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

Distr.: General
26 March 2025

Original: English

**Conference of States Parties to the Convention on
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Eighteenth session
New York, 10–12 June 2025
Item 5 (b) (ii) of the provisional agenda*
**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
round-table discussions**

Leaving no one behind: using artificial intelligence as a tool for supporting inclusivity to strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities

Background note for round table 2

I. Introduction

1.   Artificial intelligence, [1] one of the most important advances in frontier technology, is rapidly reshaping societies and lives in many ways, in particular the ways in which people learn, work and interact. Artificial intelligence is affecting everyone, including the world's 1.3 billion persons with disabilities.

2.   Artificial intelligence has been and is still rapidly and constantly evolving. While there seems to be no disagreement that artificial intelligence could have an enormous potential that can be explored to the benefit of everyone, everywhere, feedback from persons with disabilities who have first-hand experience of using certain artificial intelligence-powered products and services appears to be quite different, ranging from positive overall to very disappointing. [2]

_____

* CRPD/CSP/2025/1.

[1] For the sake of clarity, this background note refers broadly to "artificial intelligence" as the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think, reason, learn and make decisions like humans, which includes artificial intelligence and a cluster of artificial intelligence-enabled techniques, hardware and software applications, systems, products and services.

[2] See Karen Nakamura, "My algorithms have determined you're not human: AI-ML, reverse Turing-tests, and the disability experience", University of California, Berkeley, October 2019; Peter Smith and Laura Smith, "Artificial intelligence and disability: too much promise, yet too little substance?", _AI and Ethics_, vol. 1 (2021), pp. 81–86; Ozlem Ozmen Garibay and others, "Six human-centered artificial intelligence grand challenges", _International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction_, vol. 39, No. 2 (January 2023); Vishal Kumar and others, "The use of artificial intelligence for persons with disability: a bright and promising future ahead", _Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology_, vol. 19, No. 6 (December 2023).

Please recycle

3.   Importantly, many critics,[3] including in particular human rights advocates, development practitioners, artificial intelligence industry professionals and persons with disabilities, have raised concerns. These concerns pertain mainly to the relationship between artificial intelligence and persons with disabilities, especially in terms of the potential or actual risks associated with the bias in the algorithmic design, lack of inclusivity and accessibility of and discrimination by artificial intelligence, with regard to those persons, in various scenarios where the impact can be envisaged or has already been noticed. Critics have therefore called for urgent attention and actions on the part of States and relevant stakeholders to address the risks and challenges that are emerging from the use of technologies, with a view to developing artificial intelligence that is inclusive, fair and human-rights centred and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant international documents on development and human rights.

4.   The year 2025 marks the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. In September 2024, the General Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, in which persons with disabilities and their rights and inclusion in society and development are highlighted. In November 2025, the Second World Summit for Social Development will be held in Qatar, with the objective of advancing social development globally and providing renewed momentum for implementing, inter alia, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5.   The eighteenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be held at a critical time in the history of the United Nations. Against the above-mentioned background, the Bureau of the Conference decided to convene a round-table meeting to discuss issues around the theme "Leaving no one behind: using artificial intelligence as a tool for supporting inclusivity to strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities". This round table will engage global experts in technology and disability issues, policymakers, development practitioners and civil society in a dialogue focused on reviewing the development of artificial intelligence from the perspective of persons with disabilities, identifying key issues and challenges and brainstorming about opportunities and strategies to fully explore the potential of artificial intelligence as a tool for supporting the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in society and development, as well as the fulfilment of their human rights.

6.   The present note provides a general background and relevant information aimed at facilitating discussions at the round table.

II.   Current international normative framework

7.   The current global normative framework, consisting of a set of international human rights treaties and development instruments, guides efforts to address issues relating to the rights, participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the context of the development and use of all technologies, including artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-powered technologies.

---

[3] Notably the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (see A/HRC/49/52); and Constantine Stephanidis, "Paradigm shifts towards an inclusive society: from the desktop to human-centered artificial intelligence" in *CHIGREECE 2023: Proceedings of the second international conference of the ACM Greek SIGCHI Chapter* (Association for Computing Machinery, New York, 2023).

8.   The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has been ratified by more than 190 States, is a legally binding treaty with an explicit social development dimension. Although it does not specifically address artificial intelligence, the spirit and general principles of the Convention, and several of its provisions, such as articles 4, 9, 20 and 26, provide an important framework that establishes the obligations and responsibilities of States Parties, such as taking action to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities to have access to technologies, including information and communications technologies (ICTs), as well as assistive technologies. These are very relevant considerations in the context of the development and use of artificial intelligence.

9.   It is important to highlight the right to equality and non-discrimination that cuts across many articles of the Convention, such as articles 1 (purpose), 3 (general principles), 4 (general obligations) and 5 (equality and non-discrimination). Under the Convention, States Parties are required to prohibit all forms of discrimination on the basis of disability, including the denial of reasonable accommodation, and guarantee equal and effective protection against discrimination. Notably, article 4 stipulates that States Parties bear a general obligation to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability by any person, organization or private enterprise. The reference to "private enterprise" indicates that Governments have a responsibility to take measures to regulate industry actors in the development of artificial intelligence. In addition, States Parties must also undertake or promote research on and the development of and promote the availability and use of new technologies, including ICTs, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, that are suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost. To protect the right to equality and non-discrimination, States Parties have the responsibility to incentivize and regulate all artificial intelligence actors, including those in the private sector.

10.   In the context of artificial intelligence usage, other articles of the Convention deserve special attention. For example, in accordance with articles 9, 20, 25, 26 and 32, States Parties must provide access and facilitate affordable access to technologies, including assistive technology. Articles 22 and 31 provide for data protection and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities. In the context of artificial intelligence, the right to privacy means that persons with disabilities must be able to make choices concerning their own personal data and be supported in gaining access to, safely sharing, understanding the use of and controlling their personal data.

11.   According to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention, access to health and rehabilitation services must be provided. In those areas, artificial intelligence-powered tools could generate many advantages by individualizing patients' treatment recommendations or making specialist medical or rehabilitation advice and care more accessible. Under article 25, the discriminatory denial of healthcare services and access to health and life insurance on the grounds of disability is explicitly prohibited. In this regard, it must be noted that artificial intelligence-powered systems and services, if not properly designed and applied, could pose serious risks and cause discrimination against persons with disabilities in healthcare, where measures, such as cost-cutting, are programmed automatically, risking patients' well-being. Lastly, under article 32, the importance of international cooperation for enhanced access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies is recognized. This is particularly relevant for persons with disabilities, for whom state-of-the-art technologies can make a decisive difference, with regard to their inclusion and independent living within their communities. Many of them, especially in developing countries, live in poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme and multidimensional poverty.

12.   Under the 2030 Agenda, science, technology and innovation are listed as key means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Under Goal 9, which is

relevant to the development and use of artificial intelligence, Member States committed to significantly increase access to ICT and to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries (see General Assembly resolution 70/1).

13. Among its principles, the Global Digital Compact, which was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2024 as an annex to the Pact for the Future, contains an explicit reaffirmation of the rights of persons with disabilities in its references to international human rights law, which includes the Convention. Member States commit to "increase the availability, accessibility and affordability of digital technology platforms, services, software and educational curricula […] as well as accessible user interfaces for persons with disabilities" under the Pact (General Assembly resolution 79/1, annex I), which sets the stage for the safe and ethical use of artificial intelligence and the involvement of persons of all abilities in the technology development cycle and underscores the importance of building digital skills for persons with disabilities.

14. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence serves to highlight the importance of protecting human rights and contains a call for artificial intelligence actors to promote social justice and safeguard fairness and non-discrimination, in compliance with international human rights law, and advance an inclusive approach to ensuring that the benefits of artificial intelligence technologies are inclusive, available and accessible to all, taking into consideration the specific rights and needs of different social groups, including persons with disabilities. The Recommendation also contains a call for States to promote the participation and leadership of persons with disabilities, among other people, to enable them to enjoy the full benefits of digital inclusion in artificial intelligence education programmes at all levels.

15. In its resolution 48/4, the Human Rights Council noted that the deployment of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, must entail respect for the right to privacy of persons with disabilities. It called for a human rights-based approach to the development of such technologies, emphasizing that international human rights standards, including those concerning non-discrimination and accessibility, must be embedded in the development of technologies to ensure an inclusive digital space for all.

III. Key issues, challenges and opportunities for persons with disabilities in the context of artificial intelligence development

16. When discussing artificial intelligence from the perspective of persons with disabilities, there is a lack of statistical data on relevant issues and limited availability of evidence-based studies. It is rather difficult to present a comprehensive picture of how persons with disabilities are being treated in the context of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabled development and use.

17. In preparing the present document, efforts were made to make use of all available data and information, including the results of desk reviews conducted by the Secretariat and inputs from the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to whom the Secretariat wishes to extend sincere appreciation.[4]

18. The overall status of persons with disabilities in the context of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-powered technologies seems to be a mix of

---

promise, progress and challenges. As artificial intelligence continues to evolve rapidly, its potential to positively affect the lives of persons with disabilities is immense. However, the realization of this potential remains limited by several factors as gaps and challenges exist in terms of inclusivity, accessibility, affordability and other systemic barriers that vary across different regions and contexts.

19. On the positive side, there is a growing list of artificial intelligence-powered techniques, solutions and tools on the market, which have proven to be promising or even life-changing. The huge potential and capacity of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabled technologies to revolutionize accessibility, enhance autonomy and independence, and improve some aspects of the quality of life of persons with disabilities have already been demonstrated. For instance, a computer vision-based artificial intelligence system provides acoustic information to individuals with visual impairments regarding the location, identity and gaze direction of nearby people.[5] Artificial intelligence solutions have also been developed to assist those with hearing impairments through speech recognition and sign language interpretation. Similarly, a smartphone-based automatic captioning platform employing deep learning uses images from smartphone cameras and generates sentences to describe the visual content in natural language.[6] Artificial intelligence-enabled solutions can be used to help persons with cognitive disabilities by offering personalized support for daily tasks. Likewise, for persons with severe upper-limb impairments, a wheelchair that can be driven using facial expressions employs neural networks and image processing, eliminating the need for a conventional joystick to specify the navigation path or move to a desired point.[7] Artificial intelligence is also being used to produce an accessible route-planning tool for wheelchair users in cities.[8]

20. Well-designed artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabled technologies can greatly facilitate and support the participation of persons with disabilities in various aspects of their life in society. A good example of this is in the area of education, where artificial intelligence-enabled techniques, when well-designed by fully taking account of the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, can offer or enhance significantly personalized learning experiences, as technical solutions can be developed in a way that is tailored to meet the needs and aspirations of students with disabilities. These techniques can offer learners access to learning content that is otherwise difficult or impossible to access.

21. In the healthcare sector, artificial intelligence can transform the provision of care, with technologies such as artificial intelligence-driven diagnostic tools and personalized treatments giving persons with disabilities access to medical care more effectively and in a timely manner. Similarly, in the field of employment, artificial intelligence-driven applications and tools are being used increasingly to assist workers with disabilities in performing tasks that would otherwise be challenging, thereby improving job opportunities and fostering workplace inclusion.

---

[5] Martin Grayson and others, "A dynamic AI system for extending the capabilities of blind people", in *CHI EA '20 Extended abstracts of the 2020 CHI conference on human factors in computing systems* (Association for Computing Machinery, New York, April 2020).

[6] Burak Makav and Volkan Kilic, "Smartphone-based image captioning for visually and hearing impaired", paper prepared for the eleventh Conference on Electrical and Electronics Engineering Bursa, Türkiye, November 2019.

[7] Yassine Rabhi, Makrem Mrabet and Farhat Fnaiech, "A facial expression controlled wheelchair for people with disabilities", *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine*, vol. 165 (October 2018), pp. 89–109.

[8] Niek IJzerman, "Creating a personalized route planner for people with reduced mobility using AI", Amsterdam Intelligence, 25 March 2024.

22.   However, there are significant challenges and gaps that hinder the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and make it difficult for them to benefit from the development and use of artificial intelligence.

A.   Bias and fairness concerns

23.   One major issue is the bias in artificial intelligence design, which can disproportionately affect persons with disabilities. As pointed out by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (see A/HRC/49/52) and other critics, artificial intelligence algorithms often rely on data sets that are not representative of the diversity of human experiences, leading to unintentional exclusion. For example, facial recognition technologies have been shown to struggle with accuracy when applied to individuals with facial differences or neurodivergent conditions. Moreover, due to a lack of representation in the training data of artificial intelligence products, some artificial intelligence-driven systems that are used for hiring or law enforcement have given rise to grave concerns about bias, where persons with disabilities could be inadvertently disadvantaged. Women and girls with disabilities face a compounded risk of exclusion, as artificial intelligence systems trained on biased data sets often fail to account for the specific challenges that they encounter. Addressing these intersecting biases requires a deliberate effort to integrate disability- and gender-inclusive data into artificial intelligence development and establish regulatory safeguards to prevent algorithmic discrimination.

B.   Lack of accessibility

24.   One of the most pressing problems is the lack of accessibility in the design and development of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabled systems, products and services. Many artificial intelligence-enabled technologies, in particular those that are not initially designed with accessibility in mind, can unintentionally exclude persons with disabilities or worsen the existing challenges that they face. For example, many artificial intelligence systems or services that rely on visual interfaces or that are not optimized for screen readers, can be difficult or impossible for persons with visual impairments to use.

C.   Affordability gap

25.   Affordability is another critical gap. While artificial intelligence-powered tools on the market have relevant functions that could potentially benefit persons with disabilities, many of these technologies are either unavailable or simply too expensive, thus limiting access to them in many countries, including developed countries, in particular for persons with disabilities who are living in low-income regions or underprivileged communities.

26.   According to the United Nations flagship report on disability and development of 2024, the majority of persons with disabilities still do not have access to some essential assistive technologies.[9] Although Internet websites were ranked among the most important ICTs for persons with disabilities, with regard to access to healthcare, education, employment and government services and to participation in political and public life, significant gaps were observed between persons with and without disabilities, in terms of Internet usage, with persons with disabilities reporting lower

––––––––––––––––––

[9] *Disability and Development Report 2024: Accelerating the Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities*, advance unedited version (United Nations publication, 2024), pp. 409–417.

usage. In a total of 46 countries or areas, the average gap between the two groups is 11 percentage points, with 21 countries registering a gap greater than 10 percentage points. [10] Even in developed countries, for example, according to a European Disability Forum survey conducted in 2021, 45 per cent of persons with disabilities in the European Union reported facing difficulties in gaining access to digital public services. In developing countries, there are additional systemic challenges, such as the lack of infrastructure, digital literacy and access to technologies, which exacerbate the disparities in artificial intelligence access and benefits.

D. Artificial intelligence governance and regulation

27.   There is also a gap in terms of artificial intelligence governance, including with respect to the need for policies regulating accessibility. While many countries have adopted general laws or policies concerning accessibility issues or supporting disability inclusion, in most cases, current frameworks, especially laws, do not yet contain explicit and relevant references to artificial intelligence or the accessibility and inclusivity thereof. According to the above-mentioned United Nations flagship report, only about 20 per cent of countries have regulations on the accessibility of mobile communications, television and/or video programming, the Internet and public ICTs,[11] which demonstrates that important opportunities are being missed to regulate artificial intelligence development in order to ensure that technologies are being developed with inclusivity and accessibility in mind.

28.   There is also a need for relevant international standards, such as standards on website accessibility, to be updated to provide guidance to the artificial intelligence industry actors, so that artificial intelligence systems can be fully accessible and meet the diverse needs of all end users, including persons with disabilities. In this regard, notable progress was made when the European Union adopted its first regional level artificial intelligence act requiring artificial intelligence systems to be designed and used responsibly, taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities and other socially marginalized groups, by holding artificial intelligence industry actors to high standards in terms of inclusivity, respect for human rights, transparency and accountability. However, challenges remain in the area of enforcement.

E. Financing for artificial intelligence development

29.   Another challenge that has been impeding the development and scaling-up of benefits is the lack of much-needed resources, not only in the initial phase of artificial intelligence research and development, but also in the scaling-up phase and in adoption by end users. According to a recent study conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the use of artificial intelligence for improving accessibility is hindered by a lack of private funding beyond initial seed funding and compounded by a scarcity of public funding for research into niche and often unprofitable issues. Public research on fundamental artificial intelligence, which is necessary to develop solutions supporting persons with disabilities, is also underfunded. Experiences in countries that are members of the Organisation also serve to highlight that comprehensive financial policies are required to ensure that artificial intelligence solutions are not only accessible in terms of functionality, but also affordable for all individual end users. Appropriate government intervention,

---

[10] Ibid., p. 262.
[11] Ibid.

insurance coverage and private sector collaboration are required to reduce the high costs of assistive artificial intelligence tools and solutions. [12]

IV. Actions and initiatives taken

30. Member States, the United Nations, civil society and leaders in the artificial intelligence industry are already taking actions and measures to address the aforementioned challenges, with the aim of improving artificial intelligence inclusivity in order to ensure that artificial intelligence can be better developed and used as a tool to promote the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities.

A. Member States

31. In September 2024, at the Summit of the Future, world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, in which accessibility, inclusive development and the participation of persons with disabilities are highlighted as critical to the success of achieving sustainable development, creating a safe digital space and respecting, protecting and advancing human rights for all. Notably, the Declaration on Future Generations serves to underscore, as a guiding principle, that "the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities of present and future generations in society, including the opportunity for them to be actively involved in decision-making processes, is critical to ensuring that no one is left behind".

32. The Global Digital Compact, in which disability is specifically referenced, offers a road map to harness the immense potential of digital technology and close digital divides with a shared vision for artificial intelligence, in which artificial intelligence technology serves humanity, not the other way around. The Compact establishes the first universal agreement on the governance of artificial intelligence that brings every country to the table. It provides for the creation of an independent international scientific panel on artificial intelligence, drawing on expertise to bridge knowledge gaps and help nations to make the most informed artificial intelligence policy decisions. The Compact also contains a call for a periodic global dialogue on artificial intelligence governance, as an inclusive space for stakeholders to come together under the auspices of the United Nations.

33. In February 2025, the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit was held in Paris. As a platform for discussing the challenges and opportunities associated with artificial intelligence, the Summit brought together representatives from nearly 100 countries, leaders of international organizations, researchers and representatives of civil society to discuss how responsible artificial intelligence can be advanced in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and lay the foundation for global governance of artificial intelligence.

34. In terms of artificial intelligence regulation and governance, the States members of the European Union adopted the first legislative regulation concerning artificial intelligence development. European Union Regulation 2024/1689, or the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act, is the world's first comprehensive regional regulation on artificial intelligence. The Act contains a uniform legal framework to regulate and monitor artificial intelligence development and the deployment of artificial intelligence-based technologies in the European Union. This is particularly important for persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, as the Act

---

[12] Chloé Touzet, "Using AI to support people with disability in the labour market: opportunities and challenges", OECD Artificial Intelligence Papers, No. 7 (OECD, Paris, 2023).

serves to balance the potential benefits of artificial intelligence and the protection of safety, privacy and fundamental rights by pinpointing and addressing major concerns, risks and harms, such as discrimination, unfair treatment and the loss of privacy. The European Union Artificial Intelligence Act entered into force in August 2024.

35. In Canada, since 2023, work has been ongoing to develop a new technical standard, ASC-6.2 Accessible and Equitable Artificial Intelligence Systems, which is expected to undergo a public review in 2026, before its final release in 2027.[13]

B. United Nations

36. The United Nations has been working on regulating artificial intelligence to ensure that its development and use are aligned with human rights and equity principles. In 2023, the Secretary-General established the High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence to make recommendations on the international governance of artificial intelligence.

37. In 2017, the International Telecommunication Union, the leading United Nations agency for digital technologies, with the support of the Government of Switzerland and in partnership with over 40 United Nations agencies, established the Artificial Intelligence for Good platform, with the mission of leveraging the transformative potential of artificial intelligence to drive progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As a flagship programme of the Artificial Intelligence for Good Impact Initiative and part of United Nations system-wide efforts to bridge the global digital divide, the Artificial Intelligence Skills Coalition will provide educational materials that can bolster skills for the future and address global inequalities in artificial intelligence knowledge, known as the "artificial intelligence skills gap". Through its work, the programme serves to address the underrepresentation of marginalized groups, such as women, young people and persons with disabilities, in the development of artificial intelligence products and services.

C. Civil society

38. The European Disability Forum, a regional network of disability organizations, followed up immediately when the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act was adopted. The Forum created a comprehensive advocacy toolkit to support organizations of persons with disabilities in understanding, implementing and monitoring the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act within their countries.[14]

39. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, a non-profit multi-stakeholder network and partnership of academic, civil society, industry and media organizations, is creating solutions so that artificial intelligence can be used to advance positive outcomes for people and society. By bringing together people from different sectors and encouraging conversations about disability, inclusion in technology development and policy, the Partnership has created opportunities to raise awareness of issues and find solutions for addressing challenges in areas such as artificial intelligence inclusivity and accessibility.[15]

---

[13] Available at https://accessible.canada.ca/creating-accessibility-standards/asc-62-accessible-equitable-artificial-intelligence-systems.

[14] European Disability Forum, "A disability-inclusive Artificial Intelligence Act: a guide to monitor implementation in your country", October 2024.

[15] See https://g3ict.org/.

V. Recommendations on the way forward

40.   Artificial intelligence holds great promise for persons with disabilities, if it is well-designed and developed by engaging persons with disabilities and taking accessibility needs into account in the design and development phases. Artificial intelligence has great potential and has already demonstrated a capacity to empower and transform the lives of persons with disabilities, enabling them to overcome barriers and achieve goals in ways that were previously impossible.[16] There is a wide range of areas in which persons with disabilities can benefit from artificial intelligence, such as assistive technologies, accessibility, education, employment, social protection and personalized care services and support to help them to live independently in communities.

41.   However, the progress made so far has been limited and uneven, and challenges remain. Exclusive and inaccessible artificial intelligence development can exclude persons with disabilities from social participation. They can reinforce existing barriers and create new ones, furthering discrimination against persons with disabilities and the digital divides, including for women and persons with disabilities. This contributes to further exclusion of the most marginalized groups, including women and girls with disabilities (E/CN.6/2025/3, para. 26). Meanwhile, the widespread adoption of digital innovation and generative artificial intelligence, in particular in developing countries, has been hindered by gaps in infrastructure and skills (E/CN.6/2025/3, para. 76).

42.   In order to address gaps and challenges, improve artificial intelligence inclusivity and harness the potential and benefits of artificial intelligence as a tool to support the participation of persons with disabilities, policy interventions and actions can be promoted, by focusing on the priority areas set out below.

A.   Member States

43.   It is recommended that Member States:

(a)   Enhance non-discriminatory legal and policy frameworks to protect the rights of and prevent discrimination against persons with disability in artificial intelligence development and use;

(b)   Adopt national artificial intelligence development policies, strategies and protocols, such as those on public procurement or public services, to mandate the accessibility design requirements for artificial intelligence-enabled products and services;

(c)   Establish national standards for inclusive and accessible artificial intelligence development following the universal design principle outlined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

(d)   Invest resources to support research on and the development of artificial intelligence-enabled technologies that meet the needs of users with disabilities, by providing seed funds and/or tax or other incentives to artificial intelligence start-up developers;

(e)   Enhance social protection and expand its coverage by subsidizing individuals with disabilities who need but cannot afford essential artificial intelligence-powered assistive technologies;

---

[16] Bloom Healthcare, "5 ways artificial intelligence is empowering people with disabilities to overcome barriers". *LinkedIn*, post, 12 May 2023.

(f)   Undertake or support activities, such as public campaigns and educational programmes, to broadly raise public awareness about disability inclusion and artificial intelligence accessibility;

(g)   Invest in artificial intelligence literacy, education and skills training especially targeting persons with disabilities, including children and women with disabilities and those living in poverty or economically underdeveloped regions;

(h)   Build and strengthen the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities to advocate for, participate in and collaborate with artificial intelligence industry actors in designing and developing artificial intelligence technologies and monitoring progress in the implementation of relevant laws and policies for improving artificial intelligence inclusivity and accessibility;

(i)   Undertake international cooperation, including through international assistance, transfers of technology and know-how and the exchange of experiences and good practices, in order to promote accessible artificial intelligence solutions and increase the affordability and availability of technologies, to the benefit of all persons with disabilities.

B.   Organizations of persons with disabilities

44.   It is recommended that organizations of persons with disabilities:

(a)   Advocate for accessible and/or universally designed artificial intelligence development;

(b)   Take the lead in raising public awareness by organizing campaigns and educational or training activities;

(c)   Partner with artificial intelligence industry developers and actors in the life cycle of artificial intelligence product development;

(d)   Monitor and report on artificial intelligence discrimination and bias.

C.   Artificial intelligence industry and the private sector

45.   It is recommended that the artificial intelligence industry and the private sector:

(a)   Implement universal design and/or accessibility standards or rules in the whole life cycle of artificial intelligence product development;

(b)   Collaborate or partner with persons with disabilities and their organizations to inform artificial intelligence development and address any issues that are found;

(c)   Invest in research on and the development of artificial intelligence products that are cost-effective and affordable for users with disabilities;

(d)   Commit to disability inclusion and accessibility in the workplace;

(e)   Ensure ethical conduct and human rights diligence in business practices;

(f)   Prevent and address bias and discrimination.

VI.   Guiding questions for discussion by the panel

46.   The following questions are presented for consideration by all panellists and participants attending the round-table discussion that will be organized under agenda item 5 (ii) (b), taking into account the overarching theme of the eighteenth session of

the Conference, which is "Enhancing public awareness of the rights and contributions of persons with disabilities for social development leading up to the Second World Summit for Social Development":

- If you have persons with disabilities around you, or are yourself a person with disabilities, can you please share some experiences in using artificial intelligence-enabled technologies?

- What are the major barriers or challenges facing persons with disabilities in the development and use of artificial intelligence?

- What governmental policies should be developed or strengthened to prevent discrimination and the exclusion of persons with disabilities in the current context of rapid artificial intelligence development?

- What roles should artificial intelligence industry developers play to ensure that the products they design and develop can meet the needs of all persons with disabilities and support their lives in communities and participation in society?

- Please provide one or two concrete examples of instances where the Government, artificial intelligence developers and persons with disabilities have worked in partnership to promote accessibility and disability inclusion in the development and use of artificial intelligence in your region or country?

- Please discuss how principle of universal design can be promoted effectively in artificial intelligence development?

- What should be done by Governments to promote international cooperation in artificial intelligence development with a view to increasing the affordability of these technologies, so that they can benefit all persons with disabilities, including those living in less developed countries?

———————————