularly the effect and continued relevance of such reservations and to consider the possibility of withdrawing them;
3. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to strengthen efforts undertaken to disseminate accessible and easy-to-understand information on the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, including to children and young people to promote their understanding, and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under those instruments;
4. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on accessibility and the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto<sup>11</sup> and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities;<sup>12</sup>
5. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant sustainable development strategies, and encourages States to apply a human rights-based approach and to intensify their efforts to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>10</sup> consistent with their international obligations;
6. *Encourages* States to review and repeal any law or policy that restricts the full and effective participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others or discriminates against persons with disabilities, including to address situations in which a lack of accessibility has prevented persons with disabilities from accessing a service or facility open to the public and to establish accessible and effective redress mechanisms for discrimination on the basis of disability;
7. *Urges* States to take steps to eliminate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities through repealing discriminatory laws, policies and practices, to take all effective measures to remove other barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities in accessing any service, facility or environment, either virtual or physical, that is open to the public and to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all rights stipulated in the Convention;
8. *Calls upon* States to develop, adopt and promote national accessibility standards and guidelines, including through the adoption of a suitable legal framework, where one does not exist, in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations and other stakeholders, which promote the application of the principle of universal design and include minimum standards for the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and other facilities and services open or available to the public, in both urban and rural areas;
9. *Also calls upon* States to regularly review and monitor accessibility standards and other accessibility laws in close consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations and other stakeholders and using data in order to identify, assess and address gaps to ensure that persons with

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<sup>11</sup> [A/74/146](#).

<sup>12</sup> [A/74/186](#).

disabilities can access any service, facility or environment, either virtual or physical, that is open to the public;

10. *Further calls upon* States to improve the access of persons with disabilities to information through the provision of accessible forms of assistance and support, appropriate to different kinds of disabilities, in a timely manner and without additional cost, including forms of live assistance and intermediaries, accessible formats and technologies;

11. *Calls upon* States to promote and facilitate access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, especially new and emerging ones, including information and communications systems, mobility aids, assistive devices and other assistive technologies, and to promote accessibility at an early stage of development of new technologies;

12. *Urges* States to consider amending laws and policies relating to public procurement to incorporate accessibility requirements which ensure that any service, facility or environment, either virtual or physical, that is open to the public is inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities;

13. *Calls upon* States to raise awareness and to provide training and other support to public officials, service providers and other stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities and to address discrimination, stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices in order to promote the provision of accessible and inclusive public services and facilities that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities;

14. *Encourages* States to disseminate information and work with the private sector, employers and other entities to implement accessibility measures for any facilities or services that are open or provided to the public that take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

15. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and provide timely and appropriate reintegration and rehabilitation assistance to persons with disabilities while ensuring that their specific needs are addressed, such as access to health-care services, psychosocial support and educational programmes;

16. *Calls upon* States to strengthen efforts to empower all persons with disabilities and enhance their participation and promote leadership in society through taking measures to address and remove all barriers that prevent or restrict their access and full and equal participation in the community, including in the government and public sector, the private sector, civil society and all branches and bodies of the national monitoring system of the Convention and to work to ensure that persons with disabilities are closely consulted and actively involved, through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of all legislation, policies and programmes which have an impact on their lives and which recognize the diversity of persons with disabilities and the different accessibility challenges they can face;

17. *Encourages* States to provide support to existing organizations and promote the creation of organizations, including civil society organizations, and networks of persons with disabilities, and to promote and support persons with disabilities in taking leadership roles in public decision-making bodies at all levels, recognizing the importance for States of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in the implementation of measures on persons with disabilities;

18. *Calls upon* States to collect and analyse data disaggregated by income, sex, race, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant to national contexts to assist with the identification and eradication of barriers and all forms of discrimination, especially multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, that prevent persons with disabilities from enjoying all the rights stipulated in the Convention and to guide inclusive policy planning and used on an ongoing basis to assess and advance accessibility, and to improve data-collection systems for adequate monitoring and evaluation frameworks on the implementation of the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals for all persons with disabilities;

19. *Urges* States and other relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, to continue to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by, inter alia, supporting the disaggregation of data by disability, sex and age for specific indicators, on the basis of the Washington Group short set of questions on disability and other data-collection methodologies, where relevant, to assist States in measuring the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets and programming policies in the context of the Goals;

20. *Encourages* States, United Nations entities and relevant international organizations, inter alia:

(a) To ensure that international cooperation is disability- and gender-sensitive and inclusive, including through the implementation of disability markers to monitor the implementation of programmes and through the collection of data and statistics on persons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, as well as other international frameworks;

(b) To support and promote international cooperation and assistance, and enhance partnerships and coordination, including South-South cooperation, among themselves and with the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders, in strengthening the means of implementation of the Convention and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the mobilization of financial resources, technical cooperation and facilitation of access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies;

(c) To facilitate and support capacity-building initiatives aimed at fostering the exchange of technical knowledge, information and other programmes at the regional and international levels relating to good practices in achieving accessibility outcomes and to promote the standardization of international cooperation that is accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities;

21. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly annually, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”, as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

22. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including Executive Boards, to effectively implement the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy across its programmes and operations, at both the headquarters and country levels;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session an initial progress report on steps taken by the United Nations system towards implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the rights of persons with disabilities with a focus on the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in decision-making processes, in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, relevant United Nations agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Children's Fund, taking into account the views of relevant stakeholders and using existing available materials, and to include a segment on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

25. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Office of the High Commissioner has adequate resources for the fulfilment of its tasks with respect to its work on the rights of persons with disabilities.

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