



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding observations on the initial report of the Islamic Republic of Iran*

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the initial report of the Islamic Republic of Iran (CRPD/C/IRN/1) at its 302nd and 303rd meetings (see CRPD/C/SR.302 and 303), held on 22 and 23 March 2017, respectively, and adopted the following concluding observations at its 321st meeting, held on 5 April 2017.

2. The Committee welcomes the initial report of the State party, which was prepared in accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines. It also appreciates the State party's written replies (CRPD/C/IRN/Q/1/Add.1) to the list of issues prepared by the Committee (CRPD/C/IRN/Q/1).

3. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue held during the consideration of the report and commends the State party for its high-level delegation, headed by Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Committee welcomes the participation of Ms. Zahra Nemati, Iranian Gold Medalist in Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

II. Positive aspects

4. The Committee notes that the Convention is considered a domestic law in the State party and is applicable according to article 9 of the State party Constitution. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party since the ratification of the Convention, including the adoption of the following legislative measures:

(a) The Charter of Citizenship Rights ratified on 17 July 2016, which states that persons with disabilities should be provided with a suitable and civic social environment;

(b) The Act No. 77303 of 6 September 2015, which establishes measures regarding accessibility to information and communication, including the production of books in Braille and accessibility of websites; and

* Adopted by the Committee at its seventeenth session (20 March-12 April 2017).

(c) The New Code of Criminal Procedure of 2015, which establishes the duty to prosecute cases of violation of financial rights, inheritance or family relations against persons with disabilities under guardianship.

5. The Committee welcomes the State party measures to develop a policy framework for implementing the Convention, including measures to encourage entrepreneurship among persons with disabilities and the provision of equal pay for women with disabilities for less working hours and the “Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Rights of the Child and Juvenile on the horizon of 2025” adopted in 2014, which set-up measures for children with disabilities.

III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

A. General principles and obligations (arts. 1-4)

6. The Committee notes with concern the general reservation made by the State party upon its accession to the Convention, and the lack of awareness among public authorities and society about the Convention. It is also concerned about the absence of information on whether and when the State party will ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

7. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Withdraw its reservation to the Convention;**

(b) **Disseminate the Convention and the Committee’s general comments among the Government, ministries, members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, religious and community leaders, so as to create awareness of persons with disabilities’ dignity and rights;**

(c) **Carry out dialogue with religious and community leaders about the compatibility between Islamic laws with the Convention; and**

(d) **Take measures aimed at signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention.**

8. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The State party understands disability as a health condition or ‘disorder’ which is ‘continuous’ or ‘considerable’ (See CRPD/C/IRN/1 para.13), and prioritizes the prevention of impairment, medical treatment, and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities;

(b) The legislation and policy measures entail ‘charity’, ‘care’ and ‘welfare’ towards persons with disabilities rather than recognising them as rights-holders; and

(c) The legislation contains derogatory language such as the terms ‘mentally ill’, ‘insane’ and/or ‘retarded’.

9. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Bring its legislation, particularly the Comprehensive Legislation on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2004) into line with the Convention, based on the human rights model of disability and repeal derogatory terminology against persons with disabilities, including in the New Criminal Code;**

(b) **Ensure that the State Welfare Organization (SWO) recognises the evolving concept of disability, as a result of the interaction between any type of impairment and barriers that impede full participation of persons with disabilities in society;**

(c) **Withdraw article 90 of the Sixth Development Plan of Iran that provides for compulsory premarital genetic examination and consultation to prevent the birth of children with disabilities; and**

(d) **Reaffirm the right of all persons with disabilities to found a family, to marry, and to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.**

10. The Committee notes with concern the lack of mechanisms to consult with organizations of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes concerning the implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the lack of information about support to the work and advocacy of these organizations.

11. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure meaningful consultation with and participation of representative organizations of persons with disabilities in an independent manner, including organizations of women and children with disabilities, in the development and implementation of the Convention and ensuring that they can access financial resources to advocate for human rights; and**

(b) **Ensure that representative organizations of persons with disabilities engage freely with international mechanisms regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, including in the periodic examination of State party reports by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.**

B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

12. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of a definition of disability-based discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of it;

(b) Multiple and intersectional discrimination against persons with disabilities in particular persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and discrimination against persons perceived to have a disability, including on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation, being forced to undergo medical treatment;

(c) The lack of information about measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities on equal basis with others; and

(d) The difference in measures taken by the State Welfare Organization and the Foundation of Martyr and Veterans Affairs (FMVA) concerning persons with disabilities and veterans of war.

13. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Introduce in its legislation disability as a ground of discrimination and prohibit direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of disability, intersectional and multiple discrimination, including discrimination by association;**

(b) **Define in its legislation the concept of reasonable accommodation, in line with article 2 of the Convention, and the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination;**

(c) **Withdraw legislation that restricts rights of persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and tackle discrimination against persons perceived to**

have a disability due to their gender identity and sexual orientation, by prohibiting forced medical treatment and providing appropriate remedies and redress;

(d) **Adopt public policies to ensure access by persons with disabilities to all rights enshrined in the Convention, in particular members of the religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities;**

(e) **Ensure that all persons with disabilities and veterans of war, irrespective of impairment, receive equal protection concerning their rights under the Convention; and**

(f) **Take into account article 5 of the Convention while implementing targets 10.2 and 10.3 of the SDGs.**

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

14. The Committee is concerned about multiple and intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, including several forms of gender-based violence against them, as well as the absence of public policies aimed at ensuring their development, advancement and empowerment. It also notes with concern that legislation and public policies emphasise caring roles of women in families with children with disabilities, instead of recognising women and girls with disabilities themselves as rights-holders under the Convention.

15. **The Committee, in line with its General Comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Recognise in its legislation and practices the principle of equality between women and men with disabilities established in article 3 (g) of the Convention, and undertake measures to prevent multiple and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;**

(b) **Establish a time frame and a strategy to enforce the comprehensive legislation for securing women against violence, and prohibit all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, including within the family;**

(c) **Ensure that the Office of the Vice-president for Women and Family Affairs allocates human, technical and budgetary resources for the advancement of the rights of women and girls with disabilities, promote full participation of organizations of women with disabilities in its work;**

(d) **Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol; and**

(e) **Bear in mind its obligations under article 6 of the Convention while implementing targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

16. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of mechanisms for children with disabilities to express their views and opinions regarding all matters affecting them;

(b) The lack of information on measures to prevent abandonment, and mistreatment of children with disabilities;

(c) The absence of strategies to promote the best interests of the child in actions concerning children with disabilities; and

(d) The lack of disaggregated data about girls and boys with disabilities' access to health, education, an adequate standard of living including social protection, and enjoyment of sports, leisure and cultural activities.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Set-up guidelines aimed at consulting with children with disabilities through their representative organizations, ensuring support according to their age and disability, in relation to issues affecting them;

(b) Adopt a strategy to sensitize families and communities about the respect of the evolving capacities of children with disabilities, combat stereotypes against them and prevent isolation and neglect; and

(c) Provide community-based services and support for children with disabilities with a view to eliminating institutionalization.

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

18. The Committee is concerned about the absence of public campaigns, including in the media with the aim of raising awareness about the dignity and value of persons with disabilities.

19. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Develop a targeted strategy to raise awareness among society about the inherent dignity of persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for diversity of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention;

(b) Ensure appropriate dissemination of the Convention and the Committee's General Comments and its Concluding Observations and recommendations in Persian language and in accessible formats, modes and means of communication;

(c) Initiate dialogue among society and prevent the confusion between having different sexual orientation and being a person with disabilities.

Accessibility (art. 9)

20. The Committee observes that the State party adopted accessibility standards, and has carried out plans to improve accessibility of housing. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information about plans to ensure accessibility in rural areas;

(b) The absence of measures to achieve accessibility to information and communication, including information and communication technologies;

(c) The absence of measures to monitor and sanction non-compliance with accessibility standards both in the public and private sector; and

(d) The lack of information about plans to ensure accessibility to services and buildings including schools, medical facilities and workplaces and on how representative organizations of persons with disabilities are consulted in the development of measures to accomplish accessibility.

21. **The Committee, in line with its General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a national action plan on accessibility with time-bound benchmarks and budget allocations, that comprises rural and urban areas and all dimensions of accessibility;**

(b) **Include in its legislation, the principle of universal design and promote its application by relevant stakeholders;**

(c) **Make public investments, through public procurements measures aimed at providing accessible and subsidised information and communication technologies and systems for persons with disabilities;**

(d) **Introduce mechanisms to monitor and evaluate compliance with accessibility standards in public and private spheres;**

(e) **Consult on permanent basis with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, about accessibility measures required to access facilities and services; and**

(f) **Bear in mind the linkages between article 9 of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 11, targets 11.2 and 11.7.**

Right to life (art. 10)

22. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities may be at risk of facing a greater risk of death penalty due to lack of procedural accommodations, in criminal proceedings.

23. **The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to replace death penalty as form of punishment and ensure that persons with disabilities are not subject to arbitrary deprivation of life.**

Situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

24. The Committee takes note of the State party information about its demining program. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of appropriate preparedness and information about risk reduction strategies during emergencies, in formats accessible to persons with disabilities, and information about accessibility of shelters and evacuation routes; and

(b) The absence of information on the situation of refugee persons with disabilities and on how they are included in disaster risk reduction strategies.

25. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure that the disaster risk reduction plan and strategies provides for accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in all situations of risk, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and**

(b) **Take measures to facilitate the protection of persons with disabilities in refugee camps, such as accessible shelters, water and sanitation, education and health, evacuation during emergencies and rehabilitation.**

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

26. The Committee is concerned about the guardianship regime in relation to persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities set up in the civil law and the law of non-litigious matters. It is also concerned about the absence of supported decision-making for persons with disabilities.

27. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Review its civil and criminal legislation with the aim of withdrawing the guardianship regime, affecting persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, and recognise full legal capacity of persons with disabilities on equal basis with others, in all areas of life;**

(b) **Develop a system of supported decision-making for all persons with disabilities, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law; and**

(c) **Raise awareness among society, including families, about the contents and scope of the right to equal recognition before the law, and on how to respect the legal capacity of persons with disabilities.**

Access to justice (art. 13)

28. The Committee observes that the State party provides legal representation for persons with disabilities in civil and criminal proceedings. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The denial of access to justice to persons deprived of their legal capacity;

(b) The absence of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations that allow persons with disabilities themselves to exercise an active role as direct and indirect participants in all legal procedures, including through accessible information; and

(c) The absence of information about training for judges and other personnel including the police and prison staff, concerning the rights of persons with disabilities.

29. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Review its legislation with the aim to enable persons with disabilities to participate effectively in any type of legal proceedings, including exercising their roles as victims, defendants, and witnesses;**

(b) **Develop protocols at the judiciary aimed at identifying procedural, gender-sensitive, and age-appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities including provision of documents on legislation and court proceedings through sign language interpretation, braille, easy-read and other accessible formats, modes and means of communication; and**

(c) **Develop a capacity-building strategy within the judicial branch on the rights of persons with disabilities, targeting lawyers, magistrates, judges, prison staff and the Police.**

Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

30. The Committee is concerned that persons with disabilities can be detained in institutions, such as hospices, rehabilitation, and care centers on the basis of impairment. The Committee is concerned that having a psychosocial and/or intellectual impairment is a reason for not standing trial and being subjected to detention in psychiatric hospitals, in the context of criminal procedures.

31. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal legislation, policies and practices that allow forced institutionalization of persons with disabilities on the basis of impairment, including for the purpose of psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation or the alleged need of 'care'; and**

(b) Reaffirm the right to a fair trial of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in accordance with the Convention, and end detention on psychiatric hospitals on the basis of impairment.

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

32. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The absence of complaint mechanisms for persons with disabilities in cases of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment particularly in residential institutions or psychiatric hospitals;

(b) The enforcement of mutilation as a form of criminal sentence, and the stigmatization against persons who have impairment as a consequence of such punishment; and,

(c) The absence of measures to protect persons with disabilities against obligatory medical or scientific research/experimentation.

33. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Establish a mechanism to file complaints against all forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and a monitoring mechanism to prevent torture in all settings where persons with disabilities are deprived of their liberty;

(b) Enact legislation to prohibit all corporal punishment of children with disabilities and to protect them from such practice;

(c) Provide explicit guidelines for judges in order to replace the punishment of mutilation for other type of penalties, and combat stigma against persons with physical impairments due to mutilation; and

(d) Introduce the requirement of and protocols to ensure free and informed consent of persons with disabilities concerning scientific research.

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

34. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information about measures to prevent exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities;

(b) The absence of information about prosecutions and convictions in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities; and

(c) The absence of remedies and redress for all persons with disabilities who have faced any form of exploitation, violence and abuse, including psychosocial counselling, reparations, and compensation.

35. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Adopt a strategy to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation, violence, and abuse against persons with disabilities, including through early identification of instances of exploitation, and specific risks of gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities;

(b) Strengthen its efforts aimed at ensuring that religious leaders participate in strategies to prevent any form of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities;

(c) **Introduce guidelines for private non-governmental organizations about how to file complaints in cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, including gender-based sexual violence against women and girls with disabilities;**

(d) **Set-up a comprehensive data collection system on cases of exploitation, violence and abuse, disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnic background, and type of impairment; and**

(e) **Enforce article 66 of the Criminal Procedure Code and ensure prosecutions and convictions in cases of violence against persons with disabilities. Provide early recovery, legal remedies, counselling and accessible services for victims.**

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

36. The Committee notes with concern that persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities could be subjected to forced sterilization at the request of third parties, including guardians.

37. **The Committee recommends that the State party repeal legislation that allows for sterilization of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities upon request of guardians and establish a mechanism of supported decision-making about sexual and reproductive health and rights. It also recommends that the State party ensure that free and informed consent is provided prior to any form of medical treatment.**

Liberty of movement and nationality (art. 18)

38. The Committee notes with concern the absence of information about how persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic minorities access services and receive protection of their rights under the Convention. It is further concerned about the absence of measures to guarantee that migrants, asylum seekers, and refugee persons with disabilities are provided with appropriate support and reasonable accommodation in immigration proceedings.

39. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and/or religious minorities, including those living in rural and remote areas, have access to identity documents and can access to services and protection of their rights under the Convention.**

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

40. The Committee is concerned about isolation and institutionalization of persons with disabilities, in particular persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities who depend on 'care' provided by their families or in institutions. It is further concerned about the absence of support services, including personal assistance aimed at ensuring inclusion of persons with disability in the community.

41. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a strategy for the de-institutionalization of persons with disabilities, within a time frame, budget and measurable indicators, and withdraw the program community mental health center run by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education; and**

(b) **Redirect resources from institutionalization to community-based services and increase budgets to enable persons with disabilities to live independently with access to services, including personal assistance.**

- (c) **Raise awareness about the right to autonomy and self-determination of persons with disabilities, including concerning decisions of where and with whom to live.**

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

42. The Committee is concerned by:

- (a) The lack of recognition of Persian Sign Language and the limited provision of sign language interpreters;
- (b) The lack of availability of accessible information and communications technology for persons with disabilities, including easy-read; and
- (c) The lack of accessible public information, including accessible websites.

43. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Recognise Persian Sign Language as official language and its use in schools, and establish jointly with organizations of deaf persons a mechanism to certify the quality of interpretation services ensuring opportunities for continuous training for sign language interpreters;**
- (b) **Promote and facilitate the use of easy-read, other accessible formats, modes and means of communication and grant persons with disabilities access to information and communications technology, including the provision of assistive technologies to all persons with disabilities, including those living in rural areas; and**
- (c) **Ensure accessibility of government websites and those of private entities which provide public services.**

Respect for private and family life (art. 23)

44. The Committee is concerned about restrictions in the exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities related to marriage, family, and parenthood, particularly in relation to persons deprived of their legal capacity. It is further concerned about restrictions to adoption by persons with disabilities and the lack of measures to prevent removal of children born to parents with disabilities.

45. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Repeal laws that prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their right to marriage and parenthood;**
- (b) **Provide access to reproductive and family planning education for all persons with disabilities; and**
- (c) **Ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their parental rights and adopt children.**

Education (art. 24)

46. The Committee is concerned about the:

- (a) Prevalence of the model of special education in the State party, the low number of children in the mainstream school and the gap between girls and boys with disabilities attending mainstream education;
- (b) Lack of measures to train teachers, education personnel and parents concerning inclusive education;

(c) Lack of information on the provision of reasonable accommodation and support for students in the mainstream setting; and

(d) Absence of measures to improve access to education for children with disabilities living in rural communities.

47. **The Committee calls upon the State party to:**

(a) **Establish a time frame for the transition process from segregated to inclusive and quality education and ensure availability of budgetary, technical and personal resources are available to complete the process;**

(b) **Collect disaggregated statistics by age, sex, gender, ethnic background, migrant, asylum seeker and refugee status, on the advancement of the inclusive education system;**

(c) **Ensure and enforce non-rejection of students with disabilities from mainstream schools and introduce reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities as an obligation at private and public mainstream schools;**

(d) **Take measures to employ teachers with disabilities at all levels of education;**

(e) **Undertake measures, including by encouraging public-private partnerships, to ensure the provision of assistive technologies in classrooms; and**

(f) **Ensure the training of all teachers in inclusive education.**

Health (art. 25)

48. The Committee observes with concern:

(a) The absence of strategies to provide all persons with disabilities access to health services;

(b) The absence of information about accessible information and equipment including gynecological services for women with disabilities;

(c) The lack of information about coverage of early identification programmes among children with disabilities in rural and urban areas; and

(d) The lack of health insurance beyond basic one for persons with disabilities who do not qualify as 'war disabled veterans' and/or martyrs.

49. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure that all persons with disabilities, including women, girls and boys with disabilities have access on an equal basis with others to affordable, accessible, quality and culturally sensitive health services, in urban and rural areas;**

(b) **Strengthen its efforts to ensure that sexual and reproductive health services and information, are fully accessible and incorporate a gender perspective;**

(c) **Introduce a data collection system based on international standards on the health status of persons with disabilities, including identification and follow-up mechanism for children with disabilities; and**

(d) **Implement a strategy to provide health insurance to all persons with disabilities regardless of their impairment, cause of impairment, place of living, age, sex, gender or refugee status.**

Right to work and employment (art. 27)

50. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The low compliance with the 3 per cent quota of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector;
- (b) The lack of recognition of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at the work place;
- (c) That measures to promote employment of war veterans are not implemented for other persons with disabilities; and
- (d) Gaps in the participation of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, and that persons with disabilities remain in ‘sheltered workshops’.

51. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Adopt measures to comply with the quota of employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector, and provide accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the workplace so as to increase employment rate of persons with disabilities;**
- (b) Increase its efforts to create job opportunities for persons with disabilities, including through affirmative action programmes, entrepreneurship, appropriate age training for work; loans, microcredits, and technical assistance for business management; and**
- (c) Bear in mind the linkages between article 27 of the Convention and target 8.5 of the SDGs, and ensure that persons with disabilities obtain productive and decent employment, in line with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.**

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

52. The Committee is concerned with the discriminatory treatment in social protection among persons with disabilities under the SWO and FMVA. It is further concerned about the lack of information on measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for women with disabilities who are head of households.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that all persons with disabilities are provided with adequate standard of living, and that additional social protection schemes are adopted and monitored, paying attention to target 10.2 of Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (b) Expand the coverage of the programmes of housing and interest-free loans to all persons with disabilities; and**
- (c) Work in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities to create a system for disaggregated data collection on the percentage of persons with disabilities who are beneficiaries of social programmes, such as payment of financial aids for in-home support, disability pension and complementary health insurance, and the number of persons with disabilities belonging to ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities who have received disability pension.**

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

54. The Committee is concerned about measures that deny the right of persons with sensory impairments, and persons with psychosocial and /or intellectual disabilities to stand as candidates to the Parliament. It is also concerned about the lack of information on accessibility of election materials and facilities.

55. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal provisions from the Elections Act and other laws that deny the right to exercise civil and political rights based on impairment or restriction of legal capacity; and**

(b) **Ensure through legislative and other measures, accessibility of election materials and facilities, and that persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice when voting.**

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

56. The Committee notes that the State party has yet to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

57. **The Committee encourages the State party to take all necessary steps to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.**

C. Special obligations (arts. 31-33)

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

58. The Committee is concerned about the lack of systems to collect data on the situation of persons with disabilities, including the barriers that they face to exercise their rights, and disaggregated by age, sex, gender, ethnic, linguistic background, migrant, asylum seeking and refugee status.

59. **The Committee recommends that the State party work in consultation and when appropriate in cooperation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations to create a system for the collection of up-to-date disaggregated appropriate data, in line with the proposal by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.**

International cooperation (art. 32)

60. The Committee observes that the State party has volunteered to the review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it notes with concern the absence of information on how the rights of persons with disabilities are fully included.

61. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that implementation of the SDGs is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and as regards the national reporting to the High Level Political Forum.**

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

62. The Committee is concerned about the lack of effectiveness of existing coordination mechanism among public offices in all sectors, and national, provincial and municipal levels, concerning the implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the absence of an independent monitoring mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the lack of participation of civil society in the monitoring process.

63. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Appoint a governmental body to be the focal point for the implementation of the Convention, and consider the establishment of a coordination mechanism under article 33 (1); and**

(b) Establish a national mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention, with the participation of an institution in compliance with the Paris Principles, in line with article 33 (2) of the Convention, and ensure full participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in the monitoring process in line with article 33 (3) of the Convention.

Cooperation and technical assistance

64. Under article 37 of the Convention, the Committee can provide technical guidance to the State party on any queries addressed to the experts via the secretariat. The State party can also seek technical assistance from United Nations specialized agencies with offices in the country or the region.

Follow-up and dissemination

65. The Committee requests that the State party provide, within 12 months and in accordance with article 35 (2) of the Convention, information on the measures taken to implement the Committee's recommendations as set forth in paragraphs 9 (a) and 35 (a) and (e) above.

66. The Committee also requests that the State party implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Government and the Islamic Consultative Assembly, officials in relevant ministries, local authorities, organizations of persons with disabilities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies.

67. The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic report.

68. The Committee requests the State party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and representative organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats including Easy Read, and to make them available on the government website on human rights.

Next report

68. The Committee requests that the State party submit its combined second, third and fourth reports by no later than 19 June 2022, and include therein information on the implementation of the present concluding observations. The Committee invites the State party to consider submitting the above-mentioned reports under the Committee's simplified reporting procedure, according to which the Committee prepares a list of issues at least one year prior to the due date set for the report/combined reports of a State party. The replies of a State party to such a list of issues constitute its next report.
