



United Nations

Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Twenty-eighth session
(6–24 March 2023)**

**Twenty-ninth session
(14 August–8 September 2023)**

**Thirtieth session
(4–22 March 2024)**

**Thirty-first session
(12 August–5 September 2024)**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures.
Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[8 May 2025]

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I. Organizational and other matters

A. States Parties to the Convention

1. As at 5 September 2024, the closing date of the thirty-first session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, there were 191 States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 106 States Parties to the Optional Protocol. The lists of States Parties to these instruments are available on the website of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat.¹

B. Meetings and sessions

2. The Committee held its twenty-eighth session from 6 to 24 March 2023, its twenty-ninth session from 14 August to 8 September 2023, its thirtieth session from 4 to 22 March 2024 and its thirty-first session from 12 August to 5 September 2024. The seventeenth session of the Committee's pre-sessional working group was held from 27 to 31 March 2023, the eighteenth session from 11 to 14 September 2023 and the nineteenth session from 25 to 28 March 2024. The twentieth session of the pre-sessional working group, due to be held in September 2024, was postponed to March 2025 owing to the liquidity crisis affecting the regular budget of the Organization.

C. Membership and attendance

3. The Committee is composed of 18 independent experts. A list of Committee members, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is available on the Committee's web page.²

D. Election of officers

4. On 6 March 2023, during the Committee's twenty-eighth session, the following members were elected for a term of two years:

Chair: Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame (Ghana)

Vice-Chairs: Amalia Eva Gamio Ríos (Mexico)
Odelia Fitoussi (Israel)
Rosemary Kayess (Australia)

Rapporteur: Vivian Fernández de Torrijos (Panama)

E. General comments and guidelines

5. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee held a day of general discussion as part of its preparation of a draft general comment on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. A zero draft of the general comment was under preparation in the second half of 2024.

6. At its twenty-ninth session and thirty-first sessions, the Committee organized panel discussions on the implementation of its guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies, adopted in 2022.³

¹ See https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=4&subid=A&clang=_en.

² See www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Membership.aspx.

³ [CRPD/C/5](#).

F. Statements of the Committee⁴

7. At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee adopted statements on deinstitutionalization and on the right of persons with disabilities to social protection in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. In October 2024, it issued a statement on the situation of persons with disabilities in the armed conflict in Israel and Gaza. At its thirtieth session, the Committee adopted a statement on achieving real gender balance and equitable geographical representation in the 2024 elections of members of the Committee. In June 2024, it issued a statement on the role of local authorities in the implementation of deinstitutionalization policies and strategies. At its thirty-first session, the Committee adopted statements on the Summit of the Future and the outcome documents thereof, and on persons with disabilities affected by disasters. In November and December 2024 respectively, it adopted a statement on disability inclusion in climate action and a statement on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

G. Accessibility of information

8. Remote captioning was available in all the Committee's public and private meetings. International Sign interpretation and webcasting were available in the Committee's public meetings. National sign language interpretation was provided during the dialogues with States Parties whose official languages included English, French and Spanish.

9. No plain language or Easy Read versions of documents were available during the sessions covered by the present report. This gap has not been corrected through the approval of budgetary entitlements by competent United Nations bodies.

10. The accessibility of conference and other facilities at the Palais des Nations in Geneva was hampered, mainly owing to the unfolding strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

11. Committee members continued to face travel challenges owing to the limited understanding and insufficient implementation of standards of accessibility and reasonable accommodation among the entities concerned.

H. Adoption of the report

12. At the closure of its thirty-second session, the Committee adopted its eighth biennial report to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, covering its twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, thirtieth and thirty-first sessions.

II. Methods of work

13. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee decided that its working languages during the biennium 2023–2024 would be Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

14. The decision by United Nations conference services to limit remote interpretation to 30 minutes during three-hour hybrid meetings negatively affected the online participation of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, as they required more time, on grounds of reasonable accommodation, to express their views.

15. At its thirtieth session, the Committee amended its rules of procedure, making the simplified reporting procedure the default procedure for the submission of periodic reports and introducing the possibility for the Committee to adopt reports on follow-up to inquiries, as well as amendments pertaining to its consideration of individual communications received under the Optional Protocol.⁵ At the same session, it decided to adopt the use of task forces

⁴ The Committee's statements are available on its web page. See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crpd/statements-declarations-and-observations>.

⁵ [CRPD/C/1/Rev.1](#).

for the preparation and conduct of constructive dialogues with States Parties as the default methodology for all dialogues.

16. At its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions, the Committee adopted reports on follow-up to three inquiries into grave and/or systematic violations.⁶

17. The current meeting time allocated to the Committee – seven weeks of plenary meetings and 1.9 weeks of meetings of the pre-sessional working group – has not increased since 2014. However, the number of States Parties to the Convention has increased from 130 to 191 in the period from 2013 to 2024. As a result of the lack of sufficient meeting time and staff resources, it now takes an average of six years from the submission of initial reports to their consideration by their Committee, and an average of four years for periodic reports. At the end of its thirty-first session, the Committee had the second largest backlog among the treaty bodies of reports pending its consideration (66 reports).

III. Consideration of reports submitted in accordance with article 35 of the Convention

18. The Committee adopted concluding observations on the initial reports of Andorra, Angola, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Ghana, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Togo and Zambia;⁷ on the combined initial and second periodic reports of Bahrain and Malawi;⁸ and on the combined second and third periodic reports of Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Mauritius, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Tunisia and Ukraine.⁹ The Committee also adopted concluding observations on the initial and second and third periodic reports of Nicaragua, which it had considered in the absence of a delegation of the State Party.¹⁰ A selection of the recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations is included in the annex to the present report. The Committee received information from Azerbaijan on follow-up to the concluding observations on its combined second and third periodic reports, and from Belarus on follow-up to the concluding observations on its initial report.¹¹

19. The initial reports of the following States Parties have been due for more than 10 years: Belize, Cabo Verde, Dominica, Eswatini, Guinea, Lesotho, Malaysia, Nauru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen.

20. The initial reports of the following States Parties have been due for more than five years: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe and Suriname.

IV. Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

21. During the reporting period, the Committee registered 18 communications.

⁶ CRPD/C/29/2, annex IV; CRPD/C/GBR/RFIR/1; and CRPD/C/ESP/RFIR/1.

⁷ CRPD/C/AND/CO/1, CRPD/C/AGO/CO/1, CRPD/C/BLR/CO/1, CRPD/C/BEN/CO/1, CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1, CRPD/C/GEO/CO/1, CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1, CRPD/C/ISR/CO/1, CRPD/C/KAZ/CO/1, CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1, CRPD/C/NLD/CO/1, CRPD/C/TGO/CO/1 and CRPD/C/ZMB/CO/1.

⁸ CRPD/C/BHR/CO/1-2 and CRPD/C/MWI/CO/1-2.

⁹ CRPD/C/ARG/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/AUT/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/AUT/CO/2-3/Corr.1, CRPD/C/AZE/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/CRI/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/DNK/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/MUS/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/PRY/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/PER/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/SWE/CO/2-3, CRPD/C/TUN/CO/2-3 and CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3.

¹⁰ CRPD/C/NIC/CO/1-3.

¹¹ CRPD/C/AZE/FCO/2-3 and CRPD/C/BLR/FCO/1.

22. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee examined three communications. It found violations of the Convention in two of them: *Mangisto and al-Sayed v. State of Palestine*,¹² regarding the disappearance and arbitrary detention of two persons with disabilities; and *García Vara v. Mexico*,¹³ concerning the failure to provide reasonable accommodation and accessibility with regard to the tertiary education system. In the third case, *P.L. et al. v. France*,¹⁴ concerning withdrawal of life support from a person with disabilities, the Committee declared the communication inadmissible, as the authors of the communication lacked standing to act on behalf of the alleged victim.

23. At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee examined five communications. It found violations of the Convention in three of them: *J.M.V.A. v. Spain*,¹⁵ concerning the right to non-discrimination in the maintenance or continuance of employment; *Sabadie v. France*,¹⁶ concerning a lack of procedural accommodation for the filing of an appeal on points of law; and *S.M. v. Denmark*,¹⁷ concerning forced psychiatric interventions and the deprivation of freedom on the basis of psychosocial disability. It discontinued its consideration of the other two communications: *R.K.H.M. v. Canada*,¹⁸ concerning removal to Sri Lanka, and *R.M.H. v. Sweden*,¹⁹ concerning removal to Afghanistan.

24. At its thirtieth session, the Committee examined four communications. It found violations of the Convention in one of them: *Al-Hawali v. Saudi Arabia*,²⁰ regarding the enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention of a person with disabilities and the lack of provision of reasonable accommodation. It found one communication inadmissible: *O.B. v. Ukraine*,²¹ concerning the rejection of a request for social assistance. It decided to discontinue its consideration of the other two communications: *J.-L.K. v. Canada*,²² concerning barrier-free housing, and *O.M.G. v. Sweden*,²³ concerning removal to Afghanistan.

25. At its thirty-first session, the Committee examined six communications. It found violations of the Convention in two of them: *Ruiz Suárez v. Spain*,²⁴ concerning failure to provide procedural accommodation for a person with an intellectual disability in criminal proceedings against him, and *E.O.J. et al. v. Sweden*,²⁵ regarding the removal of two children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, their sibling and their parents to Nigeria. The Committee found that the facts before it did not disclose a violation of the Convention in *Z.R. v. Sweden*,²⁶ concerning the removal of a person with disabilities and her mother to Kosovo.²⁷ It decided to discontinue its consideration of the other three communications: *S.Q. v. Sweden*,²⁸ concerning the removal of a person with disabilities to Iraq; *M.A.R.G. v. Spain*,²⁹ concerning the right to work and right of access to social security of a person who acquired a disability during employment; and *González Otero et al. v. Spain*,³⁰ on the right to non-discrimination in obtaining licences to operate lottery games.

¹² [CRPD/C/28/D/67/2019-CRPD/C/28/D/68/2019](#).

¹³ [CRPD/C/28/D/70/2019](#).

¹⁴ [CRPD/C/28/D/59/2019](#).

¹⁵ [CRPD/C/29/D/47/2018](#).

¹⁶ [CRPD/C/29/D/52/2018](#).

¹⁷ [CRPD/C/29/D/61/2019](#).

¹⁸ [CRPD/C/29/D/57/2019](#).

¹⁹ [CRPD/C/29/D/86/2021](#).

²⁰ [CRPD/C/30/D/84/2020](#).

²¹ [CRPD/C/30/D/54/2018](#).

²² [CRPD/C/30/D/76/2020](#).

²³ [CRPD/C/30/D/80/2020](#).

²⁴ [CRPD/C/31/D/69/2019](#).

²⁵ [CRPD/C/31/D/104/2023](#).

²⁶ [CRPD/C/31/D/94/2021](#).

²⁷ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

²⁸ [CRPD/C/31/D/62/2019](#).

²⁹ [CRPD/C/31/D/63/2019](#).

³⁰ [CRPD/C/31/D/91/2021](#).

26. Summaries of the Views and decisions on communications adopted by the Committee may be found in annexes to the reports of the respective sessions.

27. The Committee considered matters related to inquiry proceedings pursuant to articles 6 and 7 of the Optional Protocol.

V. Cooperation with relevant bodies

A. Cooperation with other United Nations organs and departments

28. The Committee continued its interaction with other human rights treaty bodies and with United Nations agencies and programmes, particularly concerning inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. In 2023 and 2024, the Committee submitted written contributions regarding the implementation 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Chair participated in the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth annual meetings of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, held in New York in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

B. Cooperation with other relevant bodies

29. The Committee continued to engage with national human rights institutions, independent monitoring frameworks, regional organizations, civil society organizations, and organizations of persons with disabilities during the reporting period.

VI. Conference of States Parties to the Convention

30. The Committee was represented by its Chair at the sixteenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, held in New York in 2023. The Chair also participated in the seventeenth session of the Conference of States Parties, held in New York in 2024.

Annex

Selection of the recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations on the reports of States Parties during the reporting period

Introduction

1. The present annex contains a selection of the recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations on the reports of State Parties during the reporting period, with names of the States Parties concerned given in brackets after each recommendation. The concluding observations adopted for each State Party may be consulted for further details.¹

General principles and obligations (arts. 1–4)

2. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Amend legislation to bring it into line with the human rights model of disability (Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Mauritania, Mongolia and Zambia);

(b) Remove paternalistic or derogatory expressions from laws and regulations (Argentina, Bahrain, Mauritania and Togo);

(c) Ensure the active and effective involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of legislation and public policies on disability (Argentina);

(d) Enact a comprehensive strategy and a national action plan to implement the Convention, containing appropriate human, technical and financial resources, benchmarks and time frames, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities (Georgia, Israel and Togo);

(e) Simplify disability certification and set up a system for the holistic and multidisciplinary rights-based assessment of support needs (Paraguay and Peru);

(f) Reorient disability assessment systems by replacing elements of the medical model of disability with principles of the human rights model of disability and by establishing systems aimed at the assessment of legal and environmental barriers for persons with disabilities and the provision of the support and assistance necessary to promote independent living (Burkina Faso);

(g) Provide awareness-raising and capacity-building on the human rights model of disability for government officials at all levels, legal professionals, judges and prosecutors and professionals working with persons with disabilities (Togo);

¹ Andorra (CRPD/C/AND/CO/1), Angola (CRPD/C/AGO/CO/1), Argentina (CRPD/C/ARG/CO/2-3), Austria (CRPD/C/AUT/CO/2-3 and CRPD/C/AUT/CO/2-3/Corr.1), Azerbaijan (CRPD/C/AZE/CO/2-3), Bahrain (CRPD/C/BHR/CO/1-2), Belarus (CRPD/C/BLR/CO/1), Belgium (CRPD/C/BEL/CO/2-3), Benin (CRPD/C/BEN/CO/1), Burkina Faso (CRPD/C/BFA/CO/1), Costa Rica (CRPD/C/CRI/CO/2-3), Denmark (CRPD/C/DNK/CO/2-3), Georgia (CRPD/C/GEO/CO/1), Germany (CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3), Ghana (CRPD/C/GHA/CO/1), Israel (CRPD/C/ISR/CO/1), Kazakhstan (CRPD/C/KAZ/CO/1), Malawi (CRPD/C/MWI/CO/1-2), Mauritania (CRPD/C/MRT/CO/1), Mauritius (CRPD/C/MUS/CO/2-3), Mongolia (CRPD/C/MNG/CO/2-3), Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (CRPD/C/NLD/CO/1), Nicaragua (CRPD/C/NIC/CO/1-3), Paraguay (CRPD/C/PRY/CO/2-3), Peru (CRPD/C/PER/CO/2-3), Sweden (CRPD/C/SWE/CO/2-3), Togo (CRPD/C/TGO/CO/1), Tunisia (CRPD/C/TUN/CO/2-3), Ukraine (CRPD/C/UKR/CO/2-3) and Zambia (CRPD/C/ZMB/CO/1).

(h) Take action to align the definition of disability in domestic law with the Convention and ensure that it reflected the human right model of disability (Costa Rica, Kazakhstan and Tunisia);

(i) Strengthen measures and mechanisms for close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations (Andorra);

(j) Set up formal mechanisms to ensure close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, including organizations of women and girls with disabilities, on a regular basis, in public decision-making processes (Azerbaijan);

(k) Provide support to organizations of persons with disabilities, including organizations of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to strengthen their institutional and technical capacities to participate effectively in all matters relating to the rights and interests of persons with disabilities (Bahrain);

(l) Establish administrative and judicial procedures designed to implement the case-specific recommendations of the Committee arising from individual communications (Austria);

(m) Develop strategies to strengthen commitment across all government portfolio areas to ensure that the recognition of disability as a cross-cutting issue in all areas of government and society, and to effectively mainstream disability-related measures into all areas of the law (Germany);

(n) Improve coordination among the Länder in their efforts to implement the Convention (Germany);

(o) Ensure the participation and involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations and strengthen their ability to seek and obtain adequate funding, including from international actors (Israel);

(p) Take measures to progressively achieve the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights under the Convention and ensure that no retrogressive measures were taken (Sweden);

(q) Improve the direct application of the Convention by the courts and administrative bodies, including by making training on the Convention, the Committee's jurisprudence and its general comments an integral part of systematic capacity-building for all judges (Denmark).

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

3. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Review existing anti-discrimination legislation and ensure legal protection for persons with disabilities from disability-based discrimination and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (Angola, Argentina, Benin, Germany, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Zambia);

(b) Explicitly include in legislation the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination (Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Denmark, Mauritania, Mauritius, Tunisia and Ukraine);

(c) Put in place an accessible and effective complaints mechanism for persons with disabilities to report allegations of discrimination (Benin and Mauritius);

(d) Ensure the effectiveness of complaints procedures and redress mechanisms and their accessibility to persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations (Costa Rica, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Paraguay and Zambia);

(e) Guarantee the right of persons with disabilities to access to insurance, including insurance by private providers, on an equal basis with and at the same cost as others (Denmark);

(f) Amend national legislation on hate crimes to include provisions on hate crimes against persons with disabilities (Sweden).

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

4. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Mainstream the rights of women and girls with disabilities into all gender legislation, mainstream a gender perspective into disability policies and programmes and ensure consultation with and the effective participation of organizations of women and girls with disabilities (Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Malawi, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Togo);

(b) Recognize multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities in legislation and policies (Andorra, Israel, Mongolia and Togo);

(c) Ensure the participation of women with disabilities in economic initiatives, political life and public administration (Tunisia);

(d) Ensure effective access for women and girls with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities still in institutions, to prevention and protection mechanisms against gender-based violence (Austria and Bahrain);

(e) Support organizations of women and girls with disabilities to advance their human rights (Germany);

(f) Ensure the accessibility of services for women and girls with disabilities who were victims of gender-based violence, including support centres and emergency shelters (Costa Rica);

(g) Take measures aimed at achieving the empowerment and full inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in all spheres of life, and their involvement in all public decision-making processes (Mongolia);

(h) Take urgent measures to ensure that mothers and children with disabilities received State support to protect their rights, including for the care and education of children with disabilities (Ukraine).

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

5. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Ensure that children with disabilities had access to social programmes aimed at the inclusion of children in the community, regardless of impairment, and that programmes recognized their individual requirements and responded to them appropriately, in both urban and rural areas (Georgia);

(b) Take measures to prevent discrimination against and the stigmatization of children with disabilities and develop awareness-raising projects and programmes for children with disabilities in all areas of life (Togo);

(c) Provide channels for children with disabilities to express their views on all matters concerning them and ensure that their views were taken into consideration and that they participated in all activities on an equal basis with other children (Belgium and Tunisia);

(d) End the use of segregated institutional settings for children with disabilities in all areas of life, including in education (Austria);

(e) Take measures to combat the stigmatization of all children with disabilities and to ensure their protection from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (Costa Rica and Mauritania);

- (f) Reduce poverty among children with disabilities, paying particular attention to the situations of Indigenous children with disabilities and children with disabilities living in rural and remote areas (Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Paraguay);
- (g) Ensure the availability, accessibility and quality of inclusive early intervention services, as well as mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and transportation, for children with disabilities (Sweden);
- (h) Mainstream the rights of children with disabilities into all policies and programmes (Ukraine);
- (i) Phase out the institutionalization of children with disabilities (Belarus).

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

6. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Adopt, and monitor the impact of, a national strategy to raise awareness and combat prejudices against persons with disabilities (Andorra, Angola, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Costa Rica, Germany, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Zambia);
- (b) Launch communication campaigns to combat stigmatization and negative stereotypes related to disability and foster recognition of and respect for the right to equality of persons with disabilities, in line with a human rights-based approach (Peru);
- (c) Introduce regular training and awareness-raising modules about the rights of persons with disabilities for students at all levels of education, policymakers, members of the judiciary, law enforcement officials, representatives of the media, politicians, educators, professionals working with and for persons with disabilities and the general public, in all accessible formats (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mongolia, Sweden, Togo and Zambia);
- (d) Take appropriate measures to ensure the use of the media to promote a positive image of persons with disabilities and foster respect for the dignity, abilities and contributions of persons with disabilities (Andorra);
- (e) Define the permissible grounds for an abortion without reference to impairments (Austria);
- (f) Ensure that medical and social advice on prenatal testing and abortion rendered by professional staff did not convey negative attitudes against persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and was not aimed at extinguishing certain types of impairments (Belgium, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Sweden);
- (g) Adopt a strategy aimed at combating negative stereotypes about the rights of women and girls with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health and services, including through training for health personnel (Israel);
- (h) Adopt and use terminology and language that reflected the concepts and principles on which the Convention was based rather than stereotypes (Bahrain);
- (i) Take measures to combat the stigmatization of children with disabilities and ensure their protection from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (Burkina Faso).

Accessibility (art. 9)

7. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Ensure universal access to digital technology for all persons with disabilities (Angola and Mongolia);

- (b) Implement a national accessibility plan with indicators, resources and mechanisms for evaluation, monitoring and sanctions (Argentina, Azerbaijan, Benin, Denmark, Israel and Zambia);
- (c) Provide training programmes on universal design and accessibility standards for architecture, design and engineering professionals (Argentina and Mauritania);
- (d) Increase annual funding for accessibility projects (Georgia);
- (e) Conduct a national assessment of all areas of accessibility encompassed by the Convention (Georgia);
- (f) Set up complaints and monitoring mechanisms and make available effective remedies for non-compliance with accessibility standards (Kazakhstan and Peru);
- (g) Ensure the inclusion of accessibility requirements in all transportation infrastructure projects and in all invitations to tender for contracts to operate public transport services on a given route (Peru);
- (h) Substantially improve accessibility requirements for housing (Austria and Germany);
- (i) Enact and implement provisions prohibiting the denial of boarding on the basis of a disability (Germany);
- (j) Require public and private service providers to provide accessible printed and electronic information and communications (Israel);
- (k) Introduce mandatory criteria for accessibility and universal design in public procurement at all levels of government and monitor their implementation (Malawi);
- (l) Develop a national sign language policy and guidelines (Mongolia);
- (m) Allocate the financial resources necessary for the immediate repair of sidewalks in poor conditions, acquire accessible passenger vehicles and ensure accessibility in all public spaces (Costa Rica);
- (n) Take measures to apply the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (Denmark);
- (o) Enhance the digital accessibility of the websites and applications of private providers of goods and services (Netherlands (Kingdom of the)).

Right to life (art. 10)

8. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Prevent deaths in mental health facilities (Argentina);
- (b) Repeal provisions that allowed for the denial of end-of-life care and palliative care on the basis of third-party assessments (Georgia);
- (c) Ensure that priority was given to the lives of persons with disabilities, including in emergencies (Peru);
- (d) Safeguard and protect persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities and persons with albinism, from abandonment, murder and abduction (Togo);
- (e) Review the law on triage decisions in situations of insufficient medical capacities and prevent direct and indirect discrimination against persons with disabilities (Germany);
- (f) Prevent unnecessary and disproportionate use of force, such as unwarranted lethal force by security forces against civilians, including persons with disabilities (Israel);
- (g) Include the right to life as an explicit right to be protected in the new bill on persons with disabilities (Malawi);
- (h) Enforce an immediate moratorium on executions (Belarus);

- (i) Provide psychosocial support to prevent suicide among persons with disabilities (Kazakhstan);
- (j) Investigate cases of enforced disappearance of migrant women and girls, especially those with disabilities (Nicaragua);
- (k) Strengthen training for law enforcement officers in order to avoid excessive use of force and firearms, in particular with regard to persons with psychosocial disabilities (Belgium and Sweden);
- (l) Combat stereotypes, myths and beliefs associated with albinism (Benin and Malawi);
- (m) Record, investigate and prosecute attacks against persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism (Burkina Faso);
- (n) Increase efforts to investigate the extrajudicial executions of persons with disabilities during the full-scale invasion of the country (Ukraine);
- (o) Ensure the ability of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to freely express their informed consent under the new law on euthanasia (Netherlands (Kingdom of the)).

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

9. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Ensure the full accessibility of all communication measures, including emergency numbers and hotlines, and other accessible communications technologies to ensure the ability of persons with disabilities to effectively reach emergency services at all times (Ghana, Mauritius, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay and Zambia);
- (b) Ensure that emergency response mechanisms, services and evacuation plans were inclusive of and available and accessible to all persons with disabilities (Belarus);
- (c) Develop protocols for evacuation in situations of risks, humanitarian emergencies and disasters, providing clarity on the specific requirements of persons with disabilities (Ghana and Zambia);
- (d) Develop a disability-inclusive strategy across all levels of government for all types of risks and emergencies, including climate change and public health emergencies, and recognize the requirements of persons with disabilities in situations of risk in such a strategy (Belgium and Sweden);
- (e) Ensure that national preparedness plans provided for inclusive and accessible warning systems (Kazakhstan and Ukraine);
- (f) Guarantee a human rights-based response for internally displaced persons with disabilities, particularly those displaced for prolonged periods (Ukraine);
- (g) Make sure that children with disabilities affected by the armed conflict remained with their families in community-based environments (Ukraine);
- (h) Ensure the safety and security of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including those currently affected by armed conflict, including age- and gender-responsive protection for women and children with disabilities, internally displaced persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations (Burkina Faso);
- (i) Ensure that post-emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction processes were based on risk assessments accessible to persons with disabilities, and that those processes applied, inter alia, the principles of universal design and improved construction (Costa Rica);
- (j) Adopt inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction plans, including sign language interpretation and Easy Read, for all persons with disabilities, particularly women and children with disabilities, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and persons with sensory impairments (Mongolia);

(k) Take measures to deinstitutionalize persons with disabilities still living in institutions, including in times of emergency, and to provide them with appropriate support to live in the community (Mauritania and Togo);

(l) Facilitate unrestricted provision of humanitarian assistance to adults and children with disabilities and access for humanitarian actors (Israel).

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

10. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Ensure that all persons with disabilities enjoyed equal recognition before the law, including by eliminating provisions that allowed the restriction of their legal capacity (Andorra, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Ghana and Nicaragua);

(b) Repeal all provisions allowing substitute decision-making (Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Paraguay, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine and Zambia);

(c) Restore legal capacity for persons still under guardianship (Azerbaijan and Peru);

(d) Ensure that supported decision-making was provided on the basis of the will and preferences of the person concerned, and that persons with disabilities had the right to accept or refuse support and to participate themselves, with appropriate information in accessible formats, in all procedures concerning the appointment of support persons, and introduce a range of supported decision-making alternatives tailored to all types of impairment (Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Peru, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine and Zambia);

(e) Ensure the rights of persons with disabilities to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and banking procedures and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit and banking procedures, in both the public and the private sectors, and their right not to be arbitrarily deprived of their property (Azerbaijan).

Access to justice (art. 13)

11. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Repeal legislation that restricted the legal capacity of persons with disabilities in judicial and administrative proceedings (Austria, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Georgia and Netherlands (Kingdom of the));

(b) Equip police stations, courts and prisons with the necessary procedural, age-appropriate and gender-responsive accommodation (Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Denmark, Georgia, Ghana, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Peru, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine and Zambia);

(c) Provide comprehensive training on the rights of persons with disabilities for all justice system personnel to enhance their ability to effectively support persons with disabilities (Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Denmark, Georgia, Ghana, Israel, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine and Zambia);

(d) Ensure access for persons with disabilities to clear information in accessible formats (Angola, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Paraguay and Ukraine);

(e) Ensure the accessibility of security centres, courts, places of detention and reform centres (Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Paraguay and Peru);

(f) Ensure access for persons with disabilities to adequate legal assistance (Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Sweden, Togo and Zambia);

(g) Implement mandatory training for justice system actors to address prejudices and improve the credibility assessment of abuse claims made by persons with disabilities (Ghana);

(h) Increase efforts to empower persons with disabilities as direct or indirect participants in the justice system, including to ensure that qualified persons with disabilities could practise in the legal profession, as lawyers and court officers, without discrimination (Angola and Ukraine).

Liberty and security of person (art. 14)

12. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Repeal all legislative provisions allowing for involuntary deprivation of liberty on the grounds of actual or perceived impairment or perceived dangerousness (Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Peru, Sweden, Togo and Tunisia);

(b) Ensure the availability of community-based and human rights-based mental health services and support, across the country, in order to respect the right of persons with disabilities to liberty (Andorra, Georgia and Malawi);

(c) Move away from coercive measures and build up a non-coercive framework on mental health in the context of the Council of Europe (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Denmark, Georgia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Ukraine);

(d) Repeal legislation that denied to persons with disabilities the full protection enjoyed by other defendants in criminal proceedings, including the presumption of innocence, and that resulted in penalties or referrals to diversion mechanisms such as deprivation of liberty through involuntary hospitalization orders and involuntary treatment through psychiatric treatment orders (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malawi and Sweden);

(e) Ensure that all places of detention, including prisons, police cells and reform centres, were accessible to persons with disabilities and that reasonable accommodation was provided (Belgium, Kazakhstan and Malawi);

(f) Recognize the involuntary hospitalization of persons with disabilities as discrimination on the grounds of impairment (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia);

(g) Introduce a deinstitutionalization process, providing for time frames, budgets, targets and follow-up, including during emergencies (Denmark and Paraguay).

Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 15)

13. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Prohibit the use of physical and chemical restraints, seclusion and other harmful practices in all institutional settings (Germany);

(b) Phase out institutionalization on the basis of impairment (Israel);

(c) Recognize in law the right not be subjected to medical treatment without free and informed consent (Malawi);

- (d) Guarantee reasonable accommodation for detainees with disabilities (Burkina Faso);
- (e) Monitor institutions still housing persons with disabilities (Belarus and Ukraine);
- (f) Prohibit and end the use of physical and chemical restraints, seclusion and other restrictive practices in all residential institutions (Benin);
- (g) Establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Ghana);
- (h) Establish an effective legal complaints mechanism (Zambia);
- (i) Enable the preventive mechanism to monitor all places of detention (Belgium);
- (j) Strengthen existing oversight mechanisms (Denmark);
- (k) Prohibit the use of coercion and restrictive practices and the application of electroconvulsive therapy and medical treatments without consent (Sweden);
- (l) Eliminate, in law, policy and practice, all forms of forced medical procedures and treatment (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));
- (m) Prevent assaults and sexual violence in detention facilities (Nicaragua);
- (n) Cease the placement of children in closed care institutions (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));
- (o) Investigate suspected perpetrators of practices that could amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities, and impose appropriate sanctions (Angola and Azerbaijan);
- (p) Ensure the accessibility of complaints procedures to all persons with disabilities (Mongolia and Togo);
- (q) Repeal all provisions permitting public stoning to death, whipping and amputation (Mauritania).

Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (art. 16)

14. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Prevent the exploitation of violence against and abuse of persons with disabilities, especially persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and those who were institutionalized (Angola);
- (b) Eliminate the barriers that women and girls with disabilities who were victims of gender-based violence had faced in access to justice (Argentina);
- (c) Enact legislation to ban all corporal punishment, in particular regarding children with disabilities (Georgia);
- (d) Sanction or permanently close public and private rehabilitation and therapy centres and other service providers that persisted in the degrading treatment of persons with disabilities (Peru);
- (e) Establish a reporting mechanism for cases of violence against women with disabilities (Tunisia);
- (f) Address the high rate of violence against persons with disabilities still in institutional settings (Austria);
- (g) Repeal provisions and practices relating to placement in institutions as a protective measure (Israel);
- (h) Expeditiously investigate cases of sexual abuse against children with disabilities at special schools and in other settings (Malawi);

- (i) Ensure adequate protection of children with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse, including exploitation through forced begging (Mauritania);
- (j) Ensure that accessible shelters with trained staff were available to persons with disabilities who were victims of exploitation, violence or abuse (Paraguay);
- (k) Incorporate into its legislation a definition of rape based on lack of consent that covered any non-consensual sexual act (Azerbaijan);
- (l) Collect information and data on cases of domestic, institutional and other forms of violence against persons with disabilities (Bahrain and Ukraine);
- (m) Provide information to persons with disabilities about their legal protection against violence (Kazakhstan);
- (n) Protect Indigenous persons with disabilities from exploitation, violence and abuse (Nicaragua);
- (o) Protect persons with albinism and punish persons seeking to exploit and abuse them (Zambia);
- (p) Criminalize unlawful restraint and confinement of persons with disabilities (Burkina Faso);
- (q) Ensure the accessibility of services and shelters for persons with disabilities who were victims of violence, in particular women and girls with disabilities (Mauritius);
- (r) Provide remedies for victims of violence, including persons with disabilities (Belarus);
- (s) Remove barriers within the justice system, such as the requirement to pay for medical forms confirming abuse (Ghana).

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

15. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Ensure the provision of redress and reparations to women with disabilities who were survivors of forced sterilization (Peru);
- (b) Implement a ban on the use of contraceptive measures on persons with disabilities without their personal consent (Austria);
- (c) Set up awareness-raising and education campaigns on sexual and reproductive health and the rights of persons with disabilities (Malawi);
- (d) Prohibit child marriage (Azerbaijan);
- (e) Prohibit forced psychiatric treatment and hospitalization and the use of physical and chemical restraints and electroshock therapy (Bahrain);
- (f) Ensure that, in cases of sexual violence, women in general and women and girls with disabilities in particular had access to the option of terminating their pregnancies by means of safe methods (Nicaragua);
- (g) Ensure that medical interventions and treatment were carried out only with the free and informed consent of the persons with disabilities themselves (Andorra and Zambia);
- (h) Immediately stop the used of forced contraception on persons with disabilities (Ukraine);
- (i) Ensure that institutions or facilities did not require their residents to undergo sterilization or use contraceptives as a precondition for being accepted into the institution, for as long as deinstitutionalization was not fully implemented (Belgium);
- (j) Prohibit forced sterilizations and forced abortions on women and girls with disabilities (Argentina, Belarus, Benin, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Togo);

(k) Effectively address female genital mutilation, both in law and in practice, including against women and girls with disabilities (Ghana);

(l) Prohibit medically unnecessary and irreversible medical interventions on intersex children (Israel and Netherlands (Kingdom of the)).

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

16. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Systematically and comprehensively identify migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons with disabilities and their needs (Peru);

(b) Ensure that refugees and stateless persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations were accommodated in accessible facilities (Austria);

(c) Ensure that the draft law to amend the Nationality Act did not preclude persons with disabilities in receipt of benefits from obtaining citizenship (Germany);

(d) Remove restrictions on freedom of movement within and outside the occupied territories (Israel);

(e) Ensure access for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities to mainstream education in the community (Malawi);

(f) Ensure access for migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, to adequate support services (Mauritania);

(g) Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into refugee legislation (Azerbaijan);

(h) Repeal the provision preventing persons from acquiring nationality on the basis of psychosocial disability (Bahrain);

(i) Ensure effective access for refugees with disabilities to residency and naturalization processes (Kazakhstan);

(j) Avoid preventing nationals from entering or leaving the State Party, and investigate how many of those identified were persons with disabilities (Nicaragua);

(k) Ensure access without discrimination to all forms of welfare and essential support, including disability-specific support, for migrants with disabilities (Sweden);

(l) Strengthen efforts to establish a national system of free and mandatory birth registration (Burkina Faso);

(m) Provide reasonable accommodation, procedural accommodation and support to persons with disabilities for the whole duration of the asylum procedure (Denmark);

(n) Collect information and statistical data on internally displaced persons with disabilities (Ukraine);

(o) Ensure the safety and respect the dignity of refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities, eliminating all forms of violence at the borders (Belarus);

(p) Provide to refugees with disabilities and persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations the documents necessary to enable them to enjoy freedom of movement (Benin);

(q) Provide training for professionals working with asylum-seekers, refugees and persons in refugee-like situations on the rights and requirements of persons with disabilities (Netherlands (Kingdom of the)).

Living independently and being included in the community (art. 19)

17. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Commence the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities still in a residential setting and implement a comprehensive deinstitutionalization plan, with clear time frames and budgetary allocations (Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Costa Rica, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mauritania, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine and Zambia);

(b) Increase the availability of community-based services aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to live and participate in their communities (Angola, Bahrain, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Ghana, Malawi, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Zambia);

(c) Ensure the availability of support for persons with disabilities to live independently, and strengthen measures to develop individualized forms of support (Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Sweden);

(d) Ensure recognition in law of the right of persons with disabilities to personal assistance (Austria and Peru);

(e) Recognize the right of persons with disabilities, irrespective of age, gender or impairment, to choose their place of residence and with whom to live (Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mauritius and Tunisia);

(f) Redirect the budgets allocated for the maintenance and construction of psychiatric hospitals to the financing of support programmes for living independently in the community (Andorra, Argentina, Kazakhstan and Mauritius);

(g) Establish an accessible and affordable housing strategy for living in the community (Andorra, Austria, Costa Rica, Denmark, Georgia, Ghana, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Paraguay and Ukraine).

Personal mobility (art. 20)

18. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Ensure access to quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies for all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their registration status (Angola);

(b) Ensure the affordability of mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies to all persons with disabilities (Andorra and Argentina);

(c) Ensure that private entities providing transport services facilitated personal mobility (Georgia);

(d) Ensure the availability and affordability of and access to assistive devices and technologies (Paraguay and Peru);

(e) Make public transportation accessible for persons with disabilities (Tunisia);

(f) Guarantee a legal right to mobility subsidies (Austria);

(g) Establish mechanisms across all Länder to facilitate the provision of affordable, quality mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies (Germany);

(h) Take measures, including through public procurement, to ensure access for persons with disabilities to mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies (Malawi);

(i) Increase public investment in support to promote personal mobility (Azerbaijan);

(j) Develop specialized mobility training for persons with disabilities (Bahrain and Belarus);

- (k) Develop a national strategy and action plan on personal mobility (Kazakhstan);
- (l) Enhance measures to support personal mobility, including a national programme for the provision of an “accompanying person” service to support personal mobility (Sweden);
- (m) Apply incentives and tax and customs exceptions for the purchase of assistive equipment and devices (Zambia);
- (n) Ensure effective implementation of the exemption from import duties on motorized and non-motorized vehicles for use by persons with disabilities (Burkina Faso);
- (o) Expand eligibility for the duty-free purchase of any type of car to all persons with disabilities requiring a vehicle (Mauritius);
- (p) Ensure timely access to mobility aids for all persons with disabilities, in particular those living in the conflict-affected territories (Ukraine);
- (q) Develop disability-inclusive budgeting plans to guarantee the allocation of financial resources to strengthen personal mobility (Belgium);
- (r) Ensure access for all persons with disabilities to mobility aids and assistive devices and technologies, particularly in rural areas (Benin).

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information (art. 21)

19. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Ensure the accessibility of all public information, including television and media services, to all persons with disabilities in accessible communication formats (Angola);
- (b) Allocate sufficient funding for the development, promotion and use of accessible communication formats (Argentina);
- (c) Allocate sufficient funding for the training and employment of sign language interpreters (Georgia);
- (d) Ensure that the media broadcast information accompanied by sign language interpretation at all times and in all television programming, in addition to public television (Peru);
- (e) Ensure the provision by television stations of programmes in accessible formats (Togo);
- (f) Urge the media to increase the presence of sign language interpretation in all television programmes (Tunisia);
- (g) Recognize Catalan sign language as an official language (Andorra);
- (h) Ensure the dissemination of information, in particular government information, in accessible formats and technologies (Austria);
- (i) Implement a national standard on accessibility (Germany);
- (j) Make it compulsory for all public and private television stations to offer sign language interpretation (Malawi);
- (k) Provide financial resources for the training of sign language interpreters (Benin, Mauritania and Zambia);
- (l) Promote access to and the use of sign language in all areas of life (Paraguay);
- (m) Recognize sign language as an official language (Azerbaijan);
- (n) Ensure the effective implementation of accessibility and universal design principles (Costa Rica);

- (o) Ensure the ability of persons with disabilities to exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion on an equal basis with others (Kazakhstan);
- (p) Adopt an action plan to protect the life and physical integrity of human rights defenders (Nicaragua);
- (q) Ensure the provision of printed and electronic information and communication in accessible formats (Mauritius);
- (r) Develop a comprehensive plan, with benchmarks, indicators and a timeline, to ensure that the information provided to the general public was accessible to persons with disabilities (Ghana);
- (s) Guarantee the provision of audio description across public and private media (Netherlands (Kingdom of the)).

Respect for privacy (art. 22)

20. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Set up data protection protocols both in healthcare facilities and in institutions for persons with disabilities (Georgia);
- (b) Prohibit the National Registry Office from disclosing data, including data related to personal disability, to third parties (Peru);
- (c) Ensure the confidentiality of the personal medical records of persons with disabilities, in institutions and mental health systems and services (Andorra);
- (d) Ensure the provision of publicly funded services to facilitate sexual companionship for persons with disabilities (Austria);
- (e) Set up data protection protocols (Germany);
- (f) Issue a formal apology to current and former patients whose medical records and personal data had been disclosed (Israel);
- (g) Introduce the duty for public and private actors to safeguard personal data, digitalized databases and records of persons with disabilities from unlawful and arbitrary interference (Azerbaijan);
- (h) Strengthen legal provisions for the protection of the personal data and privacy of persons with disabilities (Ghana and Kazakhstan);
- (i) Prohibit the transfer of the private and confidential information of patients in psychiatric hospitals to third parties without the consent of the person concerned (Denmark);
- (j) Minimize the personal and medical data that persons with disabilities must provide when applying for insurance and social allowances or entitlements (Netherlands (Kingdom of the)).

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

21. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Review legislation restricting the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to child custody, marriage and parenthood (Argentina, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Tunisia and Ukraine);
- (b) Safeguard the reproductive health and rights of persons with disabilities, including their right to autonomous decision-making without any form of discrimination (Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Ukraine);
- (c) Combat cultural and religious misconceptions, myths and stereotypes about marriage, family, parenthood and the relationships of persons with disabilities (Ghana);

(d) Establish comprehensive support programmes with adequate resources for parents with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities to ensure that the parents could exercise their full parental rights (Ghana);

(e) Encourage foster care in family settings for children with disabilities without parental care, and eradicate the institutionalization of children with disabilities and their separation from their families (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Zambia);

(f) End alternative care arrangements involving the placement of children with disabilities in institutions (Malawi);

(g) Provide unbiased guidance and support to prospective parents following a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome or other impairment to allow them to make fully informed decisions on the pregnancy (Belgium);

(h) Recognize explicitly in law the rights of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, to marry, found a family and exercise parental responsibilities on an equal basis with others (Mauritius);

(i) Repeal the provisions of legislation on adoption allowing for the adoption of children born to parents with intellectual disabilities without the informed personal consent of the parents (Israel).

Education (art. 24)

22. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Develop a national inclusive education strategy to transition from segregated education to inclusive education (Angola, Israel, Mauritania, Mongolia, Sweden and Togo);

(b) Raise awareness of the right to inclusive education and combat negative attitudes towards and low expectations of students with disabilities (Belgium);

(c) Ensure the compliance of new buildings with the standards of universal design to make them accessible to persons with disabilities (Benin, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Zambia);

(d) Develop and implement an action plan with a time frame for the transition from segregated education to quality inclusive education, providing adequate budgetary allocations (Belgium and Ghana);

(e) Provide learning support to students with disabilities on the basis of individual requirements, including classroom support and accessible learning environments, teaching methods and learning materials in alternative and accessible formats (Ghana and Mauritius);

(f) Work towards a fully inclusive education system for all children, including children with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities and autistic children, to end specialized education (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));

(g) Amend national legislation on exemptions from compulsory education for children with disabilities, including children with physical or intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, with high support requirements, ensuring the ability of all children with disabilities to exercise their right to education (Azerbaijan and Netherlands (Kingdom of the));

(h) Increase the budget for educational inclusion (Tunisia);

(i) Address attitudinal barriers preventing the inclusion of children with disabilities in education (Denmark and Zambia);

(j) Ensure that children with disabilities were not excluded from free and compulsory primary and secondary education in the communities in which they lived (Ukraine);

- (k) Make training on inclusive education and its implementation mandatory for all teaching and non-teaching personnel in all schools (Belarus, Belgium and Sweden);
- (l) Take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who were qualified in sign language and/or Braille (Ukraine);
- (m) Provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities at all levels of education, including tertiary education (Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Sweden and Ukraine);
- (n) Ensure that children with albinism were not placed by default in segregated schools for blind students (Zambia);
- (o) Effectively prevent children with disabilities from dropping out of inclusive education at all levels (Kazakhstan);
- (p) Adopt anti-bullying programmes and protocols to eliminate abuse and harassment of children with disabilities in schools (Peru).

Health (art. 25)

23. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Provide persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, with access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and health services and ensure supported decision-making for women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities to enable them to affirm their sexual and reproductive autonomy (Angola, Argentina, Georgia, Israel, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia and Togo);
- (b) Ensure access for all persons with disabilities to quality, gender-sensitive and intercultural health services, including by ensuring that public and private healthcare providers complied with accessibility standards and provided reasonable accommodation and that information about health services was provided in formats accessible to persons with disabilities (Andorra and Argentina);
- (c) Ensure the accessibility of public and private healthcare facilities (Bahrain);
- (d) Recognize the right of all persons with disabilities to the requirement of their informed consent for any medical treatment (Argentina, Bahrain, Peru and Tunisia);
- (e) Expedite the closure of public and private psychiatric hospitals in all jurisdictions and the implementation of community-based mental health services and support (Argentina, Azerbaijan and Zambia);
- (f) Strengthen mechanisms for the regular training of health professionals about human rights, dignity, autonomy and the requirements of persons with disabilities (Germany);
- (g) Strengthen measures to address the detrimental health impact of protracted occupation, hostilities, violence and insecurity on children with disabilities (Israel);
- (h) Introduce penalties for private health insurance companies that refused coverage to persons with disabilities (Paraguay);
- (i) Deliver continuous training programmes on the human rights approach to disability for physicians and other health professionals working with persons with disabilities (Costa Rica);
- (j) Simplify the conditions for issuance of the disability card, including by lowering the threshold to qualify for the card and making the process accessible (Burkina Faso);
- (k) Ensure within health services the right of persons with disabilities to privacy, by guaranteeing protection of their personal data and refraining from sharing or using such information without their consent (Belarus).

Habilitation and rehabilitation (art. 26)

24. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Secure access for persons with disabilities to comprehensive and cross-sectoral habilitation and rehabilitation services, programmes and technologies, within their community (Burkina Faso, Denmark, Mauritius and Netherlands (Kingdom of the));
- (b) Expand habilitation and rehabilitation systems, including by encouraging non-governmental organizations to provide community-based rehabilitation (Ghana);
- (c) Develop a clear national strategy and implementation plan to ensure that habilitation and rehabilitation programmes and services were comprehensive and designed to promote and support the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, and that they were provided free of charge and close to the place of residence (Bahrain and Belgium);
- (d) Ensure that persons with disabilities could easily select and receive the most relevant and appropriate habilitation and rehabilitation programmes or services in accordance with their choice and preference (Sweden);
- (e) Expand and decentralize rehabilitation services to rural areas (Nicaragua and Peru);
- (f) Promote the local production of assistive devices to enhance the habilitation and rehabilitation of all persons with disabilities in both urban and rural areas (Malawi);
- (g) Guarantee equal and effective access to quality habilitation and rehabilitation services for all persons with disabilities, irrespective of their present or previous employment status (Austria);
- (h) Ensure that persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities in rural areas and victims of landmines, had access to rehabilitation on the basis of their individual requirements (Angola).

Work and employment (art. 27)

25. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Enforce the implementation of quotas of employment for persons with disabilities in both the public and the private sectors (Angola, Azerbaijan, Benin, Germany, Peru, Sweden and Zambia);
- (b) Ensure that persons with disabilities had access to work and employment in the open labour market and to inclusive work environments (Andorra, Angola, Azerbaijan, Benin, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mongolia, Togo and Tunisia);
- (c) Speed up the transition of persons with disabilities from sheltered workshops to the open labour market in the private and public sectors, with equal remuneration for work of equal value (Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Germany and Israel);
- (d) Provide incentives and affirmative action programmes designed to promote the employment of persons with disabilities (Andorra and Togo);
- (e) Remove the systemic barriers and disability-based discrimination faced by persons with disabilities in access to employment (Togo);
- (f) Take measures to protect persons with disabilities from employers in the informal sector, in which they were subjected to precarious and unlawful working conditions (Tunisia);
- (g) Render the assessment of the ability to work compliant with the human rights model of disability, and ensure that persons with disabilities retained their social security status, including health and pension insurance, irrespective of the outcome of the assessment (Austria);

- (h) Restructure and strengthen the vocational training system and take measures to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness (Germany and Sweden);
- (i) Raise awareness among public and private employers of the duty to provide reasonable accommodation (Israel, Kazakhstan and Mongolia);
- (j) Address discrimination against women with disabilities in work and employment (Azerbaijan);
- (k) Promote self-employment opportunities among persons with disabilities (Costa Rica);
- (l) Explicitly recognize in law and policy the denial of reasonable accommodation as workplace discrimination (Ghana).

Adequate standard of living and social protection (art. 28)

26. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Ensure that disability was the main factor in the recognition and calculation of assistance for disability-related expenses and the social allowances provided for and personal contributions required from persons with disabilities, avoiding means-tested benefits based on household income (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));
- (b) Address the increased risk of poverty among persons with disabilities, and mainstream disability into all policies and plans related to poverty reduction, using the human rights model of disability (Costa Rica, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Sweden);
- (c) Develop a universal social protection scheme to ensure an adequate standard of living for all persons with disabilities, regardless of impairment type, including programmes and initiatives to increase access to housing, safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation, including in rural areas (Benin and Zambia);
- (d) Mainstream disability into poverty and homelessness reduction strategies (Belgium);
- (e) Reduce the reassessment burdens for persons with disabilities already determined to be eligible for social protection entitlements (Mauritius);
- (f) Take the measures necessary to ensure the effective provision of basic social services to persons with disabilities through the national social protection programme (Burkina Faso);
- (g) Ensure access for all persons with disabilities to financial assistance for the coverage of disability-related expenses (Azerbaijan);
- (h) Increase the budget allocated to social programmes and the amounts provided in order to achieve a real reduction in poverty among persons with disabilities, especially Indigenous persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities living in rural and remote areas (Paraguay);
- (i) Strengthen social protection and poverty reduction schemes for persons with disabilities and review the amount of disability allowance paid (Mongolia);
- (j) Improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities and realize their right of access to affordable housing located in the community (Andorra);
- (k) Amend legislation on the non-contributory “invalidity” pension to replace the medical model with the human rights model, change the name of the pension, increase the amount to at least the adjustable minimum living wage and allow recipients to receive other income (Argentina).

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

27. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Ensure the accessibility of voting materials and polling stations across all regions (Angola, Austria, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Denmark, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Sweden);

(b) Review and repeal or amend legal frameworks that hindered the political participation of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities (Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mauritius and Zambia);

(c) Adopt a strategy to promote the effective participation of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, in political and public life, and in decision-making positions of State and private entities at the national, regional, community and municipal levels (Belgium and Ukraine);

(d) Make leadership programmes accessible to all persons, including young people and children with disabilities (Belarus);

(e) Take specific measures to increase the representation of women with disabilities in public life, in decision-making positions and in elected political bodies in rural and urban areas (Zambia);

(f) Actively promote the participation of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in political parties (Nicaragua and Paraguay);

(g) Take measures to support candidates with disabilities to stand for election and hold office on an equal basis with others (Israel);

(h) Allocate the resources necessary to conduct research on barriers to participation and engagement in public life by women with disabilities and promote capacity-development programmes, in close consultation with women with disabilities, through their representative organizations (Germany);

(i) Review electoral legislation to expand the time frame provided for persons with disabilities to request the necessary information in accessible formats (Andorra);

(j) Ensure the equality and participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, including deaf persons, persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons and women with disabilities (Togo).

Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport (art. 30)

28. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

(a) Take concrete measures to eliminate all barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural life and recreational and sports activities (Angola and Mongolia);

(b) Ensure the accessibility of the physical environment and of information and communications in tourist sites and cultural, sports and recreational spaces (Argentina, Malawi and Togo);

(c) Ensure access for persons with disabilities to cultural materials, television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats, and to places of cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries, tourism services and sports services (Denmark and Ukraine);

(d) Ratify and/or implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Ukraine);

(e) Support artistic, cultural and sports productions developed by persons with disabilities (Tunisia);

- (f) Render mainstream cultural, recreational, tourism and sporting venues and activities accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities (Austria);
- (g) Ensure that persons with disabilities had access to personal assistance, at no cost, to practise sport and attend cultural and social activities (Germany and Sweden);
- (h) Promote the cultural and linguistic identity of deaf persons (Bahrain and Germany);
- (i) Allocate adequate resources to the Paralympic Committee to ensure effective development and participation of persons with disabilities in sport (Zambia).

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

29. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Ensure the appropriate collection of disaggregated data, including with respect to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons with disabilities, members of ethnic and racialized minorities with disabilities, refugees and stateless persons with disabilities, persons with disabilities in refugee-like situations, persons with disabilities under temporary protection, children with disabilities, women and girls with disabilities and persons with disabilities still in institutions (Austria, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Paraguay and Sweden);
- (b) Review data-collection processes among ministries, departments and agencies to make them disability-inclusive (Ghana);
- (c) Use the Washington Group short set of questions on functioning and the policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Azerbaijan, Belgium, Denmark and Ukraine);
- (d) Develop effective legal and practical measures to ensure the confidentiality of the personal data of and information about persons with disabilities and their families (Belarus and Georgia);
- (e) Collect disaggregated data and conduct research on the situation of persons with disabilities who experienced multiple and intersecting discrimination, in order to inform policy development (Israel and Kazakhstan);
- (f) Support independent research, both quantitative and qualitative, to inform disability-related policies and measures (Angola and Mauritania);
- (g) Guarantee close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, throughout the planning, design and implementation of data-collection processes (Andorra).

International cooperation (art. 32)

30. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Ensure close and effective consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities in the design, formulation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation strategies and programmes (Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mauritius, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia);
- (b) Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into the design, implementation and monitoring of its international cooperation programmes (Andorra, Angola, Azerbaijan, Malawi, Nicaragua and Tunisia);
- (c) Establish a monitoring and accountability framework to assess the impact of international cooperation programmes, projects and policies on persons with disabilities (Israel);

- (d) Financially support organizations of persons with disabilities through development cooperation (Mongolia);
- (e) Ensure that the inclusion of disability-related measures in all humanitarian aid strategies, including in those provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden);
- (f) Implement reconstruction, development and recovery projects under a human rights economy, in order not to increase inequalities or lead to the reduction of social expenditure to realize the rights of persons with disabilities (Ukraine);
- (g) Develop a systematic and coordinated strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in international cooperation activities (Netherlands (Kingdom of the)).

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

31. The Committee recommended that States Parties:

- (a) Designate focal points within Government, including across all branches and levels of government, with the authority to implement the Convention (Azerbaijan);
 - (b) Build the capacity of focal points and equip them with sufficient powers and increased human, technical and financial resources to fulfil their responsibilities (Germany and Zambia);
 - (c) Establish a systematic method of coordination among the various focal points established to implement the Convention (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));
 - (d) Designate an independent monitoring institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), with the budgetary, human and technical resources necessary to carry out its work in promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention, and ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations (Andorra, Argentina, Belarus, Ghana, Nicaragua and Ukraine);
 - (e) Strengthen the capacity of the Malawi Human Rights Commission to perform its independent monitoring role, including by allocating appropriate funding and granting it the authority to freely determine its priorities and activities (Malawi);
 - (f) Ensure close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, including by providing the necessary funding (Benin, Burkina Faso, Israel, Kazakhstan and Tunisia);
 - (g) Ensure sustainable and adequate funding for close consultation with and the active involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention (Mauritius).
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