

## Preamble

The States Parties to the present Convention!

"a# the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations which recognize the inherent dignity and worth and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world!

"b# that the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights has proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein without distinction of

"c# the universality, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights and the need for persons with disabilities to realize their full enjoyment without discrimination!

"d# 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 Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Racial Discrimination, 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# that the impairment, disability or restriction results from the interaction between personal impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others!

"f# the importance of the principles contained in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and in the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in influencing the promotion, formulation and evaluation of the

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"t# 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 negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities!

"u# that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of persons with disabilities! in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation!

"v# 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 full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms!

"w# 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 Bill of Human Rights!

"x# 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 of persons with disabilities!

"(# 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:

The purpose of the present convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and 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, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

For the purposes of the present convention:

: ommunication; includes languages! displa ( o\$ text! 8raille! tactile  
communication! large print! accessible multimedia as well as written! audio!  
plain7language! human7reader and augmentative and alternative modes!

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5. States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human 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 for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention;

"b# To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or

applicable according to international law.

9. -n the development and implementation o\$ legislation and policies to implement the present onvention! and in other decision7ma .ing processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities! States Parties shall closel( consult with and activel( involve persons with disabilities! including children with disabilities! through their representative organi' ations.

?. &othing in the present onvention shall a\$\$ect an( provisions which are more conducive to the reali' ation o\$ the rights o\$ persons with disabilities and which ma( be contained in the law o\$ a State Part( or international law in \$orce \$or that State. There shall be no restriction upon or derogation \$rom an( o\$ the human rights and \$undamental \$reedoms recogni' ed or existing in an( State Part( to the present onvention pursuant to law! conventions! regulation or custom on the pretext that the present onvention does not recogni' e such rights or \$reedoms or that it recogni' es them to a lesser extent.

@. The provisions o\$ the present onvention shall extend to all parts o\$ \$ederal states without an( limitations or exceptions.

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5. States Parties recogni' e that all persons are e)ual be\$ore and under the law and are entitled without an( discrimination to the e)ual protection and e)ual bene\$it o\$ the law.

2. States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis o\$ disabilit( and guarantee to persons with disabilities e)ual and e\$\$ective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.

9. -n order to promote e)ualit( and eliminate discrimination! States Parties shall ta .e all appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided.

?. Speci\$ic measures which are necessar( to accelerate or achieve de \$acto e)ualit( o\$ persons with disabilities shall not be considered discrimination under the terms o\$ the present onvention.

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5. States Parties recogni' e that women and girls with disabilities are sub\*ect to multiple discrimination! and in this regard shall ta .e measures to ensure the \$ull and e)ual en\*o(ment b( them o\$ all human rights and \$undamental \$reedoms.

2. States Parties shall ta .e all appropriate measures to ensure the \$ull development! advancement and empowerment o\$ women! \$or the purpose o\$

guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the present Convention.

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

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

9. 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 to be provided with disability- and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.

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5. 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.

2. Measures to this end include:

"a# Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed:

"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 labour market;

"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;





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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.

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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.

### Article 5

5. States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law



of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age, gender and disability sensitive.

9. 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 effective, monitored by independent authorities.

10. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including 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.

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

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

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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 this right and 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 where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

"b# Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home residential





"b# Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live

"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.

9. States Parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of 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 skills, and facilitating peer support and mentoring

"b# Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community

"c# Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and

sensitive! including health-related rehabilitation. -n particular! States Parties shall:

"a# Provide persons with disabilities with the same range! )ualit( and standard o\$ free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons! including in the area o\$ sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes<

"b# Provide those health services needed b( persons with disabilities speci\$icall( because o\$ their disabilities! including earl( identi\$ication and intervention as appropriate! and services designed to minimi'e and prevent \$urther 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# , e)uire health professionals to provide care o\$ the same )ualit( to persons with disabilities as to others! including on the basis o\$ free and informed consent b(! inter alia! raising awareness o\$ the human rights! dignit(! autonom( and needs o\$ persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation o\$ ethical standards \$or public and private health care<

"e# Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision o\$ health insurance! and li\$e insurance where such insurance is permitted b( national law! which shall be provided in a \$air and reasonable manner<

"\$# Prevent discriminator( denial o\$ health care or health services or \$ood and \$uids on the basis o\$ disabilit(.

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5. States Parties shall ta.e e\$ective and appropriate measures! including through peer support! to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence! \$ull ph(sical! mental! social and vocational abilit(! and \$ull inclusion and participation in all aspects o\$ li\$. To that end! States Parties shall organi'e! strengthen and extend comprehensive habilitation and rehabilitation services and programmes! particularl( in the areas o\$ health! emplo(ment! education and social services! in such a wa( that these services and programmes:

"a# Begin at the earliest possible stage! and are based on the multidisciplinary assessment o\$ individual needs and strengths<

"b# Su\$id starsh all ml and 'e!l asps o)ities! T raspects d1 li\$# Sas/ NPE Econom(d oddE





".# Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation! Job retention and return to work programmes for persons with disabilities.

2. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery ( or in servitude! and are protected! on an equal basis with others! from forced or compulsory labour.

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5. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families! including

"i# / nsuring that voting procedures! facilities and materials are appropriate!  
accessible and eas ( to understand and use<

"ii# Protecting the right o\$ persons with disabilities to vote b( secret ballot in  
elections and public r\$erendums without intimidation! and to stand \$or  
elections! to e\$\$ectivel( hold o\$\$ice and per\$orm all public \$unctions at all levels  
o\$ government! \$acilitating the use o\$ assistive and new technologies where  
appropriate<

"iii# Cuaranteeing the \$ree expression o\$ the will o\$ persons with disabilities as  
electors and to this end! where necessar(! at their re)uest! allowing  
assistance in voting b( a person o\$ their own choice<

b# Promote activel( an environment in which persons with disabilities can  
e\$\$ectivel( and \$ull( participate in the conduct o\$ public a\$\$airs! without  
discrimination and on an e)ual basis with others! and encourage their  
participation in public a\$\$airs! including:

"i# Participation in non7governmental organi' ations and associations  
concerned with the public and political li\$e o\$ the countr(! and in the activities  
and administration o\$ political parties<

"ii# Forming and \*oining organi' ations o\$ persons with disabilities to represent  
persons with disabilities at international! national! regional and local levels.

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5. States Parties recogni' e the right o\$ persons with disabilities to ta.e part on  
an e)ual basis with others in cultural li\$e! and shall ta.e all appropriate  
measures to ensure that persons with disabilities:

"a# / n\*( access to cultural materials in accessible \$ormats<

"b# / n\*( access to television programmes! \$ilms! theatre and other cultural  
activities! in accessible \$ormats<

7. Persons with disabilities shall be entitled on an equal basis with others to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture.

8. 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, develop 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 schools;

"e# To ensure that persons with disabilities have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

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5. 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:

"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 statistics.

2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, 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.

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



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5. There shall be established a committee on the rights of Persons with Disabilities "hereafter referred to as the committee;" which shall:



due consideration to the provision set out in article 9 of the present convention.

10. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present convention.

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5. 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 respond with 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 the notification. The Committee shall invite the State Party concerned to participate in such examination. Should the State Party respond by submitting the relevant report, the provisions of paragraph 5 of this article will apply.

9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall make available the reports to all States Parties.

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

8. 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.

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5. 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 present convention, including through international cooperation.



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-n order to foster the effective implementation of the present convention and





