



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Distr.: General
6 September 2019

Original: English

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Twenty-second session

Summary record of the 478th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 28 August 2019, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Basharu

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by parties to the Convention under article 35

(continued)

Initial report of Albania (continued) (CRPD/C/ALB/1; CRPD/C/ALB/Q/1 and CRPD/C/ALB/Q/1/Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Albania took places at the Committee table.*

Articles 11–20

2. **Ms. Tollozhina** (Albania), responding to questions put at the previous meeting, said that all procedures relating to the involuntary placement and involuntary treatment of persons with mental health disorders were regulated by the Law on Mental Health, which contained specific provisions on the application and documentation of such procedures and on the rights of patients, including the right to appeal against court rulings on involuntary placement and involuntary treatment. Institutionalized persons with mental health disorders were also entitled to address complaints directly to the institution in which they were accommodated or to the Ministry of Health. With regard to independent monitoring, the Office of the Ombudsman, which served as the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, conducted both periodic and ad hoc visits to mental health institutions and addressed its recommendations to the Government. The delegation wished to underline that none of the reports issued by the national mechanism or by any other independent monitoring bodies had made reference to cases of forced sterilization of persons with disabilities resident in institutions.

3. The Government was committed to minimizing the use of physical restraints, especially in institutions where persons with intellectual disabilities were accommodated. Some years earlier, a set of standards on the application of physical restraints had been adopted and a register had been established to document its use. Plans were already in place to form a working group made up of experts in the field of mental health to analyse the Committee's recommendations, in addition to those made by the Council of Europe Anti-Torture Committee following its visit in 2018, with a view to formulating possible amendments to the Law on Mental Health, which predated the ratification of the Convention by Albania.

4. **Ms. Peçi** (Albania) said that the Government had started to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and was committed to ensuring that the needs of persons with disabilities were taken into account in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. As detailed in the initial report (CRPD/C/ALB/1), assistance for persons with disabilities was considered a matter of priority in such situations. It was the Government's view that organizations for persons with disabilities, civil society and persons with disabilities themselves all had an important role to play in establishing new strategies to improve the accessibility of humanitarian and emergency services.

5. **Ms. Mitro** (Albania) said that the State disability benefit scheme was defined under the Law on Social Assistance and Services, which had recently been amended to more clearly distinguish disability benefits from other sources of support. Monthly benefit rates would be set in accordance with needs as identified through the new disability assessment model. Although social care services were still in the development phase, over a thousand persons with disabilities were already using the 27 residential and day-care centres that had been set up to provide them with a range of holistic services, including psychosocial assistance and physiotherapy.

6. The disability assessment system was undergoing a transition from a medical to a biopsychosocial model, a process that had not been easy. Defining the role of personal assistants was considered one of the most important aspects of the reforms to be introduced as part of the transition. A working group had been set up to analyse the existing definition of personal assistance in national legislation and to determine what measures should be taken to bring it into line with the provisions of the Convention. Discussions were also under way to identify which bodies or institutions should be charged with monitoring the

work of personal assistants. It was expected that municipal social sector personnel would perform an integral role in that process.

7. **Ms. Nano** (Albania) said that the Ministry of Justice was overseeing the implementation of Law No. 111/2017, on State-guaranteed legal aid. The Ministry had created a special department for that purpose and had equipped it with the resources and personnel required to roll out the new system, the aim of which was to ensure equal access to the justice system for the categories of beneficiaries listed under the Act, including recipients of disability payments and persons subject to involuntary treatment. Under the new system, free legal aid was to be provided to persons with hearing disabilities during legal proceedings.

8. **Ms. Dhono** (Albania), replying to a question regarding the accessibility of the banking system, said that banks in Albania were not public entities; however, banks had signed cooperation agreements with public authorities regarding the use of online payments for public services. The Government had also invited banks and other private stakeholders to discuss introducing digital signatures and stamps. The Government had also signed an agreement with public notaries to allow citizens and State employees to access legal documents online. That innovation, like the e-Albania portal that provided online access to public services, meant that citizens could now authorize a public employee to access the relevant documents in real time and give that person the legal right to carry out actions on their behalf. Other measures to enhance online access to resources for persons with disabilities included the introduction of an electronic prescription system and a new information system that would improve access to services and data.

9. **Ms. Mitro** (Albania) said that the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner had carried out various activities to raise awareness among persons with disabilities of their right to submit complaints concerning the denial of reasonable accommodation and other forms of discrimination. Law No. 10221/2010, on protection from discrimination, provided very clear definitions of “direct discrimination”, “indirect discrimination” and “discrimination because of association”, in addition to a general definition of the term “discrimination” itself. The Ombudsman and the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner were charged with monitoring the implementation of that legislation. During the previous three years, however, the Commissioner had received only 61 complaints of discrimination on the grounds of disability, which was fewer than the Government would have anticipated. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection also played a role in implementing the legislation on discrimination against persons with disabilities, as part of its strategies and action plans to protect various vulnerable groups. Indeed, the Government had adopted a cross-cutting approach to protecting vulnerable groups from discrimination. Clear definitions of all categories of beneficiaries had been included in the Social Protection Strategy. The Disability Assessment Commission had registered approximately 145,000 persons with disabilities and 19,000 assistants of persons with disabilities.

10. **Ms. Vatnikaj** (Albania) said that, under the Law on Territorial Planning and Development, in order for a building permit to be issued, all plans for the construction or reconstruction of public housing, parks, squares and roads must meet a set of legal requirements and standards of accessibility for persons with disabilities. Compulsory renovation works were being carried out on buildings that housed public services in order to improve their suitability, while construction legislation had been strengthened to oblige developers to create more accessible and useable environments for all categories of persons with disabilities. Pursuant to a decision of the Council of Ministers in 2008, the Government had been working to implement rules designed to eliminate architectural barriers in housing, public spaces and public services. The decision applied to all new buildings, whether constructed with public or private funds, and to existing buildings undergoing renovation works. It also provided for the adoption of a new set of standards for the design of nurseries, kindergartens and schools.

11. **Ms. Mitro** (Albania) said that the Government attached great importance to the concept of independent living for persons with disabilities. Some progress had already been made in that regard and a small number of individuals had returned from care to live with their biological families. A new support model had been introduced to facilitate that process, whereby the State allocated social housing and provided persons with disabilities

with cash payments, assistance for energy bills and help with gaining employment. Such assistance was available mainly in major towns and cities.

12. The Government was aware of the need to strengthen services for persons with disabilities and was encouraging local governments in both rural and urban areas to take the initiative in designing and implementing such services. To help them to do so, it had created the new Social Fund to provide financing for new social service projects all over the country. Since the Fund's creation, the Government had received 14 applications for funding. So far, 80 per cent of the Fund budget had been allocated to services for persons with disabilities.

13. An integrated approach to social services, encompassing education, employment, territorial planning and infrastructure, and access to justice, was considered essential. Accordingly, the Social Protection Strategy did not focus only on cash-based assistance, but also on increased opportunities for education, employment and inclusion in the community. As already noted, there were now almost 900 assistant teachers. An inclusive teacher profile had been developed and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth was implementing 36 training programmes.

14. A person with a disability had served as Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Youth since 2013. A blind person had served on the staff of the Office of the People's Advocate (Ombudsman) for five years and was currently serving as an adviser to the Minister of Health and Social Protection. Two persons with disabilities had been employed by the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner. Two journalists working for the national radio station were blind. A woman who was deaf worked for the Institute for Students with Hearing Impairments. A person who had benefited from the services of a centre for children with developmental disabilities was now employed at the centre.

15. Persons with disabilities were increasingly being integrated into society and public institutions, especially in the Municipality of Tirana. A deinstitutionalization action plan, which was based on an integrated community and residential approach, was being developed. The plan was currently in the costing phase.

16. **Ms. Tollozhina** (Albania) said that the National Health Strategy 2016–2020 recognized health as a human right, to be guaranteed through effective and efficient health care, equal access to health-care services, and respect for the principles of solidarity, integrity, transparency and accountability. Health cards issued by the Compulsory Health Insurance Fund had enhanced access to health services and facilitated electronic record-keeping. Electronic prescriptions had been introduced in 2017 and extended in 2018 to the entire primary care system, comprising 430 health-care centres. Service costs and mistakes had thus been reduced. Since 2016 various services had been comprehensively funded from the State budget, including cochlear implants for children with hearing impairments. Older persons resident in public institutions also benefited from specialized care for visual impairments and received free eyeglasses.

17. **Ms. Mitro** (Albania) said that some 15.5 billion leks were allocated for services for the approximately 145,000 persons with disabilities in Albania.

Articles 21–33

18. **Mr. Kabue**, noting that the marriage restrictions imposed by the Family Code on persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities were incompatible with the Convention, said that he wished to know whether the State party planned to align the Code with the Convention. He would welcome information on the procedures for identifying children to be placed with foster parents and asked whether there were any monitoring mechanisms to ensure that they received the requisite care. He wondered whether children were ever removed from their homes and placed in foster care on account of their disability.

19. It would be interesting to know whether the employment quota was proving successful, whether sanctions were in fact being imposed on employers who failed to comply with the quota and whether incentives offered to employers of persons with disabilities had proved effective. He would appreciate information on the number of discrimination cases that had been reported under the Anti-Discrimination Law, which

prohibited discrimination in employment on the basis of disability. According to the State party's report, the Council of Ministers had not yet decided on the extent to which the wages earned by persons with disabilities would be exempted from taxation. Could the delegation indicate whether a decision had now been taken in that regard and, if so, what its impact had been on persons with disabilities?

20. In the light of reports that segregated education was still prevalent, he wished to know what steps had been taken to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities. He would also like to know whether sign language interpretation services were provided for students in higher education institutions and, if so, whether the services were restricted in terms of time.

21. He would appreciate information on the services provided for migrants with disabilities, especially women and members of the Roma community, to ensure social protection and an adequate standard of living. Noting that voting restrictions were still imposed on persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, he asked whether the State party planned to eliminate such discrimination. Lastly, although there was a law on public participation, its implementation was reportedly hampered, especially for women, by lack of accessibility and reasonable accommodation; he would be interested in learning about any measures taken to enforce the law.

22. **Mr. Alsaif** said that he would welcome more detailed information concerning the services to be provided by the National Employment Service mentioned in paragraph 117 of the State party's replies to the list of issues (CRPD/C/ALB/Q/1/Add.1). He would also like information on national plans or projects to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that expressly included the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee would appreciate information regarding measures to ensure the comprehensive involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in monitoring compliance with the Convention, as well as on steps taken to establish an independent monitoring mechanism.

23. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said that, according to paragraph 105 of the replies to the list of issues, the disability assessment process was conducted on the basis of documentation in order to avoid individuals' repeated presence at various stages of the process. She wondered whether that meant that the views of the persons concerned were not taken into account. She would also like to know whether the State party informed deaf people and their families that they could opt for a cochlear implant, sign language services or both.

24. She would welcome additional information on access to health-care services for persons with disabilities, which was reportedly hampered by costs, lack of services and transportation difficulties. It would also be interesting to know what action was being taken to ensure that all girls and women with disabilities, including those belonging to minorities such as the Roma community, had effective access to sexual and reproductive health services without discrimination. In addition, she would be grateful for information on the budget allocated by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection for the implementation of the National Health Strategy and the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2016–2020.

25. **Mr. Buntan** asked whether sign language had been recognized as an official language in the State party and whether Braille had been legally recognized as a medium of communication. He also wished to know whether Easy Read documents were available. He would appreciate information on the steps taken by the State party, in line with article 24 (3) of the Convention, to enable persons with disabilities to acquire social development and communication skills, including learning sign language or Braille, in an environment that was responsive to their learning needs and that was also progressive in terms of the principle of inclusive education.

26. He wondered whether the social enterprise scheme mentioned by the delegation was similar to an old-fashioned sheltered workshop employment scheme. Could the delegation provide clarification on that point? Lastly, he wished to know whether the State party planned to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. If so, did it intend to place any restrictions on its ratification or implementation of the Treaty?

27. **Mr. Rebrov** said that he would like to know how the State party provided access to public information for deaf persons, blind persons and deafblind persons and how it ensured the provision of interpretation services in public places. He also wished to know what percentage of television programmes were accompanied by subtitles and sign language interpretation. In addition, he wished to know whether organizations of persons with disabilities contributed to government programmes and decisions concerning persons with disabilities. He would appreciate information on the support provided by the Government for the development of sporting activities for persons with disabilities. In particular, he wondered what measures were being taken to ensure the accessibility of sports facilities and to promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including children, in sports. Information on measures to ensure the accessibility of museums and other cultural facilities, and on measures to develop the creative potential of persons with disabilities, would also be welcome.

28. **Mr. Chaker**, commending the recent enactment of the Promotion of Employment Law, asked whether the quotas for employment of persons with disabilities were being met. He was also curious to know whether the persons with disabilities who had been hired were actually working or were merely being paid salaries to meet the requirements of the Law.

29. **Mr. Lovászy** (Country Rapporteur) said that it was unclear whether organizations of persons with disabilities had been involved in designing certification schemes for sign language interpretation services and whether there were clear quality benchmarks and procedural measures to safeguard the right of deaf persons to receive quality interpretation services. He also wished to know whether organizations of persons with disabilities were playing an effective role in implementing the Action Plan for the Development of Mental Health Services. The State party's replies to the list of issues seemed to indicate that free education was available to persons with visual impairments but not to other students with disabilities. Was that in fact the case?

30. The Committee had been informed that Braille and sign language interpretation had been the only services provided to assist voters with disabilities during the elections in June 2019. Could the delegation indicate whether any services had been provided for persons with other types of disabilities? Lastly, there appeared to be unequal access to employment services in the different regions and at the local level. He would appreciate information on any measures being taken to improve that situation.

31. **Mr. Ruskus**, noting that the delegation had referred at the previous meeting to a multidisciplinary evaluation procedure to assess whether persons with disabilities met the prerequisites for deinstitutionalization, said that he would appreciate further information regarding the evaluation procedure and the prerequisites. He wished to know whether there were regulations requiring schools to admit all children with disabilities and requiring the authorities to support inclusive schools and reasonable accommodation. He also wondered whether instruction on inclusive education methods, such as individualization of curricula, reasonable accommodation, and alternative and augmentative communication methods was included in teacher training courses. Noting that the delegation had indicated that social enterprises were a means of facilitating the employment of persons with disabilities, he asked how the State party would ensure that employees of such enterprises were included in the regular labour market and not confined to a segregated environment.

32. **Mr. Buntan** asked whether national standards on the accessibility of digital technology and online services were in line with international standards or guidelines, such as Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies.

33. **Ms. Kim** said that she would appreciate further information on measures taken to prevent gender-based violence and domestic violence against women and girls with disabilities.

34. **Mr. Ishikawa** said that, as he understood it, text-to-speech software was unavailable in Albania because the market for it was limited and thus unattractive to software developers. If that was so, he wondered whether the Government planned to support the development of such assistive technologies.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

35. **Ms. Prodani** (Albania) said that quotas for the employment of persons with disabilities would be implemented from 2020. Employers would be obliged to hire one person with a disability among their first 25 employees and another for every additional 50 employees. Those that failed to do so would be required to make a contribution to a social employment fund in an amount equivalent to the salaries that would have been paid to employees with disabilities. The money would be used to support training and employment programmes and support measures, including reasonable accommodation. A special programme implemented by the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the National Employment Service since 2014 promoted the integration of persons with disabilities into the labour market and social and economic life. The number of persons participating in the programme had risen from 17 in 2014 to 108 in 2018. Persons with disabilities who were in gainful employment continued to receive disability benefits.

36. Employment offices had been reorganized in recent years with due regard for legal obligations to support persons with disabilities. Under the Promotion of Employment Law, information provided by employment offices must be in a format accessible and understandable to persons with disabilities. The teaching materials used by vocational training centres had been reviewed to ensure that appropriate language was used in relation to disability. Disability issues were included in course curricula.

37. **Ms. Mitro** (Albania) said that the Government, with support from the World Bank, had recently launched a project to modernize social assistance programmes, including the new disability assessment model. New guidelines for psychosocial assessment had been developed, and a new information management system would be put in place to enhance the processing of applications. A collaborative support network would be set up at the central, regional and municipal levels to aid the assessment process.

38. Benefits would no longer be paid on the basis of diagnoses, but on the basis of assessed functional capacity, with a particular focus on personal and environmental factors. Assistance would be provided in the form of both cash payments and social, educational and vocational services. The persons concerned would not be required to provide medical certificates and would be promptly notified in writing of decisions made in respect of their cases. The assessment procedure would be greatly simplified by the rollout of a new digital system.

39. **Ms. Hasani** (Albania) said that the training programme for sign language interpreters was due to begin in the last quarter of 2019. The curriculum had been developed and instructors were being selected.

40. **Ms. Dhono** (Albania) said that the National Agency for the Information Society was collaborating closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to improve access to public information for deaf persons. An inter-agency working group had been established and standards were currently being drafted to that end. A particular effort was being made to improve the accessibility of government websites and e-government services. Although Albania was not a member of the European Union, those standards would approximate the relevant European Union standards.

41. The Government had set up a round table with stakeholders and representatives of blind persons to define standards for screen readers. Text-to-speech software was generally developed by foreign private companies, and a significant financial outlay from the Government would probably be required to persuade them to invest in the limited Albanian market. However, as Albanian was a relatively phonetic language, it would be feasible to use text-to-speech software written for another language, such as English.

42. **Ms. Kofina** (Albania) said that the National Strategy for Culture 2019–2025 provided for institutional investment to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life. Measures taken in that regard included facilitating access to online information, providing materials in Braille and improving physical access to cultural facilities. The needs of persons with disability were duly taken into account in the procurement procedures of cultural institutions. Newly constructed and renovated facilities

were required to meet the infrastructure needs of persons with disabilities, in line with European Union standards.

43. The Ministry of Culture, through its Education Through Culture programme, was helping to promote cultural awareness among children, including children with disabilities. It also organized cultural events in conjunction with international celebrations such as the International Week of the Deaf. The Ministry also promoted cultural education programmes for children with Down syndrome and autism. The Ministry was developing statistical indicators related to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in its initiatives.

44. **Ms. Peçi** (Albania) said that the Ministry of Culture had organized a meeting with representatives of other countries of the Balkan region to discuss the possibilities for ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. The Government planned to ratify the treaty once it had fully evaluated all the obligations arising from it. At any rate, the country's existing intellectual property legislation protected the rights of persons with disabilities, including those with visual impairments.

45. **Ms. Tollozhina** (Albania) said that the cochlear implant package for children was entirely State-funded, patients were fully informed and interventions were voluntary. Other forms of health care, including surgery, and related transport and accommodation were fully covered by the State for all persons. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection was implementing a strategic document and action plan on sexual and reproductive health for the period 2017–2022 with a view to enhancing access to, and the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of, relevant services for the entire population, including members of the Roma community and persons with disabilities. The aim of the strategy was to reduce inequalities in the field of sexual and reproductive health across the country. Services were offered at all levels of the health-care system.

46. The Action Plan for the Development of Mental Health Services in Albania for the period 2013–2022 was designed to protect the rights of persons with special mental health needs and combat social exclusion and discrimination through the establishment of an integrated system of mental health services. The strategic objectives of the Plan were twofold: the decentralization of mental health services and deinstitutionalization, both of which could be achieved through the development of community-based mental health services. In 2017, a community-based centre offering multidisciplinary mental health care had opened in Korçë, as had a supported living home for 12 former residents of Elbasan psychiatric hospital. Earlier in 2019, another centre had become fully operational in Kavajë, where another home would be established to accommodate a further eight patients of the psychiatric hospital. There were also plans to set up two day-care centres in the vicinity of the hospital. Family doctors were receiving training on mental health legislation and the early identification, referral and treatment of persons with mental health disorders.

47. **Ms. Dhono** (Albania) said that, pursuant to Law No. 97/2013, on audiovisual media, audiovisual broadcasting services must be tailored to the special needs of individuals, including through the provision of sign language interpretation. Several licensed operators had yet to comply with the Law. The Audiovisual Media Authority, which was responsible for enforcement of the Law, had repeatedly reminded non-compliant operators of their obligations and would take punitive action against those that failed to implement the Law.

48. **Ms. Mitro** (Albania) said that the 2016 Law on Social Enterprises had been complemented by secondary legislation, including legislation that set out the procedure for applying for the status of “social enterprise”. An important provision of the Law established that at least 30 per cent of persons employed by a social enterprise had to belong to a socially or economically vulnerable group. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection had cooperated with the Ministry of Finance and Economy to ensure that decisions and instructions of the Council of Ministers were adopted to strengthen the implementation of the Act.

49. Decisions concerning placement into foster care were informed by evaluations of the children concerned, their biological families and the proposed foster families. The best interests of the child were taken into account at all times, as was national legislation on children's rights.

50. No figures were currently available on the numbers of voters with disabilities who had participated in previous elections in Albania. The Central Election Commission used information requested from local government bodies to ensure that polling places were made accessible to persons with disabilities, including through the construction of permanent wheelchair ramps. Ballot papers in Braille were available at all polling places, and some 10,800 Braille ballots had been produced for recent mayoral and city council elections. The Commission had also produced television spots with sign language interpretation to encourage persons with disabilities to vote and to inform them of voting procedures.

51. **Ms. Metanj** (Albania), emphasizing the importance of accurate data to inform policymaking, said that the questionnaire for the 2020 Population and Housing Census would contain a short set of questions recommended by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The responses received would provide valuable information about the prevalence of various types of disability in the population aged 5 years and over and make it possible to disaggregate disability data by sex, region, level of education and employment, among other factors. Before the end of 2019, the Institute of Statistics planned to conduct the European Health Interview Survey with the collaboration of Eurostat. The target population would be all persons aged 15 and over.

52. **The Chair** said that he would be grateful to receive additional information on how the State party coordinated the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, including through its officially appointed focal point or points.

53. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said that it was still not clear whether persons with hearing impairments and their families were fully informed of the possibility of receiving a cochlear implant and/or sign language services. She would appreciate information on social housing for persons with disabilities, bearing in mind reports that some housing units had been found not to meet accessibility standards.

54. **Ms. Mitro** (Albania) said that the national mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Convention had been strengthened through the adoption of a new law. The mechanism comprised both local governments and government ministries at the national level.

55. Law No. 9669, on measures to prevent domestic violence, had recently been amended, and a national referral mechanism on domestic violence had been established. The State Agency for the Protection of the Rights of the Child was working to prevent child abuse through protection units operating in every municipality in the country.

56. **Ms. Hasani** (Albania) said that the Law on Social Housing, adopted in 2018, stipulated that social housing must provide adequate access for persons with disabilities, including adapted and accessible infrastructure. Persons with disabilities who were unable to work were entitled to financial assistance amounting to up to 10 per cent of the value of a low-cost apartment. In 2019, a total of 248 persons with disabilities had benefited from social housing programmes.

57. **Ms. Mitro** (Albania) said that steps were being taken at the regional level to ensure that all persons with hearing impairments had the opportunity to receive cochlear implants. However, the Government was aware that more needed to be done in that regard.

58. **Ms. Kospiri** (Albania), noting that further information would be provided in writing, said that the Government of Albania was committed to promoting, respecting, implementing and fulfilling the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the country's Constitution, the Convention and other international human rights instruments. The ratification of the Convention had had a positive impact on national disability policies by improving the legal framework for access to services, public information and inclusive education for persons with disabilities. At the same time, it had brought fresh challenges, which the Government intended to tackle in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

59. **Mr. Lovászy** said that the interactive dialogue had provided a valuable opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences. The delegation had provided extensive responses to the Committee's questions. Nevertheless, he would still be interested to learn more about

how the implementation of Council of Ministers Decision No. 380 of 5 June 2019 would improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities, and about the national mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.