



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Summary record of the 765th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 7 March 2025, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Makni (Vice-Chair)

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Mr. Makni (Vice-Chair) took the Chair.

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 Viet Nam (continued) ([CRPD/C/VNM/1](#); [CRPD/C/VNM/Q/1](#);
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1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Viet Nam joined the meeting.*
2. **The Chair** invited Committee members to continue with questions relating to the articles of the Convention.

Articles 10–20

3. **Ms. Guala Beathyate** said that she would welcome information on the number of persons with disabilities in places of deprivation of liberty and on the measures taken to ensure that reasonable accommodation and adequate support were provided to detainees with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, from the outset of their detention.

4. **Ms. Placencia Porrero** said that she wished to know whether any procedures or mechanisms were in place to enable persons with disabilities to file complaints if they believed that they had been subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in places of deprivation of liberty and, if so, to what extent those procedures were accessible and inclusive. She wondered what action had been taken by the Government to monitor and follow-up on such complaints and whether data could be provided on the number and outcomes of complaints submitted by persons with disabilities or their representative organizations.

5. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** (Country Task Force) said that she would be interested to know what measures had been taken by the State Party to give effect to the recommendations of other human rights treaty bodies insofar as they concerned persons with disabilities. For example, the Committee against Torture had recommended that the State Party should urgently take all measures necessary to improve material conditions, including by addressing overcrowding, in all places of deprivation of liberty, in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) ([CAT/C/VNM/CO/1](#), para. 31 (a)), while the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had made recommendations concerning the inclusion in the legal framework on counter-terrorism of the offence of “terrorism to oppose the people’s Government”, which was overly broad and could lend itself to arbitrary and abusive implementation and give rise to profiling or discrimination on certain grounds ([CCPR/C/VNM/CO/3](#), paras. 11 and 12, and [CERD/C/VNM/CO/15-17](#), para. 23).

6. **Ms. Kim Mi Yeon** (Country Task Force) said that she wished to know whether any specific measures, such as awareness-raising or the establishment of oversight mechanisms, had been taken to protect women and girls with disabilities from being subjected to forced sterilization or forced abortion. She wondered what was being done to ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular those living in rural and remote areas or in institutional settings, were able to register and obtain national identity and other essential documentation, in accordance with article 18 of the Convention.

7. In the light of reports that large numbers of persons with disabilities remained in institutional settings, she would like to know what steps the State Party was taking to promote the right to live independently and be included in the community by transitioning to community-based services, in accordance with the Committee’s guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies; whether there were plans to roll out an independent living programme, currently being piloted in five provinces, nationwide; what provision was being made to ensure sustainable funding for personal assistance services; and whether the Government intended to increase the monthly social allowance paid to persons with disabilities, which was reportedly insufficient to cover the costs associated with

independent living, and to establish a system to ensure that the allowance was regularly adjusted for inflation.

8. Regarding the right to personal mobility, she would be interested to know whether the Government planned to eliminate all disability-related discrimination from the driving regulations in order to ensure that applications for driving licences were assessed solely on the basis of actual driving ability.

9. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that disaggregated data on detainees, on the number of persons with disabilities in places of deprivation of liberty for example, was not currently available; technical assistance was being sought in that regard. Multiple legislative documents had been adopted, and procedures and mechanisms established, concerning the handling of detainee complaints. Mechanisms monitoring detention conditions included the National Assembly, the people's councils and the Vietnamese Fatherland Front.

10. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that the prohibition on discrimination against persons with disabilities, including with regard to medical treatment, was enshrined in law. Forced abortions and forced or coerced sterilizations were prohibited; perpetrators faced penalties of up to 30 million Vietnamese dong and the loss of their medical licence for a specified period.

11. Persons with disabilities had the right to live independently and be included in the community in Viet Nam. The Government had launched a number of social security programmes aimed at ensuring that persons with disabilities had access to basic social services and a stable income. As a result of such initiatives, the number of persons with disabilities living independently in the community was on the rise. Those who were unable to live independently or had no caregivers could be housed in social protection centres, but that was a measure of last resort reserved for the most severe cases; the preference in such situations was for the persons concerned to live with family members. The Government had developed a road map to further facilitate independent living; measures included increasing the budget earmarked for support and implementing capacity-building programmes for caregivers.

12. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that specialized support was provided to persons with disabilities and members of other vulnerable groups who had been deprived of their liberty. All investigations and all stages of judicial proceedings were conducted in a transparent manner. The Ministry of Public Security had put in place relevant guidelines and procedures for use in places of detention, where surveillance cameras had also been installed. As in other nations, in Viet Nam acts to oppose the Government had been defined as offences under the Criminal Code.

13. There were no recorded cases of forced sterilization or forced abortion having been performed on women and girls with disabilities. The fundamental right to choose or refuse medical procedures was enshrined in the Law on Medical Examination and Treatment and in the Constitution of Viet Nam. No one could be forcibly subjected to any treatment or procedures, including sterilization or abortion.

14. Concerted efforts were being made to ensure that all persons had the necessary documentation, such as birth certificates and national identity documents. An electronic system had been developed to enable citizens, including those living in remote and mountainous areas, to register and receive such documents. Personnel had also been dispatched to those areas to provide further assistance.

15. When it came to the care of persons with disabilities and members of vulnerable groups, the community-based approach was applied as the basic principle. For those persons with disabilities who did not have family members or guardians, there was concern about leaving them in the community without the necessary care. Accordingly, efforts were made to encourage other individuals in the community to provide them with the assistance needed to enable them to live independently, backed by the support measures provided for under the Law on Persons with Disabilities.

16. Pursuant to a programme to develop and support social work, a network of social workers provided assistance to vulnerable individuals, including in prisons. They also helped persons with disabilities to obtain a driving licence. There was no discrimination in that

regard; admittedly, the initial draft of the law concerning driving licences had contained some inappropriate provisions, but they had been removed from the law ultimately adopted. Anyone who passed a driving test had the right to a driving licence.

17. **Ms. Placencia Porrero** said that, while she acknowledged the extensive legal framework that was in place in relation to disability issues, she wished to know what was being done in practice to remove barriers faced by persons with disabilities and to transform communities into accessible and inclusive spaces. For example, she wondered what specific measures were being taken to guarantee persons with disabilities their right to live independently and be included in the community. With reference to paragraph 77 of the State Party's report (CRPD/C/VNM/1), concerning persons with disabilities living in social protection centres, she would be interested to know on what basis those persons were considered unable to live independently and by whom. She would welcome an account of inclusive, accessible and quality services provided in the community to support independent living; information on any alternatives to living in social protection centres; and clarification regarding the 34 social centres nationwide providing emergency services for persons with disabilities, in particular whether those services were provided in the community or in an institutional setting. Data on the number of persons with disabilities being supported through the recently developed network of centres providing social services compared with the number of persons with disabilities living in institutional settings would also be appreciated.

18. **Ms. Kim Mi Yeon** said that she wished to know what specific mechanisms were in place to ensure compliance with legal provisions governing the requirement for free and informed consent for medical treatment and how exactly cases of forced sterilization or other procedures were identified and punished.

19. She wondered what measures the State Party had taken to address outdated legal and medical approaches that restricted the freedom of movement of persons with disabilities, in particular those with psychosocial disabilities, so that they had full autonomy to travel and migrate as they wished. The Committee was concerned at reports that persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities were being isolated in their homes and restricted from participating in community life. She would like to know what steps had been taken to collect data on the numbers of persons with disabilities affected and what was being done to address the issue. She would be curious to learn whether the Government had established regulations and programmes to train personal assistants, and thus enable all persons with disabilities to live independently, and whether there were any financial, policy or other incentives to enable persons with disabilities to acquire the mobility and assistive devices they needed in accordance with their right to personal mobility.

20. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that the National Committee on Disability had been tasked with upholding the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and ensuring their social inclusion. In addition, the Government had adopted a programme of support for persons with disabilities for the period 2021–2030 and a decision on implementation of the Convention, with a focus on independent living and inclusion in the community. An integrated legal framework to support persons with disabilities to live independently was critical, which was why various laws, such as those on employment, healthcare, construction and transportation, contained provisions pertaining to accessibility for persons with disabilities. Implementation of those laws was monitored at all levels of government. National standards and codes were also in place to ensure accessibility.

21. The Government was working with international and national non-governmental organizations to pilot various models for independent living, with a view to identifying the best approaches, taking into account the needs, living arrangements and geographical location of persons with disabilities. Those pilot programmes were then reviewed, with a view to rolling them out nationwide.

22. Vocational training was provided to enable persons with disabilities to find employment and earn a stable income. Approximately 45 per cent of the country's social protection centres were run by the Government, with the remainder being operated by private organizations with government support. Only a small percentage of persons with disabilities received institutional care. Training programmes for nurses, personal assistants and social

workers who provided front-line care to persons with disabilities had been introduced, with sufficient budget allocations.

23. The National Committee on Disability had developed a monitoring index to oversee the implementation of the Convention in cooperation with government ministries and agencies, and local committees had been established to perform the same functions at the community level. The National Assembly and people's councils had launched programmes to monitor implementation at the local level and identify gaps and lessons learned, and a mechanism had been established to gather feedback from persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. All complaints were processed in accordance with the law.

24. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that, of the 7 million persons with disabilities in Viet Nam, 3 million had been issued with a disability certificate. Over 400,000 families in which one of the members was a caregiver received allowances, in addition to the monthly cash allowance paid to the 1.6 million persons with severe or very severe disabilities. Only around 10,000 such persons – a very small proportion of the total – lived in social protection centres. Before anyone was placed in such a centre, the local authority conducted an evaluation at the request of the person concerned or his or her family to determine whether the requirements for admission had been met. Caregivers, social workers and assistants at the social protection centres participated in professional, science- and knowledge-based training programmes, which were modelled on practices in developed countries and covered healthcare and social skills. The training provided for home caregivers was not sufficient, and a review would be conducted to ensure that such caregivers were well trained and informed.

25. Viet Nam did not have separate social centres providing emergency services, but all social protection centres had emergency response functions. An emergency response was required in cases of abandoned children, women and children who had been victims of domestic violence, and victims of trafficking in persons. Victims were immediately referred to social protection centres where they were screened and provided with psychological and medical support, food, clothing and accommodation for a period of up to three months. After that time, they were returned to their homes and were offered support with social reintegration and finding employment.

The meeting was suspended at 11 a.m. and resumed at 11.10 a.m.

Articles 21–30

26. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said the Committee was concerned about reports that war veterans, minority groups and Indigenous Peoples continued to face discrimination. In that connection, she wished to recall that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had urged the State Party to guarantee the rights of persons working on the rights of ethnic minorities, Indigenous Peoples and non-citizens and to end the systematic practice of violence, intimidation, surveillance, harassment, threats and reprisals (CERD/C/VNM/CO/15-17, para. 25).

27. She would like to know what measures the State Party was taking to ensure that local authorities disseminated information in formats that were accessible to persons with disabilities, especially in remote and rural areas; whether the central and local governments provided information in the Khmer language; what steps the Government was taking to lift Internet restrictions that prevented persons with disabilities from posting their pictures online; and how the Government ensured that personal data were protected and that persons with disabilities had control over their information. She wondered whether any specific aid schemes were in place for persons with disabilities who wished to marry and have a family, whether persons with disabilities were systematically given sexual and reproductive health education, and whether guidance was given to pregnant women whose child was likely to have a disability without pressuring them to have an abortion. She would be interested learn whether the State Party intended to introduce study plans that were tailored to the individual needs of children with disabilities instead of placing them in special schools or excluding them from certain subjects or activities.

28. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that the country's 54 ethnic groups lived in harmony and together they had strived and struggled for national reunification and

independence for millennia. The Government did not recognize any Indigenous Peoples in Viet Nam, and discrimination and the incitement of hatred against other ethnicities were strictly prohibited. Viet Nam had submitted responses to that effect to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Council during its universal periodic review.

29. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that additional resources had been allocated to support the country's ethnic minorities, and a national programme had been launched to promote the languages and cultures and raise the living standards of members of those communities. The programme drew on successful examples from around the world. Vocational training was provided, employment and land ownership were promoted, and investments had been made in infrastructure and educational facilities to empower minority groups. The outcome of the programme would be reviewed and used to devise the follow-up programme for the 2026–2030 period.

30. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said that she wished to know what measures the State Party planned to take to prevent the distribution of pesticides that caused blindness and to provide blind persons with the necessary support and services to include them in the community. She wondered what action was being taken to ensure that members of ethnic groups such as the Hmong who lacked identity documents had access to health insurance. She would welcome clarification as to whether all persons with disabilities were insured regardless of their level of disability or need for support and whether the Government would include coverage of prostheses, hearing and mobility aids, and psychological support for persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, under the medical insurance scheme. She would be interested to learn how many Viet Nam war veterans with disabilities received services and assistance from the Government and whether the Government would help the Redemptorist congregation in Ho Chi Minh City resume providing services to veterans.

31. She would be glad to know whether the State Party intended to broaden the limited range of professions in which persons with disabilities received training to bring its programmes into line with the recommendations contained in the Committee's general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, and what steps the Government had taken to reduce the number of people who were refused jobs owing to their disability. She would appreciate information on progress made under the National Targeted Programme for Sustainable Poverty Reduction and the National Targeted Programme for New Rural Development and, in particular, their impact on persons with disabilities in rural areas who lived in poverty. Lastly, she wished to know whether the Law on Persons with Disabilities had been amended to ensure protection for the political rights of those persons.

32. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that the law did not forbid persons with disabilities from marrying or having children and that couples with disabilities received support from the Government. The Khmer people learned the Khmer language and the official State language in school. The Government had conducted intensive awareness-raising campaigns and had introduced a ban on the use of toxic pesticides under its environmental law. Under the National Targeted Programme for Sustainable Poverty Reduction, healthcare was provided to disadvantaged groups. Over 90 per cent of persons with disabilities had healthcare coverage. Cash allowances were provided to persons with disabilities to buy their own assistive devices.

33. All war veterans were entitled to the same support. On veteran cards, only the individual's name, year of birth, type and level of disability and the local authority responsible were given. Penalties were imposed on any State authority or officials who refused support to veterans. There was no discrimination against any church, religious organization or ethnic background.

34. There were penalties, including criminal sanctions, in place for any education facilities that refused the enrolment of learners with disabilities. All 2.1 million children with disabilities had access to education. Significant investments had been made to ensure that those with severe and very severe disabilities received the necessary educational support. While inclusive education was the preferred option, it was not the right choice for every child with a disability. The priority, in choosing between inclusive and special schools, must be

meeting the needs of the child. The relevant provisions of the Convention might usefully be revisited.

35. **Mr. Tamon** said that he wished to know whether the national association of deaf persons was involved in efforts to disseminate Vietnamese Sign Language, whether the State Party intended to recognize Vietnamese Sign Language in law and how many deaf educators were employed to support the language skills and development of deaf children.

36. **Ms. Guala Beathyate** said that she wished to know what budget the State Party planned to allocate for adapting mainstream schools to ensure accessibility for all students with disabilities, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation and various types of support. She would welcome information about the penalties that had been imposed for non-compliance with the ban on certain pesticides that caused disabilities and about the bodies responsible for enforcing the ban.

37. **Ms. Jacobs** said that she was interested to hear whether the intersectional discrimination that might be experienced by members of ethnic minorities and Indigenous Peoples with disabilities was addressed in the State Party's legal framework. She would appreciate receiving disaggregated data on access to social protection and benefits, including by minority groups, and on any differences in access that women with disabilities might experience compared to men with disabilities. Lastly, she would welcome information about the provision of reasonable accommodation to workers with disabilities in various contexts and about any measures in place for students with disabilities at the post-secondary level.

38. **Ms. Fefoame** said that she wished to know what steps the State Party was taking to ensure that all children could obtain an education in their community, with the required specialized support and reasonable accommodation, without having to enrol in a special school, and what steps it was taking to ensure that all persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, had access to information on sexual and reproductive health in a timely manner and in appropriate formats. She also wished to know what measures, such as incentives for employers and vocational training, were in place to encourage the employment of persons with disabilities, especially in the agricultural sector, and what protections were available in the workplace for persons with disabilities, in particular women, deafblind persons and persons with psychosocial disabilities.

39. **Ms. Dondovdorj** said that she would welcome information on the results of any monitoring and evaluation undertaken of the barriers that parents with disabilities might face in fulfilling their parental responsibilities, on the extent to which persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, had been involved in those efforts and on any measures taken to overcome the barriers identified. She wondered whether the State Party had a plan to shift children with disabilities from special schools to inclusive schools.

40. **Ms. Placencia Porrero** said that she would welcome further comment on the State Party's apparent preference for maintaining special schools for students with disabilities, as well as information on the number of students with disabilities from the special and mainstream systems who went onto post-secondary education and the number who succeeded in gaining employment.

41. **Ms. Gabrilli** said that she wished to understand how the Government justified the reported arrest of individuals working for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the restrictions imposed on organizations of persons with disabilities, given the State Party's commitments under the Convention and other international human rights instruments. She wished to confirm that it was the State Party's position that children with certain severe or very severe disabilities should attend special schools rather than mainstream schools, which would set back the rights of persons with disabilities. Lastly, she was curious about the word for "persons with disabilities" in Vietnamese and whether abbreviations were ever used to refer to that population, which would be unacceptable.

42. **Mr. Corporán Lorenzo** asked what percentage of children with disabilities had a birth certificate, how many municipalities had community-based rehabilitation programmes, how many persons with disabilities had exercised their right to vote in the State Party's latest elections, to what extent persons with disabilities had access to culture, whether there was a

programme to promote accessible tourism and, if so, how large an investment had been made to that end, and how many hotels, libraries, museums and public squares were accessible.

43. **Mr. Kouassi** said it seemed that, despite the binding nature of the Convention, the State Party wished to promote special education over inclusive education. Could the delegation explain the rationale for that position?

44. **The Chair** asked how the State Party identified underprivileged families who included members with disabilities for the purpose of ensuring that they received social protection.

45. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said that it would be helpful to know whether the special education training for preschool, primary and lower-secondary school teachers referred to in paragraph 120 of the State Party's report was designed to support inclusive education. Information would be appreciated concerning the accessibility of healthcare facilities, including the findings of any evaluation conducted using the quality assurance indicators mentioned in paragraph 137 of the report, and the training provided to healthcare practitioners on appropriate treatment of persons with disabilities.

46. She was curious to learn what percentage of persons with disabilities received basic assistive devices, what support was available to promote the inclusion in the community of persons with autism and whether economic assistance was provided directly to persons with disabilities, in keeping with the Committee's guidelines on deinstitutionalization, rather than to their families. Given the low rate of employment of persons with disabilities, few had access to compulsory, employer-subsidized health insurance. She wondered what remedial action the Government was taking in that regard and what was being done to increase the employment rate among persons with disabilities.

47. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that a number of laws and standards dealt with Braille and sign language. The Government had instructed various agencies to roll out programmes and provide tools and documents enabling persons with disabilities to exercise their right to information and to freedom of expression. Assistive devices were tax exempt.

48. Persons with disabilities could marry whom they chose, obtain reproductive assistance if needed and adopt children, without discrimination. Pre-marriage genetic testing and disease screening were available to men and women, including those with disabilities.

49. The Government had embraced an inclusive approach to education. By law, everyone, including persons with disabilities, had the right to education and the right to choose the form of education most suitable for their development.

50. The national targeted programmes on poverty reduction and rural development contained provisions on persons with disabilities, including those belonging to ethnic minorities, in particular with regard to livelihoods and job creation. There was also a ministry responsible for ethnic and religious affairs, whose mandate explicitly covered members of ethnic minorities with disabilities.

51. There were incentives for businesses to support persons with disabilities, and the Labour Code contained a chapter on promoting employment opportunities for persons with disabilities as a means of enabling them to live independently and be integrated into the community.

52. There was a national programme for the provision of community-based assistance for persons with disabilities, including rehabilitation, covering the period up to 2030. Specialized programmes were in place for persons with mental illness and those with autism to promote their access to education and integration into the community. Localities were responsible for adopting separate plans for the implementation of government programmes in those domains.

53. The quality of healthcare facilities was assessed using indicators laid down in laws and regulations. Key indicators were patient satisfaction and the extent to which the services provided were patient-centred.

54. Viet Nam had been among the first countries in Asia to apply multidimensional poverty indicators. The related decree set out clearly how to identify poor households that had members with disabilities. Eligibility for assistance, which included payments of

between 1.5 million and 2 million dong per month and help in obtaining access to employment, housing and sanitation, was assessed on the basis of household income and access to basic social services. The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs had also developed criteria for the identification of poor households, and relevant officials at the national and communal levels were provided with appropriate training in that regard. International experience in assessing multidimensional poverty was taken into account.

55. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that, in the absence of specific information on alleged cases of civil society organizations facing restrictions, he could not provide any additional details. However, no one was harassed or arrested for defending human rights, including the rights of persons with disabilities. Everyone was equal before the law, and the violation of the rights of others was a criminal offence. At the same time, individuals and organizations could not use their status as human rights defenders to shield themselves from prosecution for legitimate offences. Cases had been reported in the media of individuals or organizations working in the area of disabilities having misappropriated charitable donations.

56. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that all public and private schools in the country could admit children with disabilities. Teachers and school administrators used a set of criteria and standards to assess children's ability to participate in inclusive education. There were 76 inclusive education support centres distributed across public, private and special schools. Special schools were open only to children with very severe disabilities who struggled to participate in inclusive education. While available data were insufficient, there was evidence that inclusive schools and rehabilitation centres in major cities were helping children with disabilities to be included in society. Two inclusive schools had teachers trained in sign language.

57. Under the Constitution, persons with disabilities were eligible to stand for office and vote on an equal footing with the rest of the population. Campaigns were run to raise public awareness of the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political life, and measures were in place to ensure that persons with disabilities could cast their ballot even if they were unable to go to a polling station in person.

58. The right of persons with disabilities to be heard was promoted through various means. There was an obligation on government agencies to enable the public to express their views, for instance via the comment section of the agencies' websites or through agency-specific complaints mechanisms.

59. All provinces and districts had adopted policies to support access to sports facilities for persons with disabilities and promote their participation in physical activities suited to their age, gender and condition. For example, table tennis, running and swimming competitions, as well as poker and chess tournaments, were organized for persons with disabilities, and recreational areas were open to all. Viet Nam had sent athletes to the Paralympic Games. Persons with disabilities enjoyed free or reduced-rate admission to cinemas, theatres and other venues, and some Vietnamese artists with disabilities had achieved national and international renown.

60. **A representative of Viet Nam** said that Viet Nam recognized the importance of developing sign language, including through the training of sign language instructors to work in teacher colleges. The national television broadcaster and other audiovisual media provided sign language interpretation. Viet Nam needed technical support and funding to improve education for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

61. The use of pesticides was addressed in the Civil and Criminal Codes. Campaigns were conducted to raise awareness among farmers about pesticide-free farming practices and discourage the use of pesticides internationally recognized as harmful. Nevertheless, cases of the use of such products were recorded in all provinces each year; the National Assembly and the Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture, as well as the media, were following the situation closely.

62. The Labour Code provided for workplace protections for persons with disabilities, pregnant women and new mothers, and working conditions were monitored by labour inspectors. Employers were required to respect minimum wage provisions, including for persons with disabilities.

63. The Convention had force of law in Viet Nam, and the country was committed to its full implementation. What the delegation had been suggesting was that the matter of special versus inclusive education should be revisited after 10 or 20 years of the instrument's implementation; perhaps with the benefit of that distance, a new approach could be contemplated.

64. The Vietnamese language did not allow for abbreviations; persons with disabilities were referred to as such.

65. While the fruitful discussion with the Committee had shown that the achievements of Viet Nam in implementing the Convention made the country a bright spot in the region, it had also highlighted areas for improvement, which would inform the development of an action plan for the period 2026–2030. Viet Nam would welcome technical and financial support, including from development partners, to work towards the comprehensive implementation of the Convention and to leverage new technologies to better support persons with disabilities and tackle the challenges arising from global issues, such as climate change and migration.

66. **Ms. Boresli** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that the Committee remained concerned about the absence of an independent national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), the number of laws that conflicted with the principles and provisions of the Convention and the implications for freedom of association of Decree No. 126/2024/ND-CP. It urged the State Party to shift away from the medical model towards the human rights-based model of disability, to engage with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in developing crisis management and emergency plans, to provide persons with disabilities in all parts of the country with needs-based support to promote their independence, to ensure that all information relating to persons with disabilities was disseminated through State-owned and other media using accessible formats and to develop a framework to assess the impact of its international cooperation on persons with disabilities. Lastly, it called on the State Party to adopt a comprehensive policy and strategy, including the requisite budget, for the implementation of inclusive education for all persons with disabilities.

67. The Committee had appreciated the constructive dialogue with the State Party's delegation and looked forward to receiving supplemental replies to its questions in writing.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.