



CONVENTION on the RIGHTS of PERSONS with DISABILITIES

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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Preamble

The States Parties to the present Convention,

- a. Recalling the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations recognize the inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and the world,
- b. Recognizing that the United Nations, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, has proclaimed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein without distinction of any kind,
- c. Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,
- d. Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,
- e. Recognizing that disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,
- f. Recognizing the importance of the principles and policy guidelines contained in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and in the Standard Rule on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in influencing the promotion, formulation and evaluation of the policies, plans, programmes and actions at the national, regional and international levels to further equal opportunities for persons with disabilities,
- g. Emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral and relevant strategies of sustainable development,
- h. Recognizing also that discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person,
 - i. Recognizing further the diversity of persons with disabilities,
 - j. Recognizing the need to promote and protect the human rights of all persons with disabilities, including those who require more intensive support,
 - k. Concerned that, despite these various instruments and undertakings, persons with disabilities continue to face barriers in their participation as equal members of society and violations of their human rights in all parts of the world,
 - l. Recognizing the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every country, particularly in developing countries,
- m. Recognizing the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities,

- promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty.
- n. Recognizing the importance for persons with disabilities of their individual dignity and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices,
 - o. Considering that persons with disabilities should have the opportunity to be fully and effectively included in decision-making processes about policies and programmes, those directly concerning them,
 - p. Concerned about the difficult conditions faced by persons with disabilities who are particularly vulnerable to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, birth, age or other status,
 - q. Recognizing that women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk of being victims of violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual violence, in particular those living in institutions and on the streets, in rural and remote areas,
 - r. Recognizing that children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, recalling obligations to that end undertaken by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - s. Emphasizing the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities,
 - t. Highlighting the fact that the majority of persons with disabilities live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,
 - u. Bearing in mind that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and the observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the protection of persons with disabilities, in particular during armed conflict and foreign occupation,
 - v. Recognizing the importance of accessibility to the physical, social, economic and cultural environment, to health and education and to information and communication, in enabling persons with disabilities to fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms,
 - w. Realizing that the individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he or she belongs, is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized in the International Declaration on the Rights of Human Rights,
 - x. Convinced that the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State, and that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities,
 - y. Convinced that a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities will make a significant contribution to redressing the profound social disadvantage of persons with disabilities and promote their participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres with equal opportunities, in both developing and developed countries,

Have agreed as follows:

B.

Article 1 - Purpose

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

B.

Article 2 - Definitions

For the purposes of the present Convention:

- "Communication" includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, Braille, reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technologies;
- "Language" includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of communication;
- "Discrimination on the basis of disability" means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation;
- "Reasonable accommodation" means necessary and appropriate modifications and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- "Universal design" means the design of products, environments, programs and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. "Universal design" shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where those devices are needed.

B.

Article 3 - General principles

The principles of the present Convention shall be:

- a. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- b. Non-discrimination;
- c. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- d. Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;

- e. Equality of opportunity;
- f. Accessibility;
- g. Equality between men and women;
- h. Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

B.

Article 4 - General obligations

1. States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. To this end, States Parties undertake:

- a. To adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention;
- b. To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities;
- c. To take into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programmes;
- d. To refrain from engaging in any act or practice that is inconsistent with the present Convention and to ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with the present Convention;
- e. To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability by any person, organization or private enterprise;
- f. To undertake or promote research and development of universally designed services, equipment and facilities, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, which should require the minimum possible adaptation and the least cost to meet the specific needs of a person with disabilities, to promote their availability and to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines;
- g. To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communication technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost;
- h. To provide accessible information to persons with disabilities about mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, including new technologies, as well as about forms of assistance, support services and facilities;
- i. To promote the training of professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities in the rights recognized in this Convention so as to better provide assistance and services guaranteed by those rights.

2. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, each State Party undertakes to take measures to the maximum of its available resources and, where needed, through the framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressive realization of these rights, without prejudice to those obligations contained in the present Convention that are immediately applicable according to international law.

3. In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues affecting persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

4. Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and which

contained in the law of a State Party or international law in force for that State shall be no restriction upon or derogation from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized or existing in any State Party to the present Convention pursuant to law, conventions, regulation or custom on the pretext that the present Convention does not recognize such rights or freedoms or that it recognizes them to a lesser extent.

5. The provisions of the present Convention shall extend to all parts of federal States without any limitations or exceptions.

B.

Article 5 - Equality and non-discrimination

1. States Parties recognize that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.

2. States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and shall ensure to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.

3. In order to promote equality and eliminate discrimination, States Parties shall take appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided.

4. Specific measures which are necessary to accelerate or achieve de facto equality for persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination under the terms of the present Convention.

B.

Article 6 - Women with disabilities

1. States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the present Convention.

B.

Article 7 - Children with disabilities

1. States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children.

basis with other children.

2. In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children and provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.

B.

Article 8 - Awareness-raising

1. States Parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures:

- a. To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;
- b. To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life;
- c. To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities.

Measures to this end include:

- a. Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed to:
 - i. To nurture receptiveness to the rights of persons with disabilities;
 - ii. To promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities;
 - iii. To promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of persons with disabilities, and of their contributions to the workplace and the local community;
- b. Fostering at all levels of the education system, including in all children from an early age, an attitude of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities;
- c. Encouraging all organs of the media to portray persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention;
- d. Promoting awareness-training programmes regarding persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities.

B.

Article 9 - Accessibility

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility,

apply to, inter alia:

- a. Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;
- b. Information, communications and other services, including electronic and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures to:

- a. Develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;
- b. Ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- c. Provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;
- d. Provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille, large print, easy to read and understand forms;
- e. Provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers, professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;
- f. Promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;
- g. Promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;
- h. Promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

B.

Article 10 - Right to life

States Parties reaffirm that every human being has the inherent right to life and shall take all necessary measures to ensure its effective enjoyment by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

B.

Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

B.

Article 12 - Equal recognition before the law

1. States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to reco everywhere as persons before the law.
2. States Parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal cap equal basis with others in all aspects of life.
3. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by perso disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity.
4. States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse ir accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensur measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will an preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortes possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree such measures affect the person's rights and interests.
5. Subject to the provisions of this article, States Parties shall take all appro effective measures to ensure the equal right of persons with disabilities to ov property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to ba mortgages and other forms of financial credit, and shall ensure that persons disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their property.

B.

Article 13 - Access to justice

1. States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disa an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direc indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, includin investigative and other preliminary stages.
2. In order to help to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disal States Parties shall promote appropriate training for those working in the fiel administration of justice, including police and prison staff.

B.

Article 14 - Liberty and security of the person

1. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities, on an equal basis others:

- a. Enjoy the right to liberty and security of person;
- b. Are not deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that any deprivation of liberty is in conformity with the law, and that the existence of a disability in a particular case does not justify a deprivation of liberty.

2. States Parties shall ensure that if persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty through any process, they are, on an equal basis with others, entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and shall be treated in conformity with the objectives and principles of this Convention, including by provision of reasonable accommodation.

B.

Article 15 - Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

1. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his or her free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

2. States Parties shall take all effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, from being subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

B.

Article 16 - Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, judicial and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-related aspects.

2. States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education to persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.

3. In order to prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, States Parties shall ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities.

4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse through the provision of protection services. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.

5. States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated where appropriate, prosecuted.

B.

Article 17 - Protecting the integrity of the person

Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others.

B.

Article 18 - Liberty of movement and nationality

1. States Parties shall recognize the rights of persons with disabilities to liberty of movement, to freedom to choose their residence and to a nationality, on an equal basis with others, including by ensuring that persons with disabilities:

- a. Have the right to acquire and change a nationality and are not deprived of their nationality arbitrarily or on the basis of disability;
- b. Are not deprived, on the basis of disability, of their ability to obtain, possess, enter, travel with, utilize documentation of their nationality or other documentation of identity, to utilize relevant processes such as immigration proceedings, that may facilitate exercise of the right to liberty of movement;
- c. Are free to leave any country, including their own;
- d. Are not deprived, arbitrarily or on the basis of disability, of the right to return to their own country.

2. Children with disabilities shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by their parents.

B.

Article 19 - Living independently and being included in the community

States Parties to this Convention recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

- a. Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not

- live in a particular living arrangement;
- b. Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential community support services, including personal assistance necessary to living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation in the community;
- c. Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

B.

Article 20 - Personal mobility

States Parties shall take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities, including by:

- a. Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost;
- b. Facilitating access by persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including making them available at affordable cost;
- c. Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to support workers working with persons with disabilities;
- d. Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities.

B.

Article 21 - Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in article 2 of the Convention, including by:

- a. Providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost;
- b. Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions;
- c. Urging private entities that provide services to the general public, including through the Internet, to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities;
- d. Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;
- e. Recognizing and promoting the use of sign languages.

B.

Article 22 - Respect for privacy

1. No person with disabilities, regardless of place of residence or living arrangement, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, home or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Persons with disabilities have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

2. States Parties shall protect the privacy of personal, health and rehabilitation information of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.

B.

Article 23 - Respect for home and the family

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities in all matters relating to marriage, family, parenthood and relationships, on an equal basis with others, so as to ensure that:

- a. The right of all persons with disabilities who are of marriageable age to found a family on the basis of free and full consent of the intending partners is recognized;
- b. The rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to age-appropriate information, reproductive and family planning education and services are recognized; and
- c. Persons with disabilities, including children, retain their fertility on an equal basis with others.

2. States Parties shall ensure the rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship, adoption of children or similar institutions, where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the best interests of the child shall be paramount. States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to persons with disabilities in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities.

3. States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realizing these rights, and to prevent child abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.

4. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her family against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. In no case shall a child be separated from his or her parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents.

5. States Parties shall, where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, undertake every effort to provide alternative care within the wide

and failing that, within the community in a family setting.

B.

Article 24 - Education

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. In order to realize this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and life-long learning directed to:

- a. The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and diversity;
- b. The development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talent and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential;
- c. Enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society.

2. In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:

- a. Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability;
- b. Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities they live in;
- c. Reasonable accommodation of the individual's requirements is provided;
- d. Persons with disabilities receive the support required, within the general education system, to facilitate their effective education;
- e. Effective individualized support measures are provided in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion.

3. States Parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and in the community. To this end, States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including:

- a. Facilitating the learning of Braille, alternative script, augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and orientation and mobility and facilitating peer support and mentoring;
- b. Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic skills of the deaf community;
- c. Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.

4. In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and

of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.

5. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities.

B.

Article 25 - Health

States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall:

- a. Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standards of affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;
- b. Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention, appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;
- c. Provide these health services as close as possible to people's own communities, including in rural areas;
- d. Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and capabilities of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care;
- e. Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner;
- f. Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and water on the basis of disability.

B.

Article 26 - Habilitation and rehabilitation

1. States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures, including the provision of support, to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full and equal participation in all aspects of life. To that end, States Parties shall organize, strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes, particularly in the areas of health, employment, education and social services, so that these services and programmes:

- a. Begin at the earliest possible stage, and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment of individual needs and strengths;
 - b. Support participation and inclusion in the community and all aspects of voluntary, and are available to persons with disabilities as close as possible to their own communities, including in rural areas.
2. States Parties shall promote the development of initial and continuing training professionals and staff working in habilitation and rehabilitation services.
3. States Parties shall promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.

B.

Article 27 - Work and employment

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safely and effectively promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire disabilities during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia:

- a. Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions;
- b. Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;
- c. Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and union rights on an equal basis with others;
- d. Enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and vocational and professional training;
- e. Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;
- f. Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;
- g. Employ persons with disabilities in the public sector;
- h. Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures;
- i. Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace;
- j. Promote the acquisition by persons with disabilities of work experience in the labour market;
- k. Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation, job retention and re-employment programmes for persons with disabilities.

2. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or

servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour.

B.

Article 28 - Adequate standard of living and social protection

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.

2. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including the following measures:

- a. To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistive technologies for disability-related needs;
- b. To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes;
- c. To ensure access by persons with disabilities and their families living in poverty to assistance from the State with disability-related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care;
- d. To ensure access by persons with disabilities to public housing programmes;
- e. To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to retirement benefit programmes.

B.

Article 29 - Participation in political and public life

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake the following measures:

- a. Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:
 - i. Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;
 - ii. Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies, where appropriate;
 - iii. Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing

- assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;
- b. Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can fully and actively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:
 - i. Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;
 - ii. Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

B.

Article 30 - Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities:

- a. Enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats;
- b. Enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities in accessible formats;
- c. Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.

2. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate steps, in accordance with international law, to ensure that laws protecting intellectual property rights do not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access by persons with disabilities to cultural materials.

4. Persons with disabilities shall be entitled, on an equal basis with others, to the full and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign language and deaf culture.

5. With a view to enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:

- a. To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;
- b. To ensure that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to organize and participate in disability-specific sporting and recreational activities and, to this end, encourage the provision, on an equal basis with others, of appropriate instruction, training and resources;
- c. To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues;
- d. To ensure that children with disabilities have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system;
- e. To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from the State in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

Article 31 - Statistics and data collection

1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall be:

- a. Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities;
- b. Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of information.

2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated by gender, age, and other factors, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

3. States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.

Article 32 - International cooperation

1. States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures, in cooperation and regard, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities. Such measures could include, inter alia:

- a. Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;
- b. Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;
- c. Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;
- d. Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies through the transfer of technologies.

2. The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the obligations of each State Party to fulfil its obligations under the present Convention.

Article 33 - National implementation and monitoring

1. States Parties, in accordance with their system of organization, shall designate more focal points within government for matters relating to the implementation of the present Convention, and shall give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within government to facilitate relations in different sectors and at different levels.

2. States Parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State Party, a framework including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing such a mechanism, States Parties shall take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights.

3. Civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.

B.

Article 34 - Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

1. There shall be established a Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereafter referred to as "the Committee"), which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.

2. The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of twelve experts. After an additional sixty ratifications or accessions to the Convention, the membership of the Committee shall increase by six members to a maximum number of eighteen members.

3. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall have high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Convention. When nominating their candidates, States Parties shall give due consideration to the provision set out in article 4.3 of the present Convention.

4. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different regions of the world, of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities.

5. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of candidates nominated by the States Parties from among their nationals at meetings of the Conference of States Parties. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

6. The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the present Convention. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit the nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the State Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.

7. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election once. However, the term of six of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first meeting the names of these six members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in paragraph 5 of this article.

8. The election of the six additional members of the Committee shall be held on the occasion of regular elections, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the present Convention.

9. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other reason he or she can no longer perform her or his duties, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert possessing the qualifications and meeting the requirements set out in the relevant provisions of this article, to serve for the remainder of the term.

10. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention, and shall convene its initial meeting.

12. With the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.

13. The members of the Committee shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

B.

Article 35 - Reports by States Parties

1. Each State Party shall submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress made in that regard, within two years after the entry into force of the present Convention for the State Party concerned.

2. Thereafter, States Parties shall submit subsequent reports at least every five years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

3. The Committee shall decide any guidelines applicable to the content of the reports.

4. A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not, in its subsequent reports, repeat information previously provided. In preparing reports to the Committee, States Parties are invited to consider doing so through an open and transparent process and to give due consideration to the provisions of article 4.3 of the present Convention.

5. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

B.

Article 36 - Consideration of reports

1. Each report shall be considered by the Committee, which shall make such suggestions and general recommendations on the report as it may consider appropriate and shall forward these to the State Party concerned. The State Party may request any information it chooses to the Committee. The Committee may request further information from States Parties relevant to the implementation of the present Convention.

2. If a State Party is significantly overdue in the submission of a report, the Committee may notify the State Party concerned of the need to examine the implementation of the present Convention in that State Party, on the basis of reliable information available to the Committee, if the relevant report is not submitted within three months following notification. The Committee shall invite the State Party concerned to participate in the examination. Should the State Party respond by submitting the relevant report, the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article will apply.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall make available the reports of States Parties.

4. States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their countries and facilitate access to the suggestions and general recommendations contained in these reports.

5. The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, and other competent bodies, reports from States Parties in order to address a request or indication of a need for technical advice or assistance contained therein, along with the Committee's observations and recommendations, if any, on these requests or indications.

B.

Article 37 - Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee

1. Each State Party shall cooperate with the Committee and assist its members in the fulfilment of their mandate.

2. In its relationship with States Parties, the Committee shall give due consideration to ways and means of enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the Convention, including through international cooperation.

B.

Article 38 - Relationship of the Committee with other bodies

In order to foster the effective implementation of the present Convention and to encourage international cooperation in the field covered by the present Convention,

- a. The specialized agencies and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee shall invite the specialized agencies and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee shall also invite specialized agencies and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates;
- b. The Committee, as it discharges its mandate, shall consult, as appropriate, with the relevant bodies instituted by international human rights treaties, with a view to ensuring the consistency of their respective reporting guidelines, suggestions and general recommendations, and avoiding duplication and overlap in the performance of their functions.

B.

Article 39 - Report of the Committee

The Committee shall report every two years to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on its activities, and may make suggestions and recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

B.

Article 40 - Conference of States Parties

1. The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.

2. No later than six months after the entry into force of the present Convention, a Conference of the States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations biennially or upon the decision of the Conference of States Parties.

B.

Article 41 - Depositary

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Convention.

B.

Article 42 - Signature

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States and by regional integration organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 3 2007.

B.

Article 43 - Consent to be bound

The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations. It shall be open to accession by any State or regional integration organization which has not signed the Convention.

B.

Article 44 - Regional integration organizations

1. "Regional integration organization" shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by this Convention. Subsequently they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.

2. References to "States Parties" in the present Convention shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.

3. For the purposes of article 45, paragraph 1, and article 47, paragraphs 2 and 3, an instrument deposited by a regional integration organization shall not be counted as an instrument deposited by a State.

4. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the Conference of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to this Convention. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

B.

Article 45 - Entry into force

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confederating or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the twentieth such instrument, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own instrument.

B.

Article 46 - Reservations

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

B.

Article 47 - Amendments

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Convention at any time to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to them to indicate whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.
2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of ratification deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted or ratified it.
3. If so decided by the Conference of States Parties by consensus, an amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article which relates exclusively to articles 34, 38, 39 and 40 shall enter into force for all States Parties on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment.

B.

Article 48 - Denunciation

A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

B.

Article 49 - Accessible format

The text of the present Convention shall be made available in accessible format.

B.

Article 50 - Authentic texts

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present Convention shall be equally authentic.

B.

In witness thereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

Source: Annex 1, [Final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities \[A/61/611 - PDF, 1:](#)

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