



**Convention on the Rights
of Persons with Disabilities**

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Consideration of reports submitted by States
parties under article 35 of the Convention**

Initial reports of States parties due in 2014

Russian Federation*

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Introduction

1. In 2008, the Russian Federation signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was then ratified pursuant to Federal Act No. 36-FZ of 3 May 2012 and entered into force for the Russian Federation on 25 October 2012. The decision to become a party to the Convention is fully in keeping with article 7 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which provides for State support to persons with disabilities (as well as other categories of person), the development of a system of social services and the establishment of State pensions, benefits and other social security guarantees. Given the Convention's status as an international treaty, its provisions are binding, including in cases where they do not coincide with national legislation (Constitution, art. 15 (4)).

2. The Federal Act on Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter the "Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act"), adopted in 1995, drew on the country's previous positive experience of social protection and on the provisions of a number of international instruments (the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3447 of 9 December 1975, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, and others) and paved the way for the transition from an occupational health model of disability to a medical and social model of this evolving concept. As a result of the alignment of the concept of "disability" with international standards and the impact of other factors contributing to the incidence of disability, the number of persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation rose from 4.7 million in 1993 to 13.2 million in 2013. The share of persons with disabilities in the population increased commensurately, from 3.2 per cent to 9.2 per cent (details on the indicators used to measure the observance of the rights of persons with disabilities as set out in the Convention are provided in annex 1).

3. At the same time, a system of legal standards compliant with international law started to be introduced, covering: pension provision; social assistance for persons with disabilities at the federal, regional and municipal levels; help with job placement; medical and social assessment and rehabilitation; insurance payments for injuries at work and occupational diseases; pension top-ups and compensation payments; the free provision of equipment for rehabilitation (including prosthetics) to persons with disabilities; the development of a rehabilitation sector; and the creation of a barrier-free environment.

4. Nevertheless, an analysis of the approach towards persons with disabilities from the standpoint of the Convention revealed that some sectoral laws lacked actual legal mechanisms regulating action by the authorities to prevent disability-based discrimination, while targeted measures to help and assist persons with disabilities to overcome barriers, including support during rehabilitation and habilitation, were not formulated clearly enough.

5. In this regard, in the period 2011-2013, 12 legislative acts were passed in order to give effect to different provisions of the Convention (annex 2) in preparation for the instrument's ratification and as part of subsequent efforts to implement it. In particular, laws were adopted to: provide additional modalities for the exercise of the right to vote by persons with disabilities; enhance rehabilitation arrangements in social service institutions; establish a system of compensation payments for harm caused to the health of persons disabled as a result of war; define the special features of educational provision for persons with disabilities; introduce standards regarding the equipment requirements of special posts for persons with disabilities; enhance the mechanism for setting quotas for such posts; improve the accessibility of air transport for persons with disabilities; broaden the use of Russian Sign Language; increase funding for expenses related to keeping guide dogs; boost

support for civil society organizations of persons with disabilities; and make cash transactions more accessible for persons with visual impairments.

6. In addition, during the period 2011-2013, new basic federal laws were adopted on education and social services, taking into account provisions of the Convention.

7. Nevertheless, the application of these standards demonstrated that it was not possible to address the existing systemic failures in the legal regulation of issues concerning the creation of a barrier-free environment and the elimination of disability-based discrimination by means of individual laws. It became obvious that interconnected amendments were needed to a whole range of laws. To that end, a federal bill was drafted to introduce amendments to various pieces of legislation on social protection for persons with disabilities, in connection with the ratification of the Convention. The bill on the implementation of the Convention (annex 3) was passed by the State Duma, the lower house of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, in 2014 on first reading and is scheduled for adoption in the fourth quarter of 2014. It introduces, in a systematic way, amendments to 25 legislative acts, establishing Convention-compliant standards for the creation of a barrier-free environment, the empowerment of the authorities to facilitate access for persons with disabilities to facilities and services, and the provision of assistance to those persons in the exercise of the rights and freedoms common to all citizens, based on the principles of non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation. These amendments are helping to improve conditions for the use by persons with disabilities of transport services, information and communications, and the enjoyment of culture, sport, health care, social protection, employment, access to justice and voting rights.

8. Practical measures taken in 2011-2012 to give effect to the Convention resulted in the adoption and implementation of the State Accessible Environment Programme (annex 4). The Programme provides for the adoption of a wide range of measures pursuant to the Convention with the aim of creating a barrier-free environment; refining the disability assessment and rehabilitation system; enhancing education, employment prospects, cultural amenities and involvement in sporting activities, tourism and public life for persons with disabilities; ensuring their individual mobility; and improving the situation with respect to information and communications. In 2014, the Government decided to develop measures in order to extend the programme to cover the period 2016-2020.

9. The Accessible Environment Programme, in combination with other State, federal special-purpose and regional programmes (see para. 23), is thus one of the main instruments for phased long-term State planning of measures to implement the Convention (with each phase lasting for five years). Besides practical activities, it is planned during each phase to continue the initial efforts to make interconnected amendments to the legislation of the Russian Federation and of the country's constituent entities. Moreover, the bill on the implementation of the Convention stipulates that State authorities must approve and carry out in areas within their remit initiatives to progressively increase the values of the indicators of accessibility for persons with disabilities of facilities and services ("road maps").

Article 1: Purpose

10. The aim of State policy on social protection for persons with disabilities, as set out in the preamble to the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, is to ensure that they have the same opportunities as other citizens to exercise the civil, economic, political and other rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, in accordance with the universally recognized principles and standards of international law and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party.

11. The aim of the policy is consistent with the purpose of the Convention as stated in article 1. The Russian State guarantees all citizens, including persons with disabilities, irrespective of the circumstances, equality of human and civil rights and freedoms. Any restriction of civil rights on grounds of social status, race, ethnicity, language or religious affiliation is prohibited (Constitution, art. 19 (2)). The dignity of the individual is defended by the State and nothing can justify encroaching on it (Constitution, art. 21 (1)).

12. The concept of “a person with a disability” is enshrined in Russian legislation (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 1, first para.). A person with a disability is deemed to be “a person with impaired health and persistent impairment of body function caused by illness or the consequences of trauma or defects and resulting in the limitation of everyday activities and the need for social protection”. This definition virtually coincides with the definition of “persons with disabilities” formulated in the Convention, since “long-term impairments” can be considered synonymous with “persistent impairment of body function”. Similarly, “impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others” can be fully equated with impaired health “resulting in the limitation of everyday activities”, as specified in the Russian legislation. The term “limitation of everyday activities”* refers to the negative aspects of the interaction between the individual (owing to his or her altered health) and factors in his or her environment.

Article 2: Definitions

13. In Russian legislation, the enforcement of the provisions on matters related to disability is based on definitions and terms corresponding to article 2 of the Convention. Following the ratification of the Convention, a number of measures were taken to bring the main concepts into line with it.

14. The term “communication” (Convention, art. 2, first indent) is included in the definition of “limitation of everyday activities” contained in article 1 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act. A fuller definition of this concept, as “capacity to communicate”, is incorporated in section III of Ministry of Health and Social Development Order No. 1013n of 23 December 2009, in paragraph 6 (d): “Capacity to communicate is the ability to establish contact with people by perceiving, processing, retaining, reproducing and transferring information.”

15. Each Russian citizen has the right to use his or her mother tongue and to the free choice of language for communication, education, tuition and creative work (Constitution, art. 2 (26)). Russian Sign Language is the recognized language for persons with hearing and/or speech impairments, including in settings where the State language is used for oral communication (Federal Act No. 296-FZ of 30 December 2012 amending articles 14 and 19 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act). Russian legislation (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 14, first para.; Education Act, art. 79; Principles of Social Services Act, art. 19 (4) (3)) provides for the use of the following means of communication by persons with disabilities, as listed in article 2 of the Convention: languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology.

* International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF), approved on 22 May 2001 at the fifty-fourth session of the World Health Assembly (resolution WHA54.21).

16. Before the Convention was ratified, the term “non-discrimination”, applying to all Russian citizens, was used in labour legislation (Constitution, art. 37; Labour Code of 30 December 2001, arts. 2, third indent, and 3). In 2014, in order to bring Russian legislation into line with the relevant provision of the Convention, a bill on implementation of the instrument was drawn up containing a definition of discrimination on the basis of disability and legal standards on the inadmissibility of this form of discrimination.

17. The term “reasonable accommodation” is not used explicitly in Russian legislation. Until recently, there were no mechanisms or criteria to define what constituted reasonable accommodation and what should be qualified as a “disproportionate or undue burden”. In 2014, the bill on implementing the Convention set out the fundamentals of such a mechanism. Criteria and conditions for ensuring accessibility were established in line with the notion of “reasonable accommodation” (see para. 53 of this report) and are differentiated according to:

- First, the type of impairment of body function and body structure
- Second, the specific type of social infrastructure facility for which access is required

The bill also provides for the possibility of progressive implementation of the requirements regarding accessibility of facilities and services for persons with disabilities, for the tailoring of the assistance provided to those persons to reflect the financial means of the organizations and individuals that own the facilities or deliver the services, and for the use of State subsidies to compensate for the costs of creating workspaces adapted for persons with disabilities

18. No term analogous to “universal design” is used in Russian legislation. However, the set of legislative acts approved by the Russian Federation in preparation for the ratification of the Convention and its subsequent implementation is intended, in practice, to create a barrier-free environment and to refine the technical regulations on the development and introduction of equipment, objects, conditions, programmes and services designed to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible. These provisions are largely in line with the idea of “universal design” and offer guidance for creating and using assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed. The idea of universal design is reflected to a great extent in the newly introduced standards on: improving the quality and accessibility of transport services and communication facilities for persons with disabilities; providing unimpeded access for persons with disabilities to social infrastructure facilities; enhancing the quality and accessibility of social services, health care, education, culture and communications; and ensuring the safety of products, work processes, operations, storage, transportation, sales, use and so on (annex 3).

Article 3: General principles

19. Since 2012, the development of policy on disability has been based on the principles set out in article 3 of the Convention. State protection of the dignity of the individual, the right to defend one’s honour and good name and the possibility of exercising one’s rights and duties independently and fully have been enshrined in the Constitution (arts. 21, 23 and 60).

20. The principle of “non-discrimination” (**art. 3 (b)**) is one of the tenets underpinning Russian legislation on the protection of human rights. In 2014, in order to establish a mechanism for identifying and preventing discrimination, a definition of discrimination was incorporated into Russian legislation during the law-making process, along with conditions to ensure access for persons with disabilities to all areas of life in society, differentiated according to the impairment of their body function and the limitation of their everyday activities, and also according to the specific type of facility (institution, organization)

providing services to them. Failure to comply with these conditions is an indicator of discrimination and results in the imposition of administrative penalties on those responsible. Similar amendments have been made to 25 other federal laws through the 2014 bill on the implementation of the Convention.

21. The principle of “participation and inclusion in society” (**art. 3 (c)**) is applied in practice through a system of economic and legal measures guaranteed by the State and intended to create equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to take part in life in society along with other citizens (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 2, first para.). In addition to social adaptation, the integration into society of persons with disabilities is defined as one of the aims of rehabilitation (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 9, third para.). Legal norms provide for the achievement of the full and optimally effective participation of persons with disabilities in life in society (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, arts 14 and 15), while there are measures to eliminate barriers to information and communications and physical barriers hindering integration into society.

22. The principle of “respect for difference of persons with disabilities” (**art. 3 (d)**) is reflected in Russian legislation, not only through the acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, but also through the recognition of the difference of each person with a disability when defining social protection measures guaranteed for them by the State, including rehabilitation and social support.

23. The principle of “equality of opportunity” (**art. 3 (e)**) is enshrined as a legal norm in Russian legislation. The State policy on social protection for persons with disabilities is aimed at ensuring that they have the same possibilities as other citizens of exercising their rights and freedoms (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, first preambular para.). Persons with disabilities are guaranteed the opportunity to realize their abilities, on the same basis as other citizens, in the most diverse areas of life in society (education, employment, health care, culture, libraries, transport, communication, the consumer goods market, justice and so on) through legislative acts governing these areas; this is also reflected in the sections of the report addressing the articles of the Convention.

24. The principle of “accessibility” (**art. 3 (f)**) has always been a pillar of federal legislation on persons with disabilities (Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, arts. 14 and 15). In the Russian Federation, the concept of ensuring accessibility currently covers measures to identify and remove obstacles (barriers) preventing the unhindered access of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and other facilities and services. The State has codified a set of differentiated conditions for ensuring accessibility and defined the powers and expenditure obligations of the national State and local authorities and the duties of organizations, irrespective of their institutional and legal form, and of officials to create conditions conducive to the application of the principle of accessibility for persons with disabilities (an analysis of compliance with this principle is provided in the section of the report covering article 9 of the Convention).

25. In the Russian Federation, the principle of “equality between men and women” (**art. 3 (g)**) is directly enshrined in the Constitution (Constitution, art. 19 (3)). In line with the universally accepted principles and norms of international law and the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party, men and women have equal rights and freedoms and equal opportunities to exercise them. Russian legislation thus complies fully with the Convention in terms of respect for the principle of equality between men and women. At the same time, the application of this principle obliges the State, in view of the generally accepted role of women in society, to establish additional safeguards to protect maternity, in employment and in other areas. In addition, measures taken to protect women in certain

kinds of work on account of their specific physiology are not deemed to be discriminatory in the Russian Federation.

26. The principle of “respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities” (**art. 3 (h)**) is also reflected in Russian legislation. The aim of State policy for children is to promote their physical, intellectual, psychological, spiritual and moral development (Federal Act No. 124-FZ of 24 July 1998 on Basic Guarantees of Children’s Rights, art. 4 (1), fourth indent). Under Russian legislation, children with disabilities have the same rights as adults with disabilities as regards: State assistance for rehabilitation and habilitation; the drawing up and implementation of individual rehabilitation and habilitation programmes; socialization, social adaptation and social integration into mainstream living; social service provision (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, arts. 7 and 9; Principles of Social Services Act, art. 4 (2) (1) and art. 20 (7)); care and education in mainstream or special education institutions (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 18; Education Act, arts. 5 and 79); health care, which is one of the most important and necessary prerequisites for children’s physical and psychological development; and obligatory check-ups (Principles of Public Health Care Act, art. 7).

Article 4: General obligations

27. Once the Convention had been ratified, a continuous process began to supplement Russian legislation with provisions guaranteeing the fulfilment of the general obligations set out in article 4 on promoting the full realization of rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. A set of legislative and administrative measures, in line with the provisions of the Convention, is being implemented at every level of the State structure.

28. Specifically, following the ratification of the Convention, in order to ensure consistent implementation of the obligations assumed (**art. 4 (1) (a)**), a bill was drafted on the implementation of the instrument and passed by the State Duma in 2014 on first reading. The bill introduces amendments to a number of federal laws, defining requirements for ensuring access by persons with disabilities to facilities and services in all the priority areas of life in society, with these requirements differentiated according to the impairment of their body function and the specific features of the sector concerned. In addition, authorities have been given powers to define administrative procedures in by-laws issued by the Government and the relevant federal departments (government decisions and directives, orders, administrative and technical regulations, national standards, health standards and rules, building standards, handbooks and so on) and also by legislative and executive authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, thereby facilitating the pursuit of a unified State policy on persons with disabilities at the federal, regional and municipal levels, as well as in individual organizations.

29. In 2014, in order to establish a legal basis for the modification and, in some cases, the abolition of provisions that are discriminatory towards persons with disabilities (**art. 4 (1) (b)**), the bill on implementing the Convention defined new differentiated conditions and standards with respect to the State’s observance of the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities, failure to comply with which will henceforth be qualified as discrimination.

30. The Russian Federation has taken additional measures to comply with its obligations (**art. 4 (1) (c) and (d)**), approving the State Accessible Environment Programme for 2011-2015 and a series of measures to improve the effectiveness of job placement initiatives for persons with disabilities and ensure that vocational training is accessible (Government Order No. 1921-r of 15 October 2012 (annex 6)). The following national strategies and programmes, which create obligations for State authorities to protect and promote the rights

of persons with disabilities, have been adopted and are being implemented: the Russian Federation Transport Strategy for the period up to 2030; the Strategy for the Development of Physical Education and Sport in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020; the Strategy on State Youth Policy in the Russian Federation; the Federal Special-Purpose Programme for the Development of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Industries in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020 and beyond; and the State Information Society Programme for 2011-2020. The implementation of the Federal Act on Technical Regulations on the Safety of Buildings and Facilities has brought improvements to the body of rules setting out requirements for the accessibility of buildings and facilities to persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility. The strategies and programmes listed above contain measures to boost the quality and accessibility of services protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in different areas of life in society.

31. The Russian Federation has created a set of agencies performing mandatory State supervision and monitoring (**art. 4 (1) (e)**). They are responsible for identifying and preventing violations of citizens' rights, including those of persons with disabilities, in the following areas among others: labour, social protection and employment — the Federal Labour and Employment Service; trade — the Federal Supervisory Service for Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare; construction — the Federal Supervisory Service for Construction; industrial safety, energy and the environment — the Federal Service for Environmental, Technological and Nuclear Supervision; transport services — the Federal Supervisory Service for Transport; medical care — the Federal Supervisory Service for Health Care; and education services — the Federal Supervisory Service for Education and Science. Under the established procedure, these agencies verify the fulfilment of the requirements of Russian legislation by legal entities, individual entrepreneurs and citizens, directly or through their local offices, and in coordination with other federal authorities and authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, local government bodies, civil society associations and other organizations.

32. In the regions, local social protection agencies are in charge of: coordinating efforts to provide persons with disabilities with unhindered access to information and social infrastructure facilities and monitoring compliance with norms on ensuring access for persons with disabilities to public passenger transport, communications and information, and social infrastructure facilities under construction or renovation. The Code of Administrative Offences, No. 195-FZ of 30 December 2001, confers on officials of social protection agencies powers to draw up reports on administrative offences (art. 28.3 (2) (17)), as follows: violations of the rights of persons with disabilities in recruitment and employment (art. 5.42); violations of legislation on the allocation of car parking spaces for persons with disabilities (art. 5.43); failure to fulfil requirements on access by persons with disabilities to engineering, transport and social infrastructure facilities (art. 9.13); refusal to build public transport vehicles adapted for use by persons with disabilities (art. 9.14); and organization of public transport services without establishing conditions for access by persons with disabilities (art. 11.24).

33. Funding in the Russian Federation for the research and development of assistive devices, rehabilitation equipment, prosthetics and endoprosthetics has been significantly increased (**art. 4 (1) (f)**). Following the ratification of the Convention, a few dozen research and development projects were carried out in relation to universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, in the light of which the following texts were significantly revised or completely redrafted: building regulations on providing accessible living environments for persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility; national (GOST) standards on social services and requirements for rehabilitation equipment, devices and products; and sector-specific and departmental standards for technical planning, health regulations and standards, and other regulatory documents on

education, information accessibility and the equipping of workspaces (annexes 8, 10, 13 and 15). At present, these regulations and standards are being updated in the context of the Accessible Environment Programme and in response to problems encountered in their implementation (**art. 4 (1) (g)**). Another example of this work is the research, development and production of universally designed goods, services and equipment intended to increase comfort and accessibility for persons with disabilities travelling on rail and air transport. Special efforts have been made to modernize passenger infrastructure facilities and acquire rolling stock. Considerable experience in the design and application of modern assistive devices was gained by the Russian Federation in preparing and hosting the Paralympic Games in Sochi. A project to introduce new wheelchairs, involving a close partnership between the company Otto Bock and the Russian car manufacturer, VAZ, met with popular approval.

34. Under the Accessible Environment Programme, research and development work is being carried out in order to improve the accessibility of priority facilities and services in key spheres of life for persons with disabilities. Many projects developed under the Programme, including in the areas of mobility, information and communications technologies, devices and assistive technologies, have already been implemented.

35. Under the Programme for the Development of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Industries in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020, 1,875 million roubles from the federal budget has been earmarked for the development of technologies and the production of artificial organs, prosthetics and implants.

36. In the Russian Federation, technical equipment used exclusively for the prevention of disabilities or the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities is exempt from value added tax.

37. To improve the provision of information to persons with disabilities regarding rehabilitation equipment (**art. 4 (1) (h)**), the State has created more opportunities to use the following channels for conveying such information: printed publications, including specialized ones for persons with visual impairments (newspapers, magazines, booklets, brochures, recommendations, special leaflets and so on (annex 9)); new programmes created in the electronic media (radio and television programmes, including some with sign language interpretation, and printed periodicals); advertising spots, announcements and messages online, including some adapted for blind people; and posts on the websites of government departments, companies and organizations containing important information for persons with disabilities. The section of this report devoted to article 21 of the Convention provides a detailed analysis of this work.

38. In 2014, a bill on the implementation of the Convention was drafted in order to promote the training of staff working with persons with disabilities on the acquisition of methods for providing services in accessible formats (**art. 4 (1) (i)**). The bill established guidelines for all authorities on their powers and obligations regarding the instruction (training) of specialists and staff working with persons with disabilities on the provision of assistance and services to those persons in compliance with the requirements on accessibility and to the extent guaranteed in the legislation of the Russian Federation and the laws of the country's constituent entities. Similar provisions have already been incorporated into other legislative acts (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 14; Education Act, art. 79; and Principles of Social Services Act, art. 8). These legal norms are being applied in education and vocational training for experts who use specialized psychological and pedagogical methods for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (including teachers for people with hearing, visual or intellectual impairments, special education teachers and speech therapists); teachers specializing in adapted physical education and sport; sign language interpreters and tactile sign language interpreters; job centre employees specializing in the placement of persons with disabilities; and others.

39. The Saint Petersburg Postgraduate Medical Institute has been established in the Russian Federation to offer dedicated training, refresher courses and further training for specialists working with persons with disabilities in medical and social assessment centres and rehabilitation centres (doctors specializing in medical and social assessment and rehabilitation, experts in orthopaedics and prosthetics, psychologists and social work specialists) and doctors, social work specialists and psychologists working in inpatient and outpatient social welfare institutions. More than 52,000 specialists have been trained to work with persons with disabilities over the course of the Institute's operations. Following the ratification of the Convention, the Accessible Environment Programme (annex 4) provided for the training of some 18,000 doctors and specialists from medical and social assessment centres and rehabilitation centres, as well as specialists in the instruction and training of persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility, on methods of work that are consistent with the Convention, while teachers and Russian Sign Language interpreters attended training, further training and refresher courses.

40. In connection with the country's becoming a party to the Convention, it is planned to expand the group of workers trained in the theoretical and practical aspects of providing services to persons with disabilities in accessible formats. Such training is to be organized for personnel of the internal affairs agencies, who will, for example, learn Russian Sign Language, as well as for staff of government agencies who work with persons with disabilities. The training of specialists and staff is carried out by both public and private educational organizations.

41. Following the signing, and particularly the ratification, of the Convention, funding for measures to promote the economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation increased significantly (**art. 4 (2)**). Suffice to say that, whereas the Federal Special-Purpose Programme on Social Support for Persons with Disabilities for 2006-2010 was allocated 4.7 billion roubles, including 3 billion roubles from the federal budget, the projected allocation for the implementation of the Accessible Environment Programme is 36 times greater (a total of 180 billion roubles, of which 160 billion roubles are from the federal budget).

42. Following the ratification of the Convention, a number of additional measures were taken to increase the contribution of civil society associations established in the Russian Federation and working to protect the rights and legitimate interests of persons with disabilities and secure for them equal opportunities with other citizens (**art. 4 (3)**). To that end, amendments were made to a number of federal laws, providing for more active involvement by organizations of persons with disabilities in monitoring the observance of the rights of those persons and stipulating increased State support for their activities (annex 2), which, according to the law, constitute a form of social protection for persons with disabilities (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 33, first para.). Organizations of persons with disabilities are established and active at the federal, regional and municipal levels. The organizations with the largest representation are the All-Russia Society of Persons with Disabilities, founded in 1987, the All-Russia Society of Blind Persons, established in 1925, and the All-Russia Society of Deaf Persons, established in 1926. It is now mandatory for the authorities to involve authorized representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities in preparing and adopting decisions that affect their interests; decisions taken in violation of this rule may be deemed invalid by the courts (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 33, third para.). Persons with disabilities and authorized representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, including those representing the interests of children with disabilities, exercise this right by taking an active part in the drafting of proposals and in decision-making on issues affecting the interests of persons with disabilities, within the Presidential Commission for Persons with Disabilities and similar commissions established by governors and directors of

municipal authorities, the Government Council on Social Guardianship and public councils established under the federal authorities.

43. The State provides civil society organizations with financial and other assistance and with tax breaks (annex 17) in order to increase the role of civil society in the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. After the Russian Federation ratified the Convention, in order to improve State support for the activities of organizations of persons with disabilities, additional benefits were introduced that had previously been granted only to small businesses.

44. Under the Accessible Environment Programme, 628.45 million roubles of financial support has been allocated to organizations of persons with disabilities to promote the labour market inclusion of those persons, including by creating jobs and ensuring the accessibility of workplaces.

45. In addition, nationwide organizations of persons with disabilities receive subsidies from the federal budget for the implementation of programmes of social significance and the realization of the goals set out in their charters (1.282 billion roubles in 2013).

Government support of nationwide civil society organizations of persons with disabilities, 2010-2014

	<i>Amount of subsidies, millions of roubles</i>								
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
All-Russia Society of Blind Persons, a nationwide civil society organization awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour	240.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	409.32	395.20	516.85	492.35
War Veterans with Disabilities, a nationwide civil society organization of veterans of the war in Afghanistan and other injured service personnel	200.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	363.60	371.45	519.41	540.06
All-Russia Society of Deaf Persons, a nationwide civil society organization	35.50	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	106.68	106.40	135.95	134.41
All-Russia Society of Persons with Disabilities, a nationwide civil society organization	24.50	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	70.40	76.95	110.30	115.68
Total	500.0	800.0	800.0	800.0	800.0	950.0	950.0	1 282.5	1 282.5

46. An analysis of laws and regulations shows that the legislative acts and documents adopted both before and after the ratification of the Convention contain no restrictions on or derogations from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms (**art. 4 (4)**) to the detriment of persons with disabilities. There is no basis in the country's legislative acts for supposing that a conflict could arise between national legislation and the provisions of the Convention.

47. Any citizens or officials who violate the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities are held liable in accordance with Russian legislation. Disputes concerning the categorization of disability and the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities are examined by the courts (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 32).

48. The provisions of the Convention are fully applicable throughout the territory of the Russian Federation, without any exceptions (**art. 4 (5)**).

Article 5: Equality and non-discrimination

49. Under article 19 of the Constitution, the State guarantees equality of human and civil rights and freedoms, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, language, origin, property or official status, place of residence, religious beliefs, convictions, membership of civil society associations or other circumstances.

50. The preamble of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act states that the aim of State policy on social protection for persons with disabilities is to ensure that they have the same opportunities as other citizens to exercise civil, economic, political and other rights and freedoms.

51. A few issues concerning the legal framework for the prohibition of disability-based discrimination are set out in paragraphs 22 and 27 of the report. Provisions on the equal rights of persons with disabilities and the inadmissibility of discrimination in fundamental areas of life are contained in the legislation on education (Education Act, Federal Act No. 273-FZ of 29 December 2012, art. 5 (2)); labour (Labour Code, art. 3); social services (Federal Act No. 122-FZ of 2 August 1995 on Social Services for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities, art. 4); and health care (Principles of Public Health Care Act, art. 5 (3)).

52. Russian legislation contains provisions on reasonable accommodation (para. 17 of this report). For example, article 15 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act states that, in cases in which existing facilities cannot be fully adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities, steps must be taken by the owners of those facilities to satisfy the minimum requirements of persons with disabilities, in agreement with civil society associations of persons with disabilities.

53. The bill on the implementation of the Convention includes reasonable accommodation measures. The principle of accommodation is manifested, above all, in the obligation to provide assistance to persons with disabilities in overcoming the barriers that prevent them from obtaining services provided to the public (for example, assistance with mobility at train stations, with boarding transport vehicles and with baggage check-in). The type of assistance depends on the impairment of body function and the specific type of facility or service. The principle of reasonableness is manifested, inter alia, in the balance between the legal standards introduced and the financial and economic capacities of the State and entrepreneurs. With this in mind, the bill includes a number of cross-cutting provisions restricting the making of demands that manifestly cannot be met; establishes that procedures for ensuring accessibility must be adopted taking into account the resources actually available in the relevant budgets and that requirements for the full accessibility of infrastructure, transport and communications should apply only to new or upgraded facilities; and allows for the needs of persons with disabilities to be met not fully, in cases where this is objectively impossible, but to the extent necessary to satisfy the minimum requirements.

54. Under article 32 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, citizens and officials who violate the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities are held liable under both administrative law (Code of Administrative Offences) and criminal law (Criminal Code).

Article 6: Women with disabilities

55. The State promotes measures to advance and empower girls and women with disabilities in the areas of education, health care, maternity leave, maternal and child welfare, and the right to vote among others. The State also takes measures to eradicate violence and all forms of discrimination against girls and women with disabilities.

56. As at 1 June 2014, there were 7,154,031 women with disabilities and 251,423 girls with disabilities in the Russian Federation.

57. There are no gender differences in the Russian Federation with regard to the provision by the State of measures of social, medical, rehabilitative, informational and other forms of assistance for women and girls with disabilities.

58. In addition, in accordance with articles 7 and 38 of the Constitution, State support is provided for maternity (**art. 6 (2)**).

59. All women enjoy the right to motherhood, including women with disabilities. This right is upheld for women through the provision of medical care, including during pregnancy. Such care is offered as part of primary health care; specialized care, including high-technology care; and emergency care, including emergency specialized care.

60. The State Accessible Environment Programme provides for the establishment in 2015 of a federal centre providing information and resources on issues relating to disability, including women and girls with disabilities.

61. The Russian Federation has developed a network of centres for family planning and reproduction, which specialize in maintaining and restoring the reproductive functions of men and women, and which operate within well-woman clinics, hospitals and perinatal centres and even independently.

For example, a social outreach project called “Happiness is accessible to everyone!” is being implemented in Moscow to help young people with special needs obtain medical, legal and social assistance. As part of the project, the Family Planning Service for Young Persons with Disabilities opened in 2013. The Service operates under the Centre for the Medical and Social Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The project includes plans to have psychologists and doctors support young women with disabilities through their pregnancies, to establish mobile teams of specialists and to carry out awareness-raising work.

62. In accordance with Federal Act No. 81-FZ of 19 May 1995 on State Benefits for Citizens with Children, a unified system of State benefits for families in connection with childbirth and child-rearing was established. The Act provides for women, including women with disabilities, who register with a medical establishment in the early stages of pregnancy to receive benefits in connection with pregnancy and childbirth, as well as benefits on the birth of their child and for caring for their child until it reaches the age of one and a half years.

63. The Russian Federation enables women, including women with disabilities, to combine their child-rearing responsibilities with employment, for example by arranging vocational training (or retraining) through local employment services for women who take leave to care for children under the age of 3 (Act No. 1032-1 of 19 April 1991 on Employment, art. 23).

64. Measures taken in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation to organize vocational training, retraining and further training will enable an additional 32,000 women approximately to receive training over the period 2013-2015.

65. Action taken by the State and other actors allowed the Russian Federation to reduce the number of women initially declared to have a disability from 398,600 in 2011 to 379,200 in 2012 (a decrease of 4.9 per cent) and to 357,500 in 2013 (a decrease of 5.7 per cent).

66. Under family policy in the Russian Federation, measures are planned and are being implemented to guarantee women with disabilities the same rights as other women with regard to opportunities to raise a family, bear a child and receive material support to care for a child.

Article 7: Children with disabilities

67. Children with disabilities enjoy and are guaranteed human rights and freedoms from birth; the aim is to establish legal and socioeconomic conditions for the realization of the rights and legitimate interests of children (Constitution; Family Code; Federal Act No. 124-FZ of 24 July 1998 on Basic Guarantees of Children's Rights; and other national laws and regulations) (**art. 7 (1)**).

68. Positive demographic indicators have resulted in an increase in the total birth rate. Over the past seven years, the number of births in the Russian Federation has risen by 30 per cent.

69. Children account for 4.5 per cent (590,000 persons) of all persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation. Among children with disabilities, children aged 3 and under form the largest group (43 per cent).

70. In order to ensure the most comprehensive and timely identification possible of children with disabilities in need of early intervention, there are plans to establish a unified interdepartmental system of assistance for children with disabilities; an accessible and mandatory screening system to assess children's physical and mental health and their level of development in infancy and early childhood; and criteria and procedures for referring children and families to early intervention services.

71. Legislation on social services establishes the structure, scope and type of social services available to children with disabilities (GOST R 53059-2008 "Social service provision. Social services for persons with disabilities").

72. Since 1 January 2013, pursuant to Federal Act No. 166-FZ of 15 December 2001 on the State Pension System, the social benefit available for children with disabilities and persons who have had category I disabilities since childhood has increased from 7,253 roubles in 2012 to 8,704 roubles a month in 2013, which has raised the benefits of more than 764,000 families that include a child with a disability or a person who has had a category I disability since childhood.

73. Under the Family Code, boys and girls with disabilities may express their views on all matters that affect them. Children with disabilities are entitled to express their opinions when any family issue affecting their interests is decided and to be heard during any judicial or administrative proceedings. It is mandatory to take account of the opinions of children aged 10 and over except when this conflicts with their interests. Tutorship and guardianship agencies or courts may take decisions on matters specified under the law that affect children aged 10 and over only with their consent (**art. 7 (3)**).

74. The post of Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights was established pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 986 of 1 September 2009; the Commissioner ensures the protection of the rights, freedoms and lawful interests of children, and of children with disabilities, notably through independent monitoring of the activities of State and local government bodies, organizations and officials to assess their compliance with the rights

and lawful interests of minors. The same post was established in 70 constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

75. The aim of the National Strategy for Children for 2012-2017, as set out in Presidential Decree No. 761 of 1 June 2012, is to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration for the State and society. One of the fundamental goals of the Strategy is to safeguard the rights of children with disabilities and children with special needs to a family upbringing, full participation in life in society, high-quality education at all levels and qualified medical care, early intervention and rehabilitation, socialization, legal and social protection, vocational training and an accessible environment. It also provides for the development of a national family support service for families raising children with disabilities and children with special needs, to be run by local social services, and for the broad roll-out of a service arranging for the temporary placement of children with disabilities in substitute families in order to give brief respite to their parents (**art. 7 (2)**).

76. According to data from a federal State statistical enquiry, there are 132 residential establishments providing social services for children, including 122 homes for children with intellectual impairments and 10 for children with physical impairments.

77. Moreover, there are 768 social rehabilitation centres for minors, 286 shelters for children and teenagers, 282 rehabilitation centres for children and teenagers with special needs and 17 centres for assisting children deprived of parental care.

78. The Russian Federation is taking measures to encourage the placement of children who are orphans in families: adoption, tutorship or guardianship, and placement in temporary host families or in foster care (information about these measures is set out in the section of the report on article 23 of the Convention).

79. Since 2012, it has been a legal requirement for persons taking in children who are orphans or children deprived of parental care to undergo training. So-called “schools for foster parents”, focus their efforts on persons intending to take in children with health problems. There are currently around 50 such schools in Moscow and other regions.

80. The Support Fund for Children in Difficulty was set up, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 404 of 26 March 2008, with a view to the establishment of new administrative arrangements whereby powers would be divided between the federal centre and constituent entities of the Russian Federation and a significant reduction in the prevalence of social problems among children and families with children would be achieved. A priority of the Fund is to prevent family dysfunction and child abandonment, as well as child abuse, and to offer social support for the families of children with disabilities to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, they grow up in a family environment, with social skills, and are ready to lead independent lives and integrate into society.

81. The social rehabilitation of children with disabilities and social support for families raising such children are priorities of the Fund’s work. Since 2010, the Fund has supported the implementation of 67 regional innovative social programmes aimed at improving the lives of children with disabilities and their families. This includes the 28 regional programmes conducted in 2013, under which 17 mobile services were established offering timely assistance to families with children with disabilities at their place of residence, in addition to 77 services (centres and departments) providing early intervention and continuous support for children from birth up to the age of 3. The programmes focus on identifying children with special needs and children at risk of developing a disability as soon as possible; organizing early intervention when a child is born with developmental or health disorders; establishing and developing early intervention services; and designing and introducing technologies for the comprehensive diagnosis and rehabilitation of children at an early age.

82. In 2013-2014, the Fund carried out a joint project entitled “Movement — no limits!”. Under the project, 28 auto-villages and auto-classes were set up to help children with special needs who get around using electric vehicles, bicycles and car-bikes to learn road safety rules in conditions simulating reality as closely as possible: the areas had pavements, traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, road signs and even models of schools, houses and public transport stops. Regional authorities, State inspectorates for road traffic safety and business partners participated in the implementation of the project together with the Fund.

83. In 2013, in five regions, the Fund carried out a pilot project to help local social workers gain experience of providing social support to families raising children with disabilities. As part of the project, they learned how to use new technologies to provide such families with early and emergency intervention, to ensure continuity of support and to map social resources. Training materials were prepared based on the results of the pilot project, so that the experience acquired could be used in other regions.

84. The Russian Federation is actively improving legislation and the enforcement of laws aimed at strengthening the protection of children from information detrimental to their health and/or development, as well as from information outputs containing such information. Federal Act No. 436-FZ of 29 December 2010 on the Protection of Children from Information Detrimental to their Health and Development was adopted and is being implemented to this end.

Article 8: Awareness-raising

85. Public awareness-raising efforts are being conducted with a view to implementing the provisions of article 8 of the Convention and in line with the National Strategy for Children for 2012-2017; this will contribute to increased understanding of the need to support persons and children with disabilities and help them to be seen as equal members of society (**art. 8 (a)**).

86. In particular, as part of the implementation of the Accessible Environment Programme (annex 4), a series of awareness-raising campaigns is being conducted to disseminate ideas, principles and means for the creation of accessible environments, raise awareness throughout society of disability issues, overcome prejudice towards persons with disabilities, prepare and publish educational, informational, reference and training manuals and guides on creating barrier-free environments for persons with disabilities, and promote the idea that their capabilities are not limited (**art. 8 (1) (a)**).

87. The promotion of Paralympic and Deaflympic champions and of the achievements of families that include persons with disabilities contributes to fostering a tolerant attitude towards such persons when issues pertaining to their employment or to the education of children with disabilities are determined, and to fostering positive perceptions towards persons with disabilities (**art. 8 (2) (a)**).

88. Following the ratification of the Convention, in order to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding disability-related issues, and to promote the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, video and audio clips, web banners and banners for other advertising media were developed (**art. 8 (1) (a) and (b) and (2) (a) (i)**). All these materials are aired on national television channels and radio or posted on the Internet.

89. According to sociological research conducted in 2013, 41 per cent of persons with disabilities had a positive appraisal of the general public’s attitude towards disability-related issues and willingness to help them (in 2011, the figure was 33 per cent).

90. In 2012-2013, a specialized information system was developed and is now operational: the Internet portal of the awareness-raising campaign to disseminate ideas, principles and means for small businesses to create accessible environments for persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility (<http://zhit-vmeste.ru>) displays information on the achievements of persons with disabilities, sheds light on the progress of the State programme, and indicates the addresses and contact telephone numbers of organizations and establishments that work with persons with disabilities and support them in adapting and fulfilling their creative potential. Moreover, persons with disabilities who visit the Internet portal can communicate with one another and obtain information (**art. 8 (2) (a) (i) and (ii)**).

91. Civil society organizations of persons with disabilities play a leading role in raising awareness (**art. b8 (2) (a) and (d)**). With the support of the State, War Veterans with Disabilities, a nationwide civil society organization of persons disabled as a result of the war in Afghanistan, held socio-patriotic marathons for wheelchair users in 2012 and 2013 under the slogan “Strong in Spirit” in 12 constituent entities of the Russian Federation, thus helping to draw society’s attention to the issues facing persons with disabilities, and their achievements in sport and art. In 2013, with State support, the All-Russia Society of Deaf Persons organized the National Festival of Variety and Circus Arts, called “The Magic of Illusion and Laughter”, and the third National Festival of Children’s Art, entitled “Morning Star”, with the participation of more than 6,800 deaf persons. Since the ratification of the Convention, in order to improve the quality of life of persons with hearing impairments and to foster tolerance towards them, every year the All-Russia Society of Deaf Persons has held an international exhibition called “Integration, Life and Society”, which is attended by more than 4,000 persons with disabilities. The All-Russia Society of Persons with Disabilities organizes annual large-scale events for the sports and sociocultural rehabilitation of young persons with disabilities, and holds interregional art festivals and photography competitions in order to eliminate the social segregation of children with and without disabilities. The All-Russia Society of Blind Persons organizes and conducts sociocultural events with blind persons at a federal, regional and local level, such as folk art festivals for persons with disabilities, competitions and tournaments, in which approximately 900 persons from 60 regional organizations have taken part.

92. The Government of the Russian Federation encourages and financially supports measures to foster positive perceptions towards persons with disabilities in the media, including television, radio and the press. To this end, more than 40 pieces have appeared in the federal and regional press, such as “The road to parading: rehabilitation of persons with special needs” in the magazine *InVertum*, “Inclusive nurseries” in the magazine *Spravochnik rukovoditelya doskolnogo uchrezhdeniya* (Guide for Preschool Head Teachers), “Special children” in the children’s magazine *Shishkin les* (Shishkin Forest), “On equal terms” in the newspaper *Moskovsky komsomolets* (Moscow Komsomolets), “Open your heart” in the newspaper *Mayak* (The Lighthouse) (Sverdlovsk province), “What gives you strength, brother?” in the newspaper *Tyumenskaya pravda* (Tyumen Truth), “Together (a barrier-free environment)” in the newspaper *Sovietskaya Chuvashia* (Soviet Chuvashia), “Let us learn to live together” in the newspaper *Tak zhivem* (This Is How We Live), “A life of limitless opportunity” in the children’s magazine *Devchonki-malchiki. Shkola remesel* (Girls and Boys. School of Arts), a publication in the magazine *Zhizn s DTP. Problemy i reshenia* (Life with Cerebral Palsy. Problems and Solutions), and “Social adaptation for children with Down syndrome” in the magazine *Sdelai shag* (Take a step) (annex 9) (**art. 8 (1) (c), (2) (a) (i) and (iii), and (2) (c)**).

93. The Russian Federation ensures that television helps to foster an attitude of respect for the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities and to increase their role in the life of society. The State offers subsidies to television and radio broadcasting organizations, such as Pervy kanal, an open joint-stock company, the National State Television and Radio

Broadcasting Company, a federal State unitary enterprise, NTV, an open joint-stock company, and Karusel, a private limited liability company, in order to compensate for any expenses incurred in acquiring production equipment necessary for closed captioning. The development of a hardware and software system for automatic closed captioning in real time is complete and the system is ready to be rolled out to national public television channels (**art. 8 (2) (c)**).

94. In 2009, with the aim of promoting education and science accessible to children with disabilities, the Russian Federation developed and implemented the “Talent for Overcoming” programme. Between 2009 and 2013, more than 15,000 pupils were involved in the programme; they then went on to participate in national network events under the programme. More than 90 of the best children with special needs were awarded prizes (**art. 8 (2) (b)**).

Article 9: Accessibility

95. Article 15 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act obliges authorities and organizations to ensure that persons with disabilities have unimpeded access to facilities, services and information in all areas provided for by the Convention, including city planning and development, the design, construction renovation and maintenance of facilities, the development and operation of transport, information and communications systems.

96. The Urban Planning Code stipulates that persons with disabilities must be guaranteed unimpeded access to social and other facilities. Under the Federal Act on Technical Regulations on the Safety of Buildings and Facilities (Federal Act No. 384-FZ of 30 December 2009, arts. 3 and 12), housing, engineering, transport and social infrastructure facilities must be designed and built so as to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Transport infrastructure facilities must be fitted with special equipment to ensure that persons with disabilities can use the services without restriction.

97. However, before the Russian Federation signed the Convention, the laws and regulations on transport, information and communications, culture, education, health care, the prison system, housing and utilities contained no mechanisms to ensure that the relevant authorities complied with their obligations to provide persons with disabilities with a barrier-free environment and assist them in obtaining services without restriction, nor did they provide the authorities with the requisite powers to establish procedures for addressing these issues.

98. In this connection, the bill on the implementation of the Convention, adopted on first reading, provides for amendments to 25 acts regulating the above-mentioned areas. These amendments:

- Define binding conditions for ensuring the accessibility for persons with disabilities of facilities and services, differentiated according to the specific impairment of body function
- Provide authorities with the power to establish procedures for ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to facilities, taking into account their intended purpose
- Introduce obligations for facilities to have a certain number of their staff members assist persons with disabilities to overcome barriers
- Develop a mechanism for the gradual creation of an accessible environment, taking into account the principles of reasonable accommodation and universal design

- Establish a mechanism to satisfy the minimum requirements for accessibility in the event that it is impossible to ensure it fully

99. Pursuant to Federal Act No. 124 of 7 June 2013 amending the Aviation Code, a separate article, article 106.1, was added to the Code for the purpose of establishing a list of free services and other conditions for ensuring the accessibility for persons with disabilities of air travel, including a barrier-free environment in airports (annex 2). The bill on the implementation of the Convention provides for similar measures to improve the accessibility of rail, motor vehicle and urban overground electric transport.

100. In order to implement the Convention's provisions (**art. 9 (2) (a)**) concerning the approval of technical standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities to persons with disabilities, Code SP 59.13330.2012, containing construction rules and regulations on the accessibility of buildings and infrastructure for population groups with reduced mobility (SNiP 35-01-2001), was adopted pursuant to Ministry of Regional Development Decree No. 605 of 27 December 2011 and entered into force on 1 January 2012. The Code includes rules on the design of buildings and facilities, the construction of housing, buildings and premises with workspaces for persons with disabilities, and the redevelopment of urban areas giving consideration to accessibility for persons with disabilities. It was developed taking into account the proposals of civil society organizations of persons with disabilities (annex 8). The Code is currently undergoing modification in order to adapt it to the requirements of the Convention.

101. The State Duma is considering a bill on the removal from the Housing Code of the provision requiring that a general meeting of property owners be held to consider and take a decision on the adaptation for persons with disabilities of communal areas in owner-occupied residential buildings, as this often becomes a formal barrier to compliance with the legislative provisions on creating a barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities.

102. To implement the Convention's provisions (**art. 9 (1) (a) and (b)**) on encouraging State authorities and private entities to take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities, the Government, through the Accessible Environment Programme, is implementing a series of measures to ensure unimpeded access to priority facilities and services in key spheres of life for persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility and is improving the mechanism for providing rehabilitation services and the State medical and social assessment system in the interests of integrating persons with disabilities into society. As a result of the Programme, between 2010 and 2016:

- The proportion of priority social, transport and engineering infrastructure facilities accessible to persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility will increase from 12 to 45 per cent (with a further increase in these indicators expected under the equivalent State programme for 2016-2020)
- The proportion of general education establishments with a fully accessible environment allowing persons with and without disabilities to be taught together will rise from 2.5 to 20 per cent (with a further increase expected in 2016-2020)
- The proportion of the motor vehicle and urban overground electric public transport fleet equipped for transporting population groups with reduced mobility will increase from 4 to 11.7 per cent
- The proportion of constituent entities of the Russian Federation that have compiled and annually update maps of accessible facilities and services will rise from 9.6 to 90 per cent

103. Taking into account the experience of implementing the Programme, common procedures for compliance with conditions of accessibility have been established in the country's laws and regulations:

- A procedure for compiling and updating maps of facilities and services with comparable data on the accessibility of the facilities and services for persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Decree No. 626 of 25 December 2012)
- A procedure for certifying and classifying facilities and services in order to assess them objectively with a view to developing measures to ensure their accessibility (procedural recommendations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of 18 September 2012)
- A model programme for the constituent entities of the Russian Federation on ensuring the accessibility of priority facilities and services in key spheres of life for persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Decree No. 575 of 6 December 2012)

104. In 2012, pursuant to State Construction Decree No. 89 of 12 December 2012, sample design solutions for the refurbishment of housing in order to accommodate persons with disabilities and families with children with disabilities were developed, approved and recommended for use (Compilation 1 — Ground-floor lobbies and communal areas; Compilation 2 — Communal areas and apartments on other floors).

105. In order to make owners of facilities more accountable for improving their accessibility for persons with disabilities, the Code of Administrative Offences establishes sanctions for non-compliance with the legislative provisions on ensuring to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment (**art. 9 (2) (b)**) and, in particular, for the following:

- Non-compliance with requirements pertaining to accessibility for persons with disabilities of engineering, transport and social infrastructure facilities (art. 9.13)
- Parking violations (art. 12.19)
- Refusal to manufacture public transport vehicles adapted for persons with disabilities (art. 9.14)

106. To give effect to the provisions of article 9 of the Convention (**art. 9 (2) (c)**) regarding training for stakeholders on accessibility issues, the bill on the implementation of the Convention obliges federal authorities, authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and organizations providing services to the public to conduct training sessions, within their respective remits, for specialists and staff members who work with persons with disabilities on issues pertaining to the provision of assistance and services for those persons in compliance with accessibility requirements.

107. The bill on implementing the Convention also provides for an emergency call system that persons with disabilities can use by sending short text messages via mobile telephone.

108. Under the Federal Special-Purpose Programme for 2013-2017 on Setting Up a single 112 Emergency Call System, it is planned to develop ways in which the system may be used by persons with special needs.

109. As part of the Accessible Environment Programme, awareness-raising campaigns are being carried out, involving, inter alia, the publication of a number of educational, informational, reference and training manuals and guides to improve the skills of specialists in establishing and meeting accessibility requirements. In 2012-2013, a series of training events was held on issues relating to the accessibility of services for persons with disabilities and the provision of assistance to them in overcoming barriers:

- Training for 1,532 specialists on ensuring the accessibility of inclusive education for children with disabilities
- Sessions for 287 specialists who provide training in the social sphere for persons with disabilities and other population groups with reduced mobility
- Training for 4,200 specialists working in medical and social assessment centres

110. With a view to ensuring the accessibility of information in the fields of television and radio broadcasting and electronic and information and communications technologies, the constituent entities of the Russian Federation are implementing technical recommendations in that regard (Ministry of Communications and Mass Media Decree No. 108 of 25 April 2014 (annex 10)).

111. As part of efforts to implement the Accessible Environment Programme, publicity materials were distributed in 2013 with the aim of promoting best practices in ensuring accessibility and fostering a tolerant attitude towards persons with disabilities. Such publicity was disseminated on the television channels Rossia-1, STS, Domashny, Kanal 5 and Disney; on the radio stations Avtoradio, Mayak and Nashe Radio; and on the websites mail.ru, my.mail.ru, rambler.ru, vkontakte.ru, yandex.ru, odnoklassniki.ru and qip.ru.

112. Under the State programme being developed for 2016-2020, it is planned to adopt comprehensive measures to improve the accessibility and quality of rehabilitation services provided through local communities and establish a modern network of rehabilitation institutes that will allow rehabilitation to be carried out as early as possible with the active participation of families.

Article 10: Right to life

113. The right to life is guaranteed to persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with other Russian citizens, through a range of legal provisions embodied in both the Constitution and sector-specific legislation and aimed, directly or indirectly, at supporting or safeguarding human life. In accordance with article 20 (1) of the Constitution, everyone has the right to life. Article 56 (3) states that this right may not be restricted even in a state of emergency.

114. The Criminal Code establishes liability for murder, murder of a newborn by the mother and manslaughter committed under irresistible impulse and for offences that result in the death of a person.

115. An important element of the right to life is the limited application of the death penalty. The Criminal Code provides for this exceptional punishment to be applied for only five offences. In practice, death sentences are not imposed. This situation is the result of the position taken by the Constitutional Court in its ruling No. 1344-O-R of 19 November 2009, in which it clarified operative paragraph 5 of Constitutional Court Decision No. 3-P of 2 February 1999 on the constitutionality of articles 41 and 42 (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure and paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation of 16 July 1993 on the procedure for the entry into force of the Russian Federation Act amending the Act of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) on the Judicial System of the RSFSR and its Code of Criminal Procedure, Criminal Code and Code of Administrative Offences. In its ruling, the Court states that, in the Russian Federation, “an irreversible process aimed at the abolition of the death penalty is under way”.

116. In order to protect human life and health, including the life and health of persons with disabilities, the State guarantees the right of everyone to free medical care. To ensure the fulfilment by the Russian Federation of its international obligations under the

Convention, article 45 of the Principles of Public Health Care Act, Federal Act No. 323-FZ of 21 November 2011, prohibits health workers from carrying out euthanasia (that is, hastening a patient's death, at his or her request, through any act or omission or by any means, including withdrawal of artificial life support), since the right to life is inalienable.

Article 11: Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

117. The Russian Federation ensures the protection and safety of persons with disabilities and other persons in situations of risk, such as humanitarian emergencies or natural disasters, through the implementation of the following laws: Federal Constitutional Act No. 3-FKZ of 30 May 2001 on States of Emergency; Federal Act No. 68-FZ of 21 December 1994 on the Protection of the Population and Territory in case of Natural or Man-Made Emergencies; and Federal Act No. 35-FZ of 6 March 2006 on Counter-Terrorism. The country has a unified State emergency prevention and response system.

118. In order to implement article 11 of the Convention, the Government, by its Decisions Nos. 300 of 15 April 2014 and 555 of 7 July 2015, respectively, approved a State programme to protect the population and territory in case of emergencies and ensure fire safety and safety on water bodies and a special-purpose programme to reduce the risk and mitigate the impact of natural and man-made emergencies covering the period up to 2015.

119. The State, in keeping with its obligations under article 11, provides social support to citizens who have acquired a disability or have been adversely affected as a result of an emergency, an armed or inter-ethnic conflict, or a natural or man-made disaster (Government Decision No. 296 of 15 April 2014 approving the State Social Support Programme). Evacuation routes have been provided for persons with disabilities in case of emergencies, as required by law (Code SNiP 35-01-2001 on the accessibility of buildings and infrastructure for population groups with reduced mobility, approved by Ministry of Regional Development Decree No. 605 of 27 December 2011).

120. The social protection subsystem established within the unified State emergency prevention and response system is playing an important role in the further development of the system for protecting persons with disabilities in emergencies.

Article 12: Equal recognition before the law

121. In the Russian Federation, persons with disabilities have the right to recognition as persons before the law, on an equal basis with others. In accordance with article 19 (1) and (2) of the Constitution, all persons are equal before the law and the courts, a provision that applies fully to persons with disabilities.

122. Under Russian legislation, persons suspected or accused of committing an offence may not be discriminated against on the basis of their sex, race, ethnicity, language, origin, property or official status, place of residence, religious beliefs, convictions, membership of civil society associations or on any other grounds. Persons with disabilities who are deprived of their liberty benefit from the same procedural guarantees as all other persons to enjoy fully their remaining human rights (Federal Act No. 103-FZ of 15 July 1995 on the Custody of Suspects and Accused Persons).

123. In accordance with article 17 of the Civil Code, the capacity to possess civil-law rights and bear responsibilities (civil legal capacity) is recognized in equal measure to all citizens. The legal capacity of a citizen arises at the time of his or her birth and terminates with his or her death.

124. The following measures are available to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity: establishment of a tutorship or guardianship arrangement and appointment of an assistant (Civil Code, arts. 29, 30 and 41).

125. As stated in Act No. 4462-1 of 11 February 1993 on the Principles of Legislation on Notaries, citizens, including persons with disabilities, who are unable, for any reason, to apply in person to a notary's office may request the notary to attend them at the place where they are located in order to perform a notarial service. Likewise, in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, it is stipulated in the Act that the content of contracts, declarations and other documents certified by a notary must be read aloud to the parties. If a person with a disability is unable to sign his or her name, another citizen may, on his or her instruction and in his or her presence and that of a notary, sign contracts, declarations and other documents on his or her behalf, indicating why the document could not be signed personally by the citizen who requested it to be notarized (art. 44). Where a person has applied to a notary for a service but does not speak the language or languages in which notarial procedures are carried out, the State guarantees him or her access to an interpreter or sign language interpreter, *inter alia*, for the drawing up of notarized documents, the provision of explanations relating to notarial services and the examination of materials held at the notary's office (art. 16).

126. Federal Act No 267-FZ of 21 July 2014 (annex 2) was adopted in order to ensure that persons with visual impairments were able to exercise their civil-law rights in the same conditions as other citizens when carrying out cash transactions. It establishes the right of such persons to use a facsimile signature produced by a mechanical copying device, rather than a handwritten signature, to sign documents drawn up by credit institutions for the purpose of the deposit, withdrawal or exchange of funds.

127. In 2012, amendments were made to the Civil Code, pursuant to Federal Act No. 302-FZ of 30 December 2012, with a view to the adoption of additional measures for the implementation of article 12 (4) of the Convention; the amendments were aimed at ensuring that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity (as a rule, such measures are applied in respect of persons with mental impairments) are more proportional to the dispositive capacity of the person concerned, respect his or her will and preferences to a greater extent, are better tailored to the person's circumstances and are subject to regular review by a competent and independent authority or court. With this in mind, the Federal Act establishes a differentiated approach to defining the degree of limitation of dispositive capacity and to the putting in place of arrangements for safeguarding legal capacity — tutorship, guardianship or assistance — on the basis of citizens' actual needs.

128. Legal capacity and measures relating to its exercise are regularly reviewed by the highest judicial bodies. Until recently, a court could hold a hearing to determine whether an individual should be declared to have no dispositive capacity and hand down a decision to that effect without the person's being present. Loss of dispositive capacity entailed restriction of the right to lodge a cassational or supervisory appeal against such a decision. The Constitutional Court, in its Decision No. 4-P of 27 February 2009, declared those provisions to be unconstitutional. To implement the Court's decision, lawmakers introduced amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure aimed at enhancing the arrangements for safeguarding the legal capacity of this category of citizens with disabilities and ensuring that they are able to participate in court hearings and make their wishes known (Federal Act No. 67-FZ of 6 April 2011 amending the Act on Psychiatric Care and Guarantees for the Rights of Citizens Receiving Such Care and the Code of Civil Procedure).

129. In the Russian Federation, the right of persons with disabilities to participate fully as citizens, to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal

access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit is guaranteed. In accordance with article 18 of the Civil Code, citizens may own, inherit or bequeath property and enjoy other property rights.

130. In particular, Federal Act No. 102-FZ of 16 July 1998 on Mortgages contains no restrictions on the granting of mortgages to citizens, including those with disabilities.

131. The right of persons with disabilities not to be arbitrarily deprived of their property is guaranteed in article 12 of the Civil Code, which establishes the means for the protection of civil-law rights, and also in chapter 20 of the Code.

132. Federal Act No. 48-FZ of 24 April 2008 on Tutorship and Guardianship, governs the relations arising from the establishment, exercise and annulment of tutorship or guardianship arrangements in respect of persons, both with and without disabilities, who have no or limited dispositive capacity. The issue is considered in more detail in the section of the report analysing the implementation of article 23 of the Convention.

Article 13: Access to justice

133. In accordance with article 46 of the Constitution, everyone is guaranteed judicial protection of his or her rights and freedoms.

134. Decisions and actions or omissions of State authorities and local government bodies, civil society associations and officials may be challenged in the courts. Anyone who is detained, remanded in custody or accused of committing an offence has the right to the assistance of a lawyer (defence counsel) from the moment that he or she is detained, remanded or charged.

135. As stated in Federal Constitutional Act No. 1-FKZ of 31 December 1996 on the Judicial System, equality before the law and the courts is a defining principle.

136. The main aims guiding the development of the judicial system are justice that is accessible to citizens and as open and transparent as possible, and independence and objectivity of judicial decision-making; these aims are defined in the outline of the Federal Special-Purpose Programme for the Development of the Judicial System in the Russian Federation for 2013-2020 (Government Decision No. 1406 of 27 December 2012).

137. The Programme provides for the development of modern telecommunications infrastructure to support a single information space for the ordinary courts; the creation of data storage and processing systems in centres at the level of the federal areas; the introduction of program platforms of the State computerized system known as “Justice”; and the creation of a single information space for the courts.

138. As stipulated in Federal Act No.324-FZ of 21 November 2011, persons with category I or II disabilities and children with disabilities are entitled to receive all types of legal assistance free of charge.

139. In accordance with the Tax Code (arts. 333.36, 333.37 and 333.38), persons with category I or II disabilities and civil society associations of persons with disabilities are exempt from the payment of costs for the consideration of cases in ordinary courts, magistrates’ courts and commercial courts. The fees for notarial services are reduced by 50 per cent for such persons, for all types of service.

140. To enhance procedural legislation, the Code of Civil Procedure was amended pursuant to Federal Act No. 66-FZ of 26 April 2013 to permit participation in court hearings through videoconferencing systems; this has significantly increased access to justice for persons with disabilities. Similar provisions were introduced in the Code of Commercial Procedure in 2010.

141. The measures available to ensure effective access to justice at all stages of the legal process by all persons with disabilities include participation through representation, establishment of tutorship or guardianship arrangements and appointment of assistants (Civil Code, arts. 31-33 and 41). These measures are described in detail in the section of the report on the implementation of article 23 of the Convention.

142. In keeping with the obligations of the Russian Federation under article 13 of the Convention (**art. 13 (1)**), the National Strategy for Children for 2012-2017 provides for access to justice to be guaranteed for children and children with disabilities irrespective of their legal standing and status.

143. Measures to protect rights relating to the exercise of legal capacity are governed by Act No. 2202-1 of 17 January 1992 on the Procurator's Office and Act No. 4866-1 of 27 April 1993 on Court Appeals against Actions and Decisions that Violate Citizens' Rights and Freedoms.

144. To ensure access to justice, including by persons with disabilities, and the protection by the State of human rights and freedoms and their observance by government agencies, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Russian Federation may consider complaints against decisions and actions or omissions of State authorities and local government bodies, officials and civil servants in cases where the complainants have previously appealed such decisions and actions or omissions through a judicial or administrative procedure and do not agree with the decision taken in respect of their appeal.

145. Persons with disabilities have formed civil society associations to protect their rights and legitimate interests and ensure that they are afforded equal opportunities with other citizens (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 33). The bill on the implementation of the Convention provides for amendments to Federal Act No. 76-FZ of 10 June 2008 on Public Oversight of Respect for Human Rights in Places of Detention that would grant organizations of persons with disabilities the right to participate in efforts to eliminate disability-based discrimination against persons held in detention facilities.

146. The legislation on civil, criminal and administrative procedure provides for the participation of Russian Sign Language interpreters in judicial proceedings if a party to the proceedings has a hearing impairment. Russian legislation regulates procedures and payments for the provision of such services during trials and pretrial proceedings (Government Decision No. 1240 of 1 December 2012 on procedures and rates for the reimbursement of costs incurred in connection with criminal and civil proceedings).

147. Certification of judges is one measure taken to ensure effective training of personnel in the national justice system on respect for the rights of persons with disabilities; this involves the evaluation of judges' professional knowledge and their ability to apply that knowledge in administering justice, of the outcome of their judicial activity and of their practical and moral qualities (Act No. 3132-1 of 26 June 1992 on the Status of Judges, art. 20.2 (1)). On their initial appointment, judges in the Russian Federation complete a further professional training programme; subsequently, they receive supplementary professional training (Act No. 3132-1 of 26 June 1992 on the Status of Judges, art. 20.1 (1), first and second subparas.).

148. Federal Act No. 3-FZ of 7 February 2011 on the Police, establishes the main responsibilities of police officers, which include maintenance of the level of skill necessary for the appropriate performance of their professional duties (art. 27) when working with persons with disabilities.

149. In the bill on the implementation of the Convention, it is proposed to amend article 13 of Act No. 5473-I of 21 July 1993 on Institutions and Agencies Enforcing Criminal Penalties Involving Deprivation of Liberty so that training on respect for the rights,

freedoms and legitimate interests of suspects, accused and convicted persons with disabilities would be mandatory for staff of institutions of the penal correction system.

Article 14: Liberty and security of person

150. The Constitution, in article 22, guarantees everyone, including persons with disabilities, the right to liberty and security of person. Unlawful and arbitrary deprivation of liberty, including on the ground of disability, are prohibited.

151. In accordance with the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, court-ordered coercive measures of a medical nature may be applied in respect of persons with mental disorders who have committed acts that pose a risk to the community.

152. The placement of older persons and persons with disabilities in residential establishments providing social services without their consent or that of their legal representatives is permitted only on the grounds and under the procedures provided for by law (Principles of Social Services Act and Act No. 3185-1 of 2 July 1992 on Psychiatric Care and Guarantees for the Rights of Citizens Receiving Such Care, arts. 28 (3) and 29).

153. Persons with category I or II disabilities may not be sentenced to administrative detention for the commission of administrative offences (Code of Administrative Offences, art. 3.9 (2)).

154. In order to prevent the unlawful or arbitrary detention of persons with disabilities and ensure that any deprivation of liberty complies with the law, the Criminal Code establishes the following offences: abduction (art. 126); unlawful deprivation of liberty (art. 127); and unlawful admission to a medical establishment providing psychiatric inpatient care (art. 128). Only a court may order a person to be detained, remanded or held in custody. Prior to such a decision, no one may be detained for more than 48 hours (Constitution, art. 22).

155. The Penalties Enforcement Code contains provisions intended to guarantee that necessary reasonable accommodation is made for persons with disabilities who are deprived of their liberty: the Code provides for the provision free of charge of food, clothing, basic amenities and personal hygiene items (art. 99 (5)). Procedures must be established to ensure that the necessary conditions are put in place for convicted persons with disabilities held in institutions of the penal correction system to undergo rehabilitation measures, receive rehabilitation services and use the rehabilitation equipment provided for in their individual rehabilitation or habilitation programmes (article 101 of the bill on the implementation of the Convention). Serious illness and disability are grounds for remission of sentence (art. 172 (e)).

156. Pursuant to Ministry of Justice Instruction No. 1515-r of 22 July 2013 on the harmonization of the Ministry's legal and regulatory acts with the Convention, the Ministry of Justice has prepared and is circulating for coordination within its departments draft orders of the Ministry, respectively, on amendments to Ministry of Justice Order No. 262 of 30 December 2005 approving the Regulations on the social protection unit for inmates of institutions of the penal correction system and on amendments to certain of the Ministry's orders.

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

157. In accordance with article 21 of the Constitution, no one may be subjected to torture, violence or other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. Persons with disabilities in

the Russian Federation are protected from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The dignity of the person is protected by the State.

158. The legislation on the enforcement of criminal penalties is based on strict observance of the guarantees of protection against torture, violence and other cruel or degrading treatment of convicted persons (art. 3).

159. Concerning the implementation of article 15 (1) of the Convention, the measures taken to protect persons with disabilities from being subjected to scientific experimentation without their free and informed consent include the adoption of legislation on health care (Principles of Public Health Care Act, art. 20 (1)) and on the sciences and State policy on science and technology (Federal Act No. 127-FZ of 23 August 1996 on the Sciences and State Policy on Science and Technology, art. 4 (7)).

160. Russian legislation governs issues relating to the detention of persons with disabilities and the enforcement of criminal penalties handed down to them in institutions of the penal correction system. Measures to protect such persons from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are regulated by the legislation on law enforcement activities (Act No. 2487-1 of 11 March 1992 on Private Investigation and Security Services; Act No. 5473-1 of 21 July 1993 on Institutions and Agencies Enforcing Criminal Penalties Involving Deprivation of Liberty; and Federal Act No. 3-FZ of 7 February 2011 on the Police).

161. In fulfilment of the obligations of the Russian Federation under article 15 (2) of the Convention, the Ministry of Justice has adopted the following regulations:

- Order No. 1515-r of 22 July 2013 on harmonization of the Ministry's legal and regulatory acts with the Convention
- Order No. 262 of 30 December 2005 approving the Regulations on the social protection unit for inmates of institutions of the penal correction system

Article 16: Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

162. The measures taken to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation include the consolidation of the principle of free labour. Forced labour is prohibited in the Russian Federation (Constitution, art. 37 (1) and (2); Labour Code, art. 2; and Federal Act No. 10-FZ of 12 January 1996 on Trade Unions, Their Rights and Guarantees relating to Their Activities).

163. In exercising their parental rights, parents may not harm the physical or mental health of children or their moral development, and the manner in which children are raised must be free of neglectful, cruel, rough or degrading treatment, insults or exploitation (Family Code, art. 65). If parents abuse their parental rights, treat their children cruelly, including by subjecting them to physical or mental violence, or infringe their sexual inviolability, one or both parents may be deprived of their parental rights (art. 69) or a court may decide, taking into account the interests of the children, to remove them from one or both parents without deprivation of parental rights (restriction of parental rights (art. 73)). The relevant offences are established in Russian legislation.

164. As part of the efforts to implement article 16 of the Convention, a number of national standards have been brought into effect in the Russian Federation to ensure appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse (GOST R 53059-2008 "Social service provision. Social services for persons with disabilities").

165. Measures are being taken to ensure that all persons with disabilities who are victims of violence have access to effective recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration services and programmes. The rights of victims of crime or abuse of power are protected by law. The State guarantees victims access to justice and compensation for harm (Constitution, art. 52). One of the principles of criminal justice is the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of individuals and organizations affected by crime (Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 6.1 (1)).

166. Victims are guaranteed compensation for damage to property caused by a crime and for expenses incurred in connection with their participation in criminal proceedings, including the expense of hiring representation (Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 42 (3)).

Article 17: Protecting the integrity of the person

167. Russian legislation establishes the right of persons with disabilities to respect for their physical and mental integrity. No one may be subjected to medical intervention without his or her free consent (Principles of Public Health Care Act, art. 20).

168. Punishment and other measures applied under criminal law to offenders may not have the aim of causing physical suffering or degradation (Criminal Code, art. 7).

169. Measures intended to protect persons with disabilities from medical (or other) interventions performed without their free and informed consent include the insistence on the voluntary nature of organ transplantation (Act No. 4180-1 of 22 December 1992 on Human Organ and/or Tissue Transplantation, art. 1).

170. Every woman in the Russian Federation may decide for herself whether she wishes to have a child. Abortion is permitted at a woman's request and with her free and informed consent. Medical "sterilization" as a special medical intervention aimed at preventing a person from being able to produce offspring or as a method of contraception may be performed only at the written request of a person aged over 35 years or a person aged under 35 years and having at least two children, or on medical grounds with the free and informed consent of the person concerned irrespective of age or number of children (Principles of Public Health Care Act).

Article 18: Liberty of movement and nationality

171. Any person legally in the territory of the Russian Federation has the right to move about freely and to choose his or her temporary or permanent place of residence (Constitution, art. 27; and Act No. 5242-1 of 25 June 1993 on the Right of Nationals of the Russian Federation to Freedom of Movement and to the Choice of a Temporary or Permanent Place of Residence in the Russian Federation).

172. A Russian national may not be deprived of his or her nationality or the right to change it (Constitution, art. 6 (3)). The principles governing nationality and the relevant regulations prohibit any restriction of nationals' rights on social, racial, ethnic, linguistic or religious grounds (Federal Act No. 62-FZ of 31 May 2002 on Citizenship of the Russian Federation, art. 4). Nationality is acquired and rescinded in accordance with federal law and is identical and equal regardless of the basis on which it was acquired.

173. Persons with disabilities may be deprived of their ability to obtain, possess and utilize documentation of their nationality or other documentation of identification, or to utilize relevant processes, such as immigration proceedings, that may be needed to facilitate exercise of the right to liberty of movement only if they are deprived of legal capacity by a court (Federal Act No. 48-FZ of 24 April 2008 on Tutorship and Guardianship).

174. National legislation does not restrict the right of nationals to enter or leave the Russian Federation of their own volition on the basis of disability (Federal Act No.114-FZ of 15 August 1996 on the Procedures for Exit from and Entry into the Russian Federation, art. 2).

175. Acquisition of Russian nationality through birth is enshrined in Russian law. A child may obtain nationality if, on the day of his or her birth, one or both parents are Russian nationals (regardless of where the child is born). Under certain conditions, a child may acquire Russian nationality if he or she was born in the territory of the Russian Federation, even if his or her parents are foreigners or stateless persons (Federal Act No. 62-FZ of 31 May 2002 on Citizenship of the Russian Federation).

Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community

176. The Russian Federation acknowledges the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community in accordance with article 130 of the Constitution and Federal Act No. 131-FZ of 6 October 2003 on General Principles for Organizing Local Government in the Russian Federation.

177. In accordance with the Constitution (art. 40), all persons have the right to housing (**art. 19 (a)**). No one may be arbitrarily deprived of housing.

178. In order to ensure that persons with disabilities have the right to their own place of residence, the Housing Code (art. 52) and the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act (art. 17) stipulate that persons with disabilities and families with children with disabilities who are in need of improved living conditions and registered before 1 January 2005 have the right to housing funded from the federal budget, while other persons with disabilities are entitled to social housing paid for from regional budgets.

179. The registration of citizens in need of housing is carried out by the local government body in their place of residence.

180. Judicial bodies defend the rights of persons with disabilities to obtain housing, as confirmed by the relevant decision of the Chamber of the Samara Provincial Court (annex 11).

181. Housing occupied by persons with disabilities is specially equipped and fitted out in accordance with the individual rehabilitation programme of the person concerned. The cost of housing and communal services for persons with disabilities and families including children with disabilities is set relative to that for other persons receiving benefits (with at least a 50 per cent reduction) (**art. 19 (c)**).

182. The bill on the implementation of the Convention obliges State authorities and local government bodies to ensure that persons with disabilities have unimpeded access to communal areas in residential buildings and also stipulates that housing must be adapted for persons with disabilities (**art. 19 (c)**).

183. In order to ensure that individual support services are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities, the bill provides for measures to establish a system of assistance to persons with disabilities in overcoming barriers, with such assistance to be provided by helpers and intermediaries, either staff members of the establishments providing the services (particularly at social and transport infrastructure facilities and polling stations) or social services personnel. Federal and regional authorities are obliged to determine the procedures for providing such assistance (**art. 19 (b) and (c)**).

184. Ensuring that persons with disabilities can live independently and be included in the community in keeping with the Convention, despite limitations in their performance of

everyday activities, is the goal of certain provisions of the Principles of Social Services Act, adopted in December 2013, which introduced the concept of social support for citizens, including persons with disabilities, in accessing social services. Such support entails assistance in obtaining medical, psychological, pedagogical, legal and social aid not included as part of social services and is founded on interdepartmental cooperation among the organizations offering such aid. Social support measures are implemented through consistent methods and in accordance with individual programmes on the provision of social services (**art. 19 (b)**).

185. In order to target more effectively the personal assistance necessary to support persons with disabilities to live independently in the community, following the ratification of the Convention, Federal Act No. 258-FZ of 25 December 2012 was passed, amending the Federal Act on State Social Assistance. It envisages the provision of State assistance, on the basis of a social contract, to low-income families, including persons with disabilities, who want to take proactive steps to overcome poverty. Regional authorities offer more substantial material support than they would otherwise if a social contract has been concluded and if an individual social adaptation programme has been adopted (**art. 19 (b)**).

186. There are more than 2,200 integrated social service centres in the Russian Federation, with 477 temporary residential units and 808 day-care units. Approximately 13,000 in-home social service units operate successfully from the social service centres. The wide variety of services provided by social workers, including at home (sociomedical, rehabilitation, psychological and welfare services), are available daily to around 627,000 persons with disabilities (adults and children) (**art. 19 (b)**). Since 2012, persons with disabilities have been able to apply for social services electronically, in person at multifunctional centres and by using “single window” technology from their place of residence.

187. The 40-per-cent-increase over the past three years in the proportion of the public, including persons with disabilities, receiving a form of in-home social assistance provided for by the Convention (fostering, in-home services, sanatorium-type services) is contributing to increased opportunities for persons with disabilities to choose where they reside, including in the family, without being an undue burden to other family members, and without being segregated and isolated from the community (**art. 19 (b)**).

188. The priority areas for further refining social policy in order to ensure persons with disabilities an independent life in the community include developing innovative forms of social services, increasing the practice of placing persons with disabilities in foster families, implementing public-private partnerships and developing a competitive environment in the field of social services for such persons. To this end, laws and regulations are being drafted on the approval of appropriate standards and rules governing rehabilitation and social services.

Article 20: Personal mobility

189. Following the ratification of the Convention, a number of measures were adopted to increase the personal mobility of persons with disabilities. Even before this, the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act enshrined the right of persons with disabilities to move about freely with the greatest possible independence, to have access to social infrastructure facilities and to use transport without restriction (art. 15). Moreover, the fundamental aspects of personal mobility for persons with disabilities are embodied in individual laws obliging authorities and organizations to provide such persons with mobility aids and to ensure their unimpeded access to transport and to special devices that compensate for visual and hearing impairments.

190. However, prior to the ratification of the Convention, the mechanisms for ensuring respect for these rights at the local and regional levels did not provide for adequate penalties in the event of non-compliance. In this connection, the bill on the implementation of the Convention established differentiated conditions with regard to personal mobility, depending on a person's impairment (vision, hearing, locomotor functions, etc.). At the same time, the powers of the authorities to assist persons with disabilities in overcoming barriers hindering their mobility were determined.

191. In order to ensure free movement for persons with disabilities, the State is taking measures to provide such persons with rehabilitation aids that guarantee their personal mobility (see the section of the report on article 26 of the Convention). As a result of the Accessible Environment Programme, in 98 per cent of cases, persons with disabilities are now being provided with mobility aids within the time frame established in their individual rehabilitation programmes.

192. Since 2011, the Russian Federation has been implementing a set of measures aimed at providing persons with disabilities with modern mobility aids with higher performance and technical specifications. For this purpose, the federal budget resources allocated to the provision of rehabilitation aids have doubled (from 12.92 billion roubles in 2010 to 21.86 billion roubles in 2013). For example, AvtoVAZ has launched production of high-quality wheelchairs under licence from the German company Otto Bock, which participated directly in the venture. For the manufacture, certification and maintenance of the wheelchairs, the businesses adhere to the list of national standards currently in force with regard to special daily living aids. The manufacture of wheelchairs under other similar projects meets a significant share of the demand.

193. Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to high-quality and safe technical aids is a priority. In particular, persons with disabilities are entitled to refuse a mobility aid from a manufacturer until all defects identified have been fully rectified. On receiving a mobility aid, persons with disabilities must sign to confirm that it is fit for use, otherwise the competent authority will not reimburse the manufacturer.

194. In order to ensure that persons with disabilities can use transport without restriction, vehicle manufacturing organizations, as well as organizations of any legal status that provide transport services to the public, must ensure that transport vehicles are equipped with special adaptations and devices. The proportion of low-floor buses in big cities is increasing, particularly in Moscow, where they currently account for more than 70 per cent of the bus fleet and 58 per cent of all trolleybuses.

195. The adoption of Federal Act No. 124-FZ of 7 June 2013 amending the Aviation Code enabled the Russian Federation to improve the quality of services offered to persons with disabilities when travelling by air, including by providing more comfortable conditions for flight check-in and getting around the airport, enhancing in-flight services, offering help with boarding and disembarking the aircraft, and making available wheelchairs and services to accommodate persons with reduced mobility. It is prohibited by law not to allow passengers with disabilities to travel by air on the grounds of a lack of technical aids and equipment.

196. Reduced public transport fares for persons with disabilities are also helping to increase their personal mobility. Federal Act No. 178-FZ of 17 July 1999 on State Social Assistance regulates the provision of State social assistance, including free round-trip suburban rail travel and intercity travel to treatment facilities for persons with disabilities.

197. In the vast majority of regions, social travel passes have been introduced pursuant to decisions of local authorities to provide reduced fares for persons with disabilities for travel by urban and suburban public transport. A "social taxi" service is offered to persons with

disabilities in a number of constituent entities of the Russian Federation in order to increase their personal mobility.

198. Persons disabled as a result of workplace injuries are provided with specially equipped passenger cars paid for by social insurance, where this is medically necessary.

199. In addition to the measures undertaken to ensure unimpeded access for persons with disabilities to public transport services, the State is taking steps to facilitate travel in private vehicles for such persons.

200. In accordance with the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, every parking area, including those near retail and service facilities and medical, sports and cultural or entertainment venues, must allocate no fewer than 10 per cent of parking spaces (but at least one space) for special vehicles belonging to persons with disabilities. These spaces must not be occupied by other vehicles. Persons with disabilities can park their special vehicles free of charge.

201. Persons with disabilities who have acquired a vehicle on the basis of a report from a medical and social assessment centre are compensated for the cost of insurance premiums due under vehicle owners' compulsory civil liability insurance (Federal Act No. 40-FZ of 25 April 2002 on Vehicle Owners' Compulsory Civil Liability Insurance).

202. Priority is given to persons with disabilities when granting land to build garages or parking areas for mechanical and other means of travel close to their place of residence, taking account of urban planning provisions.

203. In order to implement the provisions of article 20 of the Convention on facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities, including through the use of signal indicators and street signs for accessibility, Road Sector Guidance Document ODM 218.2.007-2011 on methodological recommendations for the development of measures to ensure access to road infrastructure for persons with disabilities was approved pursuant to Federal Road Agency Instruction No.758-r of 5 June 2013. The document contains recommendations on compliance with rules when designing road furniture for roads that are being newly constructed or rebuilt and also with the requirements regarding conditions of use so as to ensure accessible and safe conditions for independent travel by persons with disabilities.

204. To ensure accessibility of social services, national standard GOST R 53059-2008 "Social service provision. Social services for persons with disabilities" stipulates that persons with disabilities are entitled to be provided with transport when travelling to receive treatment or education or to participate in cultural and leisure events if, on account of their health, it is not advisable for them to use public transport or other types of service.

205. Under the bill on the implementation of the Convention, persons with disabilities must be provided with an escort from among the staff of transport companies or transport infrastructure facilities to assist them in overcoming barriers to personal mobility.

206. One way to ensure personal mobility is the legally enshrined right entitling persons with visual impairments to be provided with a guide dog. Under Government Decision No. 708 of 30 November 2005, a yearly allowance of 17,420 roubles is paid from the federal budget to persons with disabilities for the upkeep and veterinary care of guide dogs. By law, guide dogs must be allowed on all forms of transport. A sum is allocated annually from the federal budget to establishments, including non-governmental ones, that train guide dogs.

207. In order to implement the provisions of article 20 of the Convention on organizing training in mobility skills for specialists, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection approved professional standards for social work specialists and social workers, which

specify their job description and the ways in which they can offer assistance to persons with disabilities.

208. Under the bill on the implementation of the Convention, State authorities and organizations providing services to the public are obliged, within their respective remits, to conduct training for specialists and staff members working with persons with disabilities on providing assistance and services to those persons in accordance with accessibility requirements and to the extent stipulated by law.

209. At present, the majority of car manufacturers in the Russian Federation have sufficient technological capacity to develop special models of cars or to adapt the vehicles they produce in line with the requirements of persons with special needs. For example, with the support of the open joint-stock company AvtoVAZ, the Izhevsk car plant took the necessary steps to begin manufacturing Lada Granta saloon cars equipped with special manually operated devices for insured persons with impairments to their lower limbs as a result of accidents at work or occupational illnesses.

210. Among the measures carried out under the Federal Special-Purpose Programme on the Development of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Industries in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020 and beyond, which was approved by Government Decision No. 91 of 17 February 2011, an exoskeleton is being developed with a robot-assisted hand and controllable prosthetic lower limbs. In May 2014, a State contract was concluded for the development of equipment to broaden the communicative capabilities of persons with paralysis. As part of the Programme, 24 other scientific research and development projects are being conducted, aimed at creating high-tech implantable products.

211. As an incentive for businesses that manufacture and sell devices and assistive technologies addressing all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities, they are exempt from paying value added tax on sales of prosthetic and orthopaedic products, on raw and other materials for their manufacture, on semi-finished products and on equipment used exclusively for preventing disability or for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (Tax Code, art. 149).

212. Articles 5.43 and 11.24 of the Code of Administrative Offences establish the administrative offences of non-compliance with the requirement to allocate spaces in car parks for special vehicles belonging to persons with disabilities and with the requirements to have vehicles accessible to persons with disabilities within the public transport system.

213. To further improve personal mobility, since 2012 the State has been taking measures to encourage businesses to develop and launch innovative personal mobility equipment. This has resulted in the manufacture of a whole series of high-tech products intended to compensate for impaired functions while persons with disabilities undergo rehabilitation, including:

- An electro-mechanical hand with three types of active movement
- An implantable pump for long-term mechanical support to blood circulation
- The basic model for an exoprosthesis controlled by electrical signals from the brain
- An exoskeleton to support upright posture and improve the mobility and independence of patients with locomotor impairments
- Equipment for broadening communication capabilities of patients with paralysis (by registering the movements of their pupils, it allows them to communicate and control a personal computer)

214. Businesses in the radio-electronics industry are working to create a comprehensive sound-amplifying mechanism to help deaf persons and navigation equipment for persons with visual impairments.

215. Following the ratification of the Convention, the Federal Agency for Standardization and Metrology developed appropriate national standards to facilitate accessibility for persons with disabilities to transport, communication, information, and household appliances and equipment. Their implementation will considerably increase the personal mobility of persons with disabilities.

Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

216. Under the Constitution (art. 29), persons with disabilities, like any other individuals, are guaranteed freedom of thought and speech and the rights freely to seek, receive and impart information by any lawful means, to assemble for the purpose of expressing opinions, to conduct peaceful assemblies, meetings, demonstrations, marches and protests, to exercise their electoral rights on an equal basis with others and to take part in mass media activities. These rights apply fully to persons with disabilities. Furthermore, persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation are able to express their opinions through the more than 3,000 civil society associations they have established, while workers with disabilities can also express their opinions through trade unions.

217. Although rights relating to freedom of expression and access to information already applied to persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, after it ratified the Convention the Russian Federation adopted a number of additional measures to ensure that persons with disabilities were able to exercise those rights, including by establishing mechanisms to assist them in overcoming barriers to accessing information caused by limitations in their performance of everyday activities (**art. 21 (a)**).

218. The following amendments were made to the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, pursuant to Federal Act No. 296-FZ of 30 December 2012 (**art. 21 (b)**):

- The status of Russian Sign Language was raised so that it may be used in all instances in which the State language of the Russian Federation is used for oral communication
- It is now compulsory for the authorities and local government bodies to make it possible for persons with hearing impairments to access interpreting services using Russian Sign Language in the departments under their control
- Russian Sign Language interpreters must now have special basic education and training
- In addition to sign language interpretation services, it is now compulsory to provide tactile sign language interpretation services

219. The bill on implementing the Convention (annex 3) provides for the Federal Act on Communications to be amended (**art. 21 (b), (c) and (e)**):

- To make it compulsory for communications operators to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access communication facilities and information about their services
- To make it compulsory to provide information on services through Russian Sign Language (signing and tactile signing)

- To draw up a list of compulsory services that must be provided to persons with disabilities free of charge at communication facilities
- To make it compulsory to provide spoken and Braille versions of written information
- To introduce a system for persons with disabilities to contact the emergency services by SMS notification

220. The same bill amends article 10 of the Federal Act on Ensuring Access to Information on the Activities of State Authorities and Local Government Bodies to introduce special requirements to ensure that persons with visual impairments can access the official Internet sites of the federal authorities, the State authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation and local government bodies (**art. 21 (c)**).

221. In order to encourage State and private entities providing services to the public, including through the Internet, to make information and services available in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Communications and Mass Media has approved technical recommendations on specific considerations in ensuring the accessibility of information in the fields of television and radio broadcasting and electronic and information and communications technologies (Ministry of Communications and Mass Media Decree No. 108 of 25 April 2014 (annex 10)).

222. The Tax Code (art. 333.34) sets rebates on payment of State taxes for the registration by persons with disabilities of mass media specializing in outputs for children, young people and persons with disabilities, and also educational and cultural mass media. In this case, the amount of the State tax for each form of mass media is reduced five-fold by comparison with other payers.

223. With a view to implementing article 21 of the Convention, additional measures have been taken as part of the Accessible Environment Programme (annex 4) to make information broadcast on television more accessible to persons with disabilities (**art. 21 (d)**).

224. Closed captioning has been arranged for television programmes on national public channels — Pervy Kanal, Rossia (Rossia-1), Rossia-Kultura (Rossia-K), NTV, the children's channel Karusel and, since 2014, TV Tsentr — Moskva — resulting in a nine-fold increase in the number of closed captions prepared and broadcast on these national channels in 2013-2014 compared with 2010 (**art. 21 (d)**).

225. In order to ensure that people with visual impairments receive information in a timely manner, and bearing in mind the particular importance of providing them with information in audio form, the All-Russia Society of Blind Persons set up an Internet radio station in 2013 named Radio-VOS, which has an audience of around 20,000 listeners both within the Russian Federation and around the world.

226. The State provides support to organizations that publish material for persons with disabilities, particularly those with visual impairments; this has facilitated the publication of 16 printed periodicals for persons with disabilities (13 newspapers and 3 magazines) and 7 periodicals for those with visual impairments: *Dialog* (Dialogue) magazine (Moscow), *Literaturnye chtenia* (Literary Readings) magazine (with supplements) (St Petersburg) and *Nasha zhizn* (Our Life) magazine (print and Braille) (Moscow), and the Moscow-published Braille magazines *Shkolny vestnik* (School Messenger), *Chudesa i priklyuchenia* (Wonders and Adventures), *Moskovsky zhurnal. Istoria gosudarstva Rossiiskogo* (Moscow Journal. History of the Russian State) and *Nasha flora i fauna* (Our Flora and Fauna) (annex 9).

227. Furthermore, in order to improve the provision of information to persons with disabilities, within the framework of the State Information Society Programme for 2011-

2020, 18 electronic media projects for persons with disabilities and 14 projects involving printed periodicals have been undertaken since 2013, with State support. Of these projects, the following have proved most popular among persons with disabilities (**art. 21 (d)**):

- The television programmes *Ot prav k vozmozhnostyam* (From Rights to Opportunities), *Dostupnaya sreda* (Accessible Environment), *Osobenny rebenok* (Special Child) and *Inva-sport* (on Inva Media TV)
- The radio programmes *Tam, gde konchayutsya slova* (Where the Words End) (on Orfei station), *Ravnye vozmozhnosti* (Equal Opportunities) (on Mir station) and *Zdorovaya sreda* (Healthy Environment) (on Russky krai station, Kaliningrad), and the Internet portals *Koleso poznany* (Wheel of Knowledge) and *NE INVALID.RU*

228. In 2014, based on a study of suggestions made by persons with disabilities, it was decided to support four more projects aimed at better informing society and persons with disabilities of best practices in rehabilitation (**art. 21 (a)**):

- Editions of the television programmes *Paralimpiiskie ogni* (Paralympic Flames) and *Inva-sport* on the development of sport for persons with disabilities (on Inva Media TV), editions of the radio programme *Tam, gde konchayutsya slova* on professional musicians with disabilities (on Studio-Dialog channel, an independent non-commercial organization), and a television documentary entitled *Dukh v dvizhenii* (Spirit on the Run) on leading athletes with disabilities (on Ostrov Studio)
- A project on integrating children with Down syndrome into society through study and through creative, vocational and sporting activities in *Sdelai shag* (Take a step) magazine (Moscow)

229. In order to encourage donors and entrepreneurs in the information sector to provide information services in formats accessible to persons with disabilities, the State provides support to:

- The “Look on me as an equal” national film and television festival
- The Russian Internet forum, which hosts discussions on how to ensure that persons with special physical needs have equal opportunities in accessing the Internet

230. Every year, resources from the budget are used to fund the production and distribution of more than 3,000 book titles for those with visual impairments. In 2013 alone, 146 literary, popular science and reference titles were published in Braille and 26 were published in large print, while 146 talking books were issued on cassette and 2,749 on flash cards and compact discs.

231. Federal budget resources have been used to publish 36 reference titles for special (remedial) general education establishments of types III and IV for persons with visual impairments in a total print run of 10,260 copies. For children with poor eyesight, 150,000 school exercise books for writing are issued annually, along with 150,000 exercise books for writing Braille. Funding is provided for books with raised illustrations to be published.

232. Under the Federal Special-Purpose Programme for 2012-2018 on Culture, resources are allocated from the federal budget in the form of subsidies to the *Moskovskaya Spetsializirovannaya Tipografia No. 27* (Moscow Specialized Typography No. 27) open joint-stock company to prepare hardback textbooks and books in Braille. All reference and other materials are provided to persons with visual impairments free of charge.

233. In order to further develop the system for supplying persons with disabilities with information in accessible formats, the following significant steps are being taken:

- In order to provide real-time (online) captioning for news and sports reports, equipment to produce closed captions automatically in real time has been developed

and will soon be deployed. This will result in a significant increase in the number of programmes captioned, including live broadcasts, thereby making information easily accessible to persons with hearing impairments. The automatic captioning system was first tested during the Internet transmission of the XI Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi on the website <http://russiasport.ru/>. A list of captioned programmes is being agreed with the All-Russia Society of Deaf Persons.

- Coordinated measures are being developed to increase the number and improve the quality of training of sign language and tactile sign language interpreters, raise their pay and introduce an accreditation system.

Article 22: Respect for privacy

234. Respect for the privacy of citizens, including persons with disabilities, is guaranteed by the State under the Constitution (art. 23) and the country's civil, labour, family, administrative, criminal and criminal procedure law.

235. Under article 23 of the Constitution, everyone is entitled to respect for his or her private life and individual and family privacy, and to defend his or her honour and good name.

236. Everyone is entitled to privacy in his or her correspondence, telephone conversations, and postal, telegraph and other communications.

237. Under article 24 of the Constitution, the collection, storage, use and sharing of information regarding a person's private life without his or her consent are not permitted. State authorities and local government bodies and their officials must ensure that everyone is able to consult documents and materials directly affecting his or her rights and freedoms, unless otherwise provided by law.

238. The privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, is protected under civil law (Civil Code, arts. 152, 152.1 and 152.2), administrative law (Code of Administrative Offences, art. 5.61) and criminal law (Criminal Code, art. 128.1).

239. The Criminal Code specifies the types of penalty and other measures at criminal law for the commission of offences including violation of privacy (art. 137), breach of the confidentiality of correspondence, telephone conversations, or postal, telegraph or other communications (art. 138), violation of domestic privacy (art. 139) and divulging of information concerning an adoption (art. 155).

240. Under article 25 of the Constitution, a person's home is inviolable. No one is entitled to enter a dwelling against the will of those living there, except in the cases established in federal law or pursuant to a court order.

241. Under article 139 of the Family Code, the adoption of a child is a confidential matter protected by law.

242. It is prohibited (under article 13 of the Principles of Public Health Care Act) for individuals to whom the information has been made known in the course of their training or the performance of their professional, official or other duties to divulge information on any instance of a citizen seeking medical assistance or on his or her state of health and diagnosis, or any other information obtained during a person's medical investigations and treatment that is covered by patient confidentiality, including after the death of the patient.

243. With written consent from a person or his or her legal representative, information that is subject to patient confidentiality may be divulged to third parties, including officials, for the purposes of medical investigation and treatment of the patient, carrying out medical

research and publishing it in scientific publications, or using it for study or other purposes. This rule also applies to persons with disabilities, without any discrimination whatsoever.

244. Under article 6 of the Principles of Social Services Act, maintaining the confidentiality of information concerning users of social services is one of the principles of social service provision in the Russian Federation.

Article 23: Respect for home and the family

245. Under article 38 of the Constitution, in the Russian Federation maternity, childhood and the family are protected by the State. Russian legislation contains no restrictions to marriage on grounds of disability. Under the Family Code (arts. 1 and 12), any form of restriction placed on citizens' rights in contracting a marriage and in their family relationships on grounds of social status, race, ethnicity, language or religious affiliation is forbidden. In order to marry, the man and woman getting married must give mutual and free consent and must have reached marriageable age (**art. 23 (1)**).

246. Medical investigations for individuals entering into marriage and consultations on medical and genetic issues and family planning are carried out free of charge by medical organizations within the State and municipal health-care systems and only with the consent of the individuals getting married (Family Code, art. 15).

247. In the Russian Federation, persons with disabilities enjoy equal access on the same basis as other citizens to technologies for assisted reproduction. The Principles of Public Health Care Act stipulates that a man and a woman, whether married or not, are entitled to use technologies for assisted reproduction if they have given mutual, free and informed consent to medical intervention. Various methods and innovations in the area of assisted reproduction technologies to maintain fertility are being actively introduced.

248. The Family Code stipulates that only competent adults may become tutors or guardians to children (art. 146). Government Decision No. 117 of 14 February 2013 confirms the list of illnesses that prevent a person from adopting a child, becoming tutor or guardian to a child, or providing long- or short-term foster care to a child. In accordance with paragraph 6 of this list, illnesses and injuries that result in a category I disability are hindrances to adoption and tutorship or guardianship. Category II and III disabilities (unrelated to the illnesses on the list) are no hindrance to adopting or becoming tutor or guardian to a child (**art. 23 (2)**).

249. In order to provide appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in fulfilling their child-rearing responsibilities, relevant national standards have been introduced (GOST R 52885-2007 "Social service provision. Social services for families" and GOST R 52886-2007 "Social service provision. Social services for women").

250. Parents who have adopted a child left without parental care, including children with disabilities, and parents who have adopted a second or subsequent child are supported with tax credits.

251. Since 2013, with the aim of encouraging family placement for children with disabilities who are left without parental care, Federal Act No. 167-FZ of 2 July 2013 has significantly increased the amount of the one-off payment for taking a child into family care if the child has a disability and is adopted; it now stands at 100,000 roubles for each such child, which is more than seven times higher than the one-off payment for taking a child with no disability into family care. From 1 January 2014, the amount of this payment rose to 105,000 roubles, after indexing.

252. Since 1 January 2013, the amount of compensation paid to people of working age who do not work because they are caring for a child under 18 with a disability or a person

who has had a category I disability since childhood has risen to 5,500 roubles (in 2012, it was 1,200 roubles) (Presidential Decree No. 175 of 26 February 2013 on monthly payments to persons caring for children with disabilities and for persons who have had a category I disability since childhood). At present, such payments are received by more than 405,000 families.

253. In 2007, additional measures were introduced to provide State support to families in which a second or subsequent child is born (or adopted) in the form of a maternity (family) payment (Federal Act No. 256-FZ of 29 December 2006 on Additional State Support Measures for Families with Children). Entitlement to such support is confirmed by means of a State document certifying entitlement to the maternity (family) payment. This support is contributing to an increase in the birth rate.

254. For the period from 1 January 2007 to 1 January 2014, more than 4.82 million State certificates for the maternity (family) payment were issued in the Russian Federation. The amount of the maternity (family) payment is indexed annually; in 2014, it stood at 429,400 roubles.

255. Since 2010, a regional maternity (family) payment has been introduced in 72 constituent entities of the Russian Federation for the birth (or adoption) of a third or subsequent child. The amount is set by the constituent entities and currently ranges from 25,000 to 350,000 roubles.

256. Legal provisions cover the ways in which children left without parental care may be cared for. Such children are placed in a family (for adoption, under tutorship or guardianship, for long-term fostering or, in the circumstances set out in the legislation of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, under a short-term fostering arrangement) or, if no such possibility exists, they may be temporarily placed in a general facility for orphans and children left without parental care until they can be placed with a family (Family Code, art. 123).

257. The practice of placing children in “family upbringing groups” is being introduced. Under this system, the group is assigned the role of legal representative, responsible for protecting the child’s rights and interests and selecting and training carers. In conjunction with this, a residential facility provides continuous psychological, medical and social care for the children in care, together with social and legal assistance, and supervises compliance by carers within the family upbringing group with their obligations and with recommendations made by the group’s specialists.

258. Under family legislation, the right of parents in the Russian Federation to educate and bring up their own children takes precedence over the right of all others to do so. A parent who lives apart from his or her child is entitled to have contact with the child and to participate in its upbringing and in decisions about its education. Parents are entitled to require the return of the child from any person holding the child other than on the basis of the law or a court order (**art. 23 (4)**).

259. The measures taken by the Russian Federation to ensure that not a single child is separated from his or her parents on grounds of the disability of either the child or one or both parents include strengthening the legal basis for the child’s right to live and be brought up in a family, to have contact with his or her parents and other relatives and to express opinions (Family Code, chap. II).

260. In order to ensure that children with disabilities are provided with alternative care involving more distant relatives, the right of grandparents and adult siblings of a minor under wardship to be the child’s tutor or guardian takes precedence over the right of all other persons to do so (**art. 23 (5)**).

261. Unless otherwise provided by law, a child is entitled to learn about his or her origins and biological parents and to maintain links with his or her family — if the family has agreed to this — even if parental rights have ceased to apply in respect of the child. The child has the right to maintain contact with both parents, even if the parents live abroad.

262. With the aim of further promoting the role of the family in the social integration process for persons with disabilities, the State is developing ways to offer support to such families and help them to work with social services, improving the system for training long-term foster carers and guardians, and encouraging the introduction of short-term fostering and substitute families.

Article 24: Education

263. The Russian Federation recognizes the right of persons with disabilities — on an equal basis with others — to education, on the basis of equal opportunity and without discrimination, at all levels and throughout life. In accordance with the Constitution, persons with disabilities are guaranteed universal, free preschool education, basic general education and secondary vocational education and the right to free higher education in State and municipal educational establishments and in enterprises (art. 43). Basic general education is compulsory and parents (or persons in loco parentis) are responsible for ensuring that children receive such education. State support is available for different forms of education and independent study, and federal educational standards have been set by the State governing, inter alia, the conditions and procedures for the education of persons with disabilities. Persons with category I or II disabilities are entitled to free higher education under preferential conditions.

264. In 2012, a new Education Act consistent with the Convention was adopted. It obliges government bodies at all levels to establish the necessary conditions for persons with disabilities to have access to quality education, without discrimination, at all stages of life; to provide early remedial help using special educational approaches and the most appropriate languages, modes and means of communication for those persons; and to help them, as far as possible, to obtain an education at the level and in the field of their choosing, develop their social skills and achieve their creative potential, including by organizing inclusive education (arts. 3, 5, 13, 16, 44 and 79) (annex 5).

265. The Education Act includes, for the first time, an article on “Organizing educational provision for students with special needs” (art. 79) that is in conformity with the standards set out in the Convention and provides for the development of differentiated educational standards and adapted programmes, which are delivered to students with special needs either alongside other students under the inclusive system or in separate groups, classes or establishments, as well as at home. Furthermore, the conditions that must be in place for students with disabilities have been adapted for those who are deaf or hard of hearing or experience late-onset hearing loss, for those who are blind or partially sighted, and for those who have severe speech impairments, locomotor impairments, psychological developmental delay, intellectual impairments or autism spectrum disorders. Parents (or legal representatives) have the right to choose the type of education for minors with disabilities (art. 44).

266. Persons with category I or II disabilities and persons with disabilities caused by war injuries are given preferential access to higher education and related preparatory courses, and to State funding and special stipends for their studies.

267. In accordance with the Education Act, persons with disabilities, while receiving general education, are provided with individually-tailored support through the establishment of special conditions. This entails making available:

- Special educational programmes and learning and development methods
- Special textbooks, study guides and learning materials, including in Braille
- Special educational technology for group and individual use
- Assistants (helpers) and sign language interpreters or tactile sign language interpreters
- Group and individual remedial classes
- Access to buildings in educational establishments

268. A range of services and forms of support are provided at no charge to students with disabilities or their parents, including free meals.

269. Government bodies in the fields of education and social protection are responsible for adopting laws and regulations that define the specific features of education and the procedures for ensuring that services related to each type of educational activity are accessible to persons with disabilities, taking into account students' impairments.

270. The Education Act (art. 79) establishes the authorities' responsibility for training teaching staff in the special educational approaches and learning and development methods needed to work with persons with disabilities and for recruiting staff to educational establishments. As part of the Accessible Environment Programme, professional development has been organized in all federal areas for 24,000 teachers and educational coordinators, with the aim of implementing socialization models for children with disabilities in accordance with the Convention.

271. In order to realize the rights of learners with disabilities to special conditions with regard to educational provision, the regulations on the Psychological, Medical and Pedagogical Commission were approved, pursuant to Ministry of Education and Science Order No. 1082 of 20 September 2013. They provide that the results of an assessment should form the basis for determining the appropriate conditions for a child's education; treating impairments in the child's development and social adaptation through the use of special educational approaches; and making recommendations on the forms of education and educational programme that the child is capable of completing, the types and methods of psychological, medical and pedagogical assistance required and the special conditions to be established for the child's education. In the development of these recommendations, consideration is given to the individual rehabilitation programme and educational needs of the person concerned, while ensuring that reasonable accommodations are made in the learning and development environment.

272. In order to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy unimpeded access to educational establishments and their services, the Accessible Environment Programme provides for the development of a system of inclusive education through the accelerated establishment of educational institutions and training of staff to teach children with disabilities alongside their non-disabled peers. Over a period of five years (2011-2015), a universal barrier-free environment will be established in 9,000 educational establishments delivering inclusive general education programmes, which will comprise no less than 20 per cent of the total number of general education schools.

273. As part of the Programme, standard packs of methodological materials on implementing inclusive education for children with disabilities have been produced; they are available at www.inclusive-edu.ru.

274. At the time of writing, 146,790 children are studying in mainstream classes under the inclusive education system. A further 210,000 children with disabilities, out of the total of 467,000 studying in schools, follow an adapted study programme with a considerable

inclusive element. This demonstrates the significant progress made towards implementation of the Convention's provisions on developing inclusive education.

Proportion of children with disabilities and special needs attending inclusive preschool and general education establishments

	<i>Children with disabilities taught in general programmes at mainstream schools (inclusive education)</i>		<i>Children with disabilities taught in remedial schools</i>
	<i>Adapted programmes in mainstream schools</i>	<i>General programmes in mainstream schools</i>	
Number of children with disabilities	210 194	14 679	110 192
Proportion of children with disabilities attending educational establishments (of the total number of 467,176 children with disabilities studying in the Russian education system), as a percentage	44.99	31.42	23.59
Proportion of children with disabilities attending inclusive educational establishments and remedial schools, as a percentage		76.41	23.59

275. The priority national project on education sets out a package of measures to develop distance learning for children with disabilities. Its implementation has paved the way for the creation of 25,000 study places fitted with special equipment and connected to the Internet for children with disabilities to study at home and the establishment of 22,000 posts for educational support workers. Work has been organized in 82 regional distance-learning centres for children with disabilities, where 22,000 teaching staff and 17,000 parents of children with disabilities have received training.

276. Federal educational standards are currently being developed for the general education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing or experience late-onset hearing loss, children who are blind or partially sighted, and children who have severe speech impairments, locomotor impairments, psychological developmental delay or autism spectrum disorders.

277. These standards will provide a basis for the establishment and implementation of adapted programmes that take into account the specific educational needs of particular groups of persons with disabilities and reflect the severity of students' developmental impairments. Beginning in September 2014, 90 schools in 17 regions will pilot these standards.

278. In the Russian Federation, 41 vocational education institutions for children with disabilities have been set up to produce competent professionals with primary and secondary vocational education, while also providing rehabilitation and offering support to find employment on completion of studies.

279. In particular, under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, 11 technical schools and colleges are training 2,315 persons with disabilities in 27 specialisms that are in demand in the labour market. In order to bring the learning process in those establishments into line with the Convention, the procedure for organizing and carrying out educational activities as part of secondary vocational education programmes

was approved pursuant to Ministry of Education and Science Order No. 464 of 14 June 2013.

280. The Government, by Order No. 1921-r of 15 October 2012, approved a package of measures for 2012-2015 to ensure access to vocational education for persons with disabilities. These measures include:

- Formally approving the requirements, including with regard to equipment, for persons with disabilities and persons with special needs to study in vocational education institutions
- Organizing the development of standards on vocational education for persons with disabilities

281. In order to bring the higher education system into line with the Convention and the new Education Act, the laws and regulations governing the implementation of higher vocational education programmes have been revised to ensure access to educational services for persons with disabilities while taking into account their educational needs. To this end, changes have been made to the provisions on work placements for students on higher education programmes, the procedure for organizing educational activities as part of bachelor, specialist and master's programmes and the procedure for holding the State final examination for students on those programmes, and to a number of other regulations (Ministry of Education and Science Orders Nos. 464, 1008, 1014, 1015, 1258, 1259 and 1367 of 2013 (annex 13)).

282. There are 13,685 students with disabilities studying in higher education institutions, which admit more than 6,500 persons who have had disabilities since childhood each year.

283. Ministry of Education and Science Order No. 2211 of 30 December 2010 on higher vocational education institutions that provide for the education of persons with disabilities and persons with special needs identifies 33 educational organizations that offer special conditions for the education and accommodation of persons with disabilities and persons with special needs and have dedicated programmes to provide support and assistance with employment. All higher vocational education institutions are required to make their educational services accessible to students with disabilities and to offer graduate employment assistance through the general careers advice programme or on an individual basis.

284. The main areas for further improvement to the system of education for persons with disabilities are as follows: increasing access to vocational training for those with the most severe disabilities; guaranteeing an individualized approach to the selection of the most appropriate professions and the most effective methods and means of instruction; improving federal educational standards; and further increasing (as part of the Accessible Environment Programme) the proportion of educational institutions that are inclusive.

Article 25: Health

285. The main areas of work in the fields of medical rehabilitation and health care for persons with disabilities are set out in the Federal Act on the Principles of Public Health Care and reflect the Convention's provisions. The Act applies to the entire population yet takes into account the greater health-care needs of persons with disabilities, and special attention is paid to securing their access to modern and effective forms of medical care, including high-tech solutions.

286. Under article 19 of the Act, persons with disabilities are entitled, on an equal basis with others, to a guaranteed level of medical care, which is provided without charge under the Programme on State Guarantees for the Provision of Free Medical Care to Citizens, and

to receive chargeable medical and other services, including under the terms of voluntary medical insurance agreements (**art. 25 (a)**).

287. The constituent entities of the Russian Federation annually implement local programmes under the Programme on State Guarantees for the Provision of Free Medical Care to Citizens approved by the Government of the Russian Federation. In 2014, with a view to increasing the Programme's effectiveness, average standards regulating the range of medical rehabilitation services and the financial cost per unit of such services were approved for the first time in the Programme for that year and the plan for the period 2015-2016.

288. Under the national health-care project, antiviral medicines are provided free of charge to treat HIV and hepatitis B and C, early testing is performed for congenital conditions, neonatal surgery and medical care for patients with cancer are evolving, tuberculosis is addressed through early detection and treatment, screening is performed to identify persons infected with HIV and hepatitis C, and the population is vaccinated against poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, rubella and influenza.

289. With the aim of rendering high-tech medical solutions accessible to persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, a programme was implemented from 2005 to 2012 to bring high-tech medical centres closer to patients' communities by locating them in the principal towns of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. From 2008 to 2012, 18 centres were established.

290. The regulation stipulating that citizens are not obliged to pay out-of-pocket for the rendering of medical services or the prescription and use, for medical purposes, of medicines included on the list of lifesaving and essential medicines, medical devices, blood products or nutritional therapy products including specialist dietary products applies in full to citizens with disabilities, in accordance with the medical care standards approved annually by the Government of the Russian Federation (Principles of Public Health Care Act, art. 80 (3)).

291. Furthermore, Russian legislation provides for additional guarantees with respect to medical care for persons with disabilities. Persons with category I disabilities, persons with category II disabilities who are not in employment and children under 18 with disabilities are provided with all medicines (used for medical purposes) free of charge.

292. Since 2013, pursuant to article 44 of the Principles of Public Health Care Act, legal standards have been brought into force regulating medical care for citizens with rare (or orphan) diseases and the provision of medicines to those citizens, a large number of whom are persons with disabilities. A federal register of persons (including those with disabilities) receiving medicines for such diseases has been established and is being maintained, along with regional registers.

293. Persons with disabilities are entitled to free social assistance from the State in the form of a range of social services, including the provision of essential medicines and sanatorium treatment (Federal Act on State Social Assistance, arts. 4.1 and 6.1-6.2). Authority to organize the provision of medicines to persons with disabilities and other citizens entitled to State social assistance has been devolved to local State agencies in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. Resources to exercise that authority are provided through federal budget grants paid to the constituent entities' budgets.

294. The Government, by decision No. 2053-r of 31 December 2008, approved the list of medicines centrally procured using federal budget funds to treat patients with haemophilia, cystic fibrosis, pituitary dwarfism, Gaucher disease, malignant growths of lymphoid, haematogenic and related tissue or multiple sclerosis or who have had organ and/or tissue

transplants. Medicines on the above-mentioned list are provided free of charge, primarily to persons with disabilities.

295. The bill on the implementation of the Convention, adopted in 2014 on first reading, stipulates new criteria to guarantee the accessibility and quality of medical care: it provides, *inter alia*, that medical organizations should be supplied with equipment and assistive devices to facilitate the provision of medical care to persons with disabilities taking into account their special requirements. The implementation of this provision will address the pressing problem (particularly for persons with impaired locomotor function) of comfort during diagnostic and treatment procedures that are currently difficult for persons with disabilities to physically access.

296. To ensure that health-care services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities are properly targeted, relevant measures are included by law in their individual rehabilitation programmes (**art. 25 (b)**).

297. To increase the effectiveness of health-care services, a system of early identification and, where appropriate, intervention, has been introduced and is being refined. The Ministry of Health, by Order No. 1006-n of 3 December 2012, approved a procedure for the medical examination of designated groups of adults, which involves enhanced medical check-ups for both employed and unemployed adults every three years from the age of 21. A set of optimum screening methods has been scientifically determined for each age group and sex.

298. With the aim of providing medical help to persons with disabilities as quickly as possible, in 2011-2013 measures were adopted to improve emergency medical services, enhance training for paramedics and raise their pay. The desired outcome in the period up to 2020 is to increase the proportion of emergency crews reaching patients in less than 20 minutes from 80 per cent in 2011 to 90 per cent in 2018.

299. To improve the quality of care at facilities in the communities where persons with disabilities live, in 2012-2013 a modernization programme was implemented in municipal and regional units focusing on access to primary health care for persons with disabilities living in rural areas and small towns. To that end:

- 389,706 items of medical equipment were purchased, including on-board GLONASS units for 22,900 medical transportation units, more than 700 MRI and CAT scanners and over 6,500 X-ray machines and angiography units to equip 5,761 health-care establishments located in citizens' own communities
- 187 mobile units were kept in operation, performing medical examinations on those living in remote and hard-to-reach areas
- 391,000 items of computer technology were installed in health-care facilities
- Activities were undertaken in 2011-2013 in relation to e-passport management at health-care facilities, with a view to improving the accessibility of health-care facilities and their services for persons with disabilities

300. To ensure access to primary health care for persons with disabilities, including children, living in rural areas, a range of mobile medical units was brought into operation: 43 mobile outpatient clinics, 22 mobile obstetric stations and 8,363 medical response teams equipped with portable diagnostic apparatus.

301. Access to specialized medical care for persons with disabilities living in rural areas is also provided through specialized interregional medical centres that, since 2012, have been equipped to allow a wide range of diagnostic procedures to be carried out, including laboratory tests, X-ray examinations, CAT and NMRI scans, and electrophysiology and ultrasound examinations.

302. Under article 20 of the Principles of Public Health Care Act, all medical interventions are performed on the basis of voluntary and informed consent. In the case of an individual who has been declared to lack dispositive capacity under the procedure established by law, the right to give voluntary and informed consent on his or her behalf is vested in his or her legal representative only if the individual is incapable, owing to his or her condition, of consenting to medical intervention.

303. To protect the right of persons with disabilities to medical care, a good practice has developed among judicial bodies of upholding their complaints of specific unlawful acts that limit their ability to obtain health-care services to an extent commensurate with their legitimate rights and on an equal basis with others.

304. For example, in its decision of 14 February 2013 on case No. 2-217/2013, the Chelyabinsk Central District Court ordered the Ministry of Health for Chelyabinsk province to organize and ensure the conveyance by non-specialized vehicle of patients with chronic kidney failure, most of whom are persons with disabilities, from their place of residence to the place of haemodialysis treatment and back, in line with their haemodialysis schedule.

305. In the 68 civil cases on the provision of medicines to persons with disabilities in which the federal Ministry of Health has been involved, only six of the requests submitted to the health authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation have been denied, mainly due to the lack of medical indications for the use of the medicines concerned.

306. The creation of an independent assessment system for State and municipal facilities providing health-care services, allowing for independent assessments to be made of the quality of medical organizations' work using common indicators, will help to improve the quality and accessibility of medical services for persons with disabilities and raise awareness among patients of the procedures for the provision of services by medical organizations (Ministry of Health Order No. 810-a of 31 October 2013).

307. In the light of international best practice, and as provided for in article 37 of the Principles of Public Health Care Act, a system of health-care standards is being developed, including standards for emergency, primary and specialized health care.

308. In 2013, 974 health-care standards were updated and 62 procedures for providing medical care were approved. The Federal Supervisory Service for Health Care is responsible for monitoring and overseeing compliance with health-care standards.

309. The quality of medical care is being improved through implementation of Federal Act No. 326-FZ of 29 November 2010 on Compulsory Medical Insurance, which recognizes the equal right to medical care of employed and unemployed persons, including persons with disabilities (**art. 25 (e)**).

310. To ensure that the resources of the State-financed compulsory medical insurance scheme are used effectively, modern health-care information systems have been introduced and are being developed, allowing for the shift to a single compulsory medical insurance policy and the introduction of remote consultation systems, an electronic document flow system and electronic patient records (29.4 billion roubles). This will enable a person with a disability to receive required medical care without being charged, with payment taken from the compulsory medical insurance scheme.

311. Administrative rules governing the conditions of delivery of health-care services ensure that the special accessibility requirements of persons with special needs are met (**art. 25 (f)**).

Article 26: Habilitation and rehabilitation

312. In the Russian Federation, a system for the legal regulation of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities has been established at the federal, regional and municipal levels. Under this system, it is compulsory to develop and implement individual rehabilitation programmes, provide State funding for the measures set out in rehabilitation programmes, supply persons with disabilities with the required technology and assistive devices, and establish other conditions to facilitate maximum independence for persons with disabilities and their inclusion in the local community.

313. The Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act (arts. 9-11) defines the approach to rehabilitation, which is in conformity with the Convention. Rehabilitation is carried out on the basis of a multidisciplinary assessment of the needs of the person concerned with the aim of maximizing his or her rehabilitation potential. The organization of rehabilitation and habilitation services in the areas of health, work, employment, education, cultural activities and social services and the indicators for assessing the effectiveness of such services are set out in the sections of this report on articles 20, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 30 of the Convention.

314. The State guarantees (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 10) the right of persons with disabilities in both urban and rural areas to the measures, equipment and services listed in the federal inventory of State-funded rehabilitation measures, equipment and services, as approved in Government Order No. 2347-r of 30 December 2005 (annex 14).

315. In 2013, all persons with disabilities who needed it (6,856,700 persons) were supplied with rehabilitation equipment, some 2,160,000 devices, including the required number of prostheses, with funding from the federal budget.

316. The established practice of the courts is to protect the rights of persons with disabilities to obtain rehabilitation equipment paid for from the federal budget, as confirmed by one of the judicial decisions taken on this matter (annex 12).

317. Many constituent entities of the Russian Federation use their own budgets to supply persons with disabilities with additional rehabilitation equipment and services that are not covered by the federal inventory, including:

- “Social taxi” (or car) services
- Home care and assistance services
- Ceiling track hoists
- Portable stair climbers
- Personal computers with screen reader software
- Handheld portable video magnifiers
- Smartphones and digital voice recorders that have been adapted for persons with visual impairments
- Talking watches, talking alarm clocks and Braille watches
- Adapted portable media players for persons with visual impairments

318. Innovative forms of rehabilitation are being introduced in 65 constituent entities of the Russian Federation, the most sought-after of which are: social support for large and single-parent families and families with children with disabilities; parental stays at rehabilitation centres (Chechen Republic); social e-certificates allowing persons with disabilities to receive medically indicated rehabilitation equipment and medical services at

rehabilitation centres (Moscow); the establishment of models for assisted living services in training apartments for young people with intellectual impairments in order to prepare them for independent living (St. Petersburg, Pskov province); the creation of integrated workshops for persons with disabilities (St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Pskov province and Khabarovsk territory); the development of social tourism for persons with disabilities (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Republic of Bashkortostan and Rostov province); and the establishment of support services for persons with disabilities in (adapted) workplaces and assignment of mentors to help them adapt to the world of work (Moscow, Pskov province and Kaliningrad province).

319. To provide comprehensive rehabilitation to persons with disabilities, a State-funded network of rehabilitation facilities has been established, including;

- 85 main offices for medical and social assessment
- 72 prosthetic and orthopaedic enterprises
- 1,411 residential social care facilities
- 134 residential social care facilities for children with disabilities
- 1,986 centres, 1,448 of which are comprehensive social care centres with 11,601 home help departments and 864 social rehabilitation services (departments, offices, etc.)
- 600 rehabilitation centres
- 11 residential colleges for persons with disabilities

Information from social services form No. 3 (consolidated):

Information on residential social care facilities for older persons and persons with disabilities (adults and children)

(as at 1 January of the following year)

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Facilities for adults				
Number of persons with disabilities in residence (total)	203 027	206 898	207 478	213 455
Including:				
Persons with category I disabilities	56 753	59 240	61 912	64 320
Persons with category II disabilities	139 871	140 997	138 708	141 698
Persons with category III disabilities	6 403	6 661	6 858	7 437
Facilities for children*				
Number of persons with disabilities in residence (total)	6 805	4 359	4 707	4 234
Including:				
Persons with category I disabilities	1 987	1 843	2 200	2 312
Persons with category II disabilities	4 192	2 311	2 327	1 784
Persons with category III disabilities	626	205	180	138

* The drop in the number of children in these facilities is due to increased placement with foster families and adoption.

320. The bill on the implementation of the Convention provides for additional measures to develop rehabilitation and habilitation systems:

- The introduction of a federal register of persons with disabilities and the determination of the procedure for its establishment and use as a national mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of the rehabilitation and integration process for persons with disabilities, based on a personalized analysis of the interaction between their impairments and environmental barriers
- The establishment of standards that guarantee an increased coordinating role in the rehabilitation process for medical and social assessment centres and the designation of a mechanism for them to share information with the organizations responsible for implementing individual rehabilitation programmes
- The codification of the status of organizations providing rehabilitation and the institution of a mechanism for their accreditation, which will allow the rehabilitation process to be structured around a multidisciplinary assessment of the needs and rehabilitation potential of persons with disabilities
- The introduction, for the first time, of the concept of “habilitation”, with the aim of organizing the earliest possible intervention to develop, from scratch, the activity skills that a person with disabilities is lacking — which is most pressing for children born with impairments of body function or body structure — and the establishment of a mechanism to implement habilitation measures as part of a single rehabilitation and habilitation process

321. To ensure the voluntary nature of their participation in habilitation and rehabilitation programmes and opportunities of their choosing (**art. 26 (1) (b)**), persons with disabilities have the right to refuse any particular form, type or extent of rehabilitation activity that is proposed or the rehabilitation programme as a whole. Persons with disabilities are entitled to decide for themselves on the specific rehabilitation equipment or form of rehabilitation to be provided (Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, art. 11 (5)). Where convenient, persons with disabilities may obtain for themselves the rehabilitation equipment they need most and be reimbursed from the federal budget.

322. In order to increase awareness among persons with disabilities of the possible ways of meeting their rehabilitation needs, following ratification of the Convention the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection approved the following:

- List of indications and contraindications for the provision of rehabilitation equipment to persons with disabilities (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Order No. 65n of 18 February 2013)
- Classification of rehabilitation equipment and devices as part of the federal inventory of rehabilitation measures, equipment and services for persons with disabilities (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Order No. 214n of 24 May 2013)

323. The scientific study and development of new technologies and methods of rehabilitation for persons with disabilities is performed by research institutes that specialize in rehabilitation, monitoring the enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their rights, medical and social assessments, and prosthetics.

324. In 2010-2013, Novokuznetsk Scientific and Practical Centre for the Medical and Social Assessment and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, in cooperation with a prosthetics and orthopaedics company, an academic and technical residential secondary school and a regional employment centre, developed an improved model for comprehensive rehabilitation and long-term employment support for persons with disabilities caused by injuries to the spine or spinal column, or limb amputation.

325. The Albrecht St. Petersburg Applied Research Centre for Medical and Social Assessment, Prosthetics and Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities is the recognized methodological centre for the development and introduction of modern medical rehabilitation technologies including preservation and surgical preparation for prostheses, rehabilitation diagnostics and new types of prosthetic and orthopaedic devices. A Children's Rehabilitation and Development Centre for children aged 14 to 18 with disabilities operates under the auspices of the Centre and provides comprehensive multidisciplinary rehabilitation, including psychological and social rehabilitation, careers guidance and occupational therapy, general medical consultations and orthopaedic care, to children, primarily those with impairments affecting movement, self-care, work and learning.

326. The All-Russia Society of Blind Persons runs the successful Reakomp Institute, with support from the State. The Institute provides comprehensive educational rehabilitation to blind persons using adapted computer technology and acts as the main organization for the professional development of persons with visual impairments, including deaf-blind persons, in employment.

327. It is planned to implement practical measures to bring the rehabilitation and habilitation system more closely into line with the Convention under the State Accessible Environment Programme being prepared for 2016-2020, which is to include the subprogramme "Improving the mechanism for providing rehabilitation services and the State medical and social assessment system". The main outcomes of the subprogramme will be increasing the proportion of persons with disabilities receiving rehabilitation equipment or services each year within the specified time frame to 98 per cent of the total number of persons with disabilities, increasing the proportion of effective rehabilitation technologies and creating an improved network of rehabilitation facilities that allow rehabilitation to be carried out at an earlier stage within local communities and with the participation of families.

Article 27: Work and employment

328. The rights and guarantees in the field of work and employment are enshrined in the Constitution and reflected in the basic legislation of the Russian Federation and in the Labour Code. The relevant provisions apply in full to persons with disabilities, are consistent with article 27 (1) of the Convention on recognition of the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others, and establish the legal basis for implementing that right.

329. The Constitution (art. 37) and the Labour Code (art. 2.3) set out the principles for the legal regulation of employment relations, which apply without exception to persons with disabilities: freedom of labour, the right freely to dispose of one's own capacity for work and the right to choose an occupation and type of employment, the right to protection from unemployment and support to find employment, and the prohibition of employment discrimination. Furthermore, everyone has the right to working conditions consistent with the requirements of safety and hygiene, remuneration without discrimination of any kind, and the protection of labour rights and freedoms, including judicial protection.

330. The prohibition of employment discrimination established in article 3 of the Labour Code applies in full to persons with disabilities. The article stipulates that no person's labour rights and freedoms may be restricted, nor may any person enjoy any advantage depending on considerations unconnected with the person's professional qualities as a worker; it thereby precludes statutory restrictions on citizens' exercise of their labour rights in connection with disability (**art. 27 (1) (a)**).

331. In order to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities seeking work on the open labour market, articles 20 to 24 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act enshrine a system of additional measures intended to establish equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in the areas of vocational training and work.

332. An employer may not refuse to recruit a person with disabilities for reasons unconnected to the particular qualifications required or the worker's professional qualities. An unfounded refusal to conclude an employment contract with a person with disabilities may be challenged in court (**art. 27 (1) (b)**).

333. To protect the right of persons with disabilities to just and favourable conditions of work, on an equal basis with others, the law provides additional guarantees to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy appropriate working conditions, in accordance with their individual rehabilitation programmes.

334. Article 23 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act and articles 92, 94, 96, 99, 113, 128, 179 and 224 of the Labour Code, in particular, establish entitlements in labour relations aimed at ensuring that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour rights on an equal basis with others. For persons with category I or II disabilities, a reduction in working hours has been established: no more than 35 hours a week while retaining a full salary. Persons with disabilities may only be employed to do overtime, weekend work or night work with their agreement and on condition that their state of health does not prohibit such work. Persons with disabilities are granted annual leave of not less than 30 calendar days. Collective agreements and individual employment contracts may not establish conditions of work (salary, work schedule, breaks, annual leave, etc.) for a person with disabilities that render his or her position less favourable than that of other workers.

335. The provision of the Convention on ensuring that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others is implemented in the Russian Federation. Under the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, they have the right, according to their capabilities, to secure and retain employment or to engage in a useful, productive and remunerative occupation and to join trade unions.

336. The Administrative Rules on State monitoring of the registration of persons with disabilities as unemployed (Ministry of Health and Social Development Order No. 977-n of 25 August 2011) set out the procedure for holding to account employers who refuse, without good reason, to register persons with disabilities as unemployed.

337. To protect the rights of persons with disabilities to safe and healthy working conditions, Health and Safety Rules 2.2.9.2510-09 "Hygiene requirements with respect to the working conditions of persons with disabilities" were issued. The Rules, which were approved by Decision No. 30 of the Chief Medical Officer of the Russian Federation of 18 May 2009 (annex 22), are applicable to enterprises in all sectors of the economy. Their aim is to prevent or reduce to a minimum the negative impact on persons with disabilities of working in industry and to establish safe and healthy working conditions that take into account their physical needs. An employer is not permitted to offer hazardous work to a person with disabilities.

338. The Federal Labour and Employment Service and its local agencies (State labour inspectorates) are responsible for protecting the labour rights of persons with disabilities in employment, including their right to a safe workplace (Labour Code, art. 353; Government Decision No. 875 of 1 September 2012). In order to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for persons with disabilities in employment, the Federal Service and its local agencies oversee the observance of labour law in relation to persons with disabilities and take the required response measures within their respective areas of jurisdiction. Response measures are used by inspectors to eliminate violations found by the State labour

inspectors; they include issuing orders to eliminate the violations, instituting administrative proceedings and imposing fines.

339. With the aim of implementing the Convention and in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 597 of 7 May 2012 on measures for the execution of State social policy, the Government approved a package of measures for 2012-2015 to improve the effectiveness of job placement initiatives for persons with disabilities and ensure that vocational training is accessible (annex 6).

340. In November 2013, the Federal Labour and Employment Service opened a job search service for persons with disabilities on the information portal "Work in Russia" (www.trudvsem.ru) in order to inform persons with disabilities of employment opportunities on the open labour market. This online resource allows users to filter vacancies proposed by employment centres, including quota-based and specially adapted posts, according to their region of residence, category of disability and other parameters. In May 2014, information on 64,000 positions for persons with disabilities advertised by employers in employment centres was posted on the portal.

341. In 2012-2013, efforts to help persons with disabilities into work met with success. While, in 2009, 27.6 per cent of persons with disabilities using the employment services found work, in 2012, that figure had grown to 36.3 per cent and, in 2013, to 39.7 per cent. The proportion of successful interventions in the area of careers guidance grew from 52 per cent in 2009 to 65 per cent in 2013.

342. Since the ratification of the Convention, in order to broaden employment opportunities for persons with disabilities on the open labour market, targeted employment support for persons with disabilities has been phased in to supplement the quota system for posts; at the same time, employers have been encouraged to create special posts with technology and conditions that allow persons with disabilities to work, regardless of limitations in their work capacity. With that aim, a number of constituent entities of the Russian Federation have created social not-for-profit organizations that, since 2012-2013, have been providing additional targeted services to support the employment of persons with disabilities in specially created posts (Moscow, Bryansk, Tambov, Tyumen, Nizhegorod and Sverdlovsk provinces, Stavropol and Krasnoyarsk territories). Financial backing for their activities is provided through grants to support the programmes and projects of not-for-profit organizations and through annual funding from the federal and regional budgets. Nonetheless, work to support the employment of persons with disabilities has not yet been organized in all regions, despite high demand for this service. Measures are planned to extend the provision of employment support for persons with disabilities to all constituent entities of the Russian Federation and to allocate the necessary financial resources to pay the volunteers providing this service (**art. 27 (1) (e) and (i)**).

343. Under the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act (art. 20), quotas for hiring persons with disabilities are set irrespective of an organization's legal status or form of ownership. In order to create additional posts for the employment of persons with disabilities, pursuant to Federal Act No. 183-FZ of 2 July 2013, the authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation have been given the right to set quotas for the recruitment of persons with disabilities for organizations with a minimum of 35 employees, rather than 100 employees as was the case until 2013. This has brought small and medium-sized enterprises, including in rural areas, into the quota system, which has significantly increased employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, by an additional 300,000 quota-based posts.

344. To more effectively implement employment guarantees for persons with disabilities, since the ratification of the Convention the mechanism to monitor the creation or designation by employers of posts for persons with disabilities under the quota system has

been refined and the relevant administrative penalties have been increased (Federal Act No. 11-FZ of 23 February 2013). In accordance with the regulations adopted, employers must inform the employment service on a monthly basis of the posts created or designated for persons with disabilities under their respective quotas. In connection with the monitoring of the allocation of posts for persons with disabilities under the quota system, a new legal provision has been introduced requiring employers to adopt internal regulations containing information on these posts and to provide such information to the labour authorities.

345. Failure to inform, or failure to inform in a timely manner, the employment service of a vacant position or of the filling of the quota for the recruitment of persons with disabilities incurs a warning or an administrative fine (Code of Administrative Offences, art. 19.7). Failure by an employer to meet its obligations to create or designate positions for persons with disabilities under its quota or refusal to hire a person with a disability under its quota is punishable by an administrative fine (Code of Administrative Offences, art. 5.42).

346. Monitoring and oversight of the hiring of persons with disabilities under the quotas is the responsibility of the authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and is carried out in all constituent entities through checks on organizations. The requirements with respect to monitoring and oversight activities are set out in the federal standards on State monitoring and oversight of the recruitment of persons with disabilities under quotas, which establish the right to carry out checks, issue binding instructions and draft reports (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Order No. 181n of 30 April 2013).

347. Thanks to the enshrinement in law of a mechanism to ensure the implementation of the regulations on quotas, the number of vacant quota-based posts reported to the employment service by employers was 146,000 in 2013, 3.5 times more than in 2009, when there were 41,000 such positions. In 2013, the number of persons with disabilities working in quota-based posts rose to more than 350,000, an increase of 15.2 per cent compared to 2012.

348. Additional regulations have been adopted, in line with the Convention, to refine the practice of creating special posts adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities, which differ according to their impairments. Amendments, approved by Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Order No. 685n of 19 November 2013 (annex 15), have been made to articles 4 and 22 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act (Federal Act No. 168-FZ of 2 July 2013 (annex 2)), granting the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection the authority to determine the basic requirements for equipping special posts for persons with disabilities taking into account their impairments and the limitations in their performance of everyday activities.

349. As part of a project implemented under Presidential Decree No. 597 of 7 May 2012 (para. 2 (c)), the authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, within their areas of jurisdiction, have developed regional programmes to facilitate the recruitment of unemployed persons with disabilities by enterprises with complex manufacturing processes, where posts for persons with disabilities must be adapted by introducing special accommodations that take into account their individual capabilities. These programmes are being implemented in 2013-2014 with significant co-funding from the federal budget, and more than 14,200 new special posts for persons with disabilities are being created each year.

350. Since 2014, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has been introducing a register of posts equipped for persons with disabilities in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, allowing the quantitative and qualitative indicators for these posts to be analysed effectively and the reasons for the abolition of such posts and the dismissal from them of persons with disabilities to be identified.

351. Monitoring of the creation of specially equipped posts and the hiring and retention in such posts of persons with disabilities (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Order No.

63 of 30 January 2014) shows that, from 2010 to 2013, 42,900 posts were equipped for the recruitment of unemployed persons with disabilities. In 2013, the recruitment of unemployed persons with disabilities increased by 5.1 percentage points compared to 2011, reaching 40 per cent of all persons with disabilities who contacted the employment service. As at 1 January 2014, 84.5 per cent of persons with disabilities recruited to specially equipped posts during 2012-2013 continued to work in those posts.

352. Different forms of social enterprise are increasingly being used to resolve the most difficult problems with respect to the employment and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Such initiatives include:

- The creation by businesses of special posts for persons with disabilities
- The work of not-for-profit and charitable organizations and foundations (Nadezhda (Hope), the St. Petersburg Association of Civil Society Organizations for Parents of Children with Disabilities (GAOORDI), the Vesely Voilok workshop in Rybinsk, and others)
- The efforts of small businesses that establish environments conducive to the social and occupational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and of the foundations that support them (significant work on material support for social businesses is carried out, in particular, by the private foundation of V. Alekperov, Nashe budushchee (Our future), M. Mamut's Russian Microfinance Center and others)
- The scaling up of recruitment of persons with disabilities to quota-based posts

353. State support plays an important role in the development of social enterprise. To preserve the employment of persons with the most severe disabilities in the sheltered labour market, the State offers support to specialist enterprises, including through organizations of persons with disabilities to which it allocates funding from the federal budget. In the period 2008-2013, funding was increased by one and a half times, from 800 million roubles to 1,282.5 million roubles.

354. One way of developing social enterprise is stipulated by the Employment Act, which obliges the State to provide unemployed citizens with services to help them set up their own businesses, including offering them one-off financial support when they register with the State as sole traders or small-scale farmers (smallholders) (**art. 27 (1) (f)**).

355. The Employment Act enshrines the requirement for the State to provide unemployed citizens with services to help them set up their own businesses and to offer training and one-off financial support when they register with the State as sole traders or small-scale farmers (smallholders) (**art. 27 (1) (f)**).

356. In 2009-2011, unemployed citizens (primarily persons with disabilities) who had set up their own businesses were allocated grants equal to 12 unemployment benefit payments, in order to relieve pressure in the labour market and support the self-employment of unemployed citizens (Government Decision No. 1089 of 31 December 2008).

357. Since 2012, measures to support persons with disabilities to open their own businesses have been implemented within the framework of regional employment support programmes and programmes of additional support measures designed to relieve pressure in the labour market. In 2013, the employment services provided help with self-employment to 3,200 persons with disabilities or 1.7 per cent of the total number of persons with disabilities who contacted them looking for suitable employment (in 2012, this figure was 3,900, or 1.8 per cent).

358. Organizations of persons with disabilities and enterprises that they have set up (in which employees comprise no less than 50 per cent of the workforce) are afforded an advantage under Federal Act No. 44-FZ of 5 April 2013 (annex 16), allowing them to bid

successfully for work contracts. The procedure for obtaining that advantage is determined by the Government (Government Decision No. 341 of 15 April 2014).

359. The employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector is ensured through the quota system and other regulations described in the section of the report on article 27 of the Convention (**art. 27 (1) (g)**).

360. In accordance with Supreme Court Decision No. 92-G11-1 of 11 May 2011, federal law provides for common rights and for limitations on those rights, applicable to all citizens, including persons with disabilities, with respect to entrance into and employment in the State civil service. Persons with disabilities, like other citizens, are appointed to the State civil service on the basis of a competitive process.

361. The regions have gained positive experience of employing persons with disabilities in the State civil service, creating special posts and mentoring. In Nizhegorod province, for example, offices of the tax service implemented a project in 2013 to hire professionally trained and qualified workers with disabilities for their subunits.

362. The 2011-2015 programme of the federal Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Natural Disaster Response to create accessible environments for persons with disabilities provides for the employment and training of persons with disabilities and improvements to the accessibility of the Ministry's facilities. Ministry specialists are developing distance learning courses for persons with disabilities that make use of the opportunities provided by the electronic and telecommunications resources of the Ministry's training centres. Where necessary, an individual training schedule can be prepared for a person with a disability and a trainer allocated. In 2011, 208 persons with disabilities were trained and hired by the Ministry's local centres as dispatchers for the combined emergency services number 112.

363. To promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector, in accordance with the Convention, economic support is provided to employers, involving partial offsetting of the costs of establishing special posts for persons with disabilities and provision of other benefits. When hiring a person with a disability, an organization can reduce the tax base for calculating tax on profits, and, if more than 50 per cent of the workforce are persons with disabilities, receive a reduction in value added tax and property, land and transport taxes. The main aim of these measures is to encourage employers to offer posts to persons with disabilities; all other things being equal, these workers cost employers less. In addition, the State supports organizations using the labour of persons with disabilities (when they constitute more than 50 per cent of the workforce), including by providing them with a range of tax breaks: on profit, property, land and transport taxes, among others (annex 17).

364. The regions have positive experience of introducing measures to encourage the expansion of mentoring for persons with disabilities under the Employment Support Programme. Funding for mentoring persons with disabilities is available on a non-refundable basis from regional budgets under agreements concluded between employment service offices and businesses hiring persons with disabilities. The agreements provide that, in accordance with the instructions of the head of the organization, the mentor is responsible for monitoring the work of the person with a disability, providing assistance with the performance of work duties and seeing that he or she obtains the required professional skills. As a rule, mentors are allocated to persons with disabilities for whom accessible conditions and forms of supervised work have been recommended and to persons with disabilities who have neurological or psychological conditions or lack previous work experience. Monitoring and supervision of the implementation of these measures is carried out by employment service offices in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, under the Employment Support Programme (**art. 27 (1) (j)**).

365. Aside from the above measures (**art. 27 (1) (d)**), a range of initiatives is included in the Accessible Environment Programme to promote vocational rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities and develop ways of supporting their employment. Under the Accessible Environment Programme, (financial) support is provided for programmes run by organizations of persons with disabilities to assist with job placement in the labour market, including by creating posts and ensuring that posts are accessible. The programmes involve vocational training for persons with disabilities, including in new professions and working practices, and the provision of rehabilitation services (**art. 27 (1) (k)**).

366. The procedure for providing federal funding to organizations of persons with disabilities for these purposes is regulated by Government Decision No. 941 of 17 November 2011. In 2013, organizations of persons with disabilities provided support for the recruitment of persons with disabilities to 478 specially created posts and, in 2014, there are plans to support the recruitment of 523 persons with disabilities. Owing to the implementation of these organizations' programmes, more than 4,200 persons with disabilities have been offered an opportunity to return to work.

367. The Constitution (art. 37) guarantees individuals the right to freely dispose of their own capacity for labour and choose a type of activity and a profession. Under the Labour Code (art. 2), one of the recognized principles of the legal regulation of labour relations is the prohibition of forced labour (**art. 27 (2)**).

368. Thanks to the above measures, since the signature of the Convention, the number of persons with disabilities in work has risen by 5-6 per cent annually. According to data from the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation, the number of persons with disabilities in work grew by 22.3 per cent between 2008 and 2013 and, as at the beginning of 2014, had reached 2.4 million or 18.4 per cent of all persons with disabilities.

Information on persons with disabilities in employment

(data from the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation)

	2008	2009*	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of persons with disabilities in employment, in thousands						
Total number of persons with disabilities in employment, including:	1 967	2 078	2 195	2 276	2 344	2 407
Category I(2)	127	134	92	93	87	82
of which disabled since childhood	4	4	3	3	3	3
Category II(3)	787	819	887	898	906	913
of which disabled since childhood	24	26	22	23	23	23
Category III(4)	1 046	1 115	1 209	1 280	1 348	1 409

* Data provided at year-end.

In 2008-2009, persons with disabilities with restricted work capacity: (2) level 3; (3) level 2; (4) level 1.

369. The main areas for further improvement in the medium term to the system to support persons with disabilities in exercising their right to work are:

- Encouragement to employers to create special posts for persons with disabilities
- Increased compensation for the costs of equipping those posts
- Development of individualized employment support for persons with disabilities
- Extension of the practice of setting quotas for posts

- Support for the development of social enterprise

Article 28: Adequate standard of living and social protection

370. The human right to an adequate standard of living, including for persons with disabilities, is enshrined in article 7 of the Constitution. State policy is aimed at creating conditions that ensure a dignified life and the free development of the individual. Everyone is guaranteed social security related to age, sickness and disability (Constitution, art. 39). The main forms of social security are pensions, allowances and various social services. Social security is provided in cash (pensions, allowances) and in kind (an assortment of social services, including provision of medicines, sanatorium treatment and travel on urban and suburban transport, nursing care, meal services, and help with obtaining medical, legal, social and psychological, and in-kind assistance).

371. The Principles of Social Services Act, Federal Act No. 442-FZ of 28 December 2013, was adopted taking into account the Convention's principles on equal opportunities and the right to free choice and independence in respect of the provision of social services related to disabilities and other life circumstances (**art. 28 (1)**).

372. Under this Act, depending on their individual programmes, persons with disabilities may be provided with emergency social services free of charge and in an accessible form. This includes free hot meals or a selection of foodstuffs, clothing, footwear, other essentials and assistance in obtaining temporary accommodation (**art. 28 (1), (2) (a) and (d)**).

373. Social service centres have 11,601 fully-functional in-home social service units and 864 social rehabilitation services. These provide assistance each year to more than 18 million people in need of social protection, including all persons with disabilities who require it.

374. The right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of social protection is enshrined in article 2 of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act, which defines actions to provide such persons with social protection in all areas covered by the Convention.

375. In the Russian Federation, the right of persons with disabilities, like other individuals, to available and accessible clean water is enshrined in article 19 of Federal Act No. 52-FZ of 30 March 1999 on Public Health and Disease Control. Comprehensive measures taken under the Federal Special-Purpose Programme on Clean Water for 2011-2017 guarantee that the population's drinking water complies with requirements on safety and potability established under hygiene and disease control regulations (**art. 28 (2) (a)**).

376. In the Russian Federation, a basket of consumer goods has been established in legislation, representing the minimum amount of food and non-food items and services required to support an individual's health and vital activities; its cost is defined in relation to the value of the minimum selection of food items (Federal Act No. 227-FZ of 3 December 2012 on the Overall Consumer Basket, art. 2). The quality of the food items selected in the new basket of consumer goods has been significantly improved by increasing the amounts of the most nutritionally-rich foodstuffs (meat, fish, milk products, eggs, fruits and vegetables) while reducing the amounts of baked goods, potatoes, margarine and other fats.

377. The income of persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation cannot be below the minimum subsistence level for pensioners, as set by the individual regions. Under Federal Act No. 213-FZ of 24 July 2009, since 2010 State social assistance has been provided in the form of welfare top-ups for pensions (federal or regional) for all persons with disabilities who are not in work and pensioners with disabilities whose income is

lower than the minimum subsistence level for a pensioner in the region in question. The minimum subsistence level is defined in Federal Act No. 134-FZ of 24 October 1997 on the Minimum Subsistence Level in the Russian Federation. This measure has helped practically to eliminate poverty among persons with disabilities, including women, girls and older persons.

378. By law, persons with disabilities have the right to access a range of social services, including additional free medical assistance covering essential medicines, passes for sanatorium treatment, and free round-trip suburban rail travel and intercity travel to the place of treatment (**art. 28 (2) (b) and (c)**). Persons with disabilities who refuse State social assistance are entitled to monthly cash payments in line with article 28.1 (1) and (2) of the Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act. The size of the payment depends on the disability category and is indexed each year on the basis of the forecast rate of inflation. Persons with disabilities are provided with social support to help pay for accommodation and utilities; persons with disabilities and families with children who have disabilities are guaranteed housing (**art. 28 (2) (c)**).

379. Pensions are provided in the Russian Federation to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities. In accordance with article 5 (1) of Federal Act No. 166-FZ of 15 December 2001 on the State Pension System, the following pensions are awarded under the State pension scheme: long service, old age, disability and survivor's pensions and welfare benefits. Persons disabled as a result of war are entitled to receive two pensions: for disability and old age (or for long service).

380. The State guarantees the right of families with children who have disabilities to receive all social support measures established under Russian law for families with children. A unified system of State benefits for families in connection with childbirth and child-rearing was established pursuant to Federal Act No. 81-FZ of 19 May 1995 on State Benefits for Citizens with Children. As from 1 January 2014, this provided for a one-off payment of 13,741.99 roubles for the birth of each child. Under Federal Act No. 256-FZ of 29 December 2006 on Additional State Support Measures for Families with Children, families in which a second or subsequent child is born (or adopted) are entitled to additional State support in the form of a maternity (family) payment. The size of the payment was increased from 250,000 roubles in 2007 to 429,408,550 roubles in 2014.

381. In addition to the social protection measures afforded to all persons with disabilities, under the Federal Act on Compulsory Social Insurance against Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases, persons who are disabled as a result of an injury at work are provided with one-off and monthly payments in compensation for the damage to their health, depending on the extent of the loss of earnings; the Act also covers a range of effective rehabilitation measures.

382. In 2012, Federal Act No. 306-FZ of 7 November 2011 on the Provision of Cash Allowances and Other Payments to Military Personnel (annex 2) introduced a new provision on monthly compensation payments for damage caused to the health of persons disabled as a result of injuries sustained in war, with the amount depending on the category of disability.

383. The system of material support for persons with disabilities will be further developed by adhering more consistently to the principle of targeting, increasing contributions from the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and from voluntary insurance schemes, and stepping up monitoring of the effectiveness of the expenditure of budgetary funds and insurance contributions earmarked for these purposes.

Article 29: Participation in political and public life

384. Legislation has been adopted in the Russian Federation guaranteeing political rights to persons with disabilities, in particular persons with mental or intellectual disabilities, (**art. 29 (a)**). Pursuant to article 31 of the Constitution, Russian citizens have the right to assemble peacefully, without arms, to hold meetings, rallies, demonstrations and marches and to picket.

385. Persons with disabilities may take part in political and public life by sending individual or collective appeals to State and local government bodies, in accordance with article 33 of the Constitution and Federal Act No. 54-FZ of 19 June 2004 on Meetings, Rallies, Demonstrations, Marches and Picketing. Six deputies with disabilities worked actively in the State Duma during its fourth term, defending the rights of persons with disabilities in the process of improving legislation.

386. Restrictions on the exercise of political rights may be established solely by law. They include, in particular, the prohibition on voting and being elected for citizens who have been deemed by the courts to have no dispositive capacity (Constitution, art. 32 (3)) and the prohibition on admission to the State or municipal civil service for citizens who have been deemed to have no or limited dispositive capacity in a court decision that has become enforceable (Federal Act No. 79-FZ of 27 July 2004 on the State Civil Service, art. 16 (1) (1); Federal Act No. 25-FZ of 2 March 2007 on the Municipal Civil Service, art. 13 (1) (1)).

387. Persons with disabilities have the same rights as other Russian citizens (Constitution, art. 32 (1) and (2)) to take part in the management of State affairs, directly or through their representatives. The amendments made in 2011, pursuant to Federal Acts Nos. 143-FZ of 14 June 2011 and No. 262-FZ of 25 July 2011, to the Federal Act on Basic Guarantees of Citizens' Electoral Rights and Right to Participate in Referendums, the Act on Elections to the Presidency of the Russian Federation and the Act on Elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (annex 2) provide for additional measures to ensure equal conditions for the exercise by persons with disabilities of their electoral rights, including with regard to the accessibility of electoral information and polling stations. If a candidate who has a disability is nominated and is unable, without assistance, to make the written declaration of willingness to stand for election or to complete or certify other documents, he or she is entitled to be assisted by a third person in so doing. These federal laws establish a range of measures aimed at guaranteeing the right of persons with disabilities to participate in elections (**art. 29 (a) (i)**), including measures to ensure the complete accessibility of voting procedures, facilities and materials (**art. 29 (a) (ii)**).

388. In accordance with article 59 (1) of the Federal Act on Elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, electoral commissions take the necessary measures to provide information to voters with disabilities, including on the legislation of the Russian Federation governing elections. Article 79 (3) states that the relevant electoral commission may decide to help voters who have visual impairments by producing special overlays so that ballot papers can be filled in without assistance, including with the use of Braille (**art. 29 (a) (iii)**). When persons with disabilities take part in voting, material produced in large type and/or using Braille is displayed at information stands in polling stations to provide information to people with visual impairments.

389. To give effect to the aforementioned legislative acts, in 2012 the Central Electoral Commission approved recommendations for safeguarding the rights of voters with disabilities during the election of deputies to the State Duma and during presidential elections. The recommendations set out ways and methods of ensuring access to electoral technology in polling stations and premises according to the needs of the following categories of persons with disabilities: persons who are blind or partially sighted, persons

who are deaf or hard of hearing and persons with locomotor impairments, including wheelchair users.

390. In the Russian Federation, support is provided for the activities of organizations of persons with disabilities representing their rights and interests at the local, regional and municipal levels (**art. 29 (b) (i)**) (detailed information is available in paragraphs 42 and 43 of the report, in the section on article 4 of the Convention). Under the Constitution (art. 30 (1)), everyone has the right to freedom of association, including the right to form trade unions in order to protect their own interests. Trade unions and organizations of persons with disabilities are guaranteed the freedom to pursue their activities (Federal Act No. 10-FZ of 12 January 1996 on Trade Unions, Their Rights and Guarantees relating to Their Activities).

391. The bill on the implementation of the Convention provides for additional measures to guarantee persons with disabilities access to polling stations and electoral information.

Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

392. The Constitution proclaims, in article 34, the right of everyone, including people with disabilities, to participate in cultural life, use cultural institutions and have access to cultural treasures.

393. The right of persons with disabilities to take part, on an equal basis with others, in cultural life, including opportunities to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, is recognized in Federal Act No. 3612-1 of 9 October 1992 on the Principles of Cultural Legislation (**art. 30 (1)**).

394. In order to give effect to the provisions of the Convention on guaranteeing persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to cultural heritage sites, theatres, museums and libraries, the bill on the implementation of the Convention provides for amendments to the Federal Act on the Principles of Cultural Legislation, the Federal Act on Libraries, the Federal Act on Museum Holdings and Museums, the Federal Act on State Support to the Film Industry and the Federal Act on Cultural Heritage Sites (Historical and Cultural Monuments) of the Peoples of the Russian Federation. Pursuant to these amendments:

- State authorities at all levels are required, within their respective remits, to ensure access for persons with disabilities to cultural institutions and to the benefits of culture.
- Authorities at all levels are required to establish procedures for assisting persons with disabilities in regard to the delivery of culture-related services and ensuring that they have access to cultural sites and services.
- The State must establish a procedure for supporting the production, distribution and screening of Russian films, provided that they have subtitles and audio description.
- Authorities and libraries are required to ensure that blind people can exercise their right to receive documents in specially accessible formats on a variety of data storage devices.

395. In the Russian Federation, 68 central libraries have been established for blind people. They are making substantial efforts to introduce persons with visual impairments to world and national literary classics. The holdings of these libraries are increasing every year: in 2013, there were 9.2 million printed, electronic and audiovisual items. The Russian State Library for Blind People is the federal coordination, guidance and research centre on the provision of library and information services to persons with disabilities for the State

network of central libraries. The State Library supports electronic access to full-text publications on issues related to blindness and to audio books under cryptographic protection. Significant assistance is provided to regional libraries for blind people and to persons with disabilities by the following institutions established under the auspices of the State Library: the Rapid Braille Printing Centre, which every year issues more than 11,000 pages of publications in raised dot format; the Early Intervention Centre (an assistance centre for children with visual impairments and their parents); the Legal Information Centre; the Artistic and Aesthetic Rehabilitation Centre; and the Centre for the Use of Electronic Resources and Technology for Persons with Visual Impairments.

396. To broaden the access of persons with visual impairments to new literary works, the output (procurement and supply to cultural institutions) of modern adaptive technologies is being increased each year and new reading devices that convert printed text into sound, Braille display devices and printers that convert flat text into raised dots are being acquired, and also screen reading programs with voice synthesizers.

397. Technologies and special devices are being developed to ensure that people with visual and hearing impairments have access to films at the cinema, along with audiovisual assistance during screenings.

398. Under the Accessible Environment Programme, equipment required to produce closed captioning was acquired and brought into operation on the five main television channels. This has allowed 190,000 persons with hearing impairments to watch the best content and programmes from global and Russian television (more details on the programmes available can be found in the section of the report on article 21 of the Convention).

399. As part of the Federal Special-Purpose Programme on Culture for 2012-2018, barrier-free environments for persons with disabilities are gradually being created in museums, concert halls and educational spaces for culture and art. In the State Hermitage Museum, for example, to better orient persons with reduced mobility, special maps are issued in formats accessible to persons with disabilities, showing infrastructure that facilitates mobility and with recommendations on how to organize a visit. Similar information has been posted on the museum's official website, including a visitors' map and a layout of the exhibitions. Persons with disabilities are provided with wheelchairs to allow them to move around the museum and, wherever appropriate, escort and assistance services are provided.

400. In accordance with Government Decision No. 712 of 1 December 2004, persons with disabilities receive concessions to visit paid events run by cultural organizations. Information on how to visit paid events at concessional rates is posted in publicly accessible areas of the premises of these organizations and in the media.

401. In line with the general principle of accessibility, theatres, concert halls and circuses regularly hold charity performances; seats in auditoriums for the latest shows are regularly reserved for organizations of persons with disabilities and for special (remedial) educational organizations for pupils with special needs; and requests from charitable foundations (Podari zhizn (Give Life), Mir dobra (World of Good) and others are fulfilled.

402. To facilitate access by persons with disabilities to tourism services in the Russian Federation, following the ratification of the Convention:

- National standard GOST R 55699-2013 "Accessible accommodation for tourists with physical disabilities" was approved and will come into effect on 1 January 2015.
- The Inter-State standard GOST 32613-2014 "Tourism services. Tourism services for people with physical disabilities" is being drafted and will come into effect on 1

January 2016 (in the context of the union between Belarus and the Russian Federation).

403. To facilitate rest and recuperation, children with disabilities are provided with free travel passes to children's rest and recuperation establishments with funding from the federal budget.

404. State authorities, with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, take measures to involve persons with disabilities in the cultural life of society and to aid their rehabilitation in the social and cultural spheres (**art. 30 (2)**).

405. The State Specialist Academy of Arts established in the Russian Federation is running productively, successfully applying, through specialized programmes, a model of inclusive education for young people, with the aim of building a society based on equal opportunities in the cultural sphere. One of the Academy's main areas of focus is the design of academic materials for cultural and educational institutions that develop the creativity of persons with hearing impairments (preparing study guides for blind and partially-sighted musicians, instructors' manuals on teaching painting to deaf students, video aids in foreign languages and sign language for deaf people, Braille sheet music and so on).

406. The National Centre for the Study of Arts Rehabilitation was established at the Academy. The Centre aims to establish, test and popularize innovative methods for teaching musical, theatrical and visual arts to persons with disabilities. Each year, the Academy organizes the International Paramusical Festival in Moscow's largest concert venues. It also holds art exhibitions at which paintings by students and graduates of the Academy are displayed and runs both an opera theatre for people with physical disabilities and the Nedoslov Theatre of Mime and Gesture.

407. To ensure that access to cultural works for persons with disabilities is not impeded by legislation protecting intellectual property rights, Federal Act No. 35-FZ of 12 March 2014 amending the first, second and fourth sections of the Civil Code and certain other legislative acts of the Russian Federation provides for the possibility of producing audio descriptive commentary or sign language interpretation for works — without the consent of the author or other copyright holder and without paying royalties — so that they may be enjoyed by persons with physical disabilities (**art. 30 (3)**).

408. The State takes measures to promote the activities of sociocultural organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities that support their specific cultural identity, including sign languages (**art. 30 (4)**).

409. Federal Act No. 296-FZ of 30 December 2012 was adopted to broaden the use of Russian Sign Language (including in the delivery of State and municipal services to deaf people). More detail is provided in the section on article 21 of the Convention.

410. With government support, 52 regional and around 230 local cultural institutions, including the Theatre of Mime and Gesture in Moscow, function under the umbrella of the All-Russia Society of Deaf Persons. Working in these institutions are more than 700 associations, with about 17,000 members; over 300 amateur groups and hobby clubs with over 12,000 members; and some 400 small clubs and societies involving more than 4,000 people.

411. The world's first professional theatre for deaf actors, the Theatre Studio of Mime and Gesture, has been running for over 50 years in the Russian Federation. Performances are in deaf sign language and are accompanied by a translation into Russian. The theatre's originality lies in the theatrical expressiveness of the powerful language of gesture and mime, which replace the spoken word on stage. The wordless discourse of the performing actors is extremely proficiently dubbed by voice actors, and so the theatre is also of interest to hearing spectators. Preference is given to children's shows in the theatre's repertoire.

412. To attract persons with disabilities to take part in physical education and sport, steps are being taken to address in a comprehensive manner issues related to the accessibility of health and fitness activities and sports facilities, enhance the legal and regulatory framework and provide training to specialist coaches and teachers who have expertise in techniques for rehabilitating persons with disabilities (**art. 30 (5)**).

413. Federal Act No. 329-FZ of 4 December 2007 on Physical Education and Sport, in article 31, codified concepts such as “adapted physical education”, “physical rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and persons with special needs” and “disabled sports”, and also identified mechanisms for including persons with disabilities in physical education and sport.

414. This law, in article 31 (7), enshrines the obligation of State authorities and sports organizations to create schools and fitness training clubs for children and young people, with facilities adapted for those with disabilities.

415. Federal government requirements have been approved with regard to minimum levels of support and conditions for the conduct of additional preprofessional programmes in the area of adapted sports (sports for deaf people, persons with intellectual impairments, persons with musculoskeletal disorders and blind people, and football for persons with cerebral palsy) (Ministry of Sport Order No. 730 of 13 September 2013).

416. Thanks to the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Physical Education and Sport in the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020 and the State Programme for the Development of Physical Education and Sport, the number of persons with disabilities covered by the system for adapted physical education and sport has more than doubled in the period since the Convention was signed, from 224,000 people in 2009 to 538,000 by the beginning of 2014, or 4.5 per cent of all persons with disabilities in the country.

417. Regional authorities are implementing local special-purpose programmes for the development of physical education and sport and for an accessible environment. The focus of these programmes is the design and construction of specialized multifunctional sports facilities for persons with disabilities, fitted with sports equipment and assistive devices to meet the needs of those persons. Under the “Mass sport” section of the Federal Special-Purpose Programme for the Development of Physical Education and Sport in the Russian Federation for 2006-2015, the Ministry of Sport has brought into operation 508 new sporting venues with access for persons with disabilities and persons with special needs. As at 1 January 2014, 20 per cent of the sporting facilities in the country, or 53,805, were accessible to persons with disabilities.

418. The number of international and national competitions involving persons with disabilities has gone up threefold since 2008 (from 265 to 850 in 2014). Funding has been increased for competitions included in the Common Schedule of Interregional, National and International Physical Education Activities (by a factor of approximately 2.6 in comparison with 2009, from 176.8 million roubles to 470 million roubles in 2014).

419. Opportunities for persons with disabilities to take part, on an equal basis with others, in physical education activities and sporting events, including at the highest level, are being actively promoted through the Paralympic and Deaflympic movements.

420. Each year since 2011, the Ministry of Sport has set aside from the federal budget subsidies to fund the activities provided for in the statutes of the Russian Paralympic Committee, the Russian Deaflympic Committee, the Blind Sports Federation and the Russian Sports Federation for Persons with Musculoskeletal Disorders, including to pay the wages of athletes, coaches and experts working in these organizations.

421. In 51 constituent entities of the Russian Federation, Paralympic and Deaflympic sports have been included in the list of basic sports being developed regionally. Approximately 582 million roubles have been allocated for the development of mass Paralympic, Olympic and Deaflympic sport.
422. Russian sportsmen and sportswomen with disabilities traditionally perform well at the summer and winter Paralympic and Deaflympic Games.
423. An extensive range of measures to create a barrier-free environment and sports facilities tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities was carried out in preparation for the XI Paralympic Winter Games in 2014 in Sochi.
424. With due regard for the requests of the International Paralympic Committee, guidelines were drawn up on compliance with requirements regarding access to services for persons with disabilities and other persons with reduced mobility, taking into consideration the factors that impede access to services in the areas of sport and tourism. The construction rules and regulations on the accessibility of buildings and infrastructure for population groups with reduced mobility (SNIIP 35-01-2001) were updated in line with these guidelines.
425. According to the evaluation of the International Paralympic Committee, Olympic sporting venues and infrastructure (including transport, information and communications, recreational, cultural and leisure facilities) were fully accessible and adapted for athletes and spectators with disabilities. This experience is being drawn on enthusiastically to create a barrier-free environment in other regions of the Russian Federation. The Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation approved Order No. 578 of 9 July 2014 ratifying the Guidelines on ensuring access to sporting events for athletes and spectators with disabilities, taking into account their particular needs.
426. The work carried out in Sochi and its surroundings has set the standard for accommodation, daily living and healthy lifestyles for persons with disabilities, and also in terms of barrier-free environments for physical access and access to information.
427. The XI Paralympic Winter Games were the first in which Russian Paralympians were represented in all sports on the programme. The Russian Paralympic Team finished top of the medal table with 80 medals (30 golds, 28 silvers and 22 bronzes).
428. At the XXII Deaflympic Games in 2013 in Sofia, the Russian national team finished top of the medal table with 177 medals (67 golds, 52 silvers and 58 bronzes).
429. Considerable efforts are being made to raise awareness of the achievements of sportsmen and sportswomen with disabilities, including the Paralympic and Deaflympic medallists. In particular, the filming and screening of documentaries and publicity spots on Paralympic champions from the XI Paralympic Winter Games in 2014 across all television channels and online have helped to popularize and raise awareness of sports among persons with disabilities.
430. Sociocultural policy in respect of persons with disabilities will be further developed in the medium term by using best practices and lessons learned from leading institutions in the fields of culture, sport and leisure; applying the methods and technologies used in Sochi, Moscow and Kazan in other regions; and encouraging and empowering cultural actors to create cultural works, taking into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities by exploiting forms of cultural participation accessible to them.

Article 31: Statistics and data collection

431. The Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act provides that the federal State authorities working in the sphere of social protection for persons with disabilities are

responsible for maintaining a common records system for persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation, including children with disabilities, and arranging statistical monitoring of the social and economic status and demographic composition of the population with disabilities, on the basis of that system (**art. 31 (1) (a)**).

432. The competent federal authority for statistics (the Federal State Statistics Service) and other official statistics bodies involved in compiling official statistical information in designated fields of activity (the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Health, among others) collect data on persons with disabilities in respect of 15 types of official monitoring statistics, including indicators on the size and status of groups of people with disabilities and on medical examinations, provision of residential and non-residential in-home social services, use of rehabilitation services and measures, and allocation and payment of pensions, allowances and other social support measures for persons with disabilities.

433. This work is carried out in strict conformity with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Guarantees are in place to safeguard the primary data contained in State monitoring statistics (**art. 31 (1) (b)**). Statistical data are handled in such a way as to guarantee the protection of the data from unauthorized access and prevent theft, loss, forgery or misrepresentation, in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation (Federal Act No. 282-FZ of 29 November 2007 on Official Statistical Records and the State Statistics System, art. 9).

434. The State is encouraging the maintenance of special information resources, accessible to persons with disabilities and others, with a view to obtaining disaggregated data and using it to help assess the implementation by the Russian Federation of its obligations (**art. 31 (2)**). Following the ratification of the Convention on 15 May 2012, a common automated records system for persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation was introduced to record information on those persons, as provided by law, and to assess the effectiveness of budget expenditure allocated to the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

435. With the aim of improving monitoring of the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and the application of the Convention, a provision has been included in the bill to implement the Convention (annex 3) on the maintenance of a federal register of persons with disabilities to facilitate nationwide analysis of compliance by all authorities with international law and national legislation governing the social integration of persons with disabilities, including analysis of measures taken by the authorities to identify and prevent cases of discrimination on the ground of disability and remove barriers that curtail the rights of persons with disabilities.

436. Information is disseminated in official (printed) statistical publications issued by the Federal State Statistics Service, on the Service's Internet portal and also on the official website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (**art. 31 (3)**).

437. A number of measures are currently being taken in the Russian Federation to create a system of indicators that are more in tune with the Convention, along with the associated programmes and statistical monitoring methods, in order to assess the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities across all areas of daily activity.

Article 32: International cooperation

438. The Russian Federation recognizes the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention (**art. 32 (1)**).

439. To promote international cooperation and ensure its transparency, the Constitution establishes, in article 15 (4), that the universally acknowledged principles and rules of international law and the international treaties of the Russian Federation are an integral part of its legal system. Under the international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a party, it is the right of every person to apply to international bodies defending human rights and freedoms once all available domestic remedies have been exhausted (Constitution, art. 46 (3)).

440. On 3 December each year, with the aim of integrating persons with disabilities into society and fostering tolerance towards them, the Russian Federation celebrates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in 1992, in a special resolution. In this connection, traditionally, during the first 10 days of December, with the participation of senior officials from the Government and national and regional civil society organizations, several thousand events are held to assist persons with disabilities, publicize their achievements and foster tolerance towards disability.

441. In 2011, at the fifteenth session of the Council for Social Policy under the Integration Committee of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC), the representative of the Russian Federation made a presentation on the Accessible Environment Programme in view of a discussion on issues and measures concerning social and labour relations in EURASEC member States, and also in the light of the need to exchange countries' best practices.

442. From 29 October to 2 November 2012, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection took part in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, under the aegis of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in order to exchange best practices and experience of creating enabling environments for persons with disabilities.

443. The Russian Federation also became a member of the Working Group on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022, whose first meeting was held in Incheon on 25 and 26 February 2014. The main theme of the event was the discussion and adoption of the ESCAP road map for the Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

444. In 2012, with the aim of keeping abreast of the latest global technological innovations in rehabilitation equipment each year, a delegation from the Russian Federation visited the international trade fair for rehabilitation equipment and technologies, REHACARE International 2012, in Düsseldorf, Germany. In addition, Russo-German conferences and exhibitions were held in Moscow and Düsseldorf in 2011, 2012 and 2014 to exchange experiences on the issues of inclusive education, employment support for persons with disabilities and quality of life for young persons with disabilities (**art. 32 (1) (c) and (d)**).

445. Information exchanges are organized every year with Belarus in the context of the implementation of system-wide measures to enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities. The relevant agreement was concluded in Moscow in 2013 at a joint meeting of staff from the Ministries of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation and Belarus respectively.

446. As part of the exchange of international experience in the creation of barrier-free urban environments, seminars were held in Moscow and Berlin in 2013 for representatives of sectoral and regional authorities and organizations of persons with disabilities in Moscow, with the participation of experts and staff from the Berlin Senate offices and the Berlin Chamber of Architects.

447. With a view to exchanging information and best practices of the Federal Office for Medical and Social Assessment under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a working group meeting for CIS countries was held in Moscow on 18 and 19 March 2014 on the following themes: the improvement and reform of the system for the medical and social assessment of persons with disabilities and their rehabilitation; the transition to new paradigms for categorizing disability on the basis of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health; and the system for the training and further training of staff from bodies that conduct medical and social assessments and are involved in the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (**art. 32 (1) (a), (b) and (c)**).

448. In May 2014, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection took part in the OTWorld Orthopädie + Reha-technik World Congress in Leipzig, Germany, and the international exhibition on prosthetics, orthotics, orthopaedic footwear technology, compression therapy and technical rehabilitation, with the aim of promoting mutually beneficial partnerships and cooperation with countries in the prosthetics and orthotics industry, sharing experiences of the manufacture of prosthetics and orthotics, and presenting innovative technologies and products in this area (**art. 32 (1) (b) and (c)**). The Russian delegation took part in a round table on education in the prosthetics and orthotics industry, attended by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, the Otto Bock company and directors of the Russian State Unitary Prosthetics and Orthotics Companies. The Russian delegation visited the MediClin Reha-Zentrum Gernsbach and Mittelbaden Annaberg rehabilitation clinics, which have state-of-the-art departments where persons with disabilities undergo rehabilitation and receive prosthetic care, in order to exchange experiences.

449. In June 2014, at a bilateral meeting held under the International Labour Organization technical cooperation project “Applying the G20 Training Strategy”, representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Armenia exchanged best practices with regard to the reform of legislation governing the social protection of persons with disabilities and medical and social assessment. Particular attention was paid to reviewing regulations adopted by the Russian Federation following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. During the meeting, participants recognized the importance of international cooperation and the exchange of international experience, and reached mutual agreement on close cooperation for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (**art. 32 (1)**).

450. In September 2013, the Russian Federation organized a meeting with a delegation from the Finnish non-profit organization of persons with disabilities Kynnys (Threshold) to share experience of legislation covering the rights of persons with disabilities and public services provided to persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation and Finland (**art. 32 (1)**).

451. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation holds consultations with the international human rights organization Human Rights Watch. In 2014, in particular, opinions were exchanged on a publication by this NGO on accessibility for people with disabilities in the Russian Federation. The conclusions drawn were taken into consideration during the drafting of this report (**art. 32 (1)**).

452. The Russian Federation, having taken part in the seventh session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in New York on 15 June 2014, is making efforts to further modify legislation and law enforcement in the area of disability, taking into account international law and the best practices applied in other States.

453. The Russian Federation will consider the conclusions of other States and international expert organizations on this report, pursuing its analysis of the Convention's implementation in the country in the light of assessments by foreign partners and the experiences of other States.

Article 33: National implementation and monitoring

454. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection acts as the coordinating body within the Government for matters related to the categorization of disability and social protection for persons with disabilities. The Regulations on the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (Government Decision No. 610 of 19 June 2012) confer on the Ministry responsibility for developing and implementing State policy and laws and regulations in the areas of labour; living standards and incomes; pensions; employment and unemployment; social welfare, including social services (for persons with disabilities as well); prosthetic and orthotic care; rehabilitation of persons with disabilities; and medical and social assessment.

455. The Ministry carries out its activities directly through the bodies under its remit and in cooperation with other federal authorities, authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, local government bodies, civil society associations and other organizations. A department specializing in disability issues was established in the Ministry in 2010 to devise national policy and draft laws and regulations on the implementation of the Convention; the provision of prosthetic and orthotic care and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities; the supply of rehabilitation equipment; the conduct of medical and social assessments; the organization of secondary vocational education for persons with disabilities in educational institutions reporting to the Ministry; social protection for persons with disabilities in the event of emergencies; the provision of State services for the social rehabilitation and integration of persons with disabilities; and State support for organizations of persons with disabilities.

456. In the Russian Federation, significant powers to devise and implement different elements of social policy in respect of persons with disabilities have been granted to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Sport, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Construction and Housing, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice.

457. The Presidential Commission for Persons with Disabilities was established pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1201 of 21 August 2012.

458. Councils on disability issues (government commissions) act as advisory (coordination) bodies on the social protection of persons with disabilities and report to the heads of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

459. A council on disability issues has been established as an expert advisory body under the President of the Federation Council, the upper house of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, to help draft proposals for improving legislation on the social protection of persons with disabilities.

460. To ensure that the rights and freedoms of citizens, including persons with disabilities, are protected by the State and observed and respected by State authorities and local government bodies and officials, the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation was established, pursuant to Federal Constitutional Act No. 1-FKZ of 26 February 1997; it is the main independent mechanism to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and monitor the implementation of the Convention.

461. The Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, established pursuant to Federal Act No. 32-FZ of 4 April 2005, is another crucial independent mechanism for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and others, as well as for assessing the observance of these rights. It strives to involve civil society, especially national organizations of persons with disabilities, in the process of public monitoring and oversight of the activities of State authorities and local government bodies and to support the implementation of State policy on upholding human rights, including the rights of persons with disabilities (**art. 33 (3)**).

462. A number of tasks relating to the safeguarding of the rights and interests of children, including children with disabilities, are carried out by the Office of the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights. To achieve the stated goals, in addition to its other responsibilities, the Office checks the activities of State authorities and officials to ensure that they have taken the necessary measures to restore children's violated rights and interests. Constituent entities of the Russian Federation also have human rights commissioners and children's rights commissioners.

463. In addition, during the examination of complaints lodged against the Russian Federation, the country's representative to the European Court of Human Rights ensures that the rights and fundamental freedoms of citizens, including persons with disabilities, are observed.

464. Methodological support to the State system for monitoring the observance of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Russian Federation is provided by the following applied research institutions and bodies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection: the Saint Petersburg Albrecht Applied Research Centre for Medical and Social Assessment, Prosthetics and Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities, a State agency funded from the federal budget; the Saint Petersburg Postgraduate Medical Institute; the Labour and Social Insurance Research Institute; and the Novokuznetsk Research Centre for Medical and Social Assessment and Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities.

465. It is planned to step up public oversight of the work of State bodies in the area of social protection for persons with disabilities, including with the involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities, by utilizing the additional legal options made available with the approval in 2014 of Federal Act No. 256-FZ of 21 July 2014 amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation on independent assessment of the quality of services rendered by cultural organizations, social services, health-care bodies and educational establishments.

466. The bill on the implementation of the Convention authorizes the Government to determine the process for preparing reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the measures taken to fulfil the country's obligations under the Convention. The Government will also identify the roles of the federal authorities and authorities of constituent entities of the Russian Federation in monitoring the implementation of the Convention. The relevant methodology has been approved, and a system of national, sectoral and regional indicators for measuring the observance of the rights of persons with disabilities has been specified.