



## Human Rights II:

### Topic #2: Crafting a roadmap to uphold the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

#### I. Introduction

The term persons with disabilities is, as defined by the UN, long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinders a person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. The WHO (World Health Organization) estimates that there are 1.3 billion disabled persons in the world today, representing approximately 16% of the population.

The main concern for those with disabilities is health inequities. Health inequities are discrepancies in health status or in the division of health resources between population groups. These health inequities arise from discriminatory conditions faced by persons with disabilities, including stigma, discrimination, poverty, exclusion from education and employment, and barriers faced in the health system itself. Additionally, those with disabilities can die up to 20 years earlier than those without disabilities, have twice the risk of developing conditions such as depression, asthma, diabetes, stroke, obesity, or poor oral health, and even find inaccessible and unaffordable transportation 15 times more difficult than for those without disabilities.

#### II. Definitions of Key Terms

“Communication” includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology;

“Language” includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of nonspoken languages;

“Discrimination based on disability” means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or 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 modification 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 where this is needed.” (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

### **III. Description**

The objective of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is to promote 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.

The General Principles of this convention are individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one’s own choices and independence of persons, non-discrimination, full and effective participation and inclusion in society, respect for inherent dignity, for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, equality of opportunity, accessibility, equality between men and women, and respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

States Parties undertake to ensure and foster the full recognition of all unalienable human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without prejudice or 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 for 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 goods, 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 use, 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 communications 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 other 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 the present Convention so as to better provide the 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, within the framework of international cooperation, with a view to achieving progressively the full 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 relating to 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 may be contained in the law of a State Party or international law in force for that State. There 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.” (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)



#### **IV. Committee Goals**

##### **Crafting a Roadmap:**

Creating a roadmap aims to define a goal or desired outcome and includes the major milestones and steps needed to reach it.

This roadmap will focus on implementing this committee's mentioned goals. The steps for crafting a roadmap are as follows:

##### **1. Introduction**

- a. Provide a brief overview of the context

##### **2. Alignment**

###### **a. Alignment with National, Regional, or Global processes and/or priorities**

- i. Highlight how the formulation process will be aligned with the national planning process and/or national development priorities, as well as other national, regional, and global processes and/or priorities

###### **b. Alignment with other UN pillars**

- i. Detail how the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will relate to other UN planning networks

##### **3. Management Arrangements**

- a. Highlight who will be responsible for leading/managing and coordinating the process

##### **4. Engagement of Stakeholders and Partnership**

- a. Provide an overview of relevant stakeholders and partners who should be involved throughout development

##### **5. Capacity and Support Requirements**

- a. Provide an overview of training and capacity development needs and support required, and specify if there are any plans to use consultants, what their role will be, and what tasks they will undertake.

##### **6. Risk Management**

- a. Identify and manage any potential risks that could disrupt the planned process of the roadmap and list appropriate mitigation strategies

##### **7. Summary Budget**

- a. Provide a consolidated overview of the budget

##### **8. Timeline**

- a. Detail a timeline, including
  - i. Key deliverables



- ii. Activity/Milestone
- iii. Budget
- iv. Support Required

Not all elements must be present; only those that apply

## V. Research Questions

- A. What is your country's position on this topic?
- B. How does your country address these issues?
  - 1. How does your country engage with other nations to further these goals?
  - 2. What influence can your country use to fulfill these objectives and at what scale?
  - 3. What methods of legislation has your country used to implement these goals within the nation, referring to private enterprises and within the public sphere?

### Sources

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-crpd>

[https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/crpd\\_english.doc](https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/crpd_english.doc)

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