



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
23 June 2022  
English  
Original: Russian

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## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 74 (a)

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

#### **Letter dated 21 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement delivered by the delegation of the Russian Federation at the fifteenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a).

(Signed) V. Nebenzia



**Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement by the representative of the Russian Federation at the fifteenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in connection with agenda item 5 (c), “Interactive dialogue among States parties, the United Nations system and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Convention”**

16 June 2022

Allow me to comment on certain aspects of the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities over the past year.

We are once again compelled to draw the Committee’s attention to the improper practice of the treaty bodies issuing joint statements which are, in fact, intended to expand the interpretation of States’ international obligations. In particular, we should like to draw attention to the joint statement entitled “The rights of children with disabilities”, issued on 18 March 2022 by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

It is puzzling that the statement calls for an increase in the independent participation of children with disabilities in all decision-making processes, without any mention of the leadership role of their parents or legal representatives in this matter. It should be recalled that under article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, parents and/or legal representatives provide direction and guidance to the child in the exercise of his or her rights and do so in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child. At the same time, we should like to point out that the general comments to which the authors of the statement repeatedly refer are solely the opinion of the treaty body experts and may not impose on States any obligations additional to those undertaken by them when ratifying or acceding to the Convention, unless otherwise declared by States on a voluntary basis.

In addition, we are strongly opposed to any attempt to modify the provisions of the Conventions. For example, the authors of the joint statement propose including children with disabilities in decision-making processes through “organizations of children with disabilities or their representative organizations”. However, article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which the Committees refer, mentions only organizations, not children with disabilities directly. We also consider it unacceptable for the treaty bodies to use controversial terms and concepts in their documents, including this statement, that are not supported by the majority of countries. For example, it is incorrect to use the word “gender” instead of the commonly accepted concept of “sex”.

Lastly, it is disappointing that despite the large number of politicized statements made by various committees and experts, including the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there was no comment on the failure to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in the XIII Paralympic Games in Beijing. Article 30, paragraph 5 (a), of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires States to encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels. But in fact, on the eve of the Paralympics, we witnessed the politicized pressure exerted by the sports federations of the “collective West” on the International Paralympic Committee, as a

result of which Russian and Belarusian athletes were denied the opportunity to participate in competitions, even as athletes with a neutral status. We should not like to think that the Committee's lack of response to this incident means "tacit agreement" with the policy pursued by Western countries to actually discriminate against our Paralympians. We urge the Committee to remain politically neutral, as well as principled in matters relating directly to its scope.

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