



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Concluding Observations in relation to the initial report of the Republic of Moldova*

I. Introduction

1. The Committee considered the initial report of the Republic of Moldova (CRPD/C/MDA/1) at its 300th and 301st meetings, held on 21 and 22 March 2017, respectively, and adopted the following concluding observations at its 320th meeting, held on 4 April 2017.
2. The Committee welcomes the initial report of Moldova, which was prepared in accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines, and thanks the State party for the written replies (CRPD/C/MDA/Q/1/Add.1) to the list of issues prepared by the Committee.
3. The Committee appreciates the fruitful dialogue held with the State party's large delegation and commends the State party for the strength of its delegation, which included representatives of relevant Government ministries.

II. Positive aspects

4. The Committee commends the State party for the adoption of:
 - (a) Law No. 121 on Ensuring Equality (25 May 2012), and the establishment of the Council for Preventing and Combating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality, both aiming at the elimination of discrimination on the basis of disability;
 - (b) Law No. 60 on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (30 March 2012), to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.
5. The Committee welcomes:
 - (a) Government Decision No. 44 (3 March 2016), approving the action plan for the implementation of reforms on deinstitutionalization;
 - (b) Government Decision No. 523 (11 July 2011), approving the Program for the Development of Inclusive Education 2011-2020, providing equal opportunities for all children to access quality education.

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

III. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

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

6. The Committee is concerned that the medical approach to disability still persists and is wide-spread in the State party as reflected in its legal framework and the medical assessment of disability, including in the determination of the working capacity of persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that:

(a) Disability policies and strategies and their implementation are mainly considered the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Protection and Labour without the operative mechanisms for coordination among different government sectors and for consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities;

(b) The concepts of reasonable accommodation and universal design are not implemented, partly due to the lack of secondary legislation and monitoring mechanisms;

(c) The State party has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

7. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to implement a human rights-based approach to disability, and to ensure that disability determination focuses on the barriers for the social participation of persons with disabilities and refers to individual requirements, will and preferences. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure effective government mechanisms for intersectoral coordination of disability-related actions in public policies and strategies, both as stand-alone and as cross-cutting responsibilities of the State party, and for the systematic and meaningful consultation with different types of organizations of persons with disabilities across its territory;

(b) Provide training on the concepts of reasonable accommodation and universal design to public servants and adopt the necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure their implementation across all sectors;

(c) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

8. The Committee is concerned about the human rights situation of Roma persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, who are living in extreme poverty and are exposed to marginalization as a result of intersecting forms of discrimination. It is also concerned that the insufficient allocation of resources to protect and promote the rights of Roma persons with disabilities places them at a high risk of human trafficking.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure a disability perspective in the implementation of the Roma plan of action 2016-2020 and its appropriate funding. It also recommends the development and implementation of programs addressing poverty and exclusion of Roma persons with disabilities, particularly focusing on children, to address their human rights situation and eliminate intersecting forms of discrimination.

B. Specific rights (arts. 5-30)

Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)

10. The Committee is concerned about discrimination against persons with disabilities and by:

(a) The ineffective implementation of legislation and procedures that address discrimination against persons with disabilities, including the lack of a mechanism to monitor remedies and sanctions for the denial of reasonable accommodation;

(b) The lack of recognition of multiple and intersecting discrimination in anti-discrimination laws;

(c) The lack of publicly available information on the cases of disability discrimination and their respective outcomes.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen anti-discriminatory legislation and procedures to effectively address disability-based discrimination in the public and private sectors, including the recognition of multiple and intersecting discrimination, the right to appeal the denial of reasonable accommodation, and other forms of disability-based discrimination, and mechanisms to impose sanctions for contravening the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee also recommends that the State party publish information about cases of disability discrimination and their outcomes in accessible formats.

Women with disabilities (art. 6)

12. The Committee is concerned that women and girls with disabilities face multiple discrimination and exclusion in all areas of life. It is concerned about the low participation of women with disabilities in political and public life, and their invisibility in the anti-discriminatory legal provisions and policies related to women. In particular, it is concerned that:

(a) The non-consensual termination of a pregnancy on the grounds of impairment is still practiced;

(b) Legislation to prevent and combat domestic violence fails to protect persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls;

(c) Mainstream services for women affected by violence are inaccessible for women and girls with disabilities and that instead of providing reasonable accommodation to women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities they are redirected to psychiatric hospitals.

13. With reference to its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address multiple discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and mainstream the issues of women and girls with disabilities in the anti-discriminatory legal provisions and policies related to women and girls, and that it promote the representation and participation of women with disabilities in political and public life. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) **Ensure the right of women with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health on an equal basis with others and repeal legislation that allows for the non-consensual termination of pregnancy;**

(b) **Incorporate a disability perspective in all the policies and strategies aimed at combating gender-based violence and take measures to ensure that laws address domestic violence against women and girls with disabilities;**

(c) **Ensure that women and girls with disabilities affected by violence have access to immediate protection and accessible support services, including reasonable accommodation in mainstream services and shelter facilities as well as means of redress;**

(d) Ratify the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence of the Council of Europe.

14. The Committee is particularly concerned that women with disabilities, especially women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, are still living in institutions where cases of neglect, violence, forced contraceptive measures, forced abortion, forced medication, restraint, and sexual abuse, including by medical staff, remain common.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its efforts to develop efficient community-based services to advance deinstitutionalization of women, particularly those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) Prevent any new institutionalization;

(c) Implement effective legal, policy and practical measures to address gender-based violence against women with disabilities still living in institutions, and to prevent, investigate, prosecute and provide redress for violations of their human rights;

(d) Monitor residential institutions, in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, in the interim period.

Children with disabilities (art. 7)

16. The Committee is concerned about the stigmatizing attitudes towards children with disabilities which are reinforced by the lack of community services. It is also concerned that children with disabilities do not systematically participate in decision-making that affects their lives and that they lack opportunities to express their opinion on matters pertaining to them directly. It is particularly concerned about the life-long institutionalisation of children with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in inhumane conditions, neglect and segregation from the community from early childhood.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify the promotion of a positive image of children with disabilities and increase the availability of mainstream support services for children with disabilities. It also recommends that it adopt safeguards to protect the right of children with disabilities to be consulted on all matters that affect them, and to guarantee that they have disability and age-appropriate support to realize that right. The Committee also recommends that the State party develop a national strategy for deinstitutionalisation of children with disabilities, which encompasses alternative care in family settings and inclusive support services and facilities in the community.

Awareness-raising (art. 8)

18. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of negative stereotypes and prejudices towards persons with disabilities in society and that there are no comprehensive awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities, develop and carry out public awareness-raising and education programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities, including through sensitization of the media, public officials, judges and lawyers, the police, social workers, and the general public.

Accessibility (art. 9)

20. The Committee is concerned by the overall lack of accessibility for persons with disabilities in the State party. It is concerned about the lack of implementation of the guarantees of accessibility in laws No. 121 and No. 60, and government decision No. 599, to eliminate obstacles and barriers relating to facilities and public services such as transport, information and communications. It is also concerned that the Contravention Code does not stipulate sanctions for breaches of accessibility in all areas and sanctions are rarely enforced, in cases where they are prescribed.

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

(a) **Take all measures to ensure the implementation of legal guarantees to accessibility in all areas including urbanism, construction, and public services;**

(b) **Ensure that the sanctions for non-compliance are developed for all areas of accessibility, and enforced;**

(c) **Adopt a time-bound accessibility plan of action and ensure its implementation and monitoring in close consultation with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations;**

(d) **Pay attention to the link between article 9 of the Convention and targets 9, 11.2 and 11.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)

22. The Committee is concerned that legislation and plans on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, including the Law on humanitarian aid No. 1491, does not take the requirements of persons with disabilities into consideration in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

23. **The Committee recommends that the State party include a disability perspective in all legislation and plans on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and take measures in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.**

Equal recognition before the law (art. 12)

24. The Committee notes with concern the discriminatory legal provisions in the Civil Code, particularly article 24, which allow for the deprivation of legal capacity and the appointment of a guardian, on the basis of psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. It is concerned that current efforts to amend legislation in this regard may still not be in line with the Convention and by the lack of mechanisms to replace the system of substituted decision-making with a supported decision-making regime.

25. **Recalling its General comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal the discriminatory legal provisions in the Civil Code, including article 24;**

(b) **Restore the full legal capacity of all persons with disabilities and review its guardianship system with the aim of introducing supported decision-making mechanisms;**

(c) **Provide training, in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities and the Ombudsman, at the national, regional and local levels for all stakeholders, including civil servants, judges and social workers, on the recognition of**

the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and on existing good practices in supported decision-making.

Access to justice (art. 13)

26. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information on specific measures and protocols to provide procedural, gender and age-appropriate accommodation in judicial proceedings for persons with disabilities, including the provision of sign-language interpretation for deaf persons and accessible formats for communication for deaf-blind persons, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities. It notes with concern:

(a) The prejudices against persons with disabilities, particularly those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities;

(b) The lack of access to free legal aid for persons with disabilities particularly for those still living in institutions;

(c) The lack of access to justice of women with disabilities in criminal proceedings related to gender-based violence.

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

(a) **Ensure the provision of procedural, gender and age-appropriate accommodations based on the free choice and preference of persons with disabilities and establish related safeguards to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in all legal proceedings on an equal basis with others;**

(b) **Increase training and capacity building programmes on the Convention for law enforcement personnel and for persons with disabilities to increase their legal awareness;**

(c) **Ensure access to free legal aid, including for persons with disabilities still living in institutions;and**

(d) **Be guided by article 13 of the Convention in its implementation of target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Liberty and security of the person (art. 14)

28. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Legislation in place, particularly the Mental Health Law, No. 1402 is not in line with the Convention and allows the forced internment in a psychiatric establishment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment of persons with disabilities, on the grounds of psychosocial and/or intellectual impairment;

(b) Persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities accused of a criminal offence do not have the right to due process but instead, are subjected to a medical coercive measure;

(c) Persons with disabilities are arbitrarily deprived of their liberty and individual autonomy in institutions for lengthy periods of time, sometimes their entire life, on the basis of an actual or perceived impairment.

29. **The Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Revise and repeal the legal provisions that legitimate the forced internment and non-consensual psychiatric treatment on the grounds of impairment;**

(b) **Ensure that persons with disabilities accused of an offence are entitled to a fair trial and due process guarantees on an equal basis with others;**

(c) **Take all necessary legal and other measures to stop the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities on the basis of an actual or perceived impairment.**

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

30. The Committee is concerned about the inhuman and degrading treatment of persons with disabilities in institutions, perpetrated by staff members, caregivers or other residents, including acts of neglect, chemical and physical restraints, solitary confinement and forced medication as punishment. It is also concerned about the inefficiency and inadequacy of complaints systems, delays in investigations and lack of monitoring of institutions.

31. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized from forced, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and to prohibit all such acts. It recommends that the State party develop an effective investigation and monitoring system to prevent all forms of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment against persons with disabilities in institutions, and to ensure the prompt investigation of such cases.

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

32. The Committee is concerned by reported cases of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities in institutions, including cases of neglect resulting in the death of children and adults with disabilities and cases of gender-based violence against women with disabilities.

33. The Committee urges that the State party:

(a) **Take legislative and practical measures, with gender and age considerations, to protect persons with disabilities who remain institutionalized and to eliminate any risk of neglect, violence or abuse;**

(b) **Ensure that all reported cases are appropriately investigated and perpetrators are prosecuted ;**

(c) **Provide regular and mandatory trainings to the staff of institutions for the prevention of violence and abuse of persons with disabilities;**

(d) **Ensure the effective, independent human rights based monitoring of all residential institutions.**

Protecting the integrity of the person (art. 17)

34. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory Ministry of Health regulations which specify “mental disability” as a criterion for sterilization. It is also concerned about reports of forced contraception measures, including forced sterilization and forced abortion, particularly of women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, especially those still in residential institutions.

35. The Committee urges the State party to repeal and amend any legislation and regulations allowing for the forced or involuntary sterilization of persons with disabilities and to prevent and stop non-consensual contraception measures, including when consent is given by a third party.

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

36. The Committee is concerned about the slow progress of the deinstitutionalization process. It is concerned that despite the executive moratorium on the new admissions of persons with disabilities to institutions, new admissions persist. It is also concerned that the

State party lacks the legal measures providing for the independent living of persons with disabilities who are deinstitutionalized, including a lack of clarity regarding the responsibilities of central and local authorities in the provision of community-based services.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the process of deinstitutionalization and ensure the application of the moratorium. It recommends that the State party:

(a) Execute, without delay, the action plan for the implementation of reforms on deinstitutionalization including a deadline and timelines for closing all remaining institutions;

(b) Adopt legal measures providing for independent living, including personal assistance, and to clarify the responsibilities and resource allocations of central and local authorities;

(c) Involve persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in all stages of the deinstitutionalisation process (planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring).

Personal mobility (art. 20)

38. The Committee is concerned about the lack of availability and support for the acquisition of quality mobility aids, devices and adaptations including driver's licenses and vehicle equipment for persons with disabilities. It is also concerned that persons with visual impairments are excluded from the programs that offer assistive equipment.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a mechanism for facilitating access for persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, assistive equipment, devices and technologies at an affordable cost for all persons with disabilities in consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities. It also recommends regular training and capacity building for staff working on personal mobility.

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

40. The Committee is concerned that sign language is not adequately recognised as an official language of the State party, the insufficient training of sign language interpreters resulting in an inadequate number of interpreters in public and private services and the lack of access to bilingual education for deaf children. It is also concerned that the provision of technology and accessible formats of information and communication, including Easy Read, is critically limited, particularly for persons with visual impairments and those with intellectual disabilities.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Recognise sign language in official interaction;

(b) Invest in the training of sign language interpreters and provide sign language interpretation for services open to the public and so that deaf children have equal access to a quality, inclusive education;

(c) Apply accessible information and communication formats and technologies, which are appropriate for persons with disabilities, with special regard for children with disabilities in inclusive education, including web accessibility, Braille, Easy Read and plain formats in relation to all public services.

Respect for home and the family (art. 23)

42. The Committee is concerned about discriminatory laws and policies which restrict the rights of persons with disabilities relating to marriage, the family, parenthood and that:

(a) The lack of services for families that have members with disabilities, particularly persons with autistic spectrum disorders, places an undue burden on families, especially single female-headed families, increasing their risk of poverty and social exclusion;

(b) Prejudice against persons with disabilities persists, particularly against women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in matters relating to family and parenthood;

(c) There are reports that child protection authorities request the deprivation of legal capacity of mothers with disabilities and the separation from their children.

43. **The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures, including the repeal of legislation, to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, in all matters relating to marriage, family, and parenthood, on an equal basis with others. It also recommends that the State party:**

(a) Develop the inclusive support measures necessary in this regard, including personal assistance and respite care services, for families that have a member with a disability to ensure an adequate standard of living and social participation;

(b) Take measures to ensure that parents with disabilities have the means necessary to enable them to exercise their rights, including motherhood.

Education (art. 24)

44. The Committee is concerned that positive steps towards inclusive education in the State party have stalled and that:

(a) Provisions in the Code on Education of 2014 still allow for segregated schooling;

(b) Children with disabilities, mainly those with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities, remain in segregated educational settings, including “special schools”, “special classes”, and “home education” and do not receive the support they need to access inclusive education;

(c) Negative attitudes about students with disabilities persist among administrative and teaching staff, leading to cases of refused admissions in mainstream schools and an overall lack of familiarity, knowledge and abilities of staff with regard to inclusive education.

45. **Recalling its general comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education and the Sustainable Development Goal 4, especially its targets 4.5 and 4.8, the Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts towards inclusive education, particularly, that it:**

(a) Amend the 2014 Code on Education and ensure that no child is refused admission to mainstream schools on the basis of disability, ensure accessibility and allocate the necessary resources to guarantee reasonable accommodation to facilitate the access of students with disabilities to quality, inclusive education, including pre-school and tertiary education;

(b) Make training on inclusive education and its implementation mandatory for administrative staff and teachers.

Health (art. 25)

46. The Committee is concerned about a general lack of awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities by medical professionals and that health care services and facilities, including emergency services, remain inaccessible and unavailable to persons with disabilities, especially in rural areas and for persons with disabilities still living in residential institutions. It is also concerned about the lack of accessibility of medical services and facilities for women with disabilities, particularly regarding sexual and reproductive health.

47. **The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities among medical professionals through training and the promulgation of ethical standards and:**

(a) Ensure the availability and accessibility of health care services and facilities for all persons with disabilities across the whole country, including emergency services;

(b) Take measures to ensure that women with disabilities have accessible medical services and facilities, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

Work and employment (art. 27)

48. The Committee is concerned about significant unemployment and inactivity rates of persons with disabilities and the fact that national employment strategies and relevant agencies are inadequate to facilitate and promote the employment of persons with disabilities, and to implement the minimum 5% mandatory employment quota for persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that the employment of persons with disabilities is generally oriented towards segregated workplaces.

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

(a) Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities and the availability of affirmative actions into national employment strategies and respective agencies, enforcing the implementation of Law no. 60 regarding employment, including the mandatory quota and incentive measures for employers;

(b) Support the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, in line with the Convention and in view of target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

50. The Committee is concerned that the majority of persons with disabilities live in poverty, especially in rural and remote areas, and that the available social allowances are insufficient to cover the minimum necessary for an adequate standard of living. The Committee is also concerned that the additional expenses related to disability consequently increase the risk of institutionalization of persons with disabilities. The Committee is also concerned that the latest changes in pension regulations may aggravate the economic status of persons with disabilities.

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

(a) Ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families including through the provision of reasonable accommodation regarding pensions and social allowances;

(b) **Guarantee that social protection and poverty reduction programmes take into account the additional costs related to disability;**

(c) **Ensure that persons with disabilities have access to community-based social services and public housing programmes, and that these services and programmes are also available in rural and remote areas;**

(d) **Pay attention to the links between article 28 of the Convention and target 1.3.1. of the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Participation in political and public life (art. 29)

52. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The rights of persons with disabilities under guardianship to vote and be elected remain restricted by law;

(b) Electoral processes, facilities and materials lack accessibility;

(c) The rates of representation and participation of persons with disabilities in political life and public decision-making are extremely low.

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

(a) **Take the necessary legal and other measures, including consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities, to enable the political and public participation of persons with disabilities;**

(b) **Ensure that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to use for all persons with disabilities;**

(c) **Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, including women, in political life and public decision-making.**

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

54. The Committee is concerned about the limited access for persons with disabilities to cultural activities and sport facilities and that athletes with disabilities are not supported on an equal basis with other athletes. It is also concerned that the State party has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

55. **The Committee recommends that the State party take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities participate in cultural activities and sport and that athletes with disabilities get support on an equal basis with other athletes. It encourages the State party to adopt all appropriate measures to ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty as soon as possible.**

C. Specific obligations (arts. 31-33)

Statistics and data collection (art. 31)

56. The Committee is concerned that data collection on persons with disabilities in the State party is based on the medical approach and is fragmented and that information lacks dissemination.

57. **In view of target 17.18 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party develop systematic data collection and reporting procedures under the National Bureau of Statistics, which are in line with the Convention and to collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data on its**

population with disabilities, including sex, age, ethnicity, type of impairment, socioeconomic status, employment, place of residence, as well as on the barriers that persons with disabilities face in society.

National implementation and monitoring (art. 33)

58. The Committee is concerned that the mechanism designated by the State party under article 33, paragraph 2, is not in line with the Convention and about the unequal representation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the monitoring process.

59. Taking into account its Guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee (2016), the Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent monitoring mechanism in accordance with the Paris Principles, that it provide adequate funding for its functioning and that organizations of persons with disabilities fully participate in the monitoring process.

Follow-up and dissemination

60. The Committee requests that the State party, within 12 months and in accordance with article 35, paragraph 2, of the Convention, provide information on the measures taken to implement the Committee's recommendations as set forth in paragraphs 29 and 37 above.

61. The Committee requests the State party to implement the recommendations of the Committee as 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 Parliament, officials in relevant ministries, local authorities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies.

62. The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve civil society organizations, in particular disabled persons' organizations, in the preparation of its periodic report.

63. 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

64. The Committee requests the State party to submit its combined second and third periodic reports by no later than 21 October 2020 and to 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 report.
